

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you of an important school wellbeing program that we are implementing into the Year 12 Mentoring Program.

With new technology, explicit sexual imagery is not only easier to access, it is also easy to make and share. You may have seen media coverage of 'sexting' incidents in which young people have made and shared explicit sexual imagery using mobile phones or other devices, sometimes without the knowledge or agreement of the people in the images. Such incidents can have significant legal, social and emotional consequences for the young people involved.

In this context, students need support to navigate healthy, respectful social and sexual development.

Research indicates that most young people will be exposed to explicit sexual imagery well before the legal age of 18 years. In an Australian study of 13- to 16-year-olds, 93 per cent of males and 62 per cent of females reported being exposed to pornography online. Young people don't have to look for pornography to see it. They may be introduced to it by someone else, encounter uninvited 'pop-ups', or stumble across it when looking for something else. Much of the explicit sexual imagery available online communicates unhealthy messages; for example, about sexual safety, consent and aggression. Being exposed to pornography, particularly when they see it regularly, can affect young people's understandings and expectations of men, women, bodies and sex.

Centralian Senior College is committed to equipping students with the skills they need in the twenty-first century. Over the coming months, CSC will implement a mentoring program, called "In The Picture" to address the influence of explicit sexual imagery, focusing on a range of issues such as:

- the legal and ethical issues associated with sexting
- understanding the influence of media on gender and sexual norms and expectations
- responding to challenging situations where their own wellbeing or someone else's wellbeing is at risk.

If you have any questions, about the "In The Picture" mentoring program please contact Taegen Pascoe, the School Counsellor or Lucy Stewart, Assistant Principal on 8958 5000.

If you do not want your child participate in this program, please contact the school.

Yours sincerely,



Taegen Pascoe
School Counsellor



Lucy Stewart
Assistant Principal