

Frequently Asked Questions – parent survey on consent education

What is consent education?

Consent is saying yes to something happening or agreeing to do something freely, without fear, force or pressure.

In NSW public schools, students learn about consent and how things like pressure from others, drinking alcohol or taking drugs can change the decisions that people make. They also learn how to solve problems and how to act online. In high school, learning about consent changes to include sexual consent as students look at the types of relationships they might have during their life.

The Department has partnered with the NSW Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations to run a series of webinars for parents and carers on consent education. You can access and watch recordings of our webinars on the [NSW P&C Federation website](#).

During our first webinar (held on 17 June), we discussed how consent is taught in schools now, and the next steps to strengthen consent education. Our second webinar (held on 8 September) featured adolescent health expert Dr. Melissa Kang, who discussed how parents and carers can best support young people to navigate consent, including advice and resources to support conversations on sensitive topics at home.

Why is this survey being conducted?

Students across the state, both past and present, have called for strengthened consent education.

This was sparked by a petition by former Sydney student Chanel Contos, which led to thousands of young people sharing their stories of witnessing or experiencing sexual harassment, abuse and violence amongst young people.

In response, the heads of the three education sectors in NSW signed a [Statement of Intent](#), which recognises the role of parents and carers as the primary and continuing educators of their children, and their importance in ensuring that students have the necessary knowledge and skills to form healthy, respectful relationships.

This survey will help the Department to understand the views and perspectives of parents and carers on consent education, including:

- what parents and carers currently know about consent education
- the types of resources they would like to help them speak about consent with their children at home.

How do I access the survey?

From 17 November 2021, the survey will be accessible here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MC3Y29B>

The survey will also be available in 10 languages other than English. To access the survey in a different language, from 17 November, [click here](#).

How long will the survey take?

The survey will take less than 10 minutes to complete.

Who can take the survey/who is the survey open to?

The Department would like to hear from parents and carers of NSW Public School students of all ages, from all communities.

Can I take the survey if my child goes to a Catholic/Independent school?

This survey is designed for parents and carers of NSW public school students of all ages, from all communities.

Is the survey anonymous?

The survey is anonymous. All responses are optional and will not be used for identification purposes. The information collected will be stored securely by the Department.

Broad demographic information is collected and will be used to understand the supports and resources that may be required by particular communities or in specific areas of the state.

How will the results be used?

The results will be analysed to help the Department plan how we can support consent education in school communities, including how we can support parents and carers to have important conversations with their children and young people at home.

Will the results be published and where?

The results of the survey will be made available on the [Department's website](#).

How does the survey ensure a diverse range of views are heard?

The Department is collaborating with Multicultural NSW, Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW, Family Advocacy and the Aboriginal Education Consultative Group NSW to ensure the survey is distributed widely, and captures a diverse range of responses. The survey will be translated into 10 different languages, and focus groups will be run in communities less likely to engage with an online survey.

Where can I find more information on discussing consent with my child?

Families have a vital role in teaching their children about relationships, consent and sexuality. Families will lay the foundations for well adjusted, confident and healthy children who go on to experience positive and respectful relationships.

Accessing reliable and accurate information about a wide range of relationships, sexuality and sexual health issues is important to have the discussions at home. Working in partnership with the school will maximise the outcomes for each child.

The Department does not mandate external resources, programs or providers. Principals and teachers make these decisions at a local level, based on student needs, community context and resources. As a first step, parents and carers are encouraged to speak to their child's school about the resources they use and would recommend.

Through the [Statement of Intent](#), we have committed to providing greater support and resources for parents and carers to continue these conversations beyond the school gate.

What is the Department doing to support teachers and schools?

As part of the SOI program of work, the Department is working to provide quality curriculum resources and supports for leaders, teachers and students.

We are currently working to make available, on the Department's Digital Learning Resources Hub, a suite of teacher-developed resources to support consent and respectful relationships education.

Resources will include PDHPE units for each stage of learning; lesson sequences and stage-appropriate teaching activities; and professional learning on implementing appropriate teaching strategies.