

Sexual assault prevention education: How far have we come?

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Key findings on effectiveness of anti-rape education

- ❑ Focus on awareness
 - ❑ Women managing risk – few male inclusive programmes
 - ❑ Limited time of input
 - ❑ Individual change
 - ❑ Universalises women and men
 - ❑ Reinforce traditional gender and sexuality scripts
 - ❑ Lack of diverse models and limited to college samples (USA)
 - ❑ Unethical behaviour – ‘no means no’
 - ❑ Long term outcomes poor
 - ❑ Poor or little evaluation
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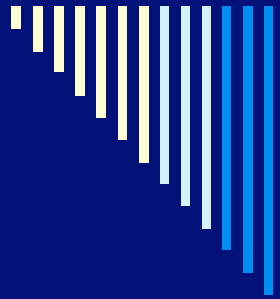
Kimberley Breitenbecher

- *Although prevention programs can result in favourable attitude change, the magnitude of such change is often small, and investigations using repeated measures designs suggest that initial positive attitude change often decays or rebounds to pre-intervention levels over time. More important, reductions in rape-supportive attitudes have not been linked to subsequent reductions in the incidence of sexual assault. (Breitenbecher 2000:40).*
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Unintended consequences

- ❑ Focus on danger
 - ❑ Invisibility of women's sexual desire
 - ❑ Teaching refusal skills – just say no
 - ❑ Construct all men as biologically and socially violent
 - ❑ Limited primary prevention potential
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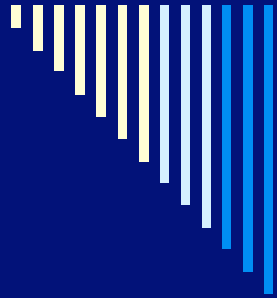
Research on alternative approaches

- Breaking the link between masculinity and violence
 - Bob Pease –MASA
 - Alan Berkowitz – men taking responsibility
 - Jackson Katz – athletes
 - Catherine Lumby & Kath Albury -NRL
 - Michael Flood
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Building pro-social behaviour

- pro-social helping behaviour is increased
 - the person has an awareness of the problem,
 - it's negative impact on the victim
 - if they are asked to help
 - make a commitment to help and see themselves as partially responsible for solving the problem
 - need to feel they have the skills to intervene, the opportunity to see individuals modelling the behaviour & have strategies to ensure their own safety (Banyard, Moynihan, Plante (2004)
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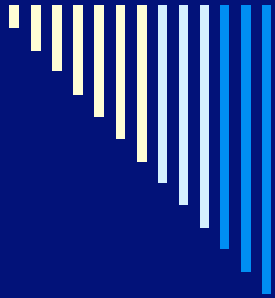
Linking sexuality with rape prevention

- How is power exercised in intimate relations?
- Diverse meanings to the participants
- Reinforce or resist dominant gender patterns



Sexual ethics

- Encourage negotiation of consensual, reciprocal and mutually pleasurable sex
 - Challenge cultural practices that normalise violence
 - Focus on building skills in non-violent ethical intimacy
 - Contrast to focus on stopping unethical behaviour
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Ethical erotics

- ❑ Negotiating the space between pleasure and danger
- ❑ Rapport à soi – care of the self and care of the other
- ❑ Self reflection – ethical subjectivity
- ❑ Power as mobile and productive
- ❑ Awareness not enough
- ❑ What people actually do – the acts compared to moral codes and regulations



Sex Now...



www.sexualethics.org.au



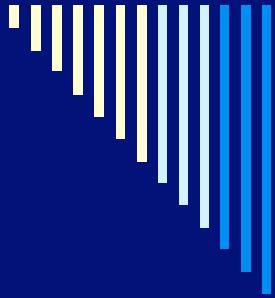
So how far have we come?....

- Results over the last ten years suggest at best a mixed impact
 - Unintended consequences – reinforcing traditional gender and sexuality practices
 - Alternative models
 - Best practice commitment to evaluation
 - Data base of projects and outcomes to inform future development
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Check out....

- Breitenbecher, K (2000) 'Sexual Assault on College Campuses: Is an Ounce of Prevention Enough? *Applied and Preventative Psychology*, vol 9,pp 23-52.
 - Banyard, V, Moynihan, M, Plante, E (2004) 'Bystander Education: Bringing a Broader Community Perspective to Sexual Violence Prevention' *Journal of Community Psychology*, vol 32, no1, pp 61-79.
 - Schewe, P (2004) (ed) *Preventing Violence in Relationships: Interventions Across the Life Span*, American Psychological Association, Washington DC.
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Carmody, Moira (2005) 'Ethical erotics: rethinking anti-rape education' *Sexualities, Journal of Culture and Society*, 8(4) pp 469-485

Carmody, Moira (2004) 'Sexual ethics and the erotics of consent', Cowling, M & Reynolds, P (eds) *Making Sense of Sexual Consent*, Ashgate, UK pp 45-56

Carmody, Moira (2003) 'Sexual ethics and violence prevention' *Social and Legal Studies: An International Journal* Vol 12(2) pp 199-216

Carmody, Moira & Carrington Kerry (2000) 'Preventing Sexual Violence?' *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology*, Vol 33 No 3, pp 341 –361.