



MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING  
THE HON DR BRENDAN NELSON MP

Dear

You are no doubt aware of the current debate concerning abortion and unplanned pregnancies. Further to that issue, I am writing to you to seek information on the form and content of any sex education programmes taking place in schools falling within your jurisdiction. Sex education is an important element in the development of life skills in our young people. It is also important that young people are supported in making informed choices about personal relationships and their sexuality.

It is my belief that sexual health education programmes should be implemented in consultation with the school community and be respectful of religious and philosophical views. Such programmes should provide an opportunity to educate young people in an open environment that reduces discrimination and increases tolerance. Involving parents, and enabling both parents and young people to communicate openly, sensitively and effectively about a range of issues, including sexual health, is very important for young peoples' future development.

I would appreciate information on the methods and types of programmes used to deliver sex education in your jurisdiction and the age of students at which they are delivered. I am also seeking information about the extent to which community views, especially those of parents, are taken into account when developing and delivering such programmes.

I look forward to receiving information regarding the sex education programmes in schools in your jurisdiction. I know that you share my concern that our young people have the opportunity to make informed decisions about these important issues, the capacity to accept responsibility for their own actions and the ability to exercise judgement in matters of morality and ethics.

Yours sincerely

BRENDAN NELSON