

Senate Inquiry into Sexualisation of Children.

Dear Inquiry,

I realise this submission is late and I also understand that you require my name however that is not possible as my concern is a reality in our family's life. One of our daughters has been suffering Trauma Induced Depression for the past two years after she was orally raped at a party early in her year 10. Not only was the rape a terrible experience for her to endure but the responses of the other girls and boys at the party were disgusting. Girls responded with "get over it, it's normal" and the boys cheered and then called her a frigid bitch. These responses along with the rape have devastated our daughter's life and our family life. Since then I have been looking for every opportunity to become involved in a discussion about changing this culture for our young people. I have written a letter to The Age newspaper hoping to engender communication around this issue and I have also spoken on ABC talked-back radio in order to keep this conversation going as I believe that it is critical for our youth to understand that the behaviour our daughter endured is, in fact, not normal and has massive ramifications.

I believe that a National Curriculum in schools needs to combat what young people are seeing in the media. Sex education and sexuality is obviously a good place to start. Young people need to be education about what a healthy sexual relationship looks like, feels like and sounds like.

As a parent and also as a teacher of primary students I am very passionate about this issue.