



Public Health Association
AUSTRALIA

Tasmanian Branch

Free Public Lecture

Sexuality and relationships education, a **MUST** in Tasmanian schools

presented by

Professor Marian Pitts

Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, LaTrobe University, Melbourne

Issue of teenage pregnancy rates and rising rates of sexually transmissible infections

The recent pregnancy of a 13-year-old Tasmanian girl raises the wider issue about Tasmania's high rate of unplanned teenage pregnancy and what should be done about it. Tasmania experiences 27.1 births per 1000 for 15 – 19 yr olds compared to the National average of 16.7. There is also an alarming increase of Chlamydia among teenagers which has increased by around 400% since 2001. Chlamydia is a sexually transmissible infection which can damage a woman's reproductive organs and cause infertility. Education needs to play a key role in reducing these concerning statistics.

Prof Marian Pitts will discuss:

- Australian and Tasmanian data on teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections.
- Knowledge, attitudes and sexual practices among secondary students.
- Newly released results of the first National Survey of Secondary Teachers of Sexuality Education (~300 secondary school teachers), which examined what is currently being taught and what the barriers and facilitators are of successful sexual health education.
- What should be done in Tasmania in relation to sexuality and relationships education.

Date: Thurs 30 June 2011

Time: 5:30 – 6:00 Nibbles and drinks
6:00 – 7:30 Lecture (1 hour lecture, 30 min discussion)

Address: 17 Liverpool St, Hobart
Cnr Campbell and Liverpool Street
UTAS Medical Science 1, Lecture Theatre (105LT)

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