DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

Family Planning Queensland's
The Traffic Lights' Model

There is recent evidence that problem sexual behaviour, within school settings, has increased, especially amongst young children. There is also evidence to suggest that many schools find this issue challenging to manage and to respond to appropriately.

Catholic teachings support that ‘Human sexuality is a fundamental dimension of the human person. It is part of the physical, moral, psychological and spiritual realities of life. Sexuality is an integral part of God’s gift to humanity, a lens through which we relate to others and reveal God’s love to the world. (Taken from Made in the Image of God Human Sexuality Program for SA Catholic Schools 2007)

Living Life to the Full - Personal and Social Development Guidelines for the Archdiocese of Brisbane (2005), provides principles and resources that are linked to other curriculum areas. It places teaching about sexuality into the broader contexts of curriculum, society and church. Appendix 2 provides guidelines for selecting and using resources and external service providers. Appendices 3 and 4 elaborate further on this. These appendices have been used to formulate the advice to school communities in the Archdiocese, which follows.

Taking into consideration the importance of children and young people’s sexuality, some of the problem sexual behaviour identified in schools today requires a considered and responsive approach and one which calls for the application of appropriate information and knowledge.

One resource which may assist schools is the Traffic Lights Model which is a research based resource developed by Family Planning Queensland. It is one model that presents a framework that attempts to describe what is known as ‘normal’ and ‘problem’ sexual behaviours in children and young people 0 – 18 years of age. It gives some ideas and strategies on how to identify and assess this behaviour.

It is important to note that the Catholic Church has reservations about the position Family Planning Association takes, and the literature it produces, in other areas, such as contraception and abortion. However, because of the increase in what appears to be the problem of sexual behaviour by young children in schools, its resource, Traffic Lights Model, is one framework that could be useful in the appropriate identification, assessment and response to this behaviour within the school environment. The context for the local use of this framework is the implementation of the Archdiocesan Personal and Social Development Guidelines (2005), which are authorised by the Archbishop.

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