

Baby Think it Over & Talking Realities... young parenting

The virtual and the real experience.

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Introduction

- The Baby Think it Over & Talking Realities Partnership
- Rationale
- Delivery
- Outcomes
- Conclusion

The Partnership

An integrated approach to service delivery that:

- Allows the student to experience what it would be like to be a teen parent.
- Aims to prevent teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection (STI).
- Aims to raise awareness of youth sexual health issues.

Rationale

- Australia has one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancy amongst the OECD countries. (Medical Journal of Australia, 2003; 179(3): 158-161).
- Australia has one of the highest estimated rates in teenage abortion amongst the OECD countries. (Medical Journal of Australia, 2003; 179(3): 158-161).
- In WA the proportion of teenage mothers which are 13 - 15 years old is increasing. (Western Australian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, 2011).
- 25% of all reported cases of Chlamydia in WA fall within the 15 - 19 year old age category. (The Epidemiology of Notifiable Sexually Transmitted Infections and Blood-Borne Viruses in Western Australia 2013, DoHA).

Baby Think it Over – *Tools of the Trade*

Virtual Babies



Pregnancy Vest



FAS/Drug Affected Babies



Delivery – *A three tiered approach*



Education – 1 hr fun & interactive workshop

Interaction – 2 days/nights with the virtual baby



Reinforcement – young mums' presentation



Talking Realities...

young parenting

Young parents talking about the realities of teenage parenting:

- Positives and challenges of having a child
- Sexual health
- Comparing lifestyles
- The cost of living
- Relationships and feelings
- Q & A



Outcomes – *For the young mothers*

- The opportunity to attain Certificate III in Community Services and become a peer educator.
- Increased knowledge of parenting, child development and allied community health services.
- Improved self confidence.

“Through Talking Realities... young parenting, I have been able to further my education, make new friends who share similar interests, develop my parenting skills and improve my confidence.”

Amy, past trainee

Outcomes – *For participants*

2012/2013 – 715 participants from 28 different schools

- 34.8% report an increase in age of wanting their first child post program.
- 50.4% are less confident in their ability to look after a baby ***now*** post program.

“It made me want to be careful and not get pregnant until I’m older.”

Year 9 student

Outcomes – *For the school community and teaching staff*



- It is an option for assessment in some courses under the School Curriculum & Standards Authority.
- It is ***fully funded by PNML*** for the school or youth group.
- The 'ripple' effect.

“The presenters spoke about real life situations which definitely made it very real for my students. I commend all the presenters on giving a heartfelt account of what their life is like now.”

Teacher, Churchlands SHS



Conclusion

- Synergy is possible
- Program proven to raise awareness of youth sexual health issues
- Valid and positive outcomes for all stakeholders

Questions?



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