



What we do well:
to sell our
lawyer



- Shame was identified by both young people and adults as a main barrier for talking about sex

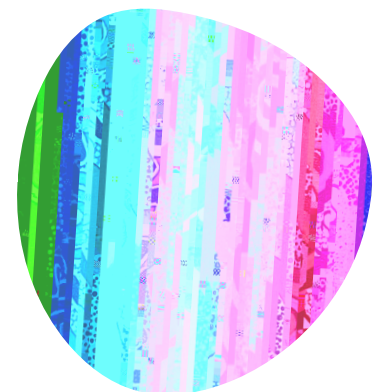
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- Young participants, both men and women, recognized that gender stereotypes affect young people in negative ways, especially young women (Graham et al 2021; Martin et al 2023a).
- Some young women grappled with negative body image associated with racialised Eurocentric beauty standards (Martin et al 2023a).
- Young women managed negative gender stereotypes by drawing on friendships with other Aboriginal young women.
- We note that messages to address gender stereotypes for Aboriginal young people must be managed carefully so to not feed into racist assumptions about Aboriginal young people and the nature of their relationships.

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- While the internet was valued as a way to access information quickly and confidentially, its reliability and trustworthiness was questioned by young participants. The 'real-life' experience and knowledge of family, Elders and peers who "had lived through it" (Ellie, 21 years) was highly valued (Gardner et al 2023; Graham et al 2023).



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- Young people often turned to trusted sources of advice we interviewed, such as parents, uncles, and grandparents (Graham et al., 2020). That their generation found it difficult to have conversations with young people's parents may be related to young people's 'sexual culture' and the need for holistic strategies to engage with young people on matters of sex and health. This intervention for young people represents a whole of community (and individualized approach) which aligns strongly with Aboriginal collective care and kinship, as described by Sarah (45 years old).

- Community understandings and practices of culture can be different (Gardner et al, 2023). Relatedly, cultural appropriateness in regard to sexual health service provision and education varies across communities.
- It is important to consider how to include young people in these consultations as they can have clear ideas about what they want or need, and why. For example, some young participants objected to the way that sexual health education in schools was not delivered to boys and girls separately: “They don’t realise that some things have gotta be separate for us... you know, there is men’s business and there are women’s business... And then they wonder why we don’t contribute, or we don’t listen to ya’s” (Olivia, 26 years old). While others felt it was important to learn together, so that boys and girls can “know about each other, know how to deal with the other person” (Julia, 17 years old) (Graham et al 2023)
- Young participants identified that different services offer different approaches to sexual health.



The research was conducted on the lands of the Dharawal, Dharug and Gadigal, which is also now commonly known as western and south-western Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.



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Presentations:

