

Sexual Lives & Respectful Relationships (SL&RR)

NSW Project Plain English – Easy Read Report

“A LEARNING CURVE”

August 2018



These is photos of the people who did this research and prepared this report: Victoria Cini (Peer Educator), Rebecca Davie (Peer Educator), Patsie Frawley (Associate Professor), Kelley Johnson (Honorary Professor), Millie Olcay (Researcher), Linda Stokoe (Peer Educator), and Monica Wellington (Research Assistant)

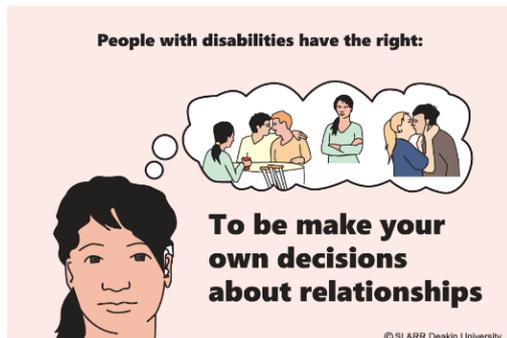
Thank you to the following people and groups involved in the project:

- Millie Olcay
- Research Advisory Group
- SL&RR Sites: Central Victoria, Western Melbourne, Northern Melbourne, South-Eastern Melbourne Region, Gippland, and Western Sydney
- Alisha Gilliland, Amie O'Shea, Emily Ardley & Monica Wellington

Table of Contents

What this report is about?	4
What is Sexual Lives & Respectful Relationships (SL&RR)?	5
What is the SL&RR program?	7
Setting up SL&RR in NSW	9
Finding out how SL&RR worked in NSW	11
What have we learned from the research?	13
What did people think about SL&RR?	13
How to set up a new SL&RR site	15
What is the best way to keep a site going?	17
What will happen next for SL&RR in NSW?	19

What this report is about?



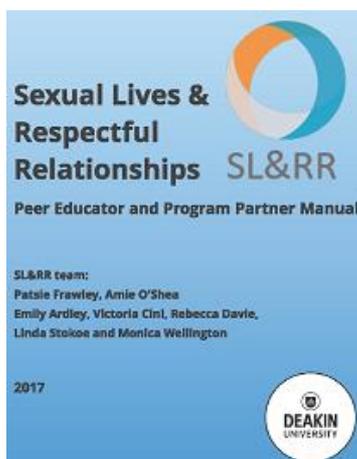
Sometimes it is hard for people with intellectual disabilities to have sexual lives.

Sometimes they are not able to have relationships because people around them do not allow them to.

Sometimes it is very hard for them to have respectful relationships.

Sometimes they are hurt or abused. Sometimes it is hard for people to know about their rights and have them respected.

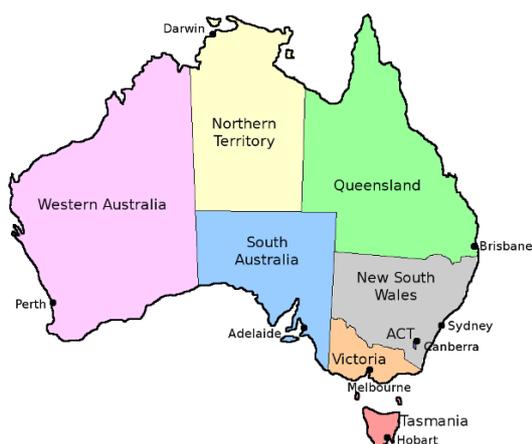
This report is about how Sexual Lives and Respectful Relationships (we shorten this to SL&RR) was set up in NSW.



What is Sexual Lives & Respectful Relationships (SL&RR)?



SL&RR brings people with intellectual disabilities together with organisations in their local areas that do sexuality and relationships work in the community. These organisations are called Program Partners.



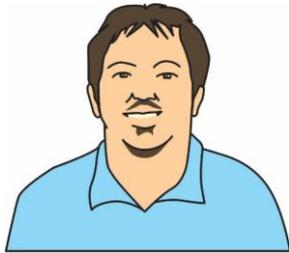
There are four SL&RR sites in Victoria and two in NSW. There is a SL&RR National Team at Deakin University who developed SL&RR and work with local people to set it up in their areas.

SL&RR has two parts:



1. A Respectful Relationships program
2. Local sites that help people with intellectual disabilities hear about their sexuality and relationships rights

What is the SL&RR program?



This is an image of Kevin

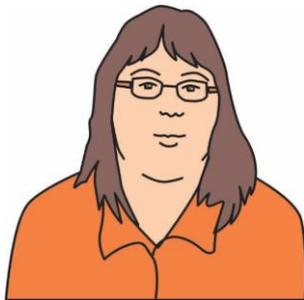
The program uses stories of people with intellectual disabilities to focus on sexuality and relationship rights.



This is an image of Hussein

The pictures on this page are the story characters.

The SL&RR program is run by people with intellectual disabilities from the local SL&RR sites who are trained as Peer Educators.



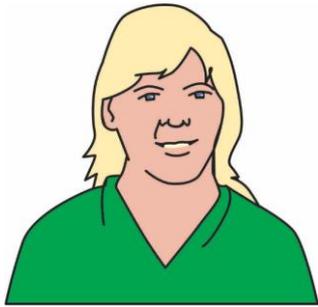
This is an image of Molly

They run the program with the people from organisations who are trained as Program Partners.



This is an image of Angela

People with intellectual disabilities come to the program to talk with the Peer Educators and the Program Partners about rights and respect in relationships.



This is an image of Hannah

They also develop their own ideas about sexuality and respectful relationships.

Setting up SL&RR in NSW



In this report we write about SL&RR in NSW and what we have learned from the work that was done there.

In 2016 Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association (MDAA) got funding for two years from the NSW government to help set up SL&RR in three areas.



One site was set up in Blacktown and one in Liverpool. A third site in the Blue Mountains started working together in 2018.



14 Peer Educators and 10 Program Partners were trained to work in Liverpool and Blacktown.

The SL&RR groups at Blacktown and Liverpool got support from the SL&RR National Team at Deakin University.

Finding out how SL&RR worked in NSW

We are the Research Reference Group... so what will we do?

- 'co-researchers' – we work together as a team
- develop the research tools – share ideas about what questions to ask people, how to ask them
- run focus group or interviews
- analyse the data – talk about what we learnt
- review documents or reports.



putting on our researcher hat



SL&RR

We did research about SL&RR in NSW. This means we found out about how SL&RR worked in NSW. There were three groups that were a part of the research:

The **Researchers** talked with four people who were managing the project in NSW, the members of the Research Advisory Group, the Research Reference Group, and Peer Educators and Program Partners in Blacktown and Liverpool.



The **Research Reference Group** talked about what the Researchers found out about SL&RR and wrote two Plain English reports. They also talked about what the Researcher found out at a meeting with Liverpool and Blacktown and gave advise about the research.

The **Research Advisory Group** gave advice to the researchers.

What have we learned from the research?

What did people think about SL&RR?



Everyone in NSW who was a part of the program thought that it was important work.

It supports people with intellectual disability to have more support about their rights and sexuality.

Some Peer Educators thought that the program had helped them to be stronger.



Some Peer Educators thought that it was important for them to support other people with disabilities so that they were not abused or experiencing bad things.

The Peer Educators and Program Partners really liked the training.

How to set up a new SL&RR site



We learned that there were important things to think about in setting up a new SL&RR site.

It is important to have people with intellectual disability as the centre of SL&RR.

People with intellectual disabilities were really keen to work as Peer Educators. They wanted to do more programs.



When setting up SL&RR in a new place, the people doing it need to know how it has worked in other places.



Time needs to be given at the beginning of the setting up a new site to make sure everyone understands SL&RR.

Peer Educators and program Partners need to take the time to get to know and trust each other before running a program.



A SL&RR site needs to plan ahead for each year so that they know when a program is going to be delivered.

What is the best way to keep a site going?



Program Partners and Peer Educators need to have ongoing training and practice.

Peer Educators and Program Partners need to know what their job is, be trained to do their job well and have support from the site and the SL&RR National team.



There needs to be people who know SL&RR who are close by to support Peer Educators and Program Partners to run the program.



There needs to be planning and support for when things are difficult for people to do their job.

The site needs to know about the people who are attending the program as participants so that their learning needs can be met.

What will happen next for SL&RR in NSW?



The sites in Sydney are keen to continue to run SL&RR.

Changes to funding in services from the NDIS meant that some Program Partners had to leave SL&RR.

In May there were 6 Program Partners and 10 Peer Educators still working in the two sites.

There is a new site in the Blue Mountains starting in 2018.

The sites are planning to apply for funding so that they can keep running the program.

The full evaluation report is available for everyone in the project and this report is also available.

