
2015 PLAY YOUR PART AWARDS FOR INSPIRING PREVENTION INITIATIVES VICTORIA

**To: South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault (SECASA)
For: Respect me. Don't sext me.**

The 'Respect me. Don't sext me.' resources are fun activities including board games, online e-postcards, story cards and activity sheets to educate young people about sexting.

The education pack, developed by the South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault (SECASA) is designed for 11 to 14-year-olds and targets key behaviours that lead to sexting such as peer pressure, expectations and ignorance of possible outcomes. It addresses issues surrounding sexting such as the possible consequences of sexting including legal issues, and creating respectful relationships.

The pack aims to change young people's perspective about sexting and includes online e-postcards to send instead of a sext, a fortune teller/chatterbox activity sheet and information for parents/carers and teachers that includes resources and activities.

Many young people see sexting as a way to flirt. It is also risk-taking behaviour which can, in some cases, have long-term consequences. A number of young people had been placed on the Victorian Sex Offenders Register for sending or receiving sexts.

SECASA wanted to improve the understanding of young people about the risks of sexting. The pack was funded a couple of years ago by the Victorian Law Foundation.

In September 2014 the Victorian Parliament passed amendments to the Crimes Act 1958 and the Summary Offences Act 1966 that changed how the law applies to sexting.

Two copies of the 'Respect me. Don't sext me.' pack were sent out to every secondary school in Victoria and an extra 1,300 packs have been sold.

Teachers feedback to date includes: that the initiative has formed a core component of their cyber citizenship courses and that along with parent/carers they said that the pack has proved to be a great conversation starter for difficult discussions about sexting. Young people said that they enjoy the games and activities.

SECASA's school's program uses elements of the pack in the respectful relationships course that's delivered to thousands of students each year.

Requests to utilise the pack have come from Queensland, Western Australia and other schools and communities around Australia.

The Department of Education and Training has made the 'Dicing with Danger' board game into an interactive phone app in conjunction with Camberwell Secondary College. Legal Aid Victoria included the online e-postcards into their 'Below the Belt' phone app for young people about sex and the law.