

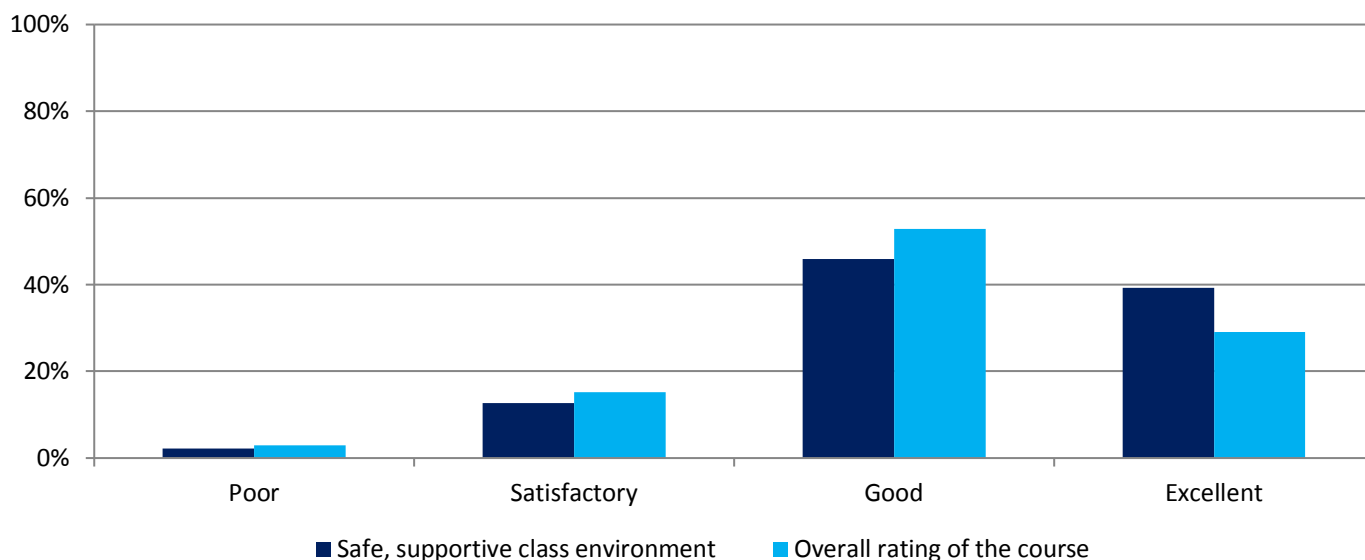
# 2017 Snapshot of student feedback on Relationships and Sexual Health program

*This report summarises data collected from students from Years 8 to 10 who participated in the SHINE SA Focus Schools Program at their school in 2017. The Focus Schools Program is available to Department for Education schools in South Australia that have a secondary years component. In 2017 there were 130 schools involved in the program.*

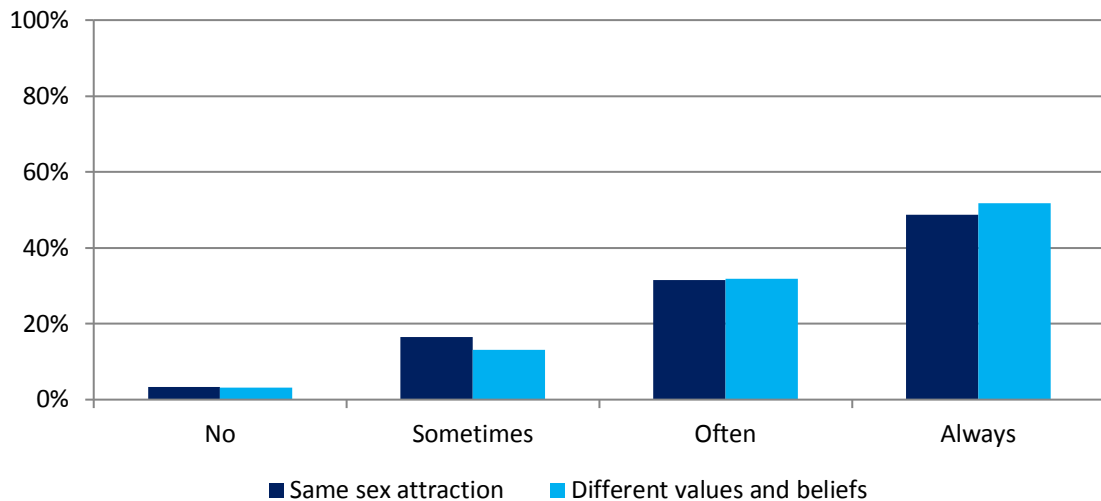
## Key findings

- 4005 students from 53 Focus Schools submitted a survey.
- Majority of respondents were Year 8 students (43% Year 8; 39% Year 9; 16% Year 10).
- 24% of respondents were offered between 6–10 relationships and sexual health (R&SH) lessons; 36% – 11–15 lessons; and 31% – 16 or more lessons.
- 85% of respondents rated the safety and support of the class environment as Good or Excellent.
- 82% of respondents rated the course overall as Good or Excellent.
- 93% of respondents believed the course will be useful to them now or in the future.
- 81% of respondents believed the course was often or always respectful and inclusive of same sex attraction.
- 84% of respondents believed the course was often or always respectful and inclusive of different values and beliefs.
- 28% of respondents had spoken with their family about a program related topic as a result of the lessons they had participated in.
- Parent/carer rated highest (72%) in regard to where young people would go for further information, followed by Friend (50%), Health service (42%), Internet (42%), Teacher (40%), and School counsellor (31%).
- The 5 most useful topics indicated, in descending order, were: Relationships; Safer sex; STIs; All of it; and The body/puberty.
- 47% indicated that no change was needed to improve the course; 22% wanted more in-depth information; 19% better class behaviour; and 16% more lessons.

## Students' rating of the course



## Was the course respectful and inclusive of same sex attraction and different values and beliefs?



*Our teacher used respectful wording when addressing relationships.*

*The course included scenarios with people in same sex relationships.*

*Yes, it was respectful to different values and beliefs, as everyone is different and people need to accept it.*

*The teacher did not give their opinion on certain matters making it completely unbiased and respectful to differing opinions.*

*We looked at things from different people's points of view and how to be accepting.*

*Many different beliefs, hard to include all.*

*Coming from a Christian background with different values to lots of other people I found that it was still inclusive.*

## Will the course be useful to you now or in the future in terms of your relationships and sexual health?

Yes

No

*...because it provides us with the knowledge required to navigate adolescence.*

*I now know how to properly act in a sexually active relationship, and I was taught that the most important thing in a sexually active relationship is consent.*

*It has taught me new things I didn't know or that I would be too nervous to ask about.*

*...because it taught me more about contraception, how to keep a healthy wellbeing and how to be safer on social media.*

*The course explains how to be in a healthy relationship and to communicate with your partner, how to have safe sex and your options if something happens.*

*Because I might have a situation like this when I'm older or a friend and I can help out.*

*For safety reasons and questions I need to ask myself in the future and now.*

*As I know how to deal with relationships better, what to do in an abusive one and how to properly end one.*

*It will help develop an equal and respectful relationship.*

*Because I know what a healthy relationship should feel/look like and where to go for help.*

*Because if it weren't for these classes I wouldn't know half the stuff that I know now.*

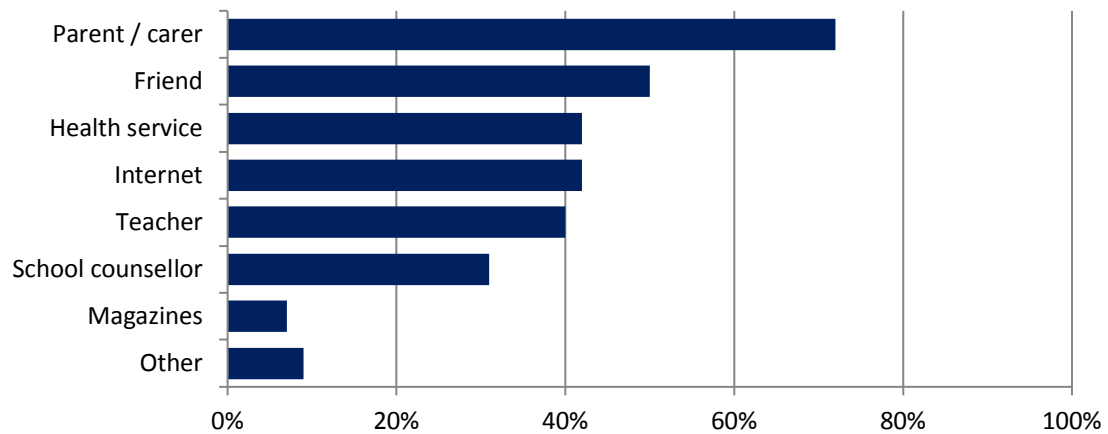
*Information wasn't new to me. It was just a revision of the information I've learnt in the past.*

*It was basically things I had already done in previous years or that I already knew about.*

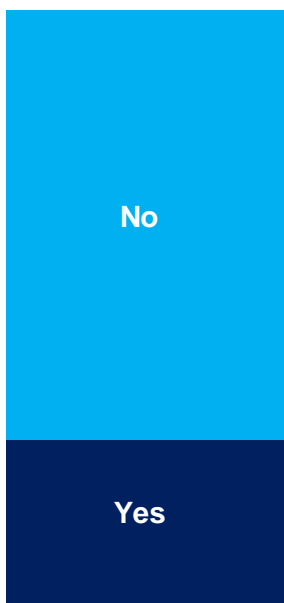
*Too much Heterosexual oriented things.*

*Because I already know everything.*

## Who would you speak to/where would you go to find out more about relationships and sexual health?



## Have you talked about any of the topics with your carers/family?



*I don't have any questions because they have all been answered during health. And I don't feel 100% comfortable.*

*My family would just stir me up about it so I avoid this topic at all costs at home. It's awkward to talk about it with my family.*

*My family is very homophobic, ignorant, judgemental and close-minded. I'm not comfortable talking to them about serious things.*

*No, but I am planning to (ask questions).*

*My parents already know.*

*No not yet but it will give me more confidence to in the future.*

*I didn't feel the need to tell them because I felt comfortable about it.*

*Because the course explained it enough.*

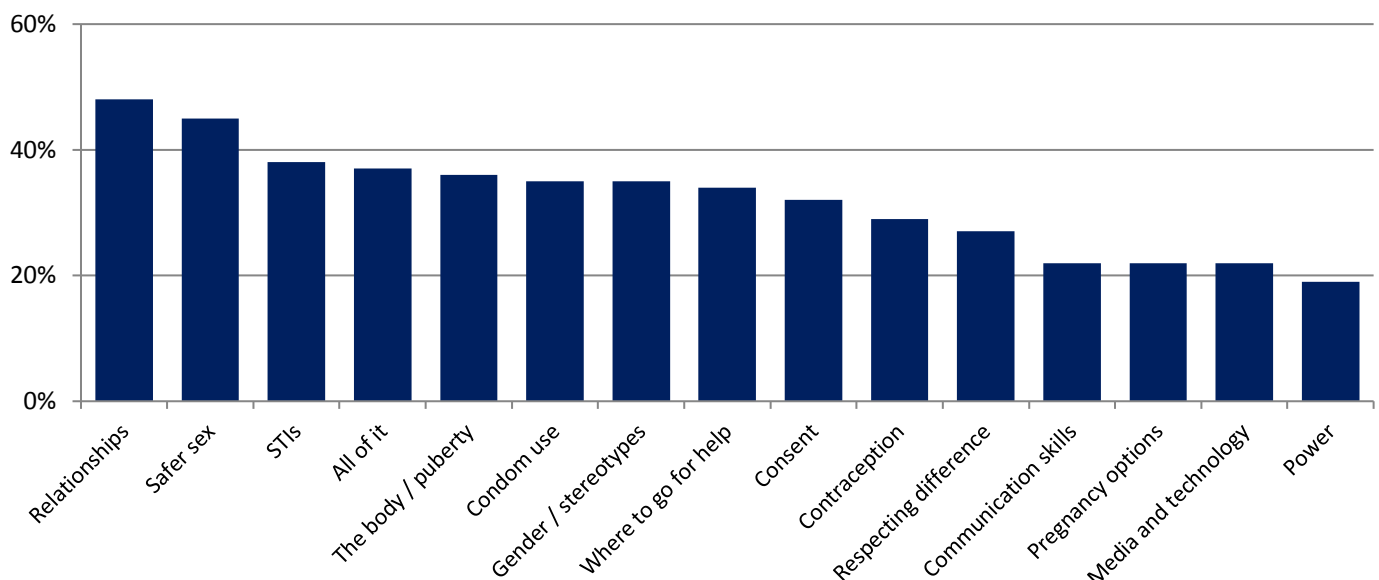
*I have chatted with my family about my own sexuality and helped them by giving them information I learned about understanding.*

*I talk with my parents - they're curious.*

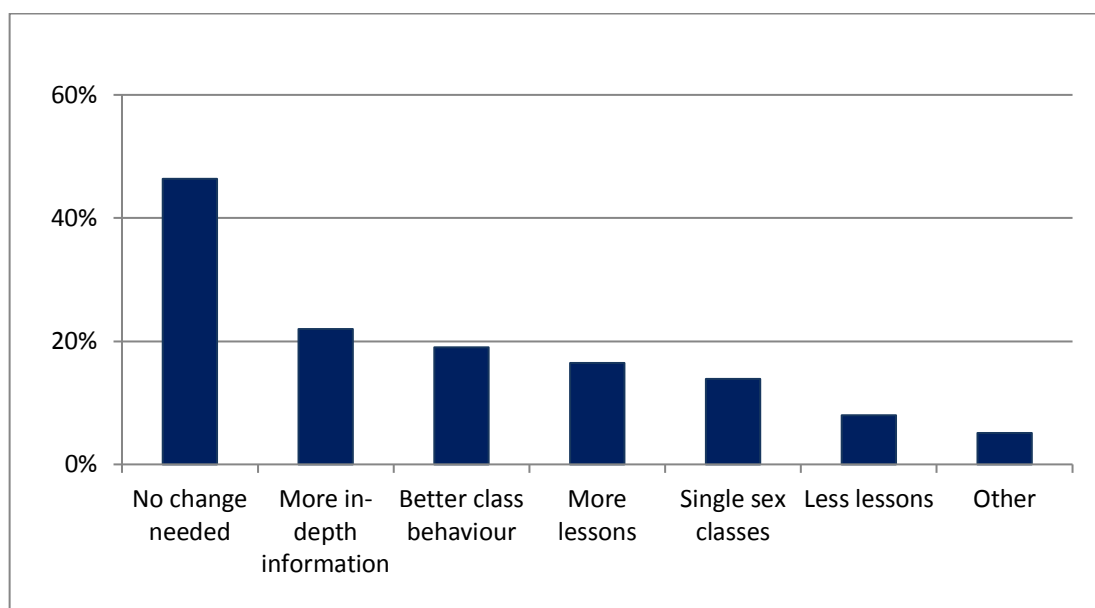
*I tell my mum about it and she thinks that learning about it is a good idea.*

*Family are always there to help and you never have to be in a situation where you are uncomfortable with them.*

## What were the most useful topics in the course?



## What changes would you make to improve the course?



*More about gender equality and how there are more than just two genders that need to be respected as equal.*

*How to get your family to accept your sexuality and love you for who you are.*

*I just want to learn about the different topics we did in just a bit more depth.*

*Explaining information at a higher level, rather than speaking briefly.*

*Keep it single sex classes because we can focus on girl things better and boys are immature.*

### General feedback from students

*It was actually more fun than I expected. I originally thought that the class would be really awkward and uncomfortable but it was the complete opposite.*

*The course was good and many things were learnt. The course was informative and everyone seemed to enjoy it. The condom lesson was good.*

*The class was very well planned out with all of the different topics entwining into each other, and they were taught in a manner that was very professional.*

*Overall the lessons were great they really helped me understand and get a new perspective of some of the different topics.*

### Discussion

In 2017 all Focus Schools were encouraged to participate in the student survey – 40% of schools responded and received a dedicated report reflecting their results. The SHINE SA Years 8–10 curriculum comprises 15 lessons in each year level. These results indicated that 24% of students had less than 10 lessons and 36% had 11 to 15. It is beyond the scope of this survey to determine which lessons/topics were omitted. Additionally only 16% of respondents were from Year 10.

The majority of students indicated that the classroom environment was safe, supportive and inclusive of diversity and rated the course good or excellent. These results reflect well on the skills of the teachers delivering the curriculum.

As in previous years, the majority of students had not discussed R&SH topics at home with many commenting that this was not something they felt comfortable with or there was no necessity as they received all the information they needed from their school lessons. Parents/carers, however, rated as the highest source of further information for R&SH.

Overwhelmingly (93%) students endorsed the relevance of the curriculum to their lives and nearly half indicated that they would not make any changes to the course. A number of students, however, indicated that they would like more in-depth information and more lessons. Comments regarding classroom behaviour and the gender make-up of the class provided interesting information for individual schools and teachers to consider.

Overall the results of the 2017 student survey were positive and indicated that the SHINE SA Years 8–10 curriculum was delivered well by teachers and met the needs of the young people who responded.