**Transcript**

***Jenny Walsh – Talking sexual health***

I’ve got an unusual job. I work at the Australian Research Centre in Sex Health and Society but I am not an academic. I take the research findings and I turn into stuff that people can use so that we can make a difference. So, at the moment what I’m working on is the revision of a national sexual health teaching resource and we first did that 10 years ago and what was groundbreaking about that then was that we did it in consultation with every education department in Australia and that resource was taken on by secondary schools all across Australia. So the question now is is there a new need for sexuality education. What do 15 and 16 year olds need and want to know and what can we make so that teachers can actually teach it in a classroom as well.

What I would like to achieve is that the we provide more education for young people in secondary schools across Australia. At the moment it’s ad hoc and it’s not meeting their needs and it’s a great shame. We’ve known for years that we should be providing sexuality education in high schools for young people and they want to know. And they want to know more than information about sexually transmitted diseases. They want opportunities to talk about their values and relationships and the things that really matter in life.

The challenge is for us to think about what we want for young people rather than what we’re frightened of and if we think about what we want for them, and that is that they’re older, sober, that having sex is at a time of their choosing, that it’s within a respectful relationship, then that will help guide the education we provide for young people and make it much more meaningful.