Pornography Versus Reality
Eroticising Inequality - Pornography, young people & sexuality
(Maree Crabbe)

- 1/3 of Australian Adults are consumers
- 35% of internet downloads or searches
- Personal and political issue
- People may express a view point but act differently
- $29 Billion annually in the US
- 10,000-12000 porn movies made annually
- 12-17 year old males most prevalent users
Issues

• First generation of young people to be exposed to pornography before they are sexually active
• Exposure can be accidental or intentional
• Filters
• Pornography industry is not regulated/critiqued
• Pornography has become more hard core and extreme
Project Aims

• To encourage young people to critique the messages portrayed in pornography about relationships, gender and sex

• To educate about the differences of pornography versus reality (respect, consent, safe sex, pleasurable for both, non violent,

• Provide young people with skills to empower them to resist pressure to partake in something they are not comfortable with
Porn as an educator

- Porn is a poor and problematic educator
- It erotises violence and makes gender inequality sexy
- 90% of porn does not have any discussion of consent, contraception, or demonstrate healthy respectful relationships
- Pleasure is portrayed regardless of discomfort or pain (violence is real and directed)
Porn as an Educator

• Over 90% of pornography contains violence and 94% of that violence is directed at women.
• The acts that are portrayed as pleasurable and sexy are in fact aggressive and violent.
• Young males are being influenced that women want to be treated in a violent degrading way.
• Young women are being influenced that they are expected to be submissive and compliant.
Impact of Pornography

• Body image issues for both males and females
• Increased rates of STI’s due to no condoms/contraception use (Wodonga)
• More violent and extreme sexual acts- hard core porn is now mainstream
• Young people can recognise the non reality of porn sex, but admit that porn is influencing their sex acts
What can be done:

• Educate about pornography versus reality
• Up-skill young people to respond to real life influences
• Limit exposure and legislate
• Pornography is a money making business
• Positive information about healthy respectful equal relationships
• Appeal to the desire of being a good lover