

Let's talk

# Exploring Sexuality Education in Australian Schools to Meet the Needs of Young Women

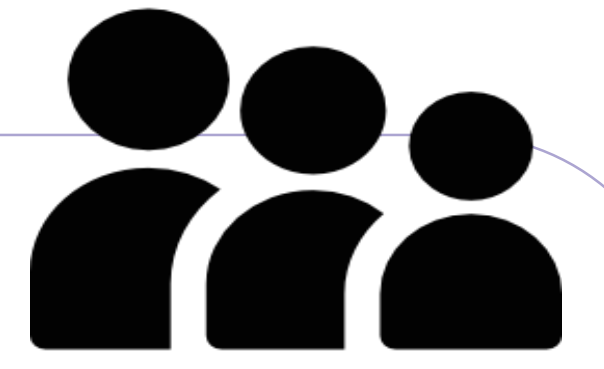
Sienna Aguilar, Young Women's Advisory Group of the Equality Rights Alliance

## Why sex education?



- We all want to young people to form healthy relationships
- Sustainable Development Goals highlight importance of comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education in achieving good health and well-being, quality education and gender equality
- Sexuality education provided in schools across Australia varies significantly

## What did we do?



- Conducted national survey of women aged 16-21 in 2015
- Supported local young women to run focus groups in Belconnen ACT (one) and Brisbane QLD (two)
- Asked about their experiences of sexuality and respectful relationships education

1,262 young people aged 16-21 surveyed

1,011 identified as young women

## What did we find?

Most young people receive some type of sex education at school

Young women want more from sex and relationships education

Sex education is out dated – limited topics covered, does not meet needs of young women

90% had sex education in school

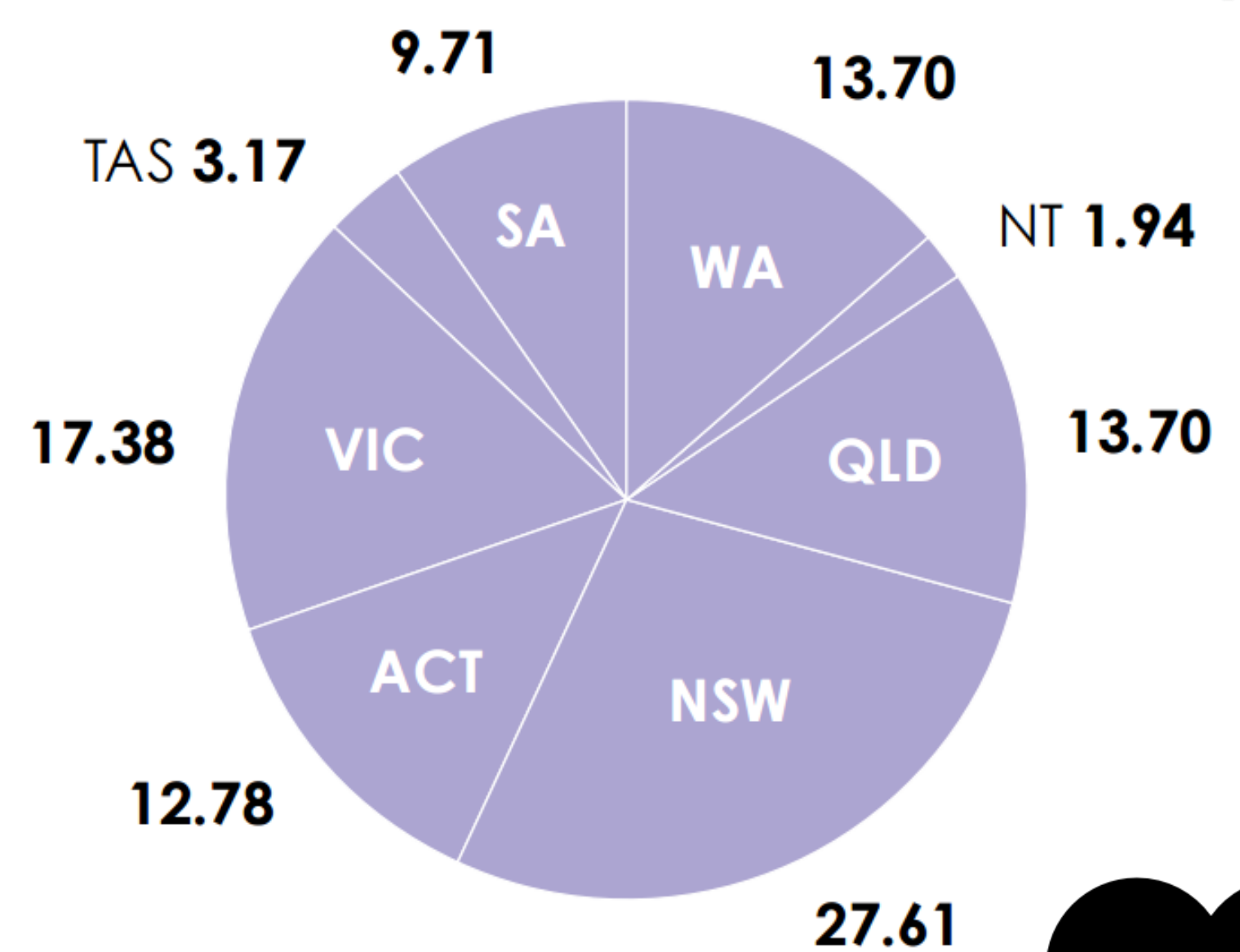
63% not taught about **consent**

40.4% learnt about **relationships**

8.4% learnt about **LGBTIQ** identities and relationships

<2% rated experience of sex education as excellent

## Respondents by State and Territory (%)



## Where to from here?

YWAG recommends 8 core components be embedded within sexuality and respectful relationships education in Australian schools.

1. Informed consent
2. Positive and respectful relationships
3. A healthy and informed approach to sex
4. Gender and sexual diversity
5. Relationships and technology
6. Bodies
7. Reproductive health
8. Sexual health

