
girl empowered



"behind every
successful girl
is herself"

'Just a joke'

Amelie and Lucy are best friends, but when Amelie kisses Tom, Caitlyn's ex-boyfriend, at a party all hell breaks loose in the group. Angry and determined to get revenge, Caitlyn creates a fake account online pretending to be Tom. What starts as a joke quickly spirals out of control when the fake Tom asks Amelie for inappropriate photos. Confronted by her role in the plan, Lucy doesn't speak up and tell Amelie the truth and so she sends the photos and very quickly they become public property. The play ends with Amelie revealing that the Police contacted her to inform her that her photos had ended up on a website and her situation became a news story.

Health and Physical education Curriculum content descriptions:

Communicating and interacting for health and wellbeing;	
ACPPS093	Investigate how empathy and ethical decision making contribute to respectful relationships
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comparing own decisions with those of others and acknowledging others' right to act differently and to change their mind.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrating and advocating appropriate bystander behavior when participating in online interactions.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practising skills to deal with challenging situations such as communicating choices, expressing opinions and initiating contingency plans
ACPPS094	Evaluate situations and propose appropriate emotional responses and then reflect on possible outcomes of different responses
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposing strategies for managing emotional responses and resolving conflict in a family or social situation or online environment.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analysing interactions where emotional responses may not be immediately apparent and reflecting on the possible consequences of not recognizing the emotions involved.

Cross-curricular opportunities

History

ACHHS172- Identify and analyse the perspectives of people from the past

English

ACELY1746- create imaginative, informative and persuasive texts that present a point of view and advance or illustrate arguments.

Resources

Lawstuff: Know your rights. Sexting: New voices new laws. Retrieved from:
www.lawstuff.org.au/nsw_law/topics/Sexting

Post-show activities

At the end of this play, the audience were asked to nominate the bystander. The answer was the character of Lucy, but also themselves!

They were asked to nominate a moment Lucy could have made a better choice that would have helped Amelie. These are the possible choices;

- Lucy could stand up to Caitlyn when she confronts her about the photos
 - Offer her an ultimatum 'stop or I will tell someone'
 - Put Caitlyn into Amelie's shoes 'Imagine if that was you'
 - Tell Caitlyn the legal ramifications of sexting
- Lucy could tell Amelie about the fake Tom account when Amelie asks her about whether or not to send Tom the photos
- Lucy could tell an adult about the account (Teacher, parent or Police)

Topics for discussion;

- Which option do they think would have given a better outcome? Why?
- What do they think prevents Lucy from being an active bystander and telling Amelie the truth?
- The Bystander effect- Scientific studies show that the more bystanders there are, the less likely it is that someone will stand up for the victim. Discuss.

The four roles of the bystander;

- SIDE KICK
 - REINFORCER
 - OUTSIDER
 - UPSTANDER
- Put them into groups and have them create a definition for each bystander role (see the below link for more information on the definitions)
- <https://au.reachout.com/articles/5-reasons-to-be-an-upstander>

- Create an infomercial around how to be an upstander. Present to the group

DRAMA- Improvisation

Get the students in to groups of two to choose one of the choices Lucy could have made. Get them to nominate what fears Lucy would have about this choice and then get them to improvise the scene.

Q's

- How did this option change the final outcome of the story?
- What was hard about this option?
- What would prevent Lucy from taking this option?
- Did it lead to resolution or further arguments and segregation?

VISUAL ART- Create a poster

Using information remembered from the show, create a poster of the legal ramifications of sexting in NSW. Use the article 'New voices, new laws' (provided on page 19-22 of this document) to aid in their application of the laws (www.lawstuff.org.au/nsw_law/topics/Sexting)

HISTORY- Research

Research the term 'Bystander Effect' (** warning this story does revolve around the murder of a young woman). Write an article about how the bystander effect can be seen online on sites such as Instagram

ENGLISH- Writing

Get the students to think about a time that they feel they were the bystander. Get them to write the following activities;

- Write a journal entry about what actually happened
- Write a letter to the victim explaining their choice, what prevented them from speaking up and how they felt after the event
- Write a letter to themselves forgiving themselves for the choice they made

NOTE: If students cannot think of a time where they themselves were a bystander, they can use Lucy from the actual story and write it from her perspective.

Lawstuff: Know your rights. Sexting: New voices new laws. Retrived from:
www.lawstuff.org.au/nsw-law/topics/Sexting

New Voices / New Laws

In partnership with Children's Legal Services of Legal Aid NSW, we launched a project to give young people meaningful information about the laws that can apply to sexting and cyber bullying and to survey their opinions on the fairness of these laws. To see what young people had to say, see our [report](#) and our [prezi](#).

To learn more about what the law says, see our prezis:

- [Putting the 'ex' in sexy text](#)
- [Putting the 'post' in imposter](#)

What you need to know:

Sexting can be a [crime](#).

The [penalties](#) can include jail sentences and sex offender registration.

If your pic has been shared - or if you're nervous that it might be - there are [things you can do](#) to stop these pictures being sent around.

What is sexting?

Sexting is using the internet or your phone to share nude/sexy pictures.

Is sexting a crime?

Sexting is a crime when it involves [people under 18](#). It's also a crime when it involves [harassing people of any age](#).

Why 18?

In NSW, the law says [you can consent to both sex and sexting at age 16](#). But NSW state law is not the only law that applies. When you use the internet or a mobile phone, the national law of Australia also applies, even though you are in NSW. This national law bans sexting for anyone under 18.

When sexting involves someone under 18...

When sexting involves someone under 18, it can be 'child pornography' or an 'indecent act'.

What is child pornography?

Child pornography is a picture of a young person who is:

- showing their private parts (genitals, anus or breasts);
- posing in a sexual way;
- doing a sexual act; or
- in the presence of someone who is doing a sexual act or pose.

Child pornography can include real pictures, photo-shopped pictures, videos and cartoons. But a picture is only child pornography if it is offensive to the average person. That's why a picture of a naked baby in a bath generally isn't child pornography, but a picture of a naked teenager in a bed could be in some circumstances.

What is illegal about it?

Child pornography pictures are illegal if they are:

- asked for;
- taken;
- received and kept; or
- sent, posted or passed around.

These actions are crimes even if the picture is only of you, your boyfriend/girlfriend or someone else who says it's ok. Remember, the national law says a person under 18 can't agree to sexting.

It can also be a crime to share a nude/sexy picture of someone who looks like they are under 18, even if they are actually over 18 when the picture was taken.

Even if a picture is not child pornography, asking for or sending a nude/sexy photo can be an indecent act and this is a crime. An indecent act is usually a sexual act that the average person finds offensive.

What are the penalties?

The maximum penalties for child pornography can be up to 15 years in jail and being placed on the [sex offender register](#). The maximum penalty for an act of indecency is 2 years in jail if the person in the picture is under 16. If the person is over 16, the maximum penalty is 18 months in jail.

These penalties are high because the laws were meant to stop adults from sexually abusing children. When the laws were passed, nobody realised that they might also be used against young people who took pictures of themselves or other people of their own age.

In some sexting cases, instead of using child pornography laws, the police might decide to:

- charge you with a less serious crime (like posting an indecent picture, which has a maximum penalty of 12 months in jail);
- send you to youth justice conferencing;
- give you a warning or caution; or
- let your parents or school decide your punishment.

When sexting involves harassment and threats, it's much more likely that police will press serious charges that could lead to sex offender registration.

If the person is under 18 when they commit the child pornography crime, the police must get the Attorney General's permission before they can make child pornography charges under the national law. The police do not need to get this permission before making charges under the NSW law.

What is the child sex offender register?

You may be placed on the sex offender register if you are found guilty of a child pornography or indecency crime. People on this register have to give their contact details to the police and inform them of any changes (like moving houses or switching jobs). They are not allowed to work or volunteer in places involving children. For example, they are not allowed to coach junior sports teams or become a surf lifesaver.

If you are under 18, you can't be placed on the register for committing just one child pornography or indecency crime. But when sexted pictures show more than one person or are sent on multiple days, this can be more than one crime. This means if you are under 18 but are involved in sexting with more than one person or on more than one day, you could still be placed on the register.

What should you do?

If you receive nude/sexy pictures or videos on the internet or on your mobile, you can avoid getting into trouble by:

- deleting the pictures/videos immediately and
- letting the sender know that you don't want to receive any more of these pictures/videos.

You should NEVER forward these images onto other people because this is a crime.

When sexting involves harassment...

Sexting can also be a form of harassment. For example, someone might keep bothering you with requests for a naked picture. Or they might send you a naked picture that you don't want. Or they might threaten to send a naked picture of you to other people without your permission.

Sexting that involves harassment can be an indecent act or stalking, even if everyone is over 18. It can also be considered a menacing, harassing or offensive use of the internet or a mobile phone.

What is menacing, harassing or offensive use of the internet or a mobile?

It is a crime to use your mobile phone or the internet in an offensive way or to harass somebody. Something could be offensive or harassing if it makes a person feel disgusted, humiliated or threatened. When sexting is used to threaten or bother someone, it is against the law. The maximum penalty is 3 years in jail.

What if you didn't know or agree to your picture or video being taken in the first place?

It is a crime for someone to take a picture or video of your private parts or private actions if you didn't know or didn't agree.

Private parts include a person's genitals or anus, even when they are covered by underwear.

Private actions include:

- Undressing;
- Using the toilet;
- Taking a shower or a bath; or
- Having sex or doing a sexual act.

The maximum penalty is 5 years in jail if the person being filmed is under 16. If the person being filmed is over 16, the maximum penalty is 2 years in jail or a fine. Remember, it is still a crime if the person being filmed is over 18.

Other laws that can apply to sexting...

When sexting involves a person who is under 16 and a person who is over 18, the person who is over 18 could be committing some other very serious crimes.

When sexting is unwanted and happens at work or school, it could also be a form of [sexual harassment](#).

What can I do to stop people sending images of me around the internet or through mobiles?

There are a number of things you can do to stop these pictures being sent around:

- If a picture is on a social networking site like Facebook, you may be able to report the picture and have it taken off the site.

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- You can report something on Facebook [here](#).
- For images of children under 13, parents can fill out a [form](#) to have that photo removed.
- Set privacy settings to allow you to review photo tags before they appear on your profile and your friends' newsfeeds.
- You can also make a report to your mobile phone company if you are receiving unwanted pictures or requests for pictures. Call your mobile phone company or go to their website for details.
- Apply for a protection order to stop a person from contacting you or sending out images to harass you.
- Send us a [Lawmail](#). We can tell you what your options are, help you make a complaint, or write a letter to the person who is threatening to share your picture.
- Tell someone you trust – a parent, friend, school counsellor or teacher.

- You may also wish to speak to someone from the [Kids Helpline](#) on 1800 55 1800.

- **Be aware** that your teacher may feel that they have to report the incident to the police.

- Contact the police if the images are being spread without your consent, or if you feel unsafe or threatened.

- **Be aware** that you may be charged if you took and sent the picture. But the police have discretion not to charge victims of unwanted sexting.

What should I do if I have a picture or text I am unsure about?

It's important to protect yourself by deleting any pictures you are uncomfortable with straight away. **NEVER forward these images on to anyone else.** If you're worried you may have committed a crime, you can send us a [Lawmail](#) or call or call the [Youth Hotline](#) on 1800 10 18 10.

If you decide to do any of these things, you should also have a look at our [fact sheet on self-incrimination](#).