
From: Megan Lim
Sent: Monday, 28 April 2025 5:39 PM
To: Committee Social Issues
Subject: Re: [EXT] - Inquiry into the impacts of harmful pornography – Post-hearing responses – 24 March 2025 - Burnet Institute
Attachments: STI trends Eddy 2023.pdf; PATHMENDRA jmir-2023-1-e43116.pdf; lim Young Australians' use of pornography.pdf; Davis et al Young womens pornography use - exploration and harm.pdf; Davis et al codesign of the gist.pdf; CARROTTE sex and violence content analysis.pdf; DAVIS What Behaviors Do Young Heterosexual Australians See in Pornography A Cross Sectional Study.pdf; TURVEY feasibility and acceptability of tech interventions.pdf; DAVIS Not my child parenting pornography and views on education.pdf; LIM parents attitudes and response to their childs pornography.pdf; poster IUSTI age verification.pdf; poster IUSTI gist evaluation.pdf

Dear Committee

Thank you for the transcript. I have no edits to make. As requested I have attached copies of our pornography-related research papers. This includes 2 posters recently presented at a conference that have not yet been published in the literature.

Please reach out if you have any questions

Megan

1. Eddy S, Douglass C, Raggatt M, Thomas A, Lim M. Trends in testing of sexually transmissible infections (STIs), sexual health knowledge and behaviours, and pornography use in cross-sectional samples of young people in Victoria, Australia, 2015–21. *Sexual Health*. 2023;20(2):164-172.
2. Pathmendra P, Raggatt M, Lim MS, Marino JL, Skinner SR. Exposure to pornography and adolescent sexual behavior: systematic review. *Journal of medical internet research*. 2023;25:e43116.
3. Lim M, Agius P, Carrotte E, Vella A, Hellard M. Young Australians' use of pornography and associations with sexual risk behaviours. *ANZJPH*. 2017;41(4):438-443.
4. Davis AC, Temple-Smith MJ, Carrotte E, Hellard ME, Lim MSC. A descriptive analysis of young women's pornography use: a tale of exploration and harm. *Sex Health*. 2020;17(1):69-76.
5. Davis AC, Wright CJ, Murphy S, et al. A Digital Pornography Literacy Resource Co-Designed With Vulnerable Young People: Development of "The Gist". *J Med Internet Res*. 2020;22(6):e15964.
6. Carrotte ER, Davis AC, Lim MS. Sexual Behaviors and Violence in Pornography: Systematic Review and Narrative Synthesis of Video Content Analyses. *J Med Internet Res*. 2020;22(5):e16702.
7. Davis AC, Carrotte ER, Hellard ME, Lim MSC. What Behaviors Do Young Heterosexual Australians See in Pornography? A Cross-Sectional Study. *J Sex Res*. 2018;55(3):310-319.

8. Turvey J, McKay D, Kaur ST, Castree N, Chang S, Lim MSC. Exploring the feasibility and acceptability of technological interventions to prevent adolescents' exposure to online pornography: qualitative research. *JMIR Pediatrics and Parenting*. 2024.
 9. Davis AC, Wright C, Curtis M, Lim MS, Hellard M, Temple-Smith M. Not my child: Parenting, pornography, and views on harm reduction. *Journal of Family Studies*. 2021;27:573-588.
 10. Lim M, Johnson E, Raggatt M. Parents' attitudes and response to their child's pornography consumption in Australia: cross-sectional survey. *Sexual Health*. 2024.
 11. POSTER presented at International Union against STI conference, 2024: Evaluating The Gist: An online resource for Pornography, Sex, and Relationship Education
 12. POSTER presented at International Union against STI conference, 2024: Age Verification to Prevent Access to Pornography: A Survey of Young People
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Age Verification to Prevent Access to Pornography: A Survey of Young People

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Background and aims

- The Australian government has announced a trial of an online age verification program to restrict young people’s access to internet-based pornography
- Internationally, these policies have received mixed support
- We aimed to understand young people’s attitudes towards and preferences for age verification

Methods

- In 2023, 794 participants aged 15-29 living in Victoria, Australia completed an online survey
- Participants were asked about pornography and hypothetical age verification processes (both closed and open-ended questions)

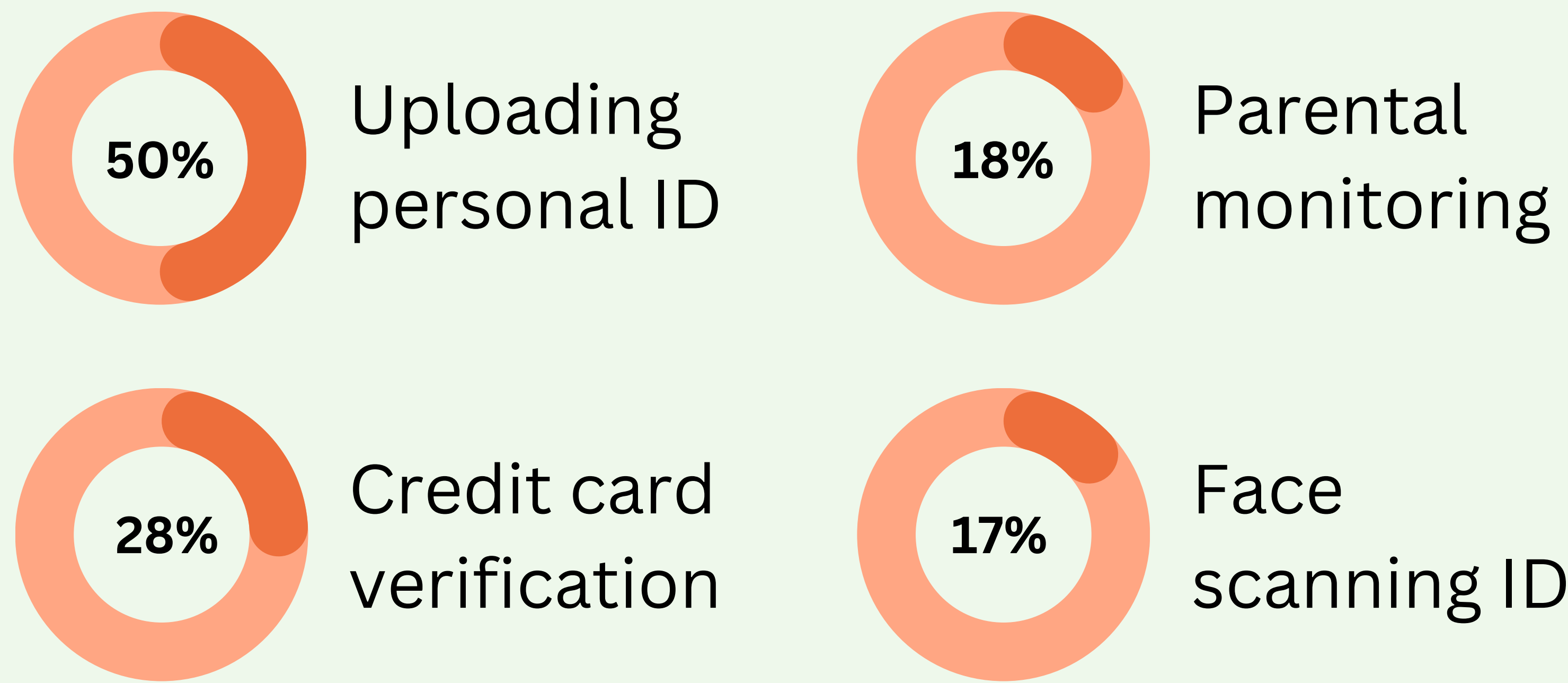
Findings: attitudes towards age verification

58% **strongly agreed** or **agreed** that everyone should verify their age to watch pornography



was the **median age** that participants thought individuals should be allowed to access pornography

Findings: acceptability of age-verification methods



“I don’t want my identity tied to my sexual preferences”

Bisexual/queer female, 25 years

“People will always find a way to get around access restrictions”

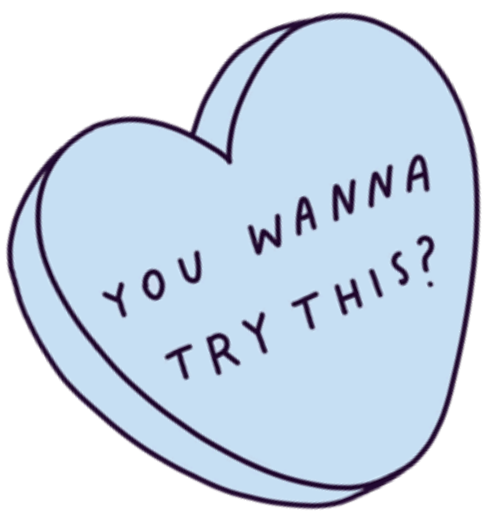
Pansexual male, 25 years

Discussion

- Young people broadly supported age verification. But, they were unconvinced by the proposed methods
- Concerns related to privacy, inefficacy, and impacts on sexual development
- Young people advocated for alternate approaches which focus on improving sexual education

Conclusion

- Significant consultation and education will be required before implementing age verification policies in Australia
- Young people have valuable insights and should be involved in this process



Introduction

- Young Australians are not satisfied ¹ with their sexual health education
- Rely on the internet and pornography to learn about sex, consent and relationships

Aim

Evaluate the impact of The Gist on young people to determine its effectiveness, feasibility, and acceptability.



Methods

QUANTITATIVE	QUALITATIVE
Around 100 pre-post questionnaires	Activities
	Participants Feedback
Website analytics	Reflection Sessions
	Staff Interviews

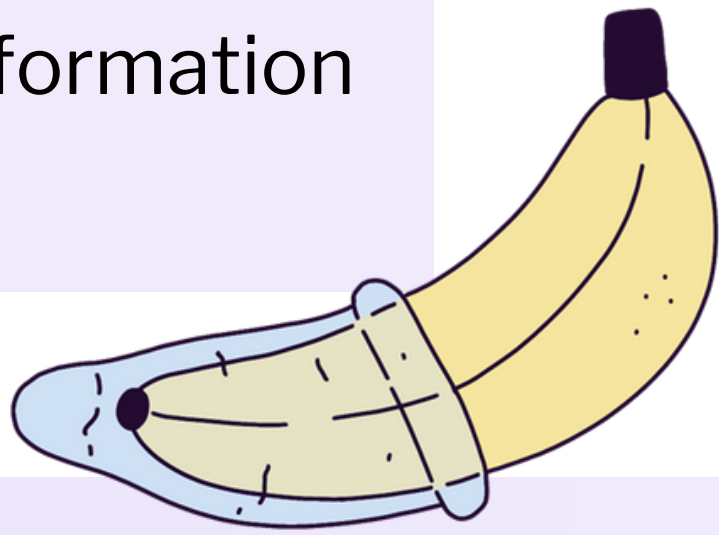
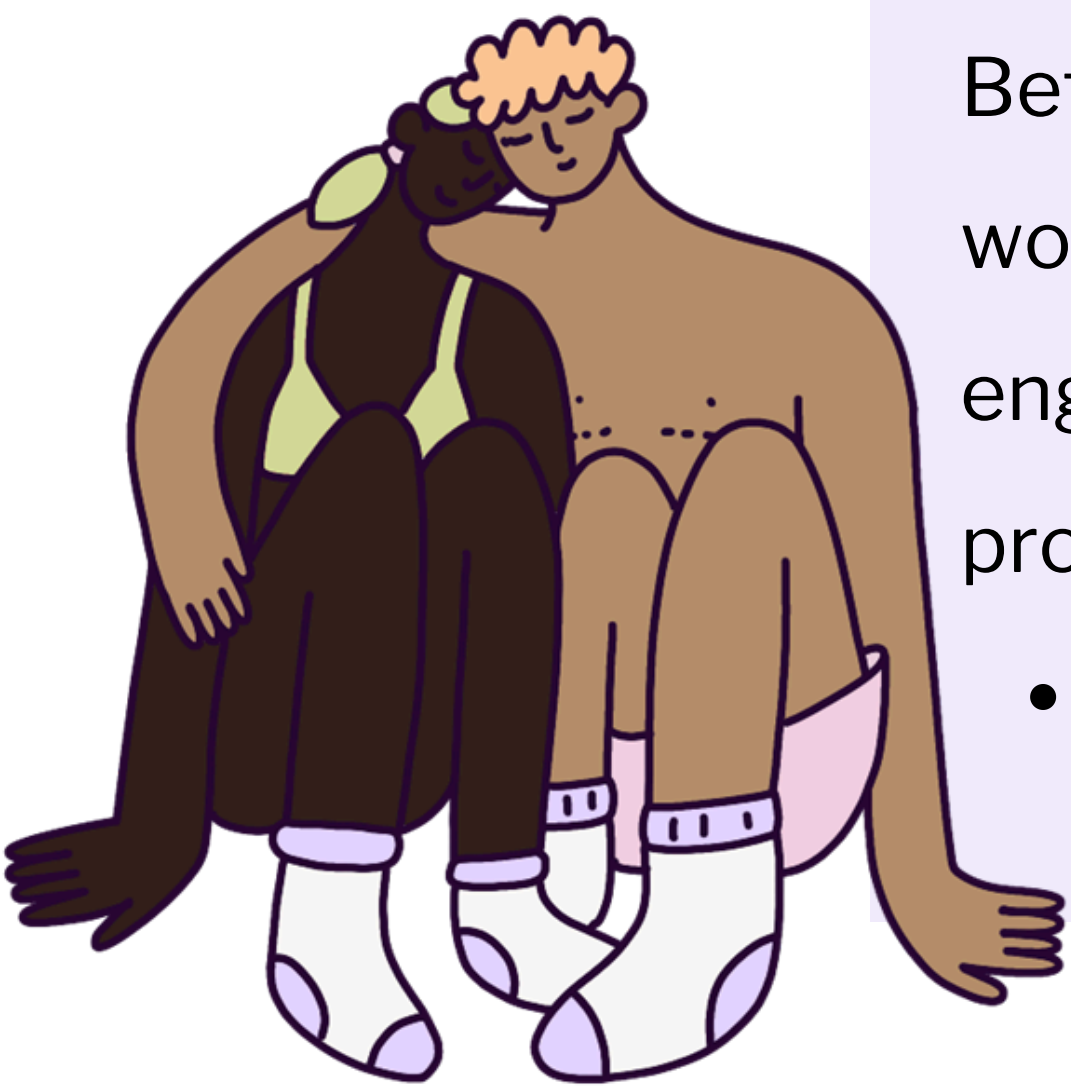
10 Service sites (4 metropolitan, 6 regional) were sampled across Victoria

Data sources for the evaluation included: website analytics, student surveys, participatory workshop activities, researcher observation notes, feedback forms, and more.

Background

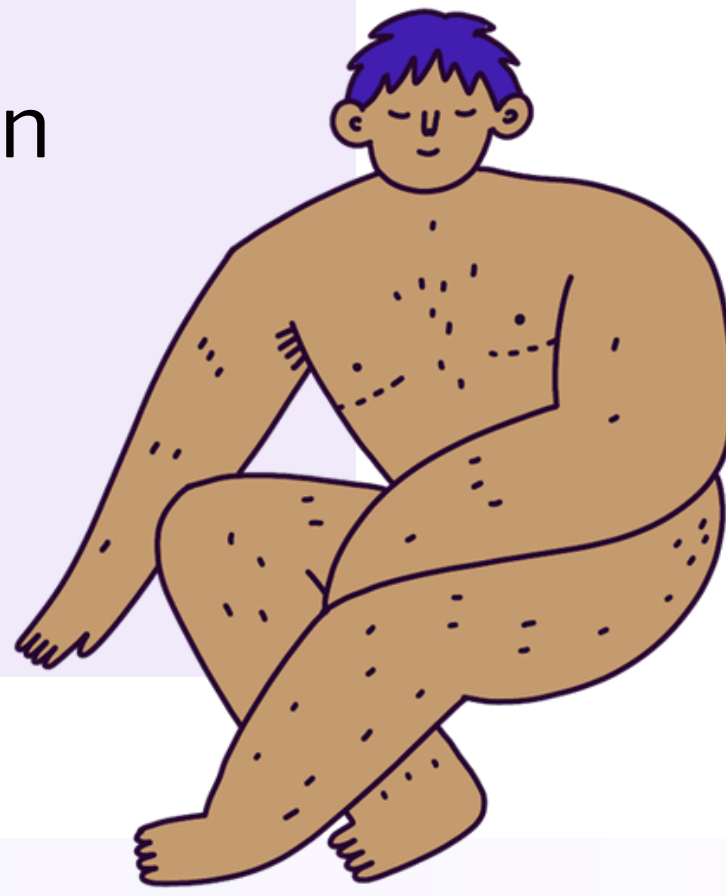
Between 2018-2023, Burnet conducted a series of co-design workshops with groups of young people aged between 14-23 years engaged in youth services programs or alternative education programs to create The Gist:

- An educational package aiming to provide alternative information about sex, relationships, and pornography



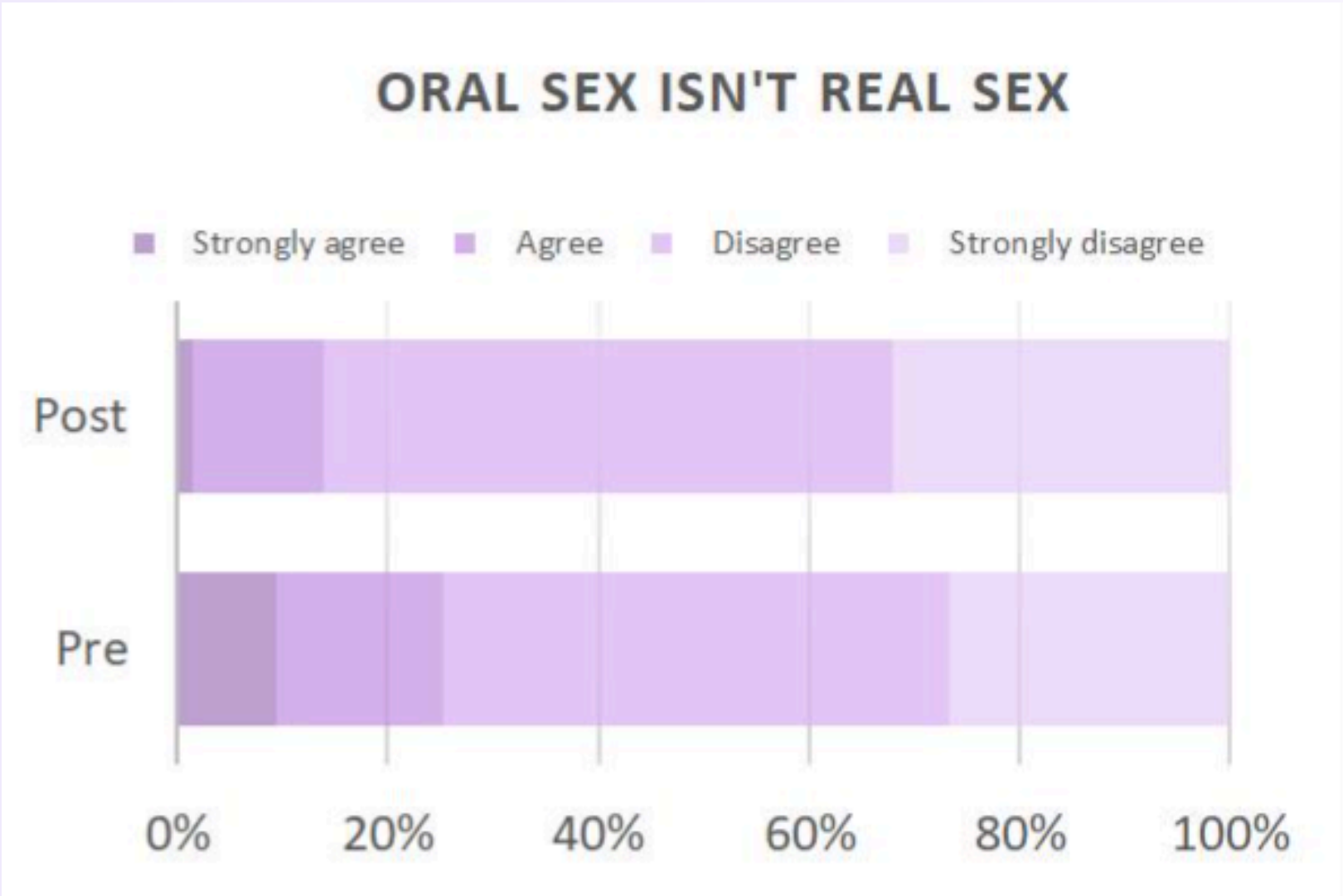
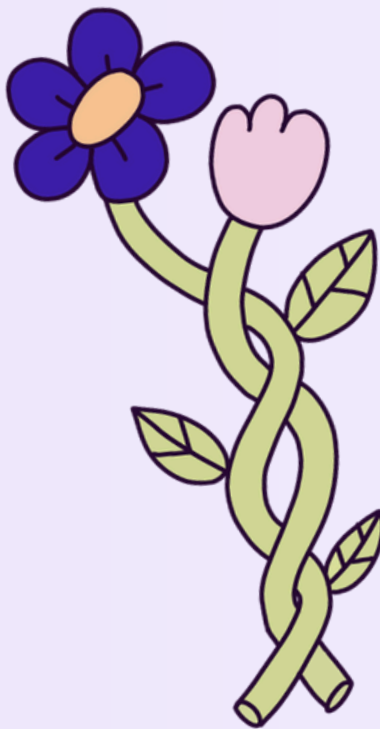
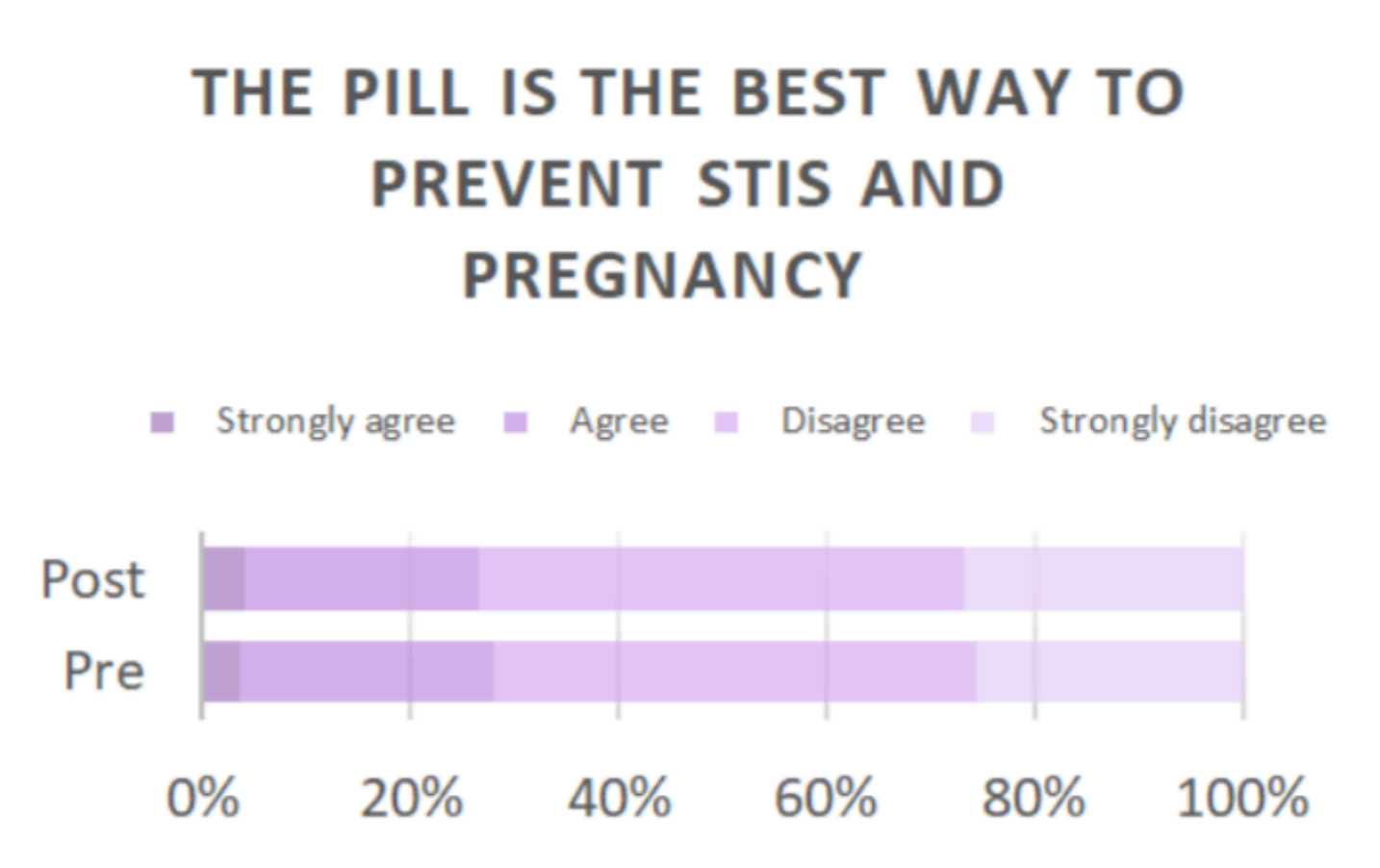
Participants

101 Young people across Victoria participated in the program in 2023



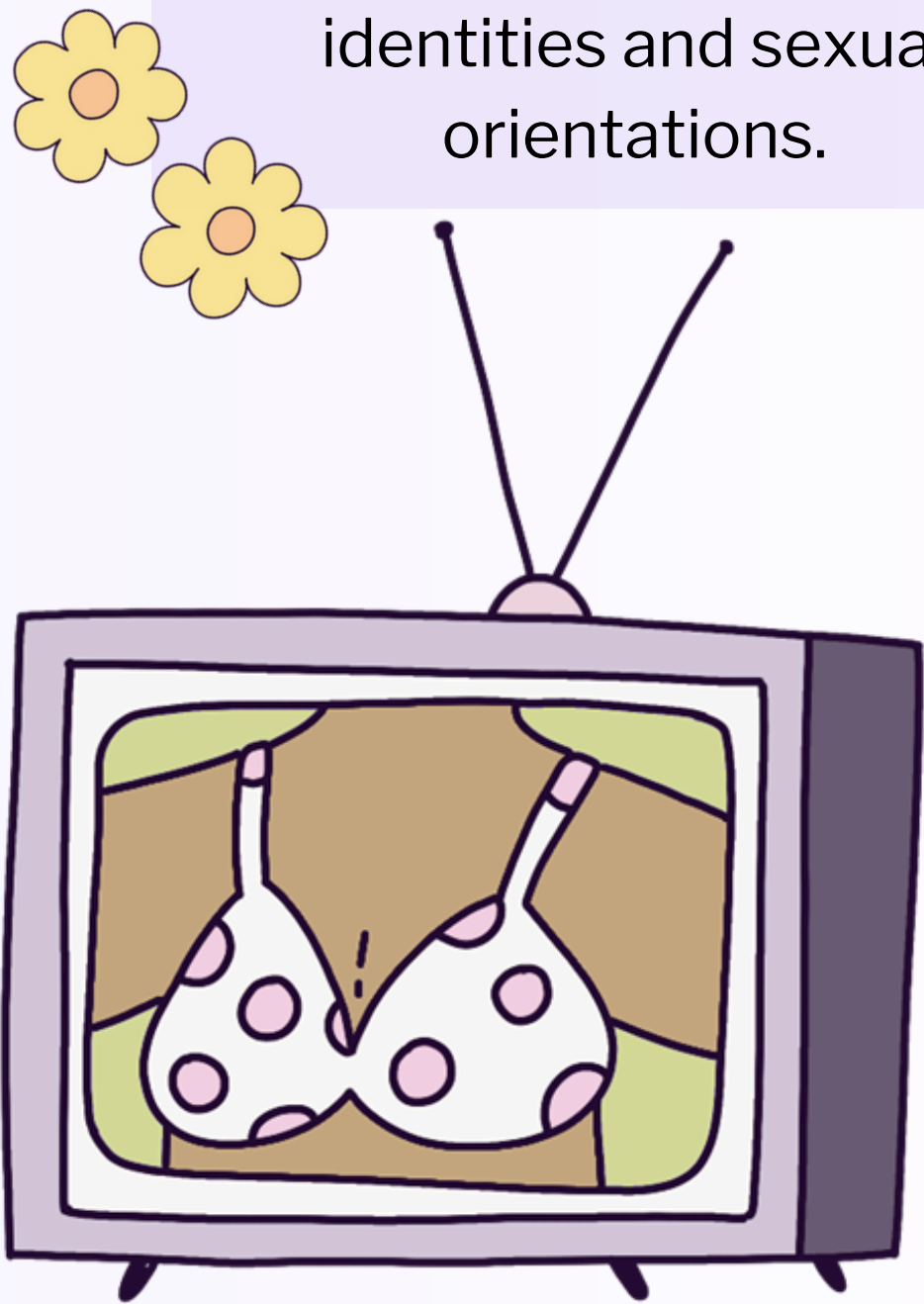
Results: Program Evaluation

Knowledge about sex and relationships demonstrated a statistically significant increase from pre- to post-program:



“They were definitely tuned in... and we had lots of relevant conversation that followed” - Teacher

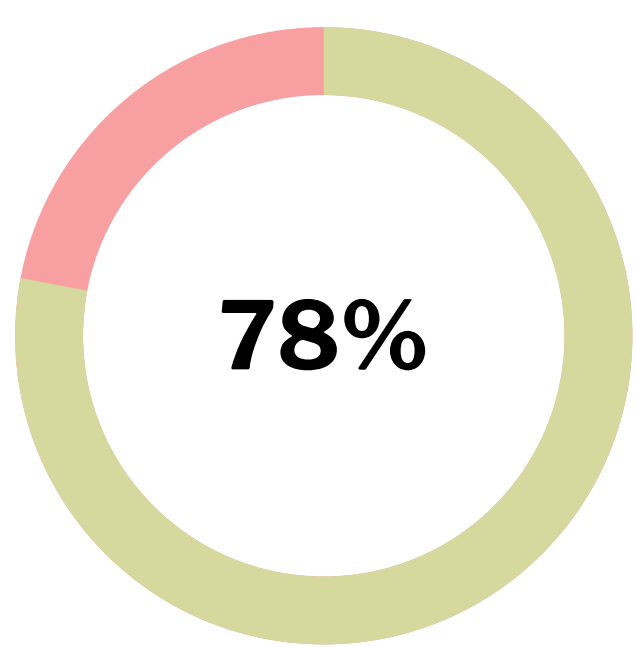
Content was seen as highly relevant to the sexual health needs of students, and **inclusive** of diverse gender identities and sexual orientations.



Website Evaluation

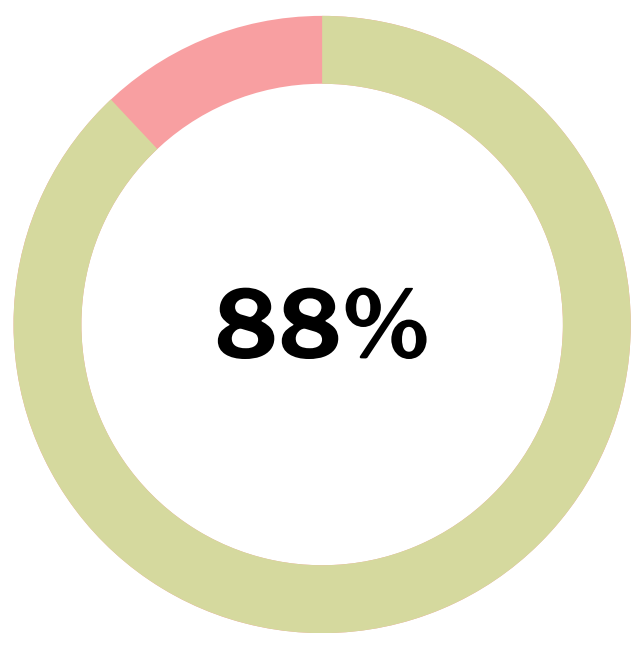
Preliminary user evaluation shows that few young people have used the website outside of workshops, but those who have done so rate it highly. Majority reported the website was:

The website is informative and appealing to young people, but there was limited engagement with the digital resource: only **346 visits** during the evaluation period.

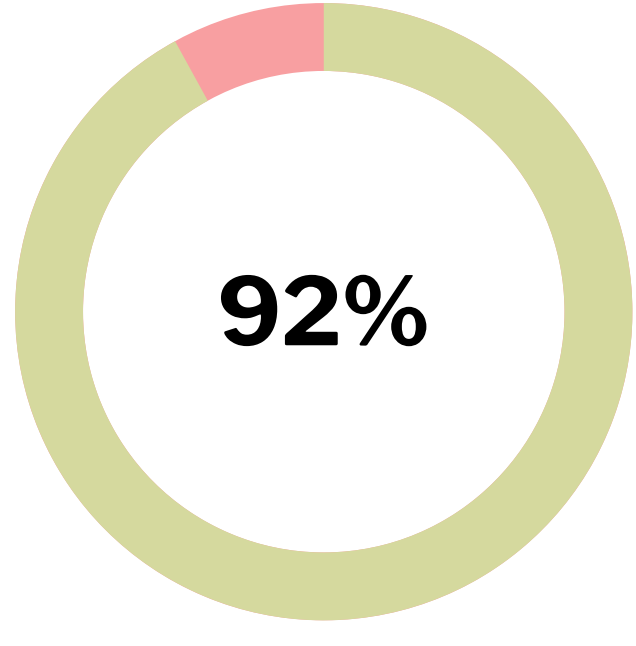


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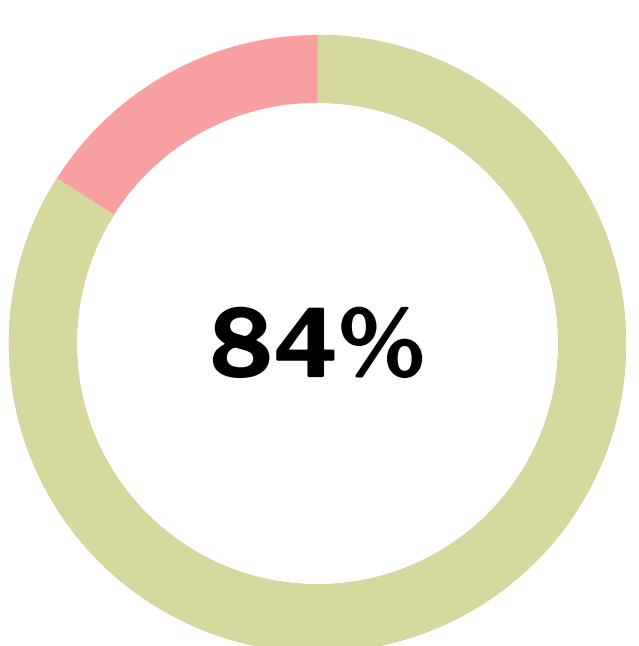
Yes
No



HELPFUL



INCLUSIVE

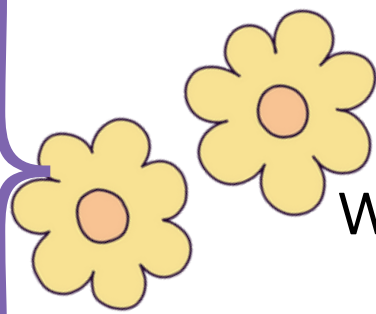


EASY TO UNDERSTAND

“The majority of our kids are visual learners, so they appreciated the mix of talking and being able to watch things.” - Teacher



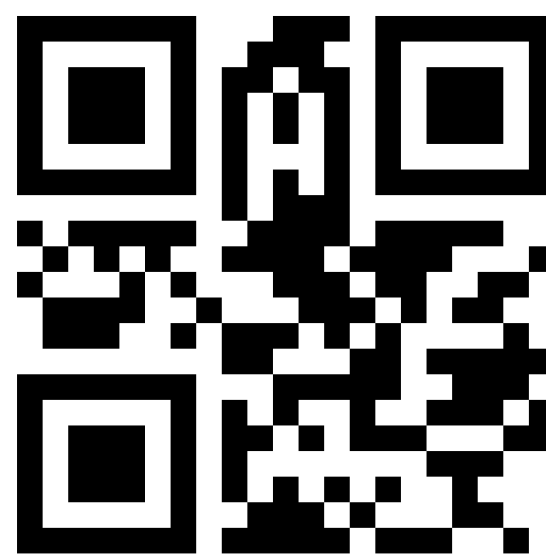
“I found it helpful because I learned things that I did not know” - Student



Conclusion

- The Gist education sessions were **acceptable** and **feasible** for education services.
- There was some evidence of efficacy in **improving** sexual health knowledge.
- Further work is needed to ensure a sustainable delivery mechanism for the program.

thegist.org.au



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References

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2. Davis, A. C., Wright, C. J., Murphy, S., Dietze, P., Temple-Smith, M. J., Hellard, M. E., & Lim, M. S. (2020). A Digital Pornography Literacy Resource Co-Designed With Vulnerable Young People: Development of "The Gist". J Med Internet Res, 22(6), e15964. doi:10.2196/15964