



FAMILY PLANNING VICTORIA

Individual and Specialist Education and Support Program (ISE&S)

The Individual and Specialist Education and Support Program (ISE&S) provides the following services from its sites at Box Hill and the Action Centre (in the Melbourne CBD):

- SEIS / BIST (Sexuality Education & Intervention Service)
- Individual Human Relations Counselling and Education for clients with special needs
- Support to people with special needs who are attending FPV clinics.

SEIS / BIST (Sexuality Education & Intervention Service)

The SEIS / BIST (Sexuality Education & Intervention Service) provides education and intervention services to people whose behaviour is placing them at significant risk of sexually offending or being sexually exploited. Examples of such behaviours may include:

- touching people inappropriately (including sexual assault);
- inappropriate use of language or inappropriate dressing;
- loitering in public toilets or other similar places for sexual activity;
- grooming others for sexual activity or accepting grooming (accepting food, drinks, lifts, money, etc);
- inappropriate sexual behaviour with strangers, family or friends;
- public masturbation;
- gender confusion resulting in inappropriate sexual behaviours;
- stalking;
- inappropriate touching of animals;
- talking to strangers;
- accepting sexual abuse/rape from others in the home, workplace;
- inappropriate menstrual management.

To be eligible for this free service:

1. The client must be registered with DHS Disability Services (as Intellectually Disabled under the Intellectually Disabled Person's Services Act 1986) AND
2. The client must have an allocated Case Manager to complete the Assessment of Needs Report (AONR) – as per IDS Human Relations and Sexuality Policy and Guidelines Revised Dec 1994 AND
3. The 'at risk' behaviour is occurring as a result of deficits in the client's human relations knowledge AND
4. The client's level of cognitive functioning must allow him/her to benefit from intensive education sessions.

The Sexuality Education and Intervention Service is able to assist clients of any age and gender who have a mild, moderate or severe disability. The individualized education and intervention program includes education sessions, secondary consultations and support to the client's network to address the client's issues.

Individual Human Relations Counselling and Education

Family Planning Victoria offers individualized programs of Human Relations Counselling and Education to individuals with gaps in their sexuality and human relations knowledge that are impacting, or could impact on, their ability to lead a full and valued life in the community.

FPV is funded to provide this free service to a limited number of clients. As a consequence, we target this service to those clients with low incomes. Those clients with the capacity to pay (or who have individualized funding packages available) are charged a fee for service. Individual Human Relations Counselling and Education is often included as part of an individual's funded Service Plan to maximize their community involvement and participation options.

Counselling and Education sessions are based on innovative learning techniques suitable for people with special needs. The program aims to provide a wide range of therapeutic, educational, and developmental learning strategies to facilitate skill development in the area of human relations, sexual and reproductive health. An emphasis is placed upon experiential learning reflecting real life situations utilizing resources such as videos, role-play, worksheets, artwork, models, anatomically correct dolls, etc.

Topics that may be addressed include:

- public and private body parts, behaviours and settings
- puberty: including body changes; males & females; function of organs
- menstruation and menstrual management
- recognition of feelings including a discussion of appropriate responses to situations and validation of feelings, including building assertiveness.
- protective behaviours: including providing clients with information on how to deal with bullying and teasing; identifying safe and unsafe feelings and body language; and having "sexy feelings". Clients are also assisted to develop a supportive social network of people who they can go to if they feel unsafe
- different types of relationships and how to build social skills and networks around family, friends, teachers, and boyfriends/ girlfriends
- appropriate and inappropriate touching and how to respond to unwanted behaviours
- laws and social rules about sex
- conception, contraception, and sexually transmissible infections

Support to people with special needs who are attending FPV clinics

Comprehensive and reassuring information provision, education and individual consultation support can be provided to clients with special needs whose attendance at a clinic for services such as PAP testing, pregnancy or STI testing causes anxiety.

This information is accurate as at November 2005. For information on services available from the Individual and Specialist Education and Support service of Family Planning Victoria, please call 9257 0133.