

# Consent Counts

The Social Return of Consent and Respectful Relationships Education

*Consent Labs*



# Consent Labs creates safe and engaging environments to facilitate Consent and Respectful Relationships Education, driving social benefits across Australia

## Snapshot of Consent Labs' aggregate impact

Founded in 2016, Consent Labs is a youth-led not-for-profit organisation that empowers young people and their supporting communities to change the culture around sexual violence through comprehensive Consent and Respectful Relationships Education (CRRE) programs.

Using a collaborative model that complements school-based learning, Consent Labs delivers CRRE courses designed to drive lasting behavioural change.



**A youth-led, collaborative approach creates immediate impacts in the classroom**



**3 in 4**

Students learnt something practical for day-to-day life



**91%**

Of educators considered specialist providers like Consent Labs important

**In FY25, Consent Labs brought best practice CRRE programs to Australians across the country**

**881**

Programs run

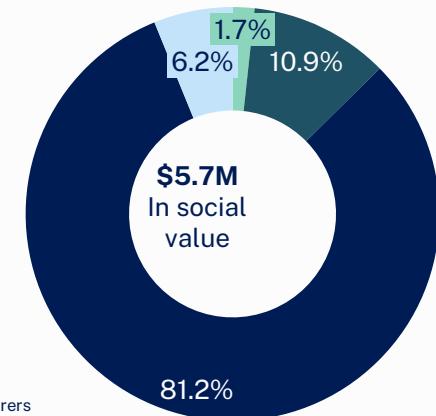
**48,500**

Students educated

**787**

Teachers supported

**Breakdown of social benefits generated by Consent Labs in FY2025**



**Scaling Consent Labs and other external providers that use collaborative education models could mean:**



**300,000**

Extra students that could benefit from the provision of collaborative, youth-led CRRE



**\$13.7 M**

In social value created in FY2028



**\$3 and 48 cents**

For every dollar invested in Consent Labs, Australia is returned \$3.48 in social value

# Executive summary

## Sexual violence is a major part of Australia's national challenge with gender-based violence

Australia faces a major, systemic issue in the form of gender-based violence, with sexual violence being a significant component.

In 2023, there were over 36,000 reported victim-survivors of sexual assault, the highest rate recorded across 31 years of data. The majority, 84%, of these victim-survivors were female.

The impact of this violence has strong and long-lasting effects, causing great harm to families, communities, and society at large.

## Australian high schools can benefit from specialist support to deliver highly effective CRRE

From 2023, consent education was made a mandatory element of school curriculums across Australia. This was a promising step towards ensuring universal access to consent education. However, work still needs to be done.

The ability to deliver practical and effective consent education for adolescents can vary across schools, with teachers already dealing with large workloads and schools needing a flexible curriculum to cater to community needs.

Specialist educators like Consent Labs are complementary to school-based learning – helping schools to drive lasting, widespread behavioural change through evidence-based curriculum and engaging delivery.

## Consent Labs' approach to CRRE has lasting impacts on students, teachers and parents

Consent Labs' educational program addresses topics that are particularly relevant for young people. A survey of students aged 12 and above who had participated in a Consent Labs program showed a 20 percentage-point uplift in knowledge and confidence about issues of consent after a workshop. Meanwhile, 76% of students reported learning something practical that they can incorporate into their day-to-day life.

Improvement was also evident among educators and parents. 91% of educators considered specialist providers like Consent Labs important.

**Consent Labs delivered \$5.7M in lifetime benefits in FY25, at a return on investment of 3.48:1**

Consent Labs produces a broad range of social benefits through the delivery of its CRRE programs, with a social return on investment (SROI) of 3.48:1. This implies that every \$1 invested in Consent Labs produces \$3.48 in social benefits.

The primary benefit stems from lasting impacts on students and society, who benefit from improved relationships and reduced rates of sexual harassment and violence. Students and society receive 81% of total benefits (\$2.83 per dollar invested). Ancillary benefits include reduced burdens on educators and schools (\$0.38), skill development and improved relationships for program facilitators (\$0.06), and reduced caregiving responsibilities for parents and carers (\$0.21).



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Note: All dollar figures are Australian dollars unless indicated otherwise.



1

## **Sexual violence is a major part of Australia's national challenge with gender-based violence**

2

Australian high schools can benefit from specialist support to deliver highly effective Consent and Respectful Relationships Education

3

Consent Labs' approach to Consent and Respectful Relationships Education has lasting impacts on students, teachers and parents

4

Consent Labs delivered \$5.7m in lifetime benefits in FY25, at a social return on investment of 3.48:1

5

Appendix

# Gender-based violence is a major, systemic issue in Australia

Australia faces a major, systemic issue in the form of gender-based violence. The impact of this violence has strong and long-lasting effects, causing great harm to families, communities, and society at large.

1 in 12 Australian women aged over 15 have experienced violence by a family member, 1 in 4 have experienced intimate partner violence, and 1 in 5 have experienced sexual violence.

This epidemic of gender-based violence is not incurable. As the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children* lays out, gendered violence can be eliminated from Australia within a generation. Doing so requires us to address the underlying social, cultural, political, and economic factors that drive it.

The National Plan lays out four domains through which these drivers can be addressed: prevention, early intervention, response, and recovery and healing.

This research report focusses on the impact of prevention in the context of sexual violence, in the form of evidence-based, consent education programs for high school students.

Source: DSS (2022) *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032*

## Gender-based violence in Australia



= Consent Labs' area of expertise

**Family, domestic, and sexual violence (FDSV)** is both highly prevalent across Australia and heavily gendered.



**The Australian Government's National Plan** maps out an agenda to end violence against women and children **within a generation** by accelerating national actions across the following domains:



<sup>1</sup> Since the age of 15. DSS (2024) *National Plan Outcomes Framework*  
Source: DSS (2022) *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032*

# Reported rates of sexual violence in Australia are growing, highlighting the need for effective interventions

Sexual violence is a significant component of Australia's problem with gender-based violence.

In 2023, there were over 36,000 reported victim-survivors of sexual assault, the highest rate recorded across 31 years of data. The majority, 84%, of these victim-survivors were female.<sup>1</sup>

Meanwhile, the 12-month prevalence rate of sexual harassment was estimated to be 12.6% for women and 4.5% for men in 2021-22.<sup>2</sup>

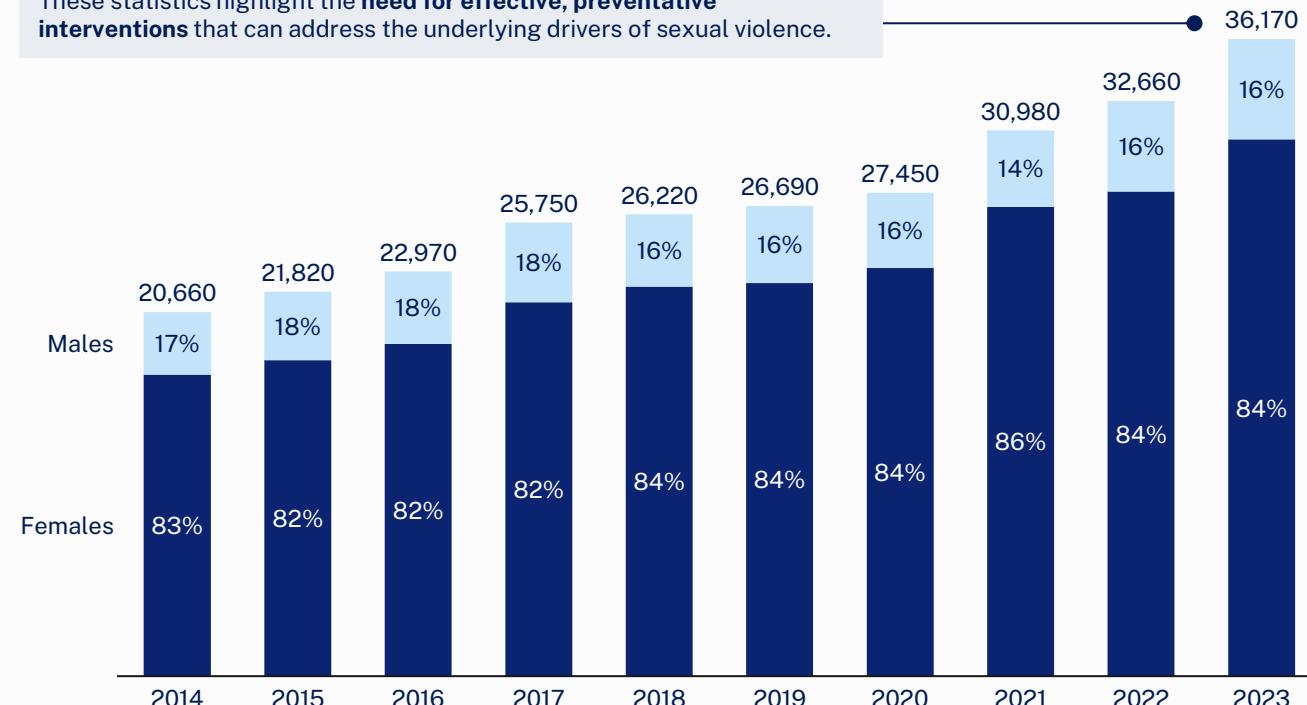
The data demonstrates that rates of sexual violence are pervasive across Australia. Supporting the delivery of effective interventions will be essential if Australia is to achieve its goal of eliminating all forms of gender-based violence within one generation.

## Reported victim-survivors of sexual assault over time

# per year

Reported victim-survivors of sexual assault rose above **36,000** people in 2023. Meanwhile statistics on sexual harassment from 2021-22 estimated that **12.6%** of women have experienced harassment in the last 12 months.<sup>2</sup>

These statistics highlight the **need for effective, preventative interventions** that can address the underlying drivers of sexual violence.



Notes: Drivers of the increase in reported sexual assault victims are challenging to diagnose, due to potential changes in underlying reporting behaviour and police detection.

2 ABS Personal Safety Survey, via AIHW (2025) Sexual violence.

Source: ABS (2024) Recorded Crime - Victims

# While funding for gender-based violence interventions has increased, primary prevention remains a small component

Government funding for gender-based violence interventions has increased twelve-fold since FY11. This funding can help to strengthen primary prevention initiatives, which currently account for 9% of total funding.

Since 2016, Australia has substantially expanded support for survivors through funding activities aimed at strengthening the response to gender-based violence, establishing a strong foundation for intervention services.

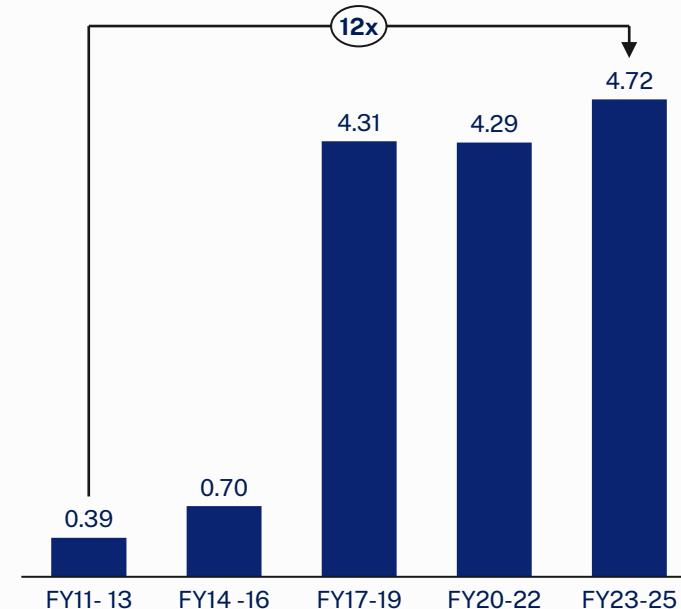
With proactive measures such as primary prevention and promoting gender equality each representing less than one-tenth of current investment, there is scope to enhance this component of the funding portfolio.

Furthermore, structural challenges exist with sexual violence services, lacking dedicated funding streams. Interventions that operate at the intersection of different forms of gender-based violence can benefit from more sustained support. Moving forward, this should be seen as an opportunity to target more investment towards preventative measures, particularly in relation to sexual violence.

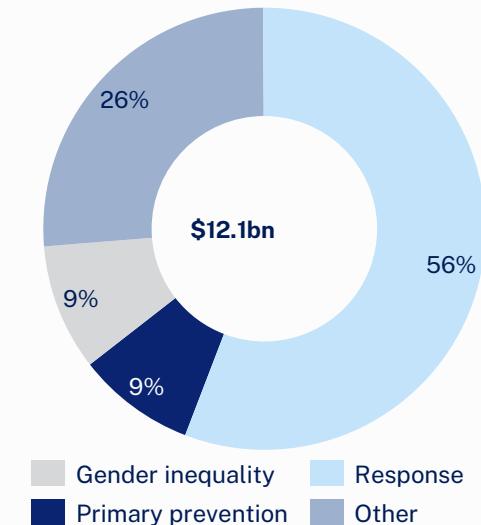
Source: Sheppard et al. (2025) *A critical review of long-term funding for reducing violence against women in Australia*; Full Stop (2025) *Underfunding for sexual, domestic and family violence sector comes at a grave cost*

## Funding for gender-based violence in Australia

**Total funding for gender-based violence strategy across all levels of government**  
\$bn, 2011-2025



**Funding for primary prevention has historically been small**  
%, 2011-2022



Despite growing focus on reducing gender-based violence, government efforts have varied in consistency. The first National Plan (2011 -2022) had limited initial funding, with support only increasing at key milestones while ongoing commitment remained challenging. Sector advocates also noted opportunities for increased funding in primary prevention, including awareness campaigns, gender equality programs, and dedicated sexual violence services.

Source: Sheppard et al. (2025) *A critical review of long-term funding for reducing violence against women in Australia*, Mandala analysis

# CRRE is an evidence-backed intervention that reduces sexual violence and improves relationships

Consent and Respectful Relationships Education (CRRE), as a component of comprehensive sexual education (CSE), delivers measurable safety and developmental benefits for students.

CRRE programs that incorporate consent education achieve measurable reductions in sexual harassment and sexual violence perpetration rates among participants.

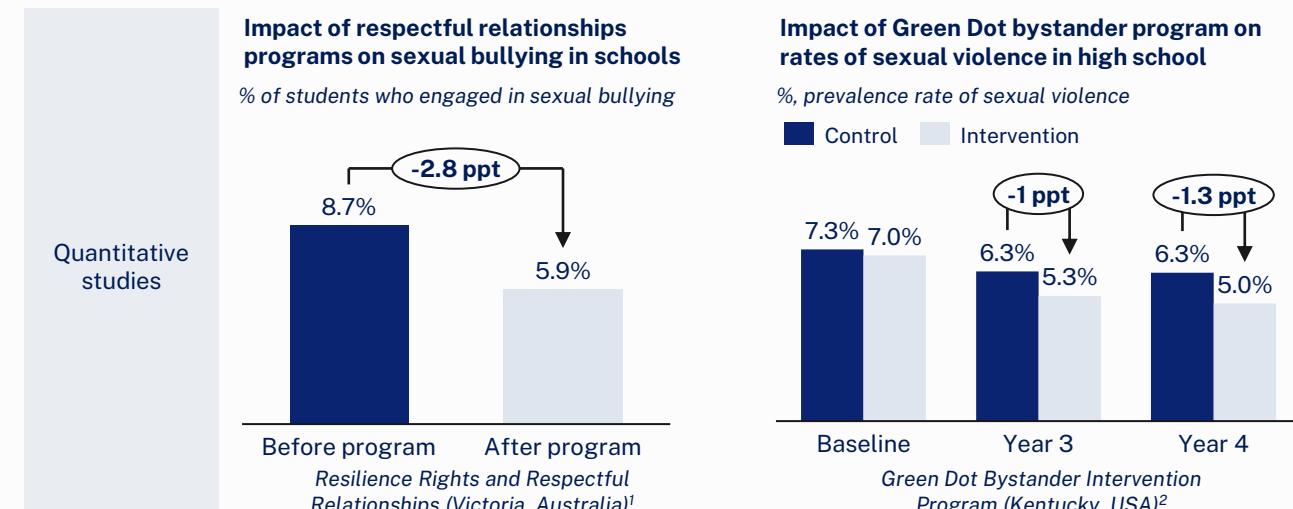
Beyond prevention outcomes, CRRE programs foster positive interpersonal relationships, expand understandings of gender equity, and increase bystander intervention behaviours. Earlier studies also found improvements in health outcomes such as the prevention of STIs, while more recent meta reviews reveal broader impacts, including reductions in dating violence and greater recognition of gender rights.

CRRE represents an evidence-backed approach that creates safer, more equitable school environments, while supporting healthy development.

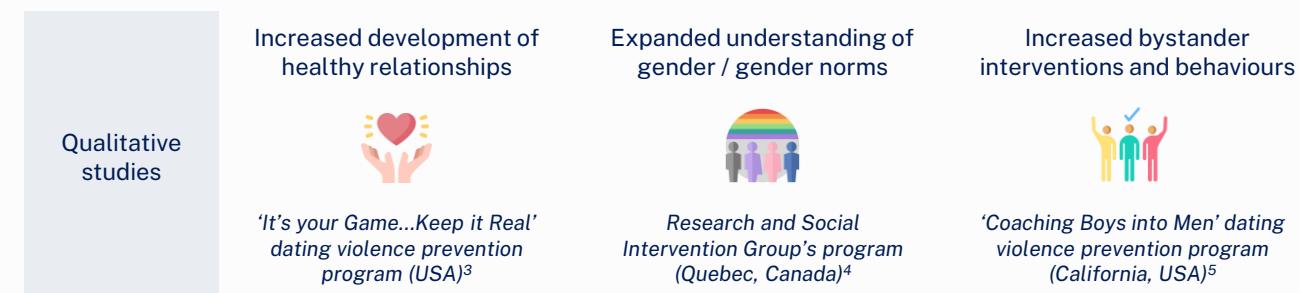
Source: Goldfarb and Lieberman (2021) *Three decades of research: The case for Comprehensive Sex Education*

## Outline of relevant scientific literature

Consent and Respectful Relationships Education reduces rates of sexual violence...



...while also delivering material benefits to students' understanding and wellbeing



<sup>1</sup> Cahill et al. (2023) *A social network analysis and implementation study of intervention to advance and respectful relationships in secondary schools*. <sup>2</sup> Coker et al. (2017) *RCT testing bystander effectiveness to reduce violence*. <sup>3</sup> Peskin et al. (2014) *Effects of IYG program on dating violence in ethnic minority middle school youths*. <sup>4</sup> Richard et al. (2015) *Discussing sexual orientation and gender in classrooms*. <sup>5</sup> Miller et al. (2012) *"Coaching Boys into Men": A cluster-randomised controlled trial of a dating violence prevention program*



1 Sexual violence is a major part of Australia's national challenge with gender-based violence

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5 Appendix

# Despite being covered in the curriculum, many students feel disconnected from their school's CRRE

In 2023, consent education was made a mandatory element of school curriculums across Australia.<sup>1</sup> This was a promising step towards ensuring universal access to consent education for Australian school students and addressing underlying attitudes towards respectful relationships.

However, work still needs to be done. The ability to deliver practical and effective consent education for adolescents can vary across schools. In a 2021 national survey, some students who were already receiving SRE reported challenges with its delivery. Just 25% reported that their school's program was relevant to their experiences.

If Australia is to effectively leverage consent education to address the underlying drivers of sexual violence, schools, teachers, governments, and communities must work to ensure that consent education does not become a box-ticking exercise within schools. Evidence-based, best practice consent education is essential for driving sustained, behavioural change.

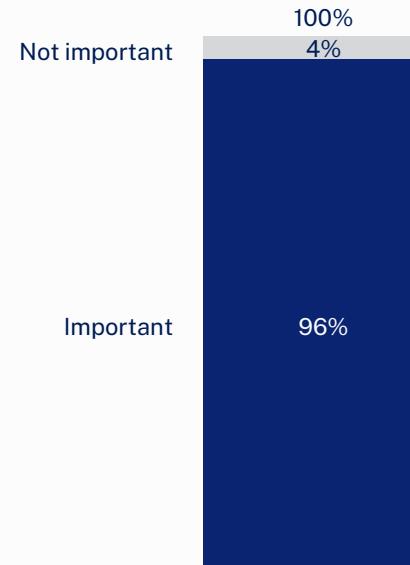
<sup>1</sup> The Conversation (2022) *Mandatory consent education is a huge win for Australia – but consent is just one small part of navigating relationships*

Source: AIHW (2024) *Family, domestic and sexual violence; La Trobe University (2021) Australian secondary students and sexual health 2021*

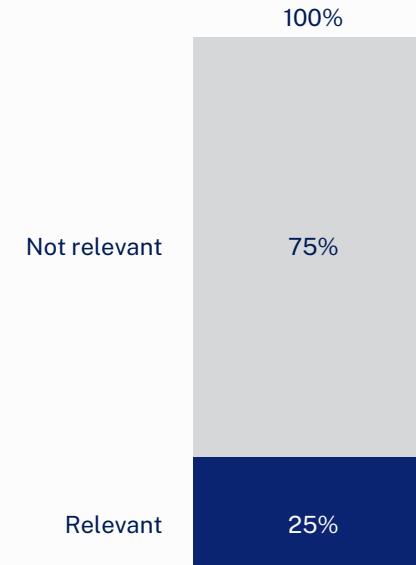
## National statistics about high school sexuality and relationship education (SRE)

% of respondents

While **96%** of high school students agree that sexuality and consent education is **important...**



...just **25%** report that their school program is relevant to their experiences.



Share of students who think SRE is an important part of the curriculum

Share of students who thought SRE was relevant to their experiences

# Many teachers feel under resourced to deliver CRRE on top of their existing workloads

Educators report significant barriers to implementing effective CRRE within current school structures. While teachers understand the importance of these topics, they cite a lack of specialised training, insufficient curriculum materials, and time constraints as primary obstacles to delivery.

Research shows that teachers often feel unprepared to navigate sensitive discussions around consent and relationships. This is concerning given that the capacity, attitude, and comfort of teachers in delivering CSE was central to students' experience.<sup>1</sup>

Without adequate professional development and institutional support, educators struggle to balance CRRE with existing curriculum demands. This gap undermines the potential impact of evidence-based CRRE programs, highlighting the need for external support.

## Barriers to effective delivery of CRRE

Teachers lack adequate guidance on how to deliver CRRE...



**8 out of 45 teacher training institutions** did not offer any training in sexuality education in their curriculum<sup>1</sup>

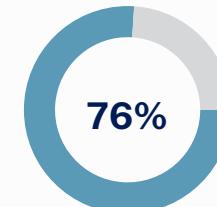


Research found a **lack of specific guidelines** for CRRE within the Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education (AC:HPE)<sup>2</sup>

...while being increasingly stressed for time to deliver high-quality lessons...



Feel they do not get enough time to prepare for effective teaching<sup>4</sup>

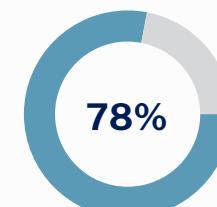


Report that the frequent introduction of government and school initiatives hinders their teaching preparation<sup>4</sup>

...leading to inconsistent educational outcomes for students, especially among diverse groups.



National survey of adolescent sexual health showed that young people perceived **quality and relevance** of school-based CSE teaching to be **inconsistent**<sup>3</sup>



Of surveyed **women and non-binary people** did not learn anything helpful for their real experiences with sex, dating, or relationships<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Carman et all (2011) Teacher training in sexuality education in Australia: how well are teachers prepared for the job? <sup>2</sup> Ezer et al. (2018) A critical discourse analysis of sexuality education in the Australian's curriculum. <sup>3</sup> Waling et al. (2020) 'It's kinda bad, honestly': Australian students' experiences of relationships and sexuality education. <sup>4</sup> Hunter and Sonnemann (2022) Making time for great teaching. <sup>5</sup> Young Women's Advisory Group (2023) Let's talk! Young women and non-binary people's experience of sex education in Australia.

# CRRE is not ‘one-size-fits-all’, a flexible curriculum is necessary to meet community needs

Effective CRRE requires programs to be catered to the specific needs and context of different schools and communities. The ability of schools to deliver this education internally may also vary based on their context and needs.

For example:

- Smaller communities may face greater sensitivity around sharing personal experiences;
- Differences in school resources and state funding allotment affect program’s consistency and teachers’ ability to prepare and deliver effective education;
- Curriculums should be inclusive of a community’s specific cultural and religious backgrounds;
- Curriculums should be inclusive of sexual and gender diversity amongst students.

Enabling Australian schools with flexibility and support is necessary if communities are to receive effective CRRE that can actually drive long-term change.

Source: Pfitzner et al. (2022) *Respectful Relationships Education in Australia: National Stocktake and Gap Analysis of Respectful Relationships Education Material and Resources Final Report*

## Factors that can influence how CRRE is best delivered

Access to resources to support CRRE can vary by community, while different factors may also influence how CRRE is best delivered, such as:

Factor	Community settings	School resourcing	Cultural context	Sexual diversity
Example	Remote and smaller communities face greater social sensitivities and limited access to specialised resources	Differences in school resources and state funding allotment limit program consistency and teacher preparation	Curriculums should be inclusive of a community’s specific cultural and religious backgrounds	Sexual and gender diversity among students requires inclusive content addressing different experiences

Enabling flexibility and support can help communities to cater for the range of ways that students learn and deliver more effective CRRE.



Exploring different delivery models, whether it be **teacher delivery, external facilitators, and using a mix of** these to really suit the context of the school and what the students are needing.

Source: Pfitzner et al. (2022) *Respectful Relationships Education in Australia: National Stocktake and Gap Analysis of Respectful Relationships Education Material and Resources Final Report*; Mandala analysis

# Specialist educators like Consent Labs complement school-based teaching...

## Consent Labs' collaborative delivery model



Specialist educators are **complementary** to school-based learning, reinforcing knowledge of consent and respectful relationships to help schools to drive lasting, widespread behavioural change.

Source: Consent Labs; Mandala analysis

## ...to deliver effective, evidence-based education that drives lasting change

## Consent Labs' approach to CRRE

Consent Labs works collaboratively with teachers, students, parents, and communities to **enhance the efficacy of CRRE**, through:

<b>Research-backed and evidence-led</b>	A curriculum based <b>on global best practice</b> and endorsed by Australian experts across education, health, legal, and social service domains.
<b>Led by young people</b>	Programs <b>delivered by young people</b> who are uniquely placed to effectively engage with students.
<b>Tailored, inclusive, and context specific</b>	Courses are delivered in a bespoke manner, <b>tailored to the specific context</b> of students, in collaboration with schools and communities.
<b>Whole of community approach</b>	Engagement with teachers, parents, and communities to drive a holistic uplift in knowledge and support <b>ongoing community reinforcement</b> .
<b>Addresses root causes and responses</b>	Content that enables participants to make <b>informed choices</b> and become <b>active bystanders</b> who can challenge harmful attitudes and behaviours.
<b>Spiral learning for lasting impact</b>	By revisiting and building on topics progressively, specialist programs support a spiral-learning model that <b>reinforces and deepens</b> learnings over time.

Source: Consent Labs (2025) Theory of Change; Consent Labs (2025) Efficacy & Evidence Base

# Case study: Wadalba Community School

## ACCESSIBLE CONSENT AND RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION

Since 2023, Consent Labs has partnered with Wadalba Community School in regional NSW to support students across multiple year levels.

With 15% of the student population identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, Wadalba is home to a diverse community of young people.

Throughout its engagements with Wadalba, Consent Labs has regularly consulted school contacts and collected feedback from students to adapt its program delivery model to suit the needs and experiences of Wadalba's student body.



### Adapting program delivery to suit school needs

- Responding to feedback from previous years, **delivery style shifted** from a lecture-based format to a **workshop**, encouraging active participation and dialogue.
- In 2024, this cohort had participated in the *Consent with Alcohol & Other Drugs* module. In 2025, sessions focussed on *Positive Masculinity* and *Healthy Relationships* to build on previous knowledge.



### Achieving student engagement and facilitating learning

**92%** of students felt they had learnt something practical from the session

**80%** of students felt that having a young person give the session made it more relatable

**83%** of students wanted Consent Labs back for future workshops

*The Consent Labs presentations were very well received by our Year 11 students, who engaged thoughtfully with the important and often challenging topics. The content was highly relevant and tailored to our students' context, linking directly to the issues young people face today around consent, respect, and healthy relationships.*

*Head of Personal Development, Health and Physical Education at Wadalba*



# Consent Labs applies proven principles that align closely with recognised local and international best practice

Consent Labs has developed and maintains its curriculum in line with both Australian and international best practice frameworks. Every program and topic is research-informed and vetted by a working group of established subject matter experts.

Consent Labs' curriculum aligns closely with best practice topics and principles for effective CRRE outlined by leading organisations, like Our Watch, the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Consent Labs champions evidence-based methods and research. In 2024, Consent Labs published its first academic, peer-reviewed journal article in collaboration with Associate Professor Melissa Kang of the University of Sydney, identifying statistically significant increases in self-reported knowledge for participants in Consent Labs' workshops.<sup>1</sup>

## Consent Labs' alignment to local and international best practice frameworks

■ Strong focus of curriculum ■ Core curriculum ■ Partly covered ■ Not covered

Organisation	Recommended educational topics or principles	Consent Labs
 Our Watch <sup>1</sup>	Addressing the drivers of gender-based violence	
	Taking a whole of school approach	■
	Integrating evaluation and continual improvement	■
	Providing resources and support for teachers	■
	Utilising age-appropriate, interactive, and participatory curriculum	■
	Establish mechanisms for collaborative and coordinated effort	■
	Have a long-term vision, approach, and funding	■
 IPPF <sup>2</sup>	Gender	■
	Sexual and reproductive health and HIV	■
	Sexual rights and sexual citizenship	■
	Pleasure	■
	Violence	■
	Diversity	■
	Relationships	■
 UNESCO <sup>3</sup>	Involve experts on human sexuality, behaviour change, and related pedagogical theory	■
	Involve young people, parents/family members, and other community stakeholders	■
	Design activities that are context-oriented and promote critical thinking	■
	Address consent and life skills	■
	Address how biological experiences, gender, and cultural norms affect experiences	■
	Address individual attitudes and peer norms concerning condoms and contraceptives	■
	Provide information about which services are available to address health needs	■

1 Kang et al. (2024) *Evaluating Consent Labs: prioritizing sexual wellbeing through a youth-led, curriculum-based education initiative*. 2 IPPF (2010) IPPF Framework for Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE). 3 UNESCO (2018) *International technical guidance on sexuality education*. Note: Principles have been selected and shortened for conciseness.



1 Sexual violence is a major part of Australia's national challenge with gender-based violence

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5 Appendix

# Consent Labs delivered 881 programs to just under 50,000 students across Australia in FY25

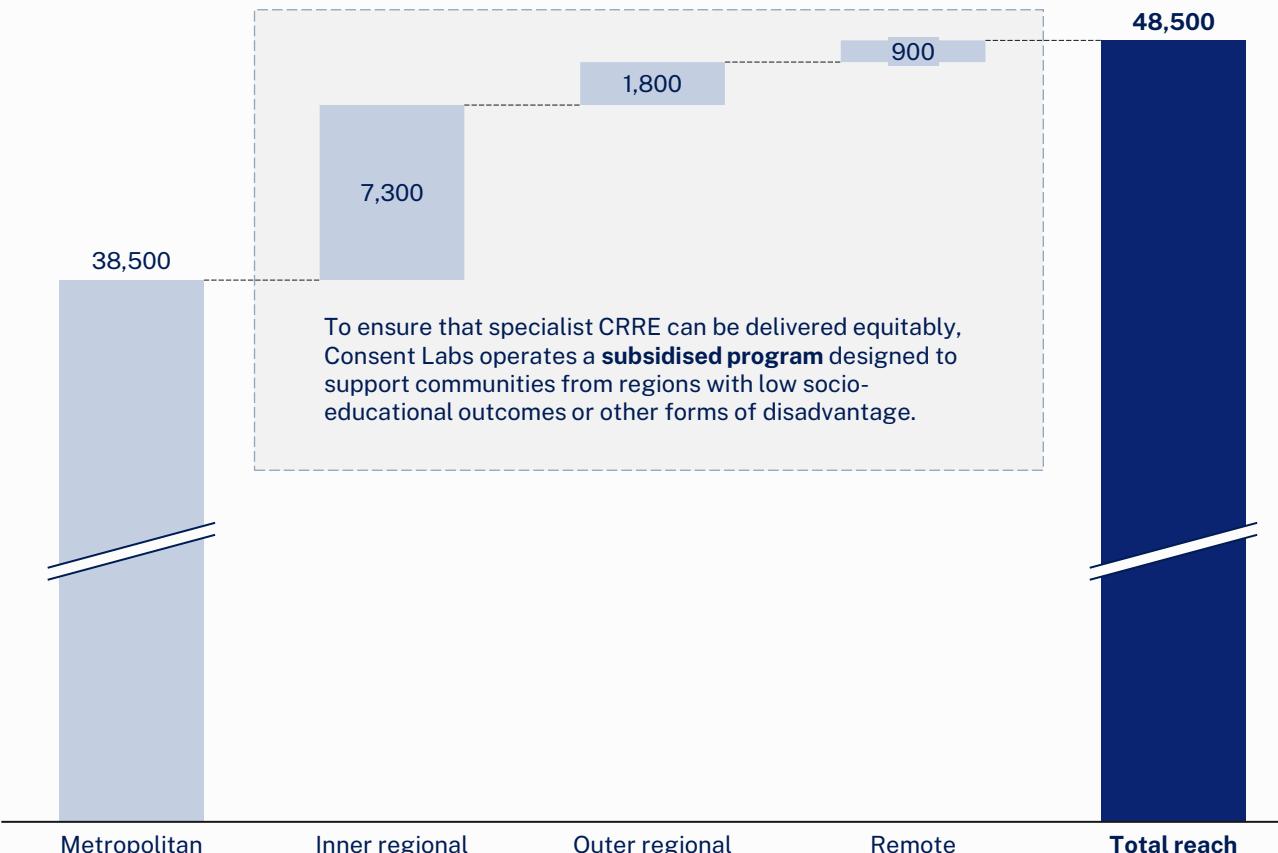
In FY25, Consent Labs delivered 881 programs across Australia, reaching just under 50,000 students. This includes over 10,000 students from regional and remote Australia.

Consent Labs' reach is enabled by its subsidised program, thanks to the support of philanthropic and government funding. This program ensures that specialist CRRE can be delivered more equitably to young people across Australia.

Consent Labs' subsidised program enables schools and communities from regions with low socio-educational outcomes or other forms of disadvantage.

## Consent Labs' reach to young people across Australia

# of students<sup>1</sup>, by region, FY25



1 Student distribution by geographic location is estimated using Consent Labs's program distribution  
Source: Consent Labs data; Mandala analysis

# Students gained knowledge and confidence about issues of consent, with 3 in 4 learning practical insights

Consent Labs' educational program addresses topics that are particularly relevant for young people. A survey of students aged 12 and above who had participated in a Consent Labs program showed:

- 85% of students have “Quite a bit” or “A lot” of knowledge about issues of consent after a workshop (20 ppt increase from before)
- 73% of students responded “Quite a bit” confident or “Very confident” in their ability to address something unsafe or non-consensual (20 ppt increase from before)
- After the session, 3 in 4 students (76%) reported learning something practical that they can incorporate into their day-to-day life

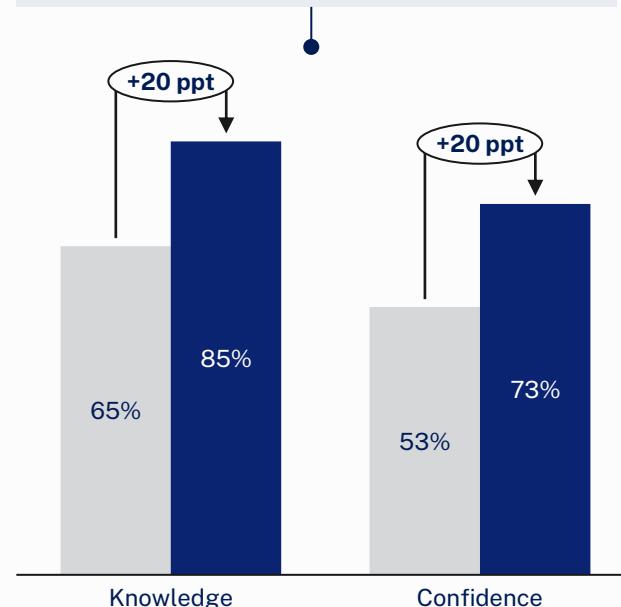
The program creates strong impact on students' understanding and approach to issues of respectful relationships, sexual consent, and behaviour. These outcomes reflect the importance of CRRE in equipping students with the knowledge and practical skills around consent issues.

## Impact of Consent Lab's workshops on student participants

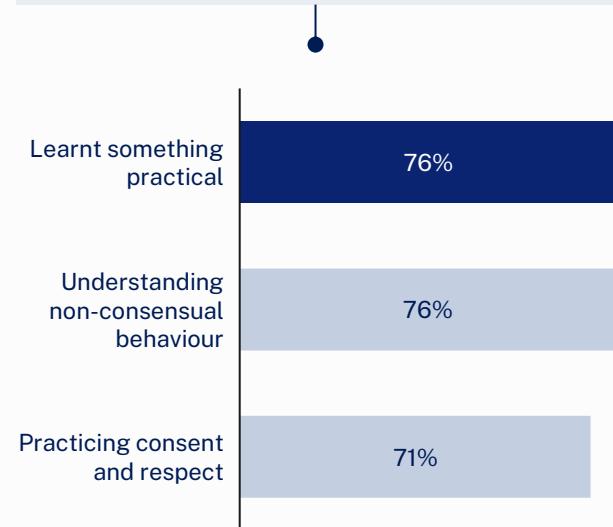
% of students, Jul 2025, n=1416

Before workshop      After workshop

Students reported having **better knowledge and confidence** in addressing issues of consent after a Consent Labs workshop.<sup>1,2</sup>



**3 in 4 students** felt that they **learnt something practical** they can incorporate into their day-to-day life.<sup>3</sup>



1 Question: “Before and after this presentation, how much knowledge did you have about issues of consent?”

2 Question: “Before and after this presentation, how confident did you feel about knowing how to get help if you or someone you know experienced something unsafe or non-consensual?”

3 Question: “Do you feel like you learnt something practical you can incorporate into you day to day life?”

Source: Consent Labs data; Mandala analysis

# 4 in 5 educators and parents felt confident to address issues of consent...

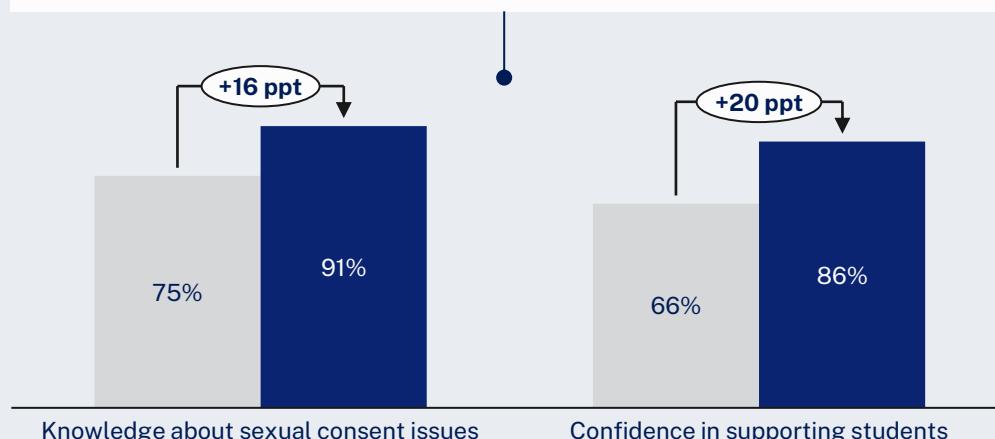
## Impact of Consent Lab's workshops on educators and parents

% of educators and parents, 2024 - 2025, n=88<sup>1</sup>

Before workshop ■ After workshop

Before and after a workshop, educators rated their knowledge about issues of consent and confidence in supporting students with issues relating to non-consensual behaviour.

After the workshop, **9 in 10 educators and parents felt knowledgeable** (16 ppt increase), while **4 in 5 felt confident** to support students with consent-related issues.<sup>2,3</sup>

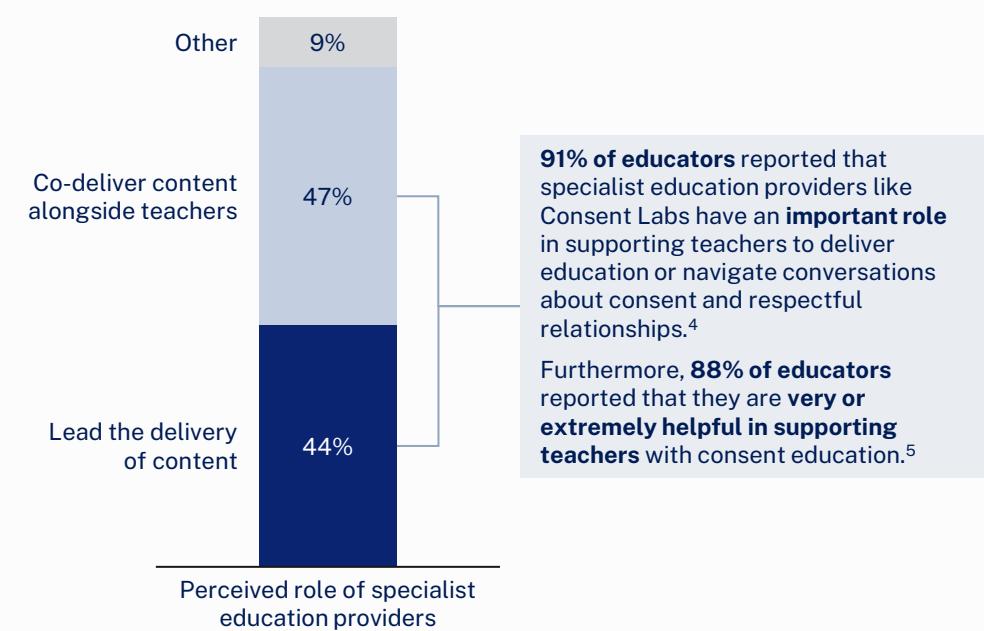


<sup>1</sup> Note that the educator survey is newly launched and subject to a small sample size at the time of writing. Results will be updated as the survey reaches more respondents. <sup>2</sup> Question: "Before and after this session, how much knowledge did you have about consent?". <sup>3</sup> Question: "Before and after this session, how confident were you to support a student (or your child) if they raised an issue relating to non-consensual behaviour with you?". Source: Consent Labs data; Mandala analysis

# ...while 91% of educators valued the support of specialist providers

## Importance of specialist education providers in supporting teachers

% of educators, Jul 2025, n=34<sup>1</sup>



<sup>4</sup> Question: "In your opinion, what role should external providers play in delivering consent education to students?". <sup>5</sup> Question: "To what extent do you think specialist education providers are helpful in supporting teachers to deliver education or navigate conversations about consent?" Source: Consent labs data; Mandala analysis

# Stakeholder feedback validates Consent Labs' evidence-based approach

## Students



**“** I found this talk about sex ed and consent very useful, important and good to know as we grow up.

**“** I thought that the scenarios were really fabulous to get a better understanding of the topic and what to do in the specific situations.

**“** It was fantastic. Practical and empowering. Also so good to see other parents... it takes the village. Thank you.

## Parents



**“** I'm a facts person so I particularly liked seeing the statistics and wondering how this related to my children.

**“** They spoke well, were informative and gave good ideas [on] how to start the conversations, as well as the legal side of things and resources. So I was happy with all of this.

**“** [It] was really great to see the different levels between year 7 and year 10 and how the conversations are the same but scaled [to be] age appropriate.

## Educators



**“** I have been a PDHPE teacher in the past for many years, so this topic is especially interesting to me. The rapid changes in our society, with regards to these issues, is immensely important for us as educators to keep up-to-date. I teach the senior classes Society and Culture, of which gender is a topic, so great PD for me.



# These impacts are lasting, with students reporting benefits even 6 months after participating in a program

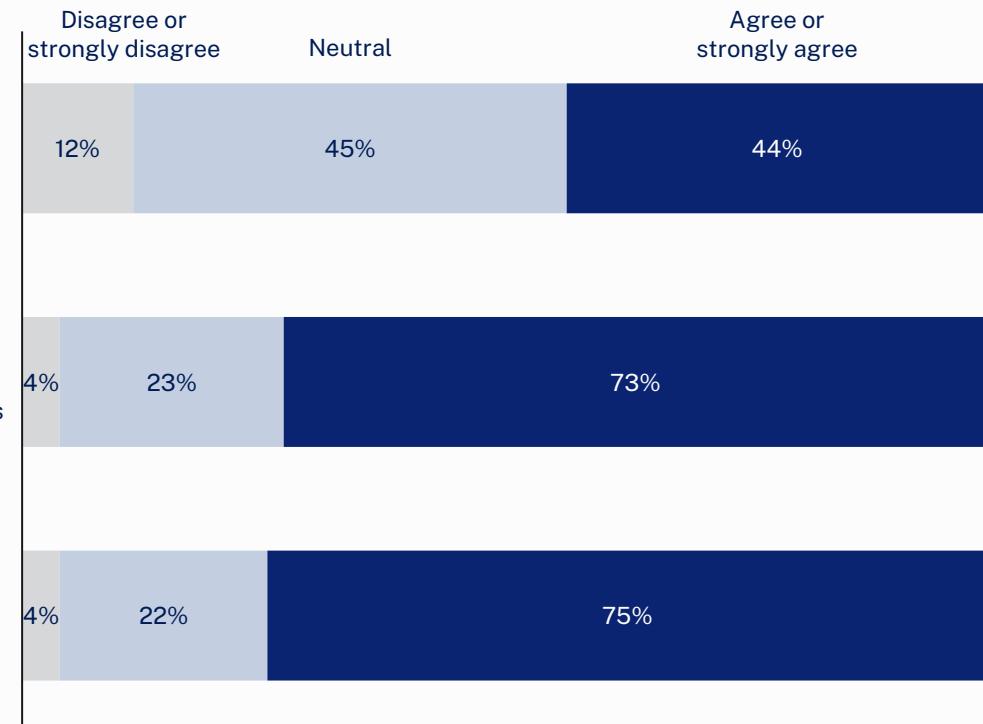
Consent Labs' educational programs have a lasting impact on students. A survey of students who had participated in a Consent Labs program at least 6 months prior, revealed that:

- 44% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they had used what they had learnt in their everyday life<sup>1</sup>
- 73% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they see themselves as someone who steps up for consent and respectful relationships
- 75% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they could offer support to someone who had experienced something unsafe or non-consensual

By promoting knowledge and awareness about consent and respectful relationships across a school and/or community, Consent Labs can help to deliver lasting improvements in relationships, behaviours, and culture, driving sustained social change.

## Impact of Consent Labs on students six months after the program was delivered<sup>2</sup>

% of students, Jul 2025, n=581



<sup>1</sup> Most students interpret this question as whether they have experienced non-consensual advances that require them to use the knowledge they learnt.

<sup>2</sup> Students were asked to what extent they agreed with each statement 6 months after a Consent Labs session. Source: Consent Labs data; Mandala analysis



- 1** Sexual violence is a major part of Australia's national challenge with gender-based violence
- 2** Australian high schools can benefit from specialist support to deliver highly effective Consent and Respectful Relationships Education
- 3** Consent Labs' approach to Consent and Respectful Relationships Education has lasting impacts on students, teachers and parents
- 4** **Consent Labs delivered \$5.7m in lifetime benefits in FY25, at a social return on investment of 3.48:1**
- 5** Appendix

# Consent Labs produces benefits for students and society, educators, facilitators, and parents

Through its CRRE programs, Consent Labs generates social benefits across the economy.

The primary benefits of these programs fall on students and society, driven by a reduction in perpetration rates. Specialist consent education programs are directly linked with improved relationships and reduced rates of sexual harassment and violence.<sup>1</sup>

Consent Labs' delivery model also creates ancillary benefits for educators and schools, program facilitators, and parents and carers.

For educators, Consent Labs reduces the burden of teaching and planning for consent-related courses. Schools also manage fewer disciplinary actions in relation to sexual harassment and bullying.

Program facilitators gain valuable work experience and skills that enhance future employment prospects. They also develop their own knowledge of respectful relationships through their training.

Parents and carers see meaningful outcomes as their children build stronger interpersonal skills and navigate safer social environments, with reduced caregiving burden being the most quantifiable benefit.

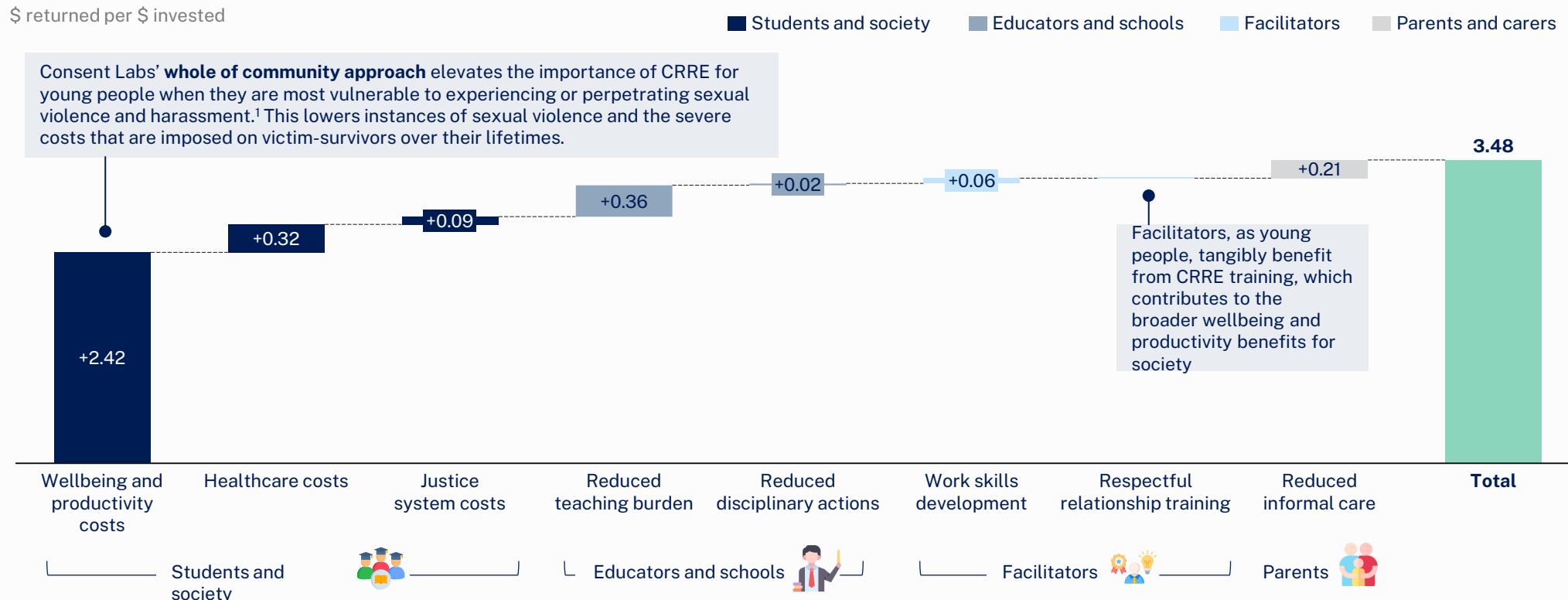
## Social benefits produced by specialist CRRE

Beneficiary	Benefits	
Students and society	<p><i>By reducing rates of harms, student CRRE translates directly to:</i></p> <p><b>Prevented wellbeing and productivity losses among victims</b></p>	Primary benefits
	<p><b>Reduced healthcare system costs</b></p>	
	<p><b>Reduced justice system costs</b></p>	
	<p><b>Reduced teaching burden for lesson planning and content</b></p>	
Educators and schools	<p><b>Reduced administrative burden on disciplinary actions</b></p>	Ancillary benefits
Facilitators	<p><b>Work experience and skill development</b></p>	
Parents & carers	<p><b>Improved relationships and reduced incidence of sexual violence</b></p>	
	<p><b>Reduced caregiving burden due to violence-related health impacts</b></p>	

<sup>1</sup> Goldfarb and Lieberman (2021) *Three decades of research: The case for Comprehensive Sex Education*; Cahill et al. (2023) *A social network analysis and implementation study of an intervention designed to advance social and emotional learning and respectful relationships in secondary schools*

# Every dollar invested in Consent Labs generates \$3.48 in social benefits, driven by significant avoided costs for potential victim-survivors of sexual violence

## Social benefits attributable to Consent Labs' whole of community approach to CRRE



1 Doherty & Dowling (2024) Perpetration of sexual violence in a community sample of adult Australians; ABS (2021) Victims of sexual assault: time to report and age at incident.

Source: Mayhew (2003) Counting the Costs of Crime in Australia: A Technical Report; National Drug Research Institute (2021) Social and Economic Costs of Substance Use; Productivity Commission (2020) Mental health Inquiry Volume 1; Deloitte Access Economics (2015) Hidden Cost of Asthma; Morgan (2018) How much does prison really cost? Comparing the costs of imprisonment with community corrections; Mandala analysis

# Scaling Consent Labs could see up to 300k extra high school students benefit from the program by FY28

Expanding Consent Labs' reach represents a major opportunity to amplify these benefits across Australia's education system.

Based on current targets, Consent Labs could deliver its evidence-based CRRE to 133,000 high school students annually by FY28. This would see a significant expansion of the social benefits that it generates for young people, families, schools, and communities nationwide.

Scaling Consent Labs would also enable more equitable access to quality CRRE, helping to drive sustained societal change and supporting lower socioeconomic, regional, and rural areas that may otherwise lack access to such programs.

## Number of students reached by Consent Labs per year

# of people

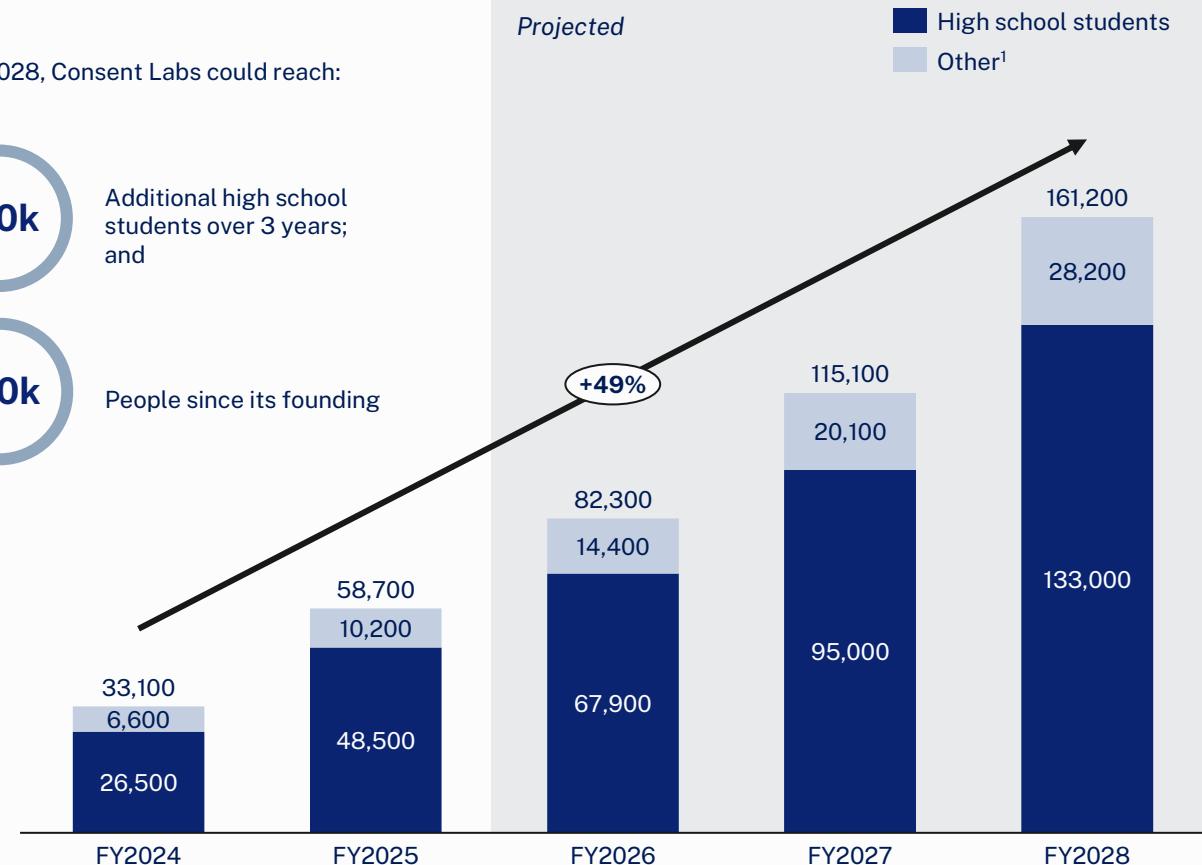
By FY2028, Consent Labs could reach:

300k

500k

Additional high school students over 3 years; and

People since its founding



<sup>1</sup> Includes tertiary, parents', and teachers' programs delivered by Consent Labs.  
Source: Consent Labs data; Mandala analysis

# If scaled, the social impact of Consent Labs' high school programs would rise from \$5.7m today, to \$13.7m in FY28

In FY25, Consent Labs generated an estimated \$5.7m in social benefits from the delivery of its high school education programs. Expanding access to these programs over the next three years could see Consent Labs' annual impact more than double, reaching \$13.7m in FY28. This growth reflects Consent Labs' target to reach 133,000 students in FY28.

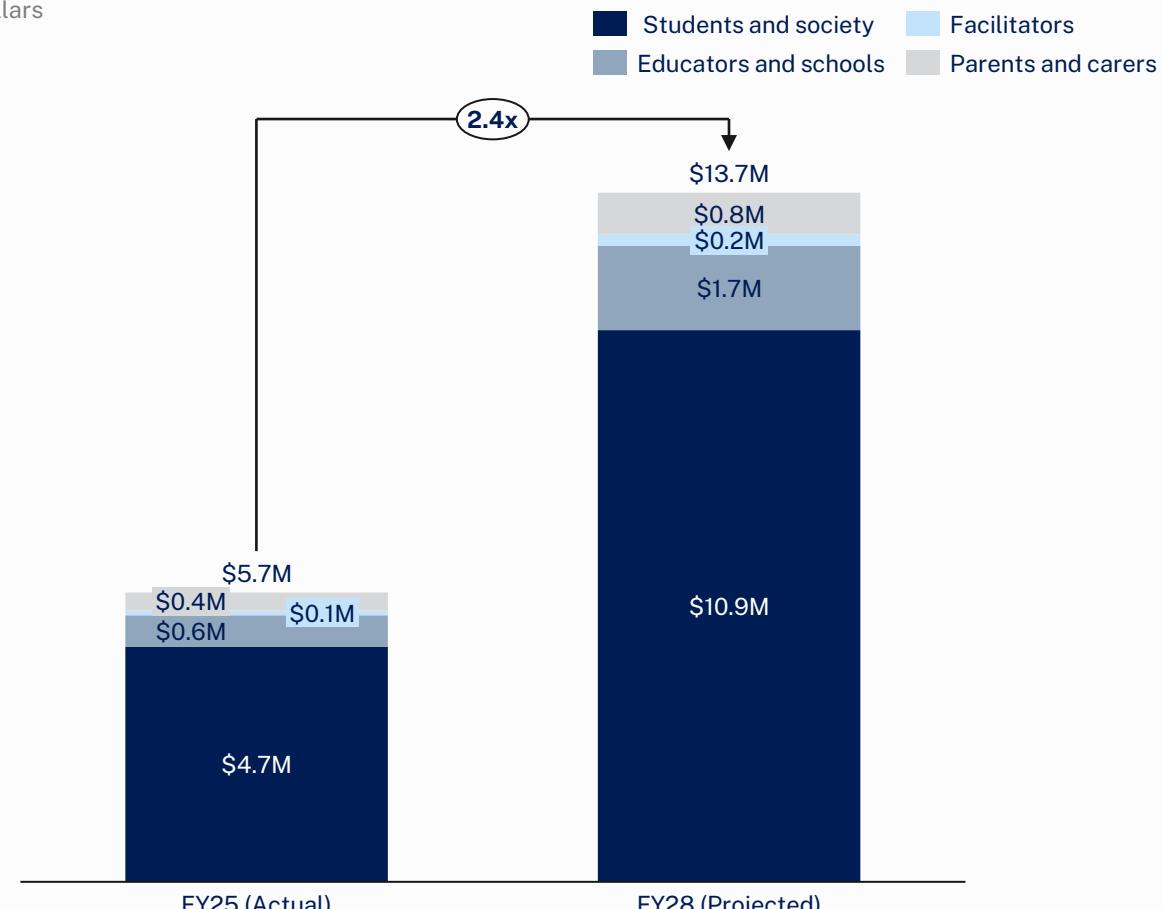
Students and society experience the most significant benefits, driven by reduced exposure to sexual violence and harassment from broader access to consent education. These benefits could rise from \$4.7m in FY25 to \$10.9m in FY28.

Consent Labs is able to generate a significant, measurable social impact across Australia. By delivering effective, evidence-based education to young Australians – a cohort that is disproportionately vulnerable to sexual violence – Consent Labs can have a meaningful impact on the rate of sexual harassment and violence in Australia.

These findings highlight the importance of CRRE programs, which are an effective, preventative intervention that is easy to scale. Ensuring broad access to quality CRRE programs, including those from external specialists, can drive significant and measurable social benefits for Australian communities.

Total economic and social impact of Consent Labs

\$M, 2025 dollars



Source: Mayhew (2003) *Counting the Costs of Crime in Australia: A Technical Report*; National Drug Research Institute (2021) *Social and Economic Costs of Substance Use*; Productivity Commission (2020) *Mental health Inquiry Volume 1*; Deloitte Access Economics (2015) *Hidden Cost of Asthma*; Morgan (2018) *How much does prison really cost? Comparing the costs of imprisonment with community corrections*; Mandala analysis

# Adopting a whole of community approach to CRRE drives lasting cultural change that can multiply its impact

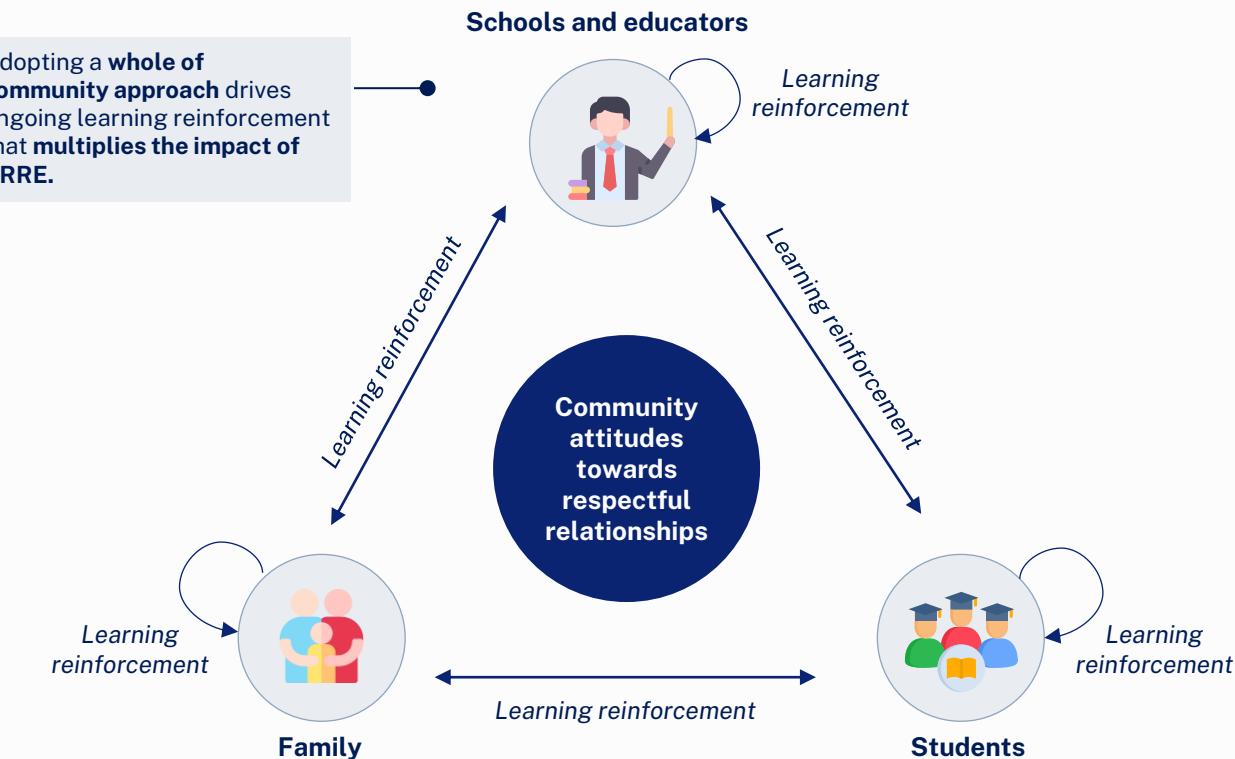
A defining feature of Consent Labs' comprehensive, whole of community approach to CRRE is its potential to drive long-term cultural change. By engaging stakeholders across the community, Consent Labs fosters an environment that is conducive to learning reinforcement over time. Positive expectations of respectful relationships are consistently modelled and reinforced as young people interact with their peers, families, and teachers.

As community attitudes around respectful relationships are strengthened, both situational knowledge and rates of bystander intervention are increased, facilitating safer social environments. Consistent reinforcement and cultural change can have a compounding effect over time, reducing victimisation rates and strengthening community cohesion. If a whole of community approach to CRRE is adopted widely across Australia, the SROI for programs like Consent Labs grow over time as the underlying cultural drivers of sexual violence are addressed.

Improving the culture around relationships also generates substantial benefits outside the scope of this study, such as improved mental health for students and teachers, and better academic outcomes. These benefits are also tangible, positive outcomes that are generated by broad access to specialist CRRE.

Source: Goldfarb and Lieberman (2021) *Three decades of research: The case for Comprehensive Sex Education*

## Learning reinforcement enables by a whole of community approach to CRRE



Consent Labs' impact can be **compounded over time** if a **whole of community approach to CRRE is adopted** across the country. Engaging whole communities on CRRE enables participants to shape an environment of accountability and safety amongst their peers, families, and schools, role modelling consent and respectful relationships. This drives sustained cultural change via ongoing learning reinforcement.

Source: Consent Labs (2025) *Theory of Change*; Mandala analysis



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**5** **Appendix**

# We calculate the social return by measuring stakeholder benefits across students, teachers, facilitators, and parents, and dividing them by total delivery costs

## Return on investment



Category	Notes
Social benefits for students	Value of sexual violence prevention outcomes for students and society
Social benefits for teachers	Value of efficiency gains for educators and schools
Social benefits for facilitators	Value of skill development and enhanced employment prospects for facilitators
Social benefits for parents	Value of family's wellbeing improvement and productivity loss from reduced informal care
Total cost to deliver high school programs	Include operating expenses and cost of sales for FY2025

# Student benefits are calculated by estimating the avoided costs from reduced occurrences of sexual violence, attributable to Consent Labs' interventions

## Social benefits for students

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Expected avoided cost of SH}^1 \text{ and SA}^2 \text{ per person} &= \sum_{i=15}^{45} \left[ \text{Marginal probability of committing the offence at age } i \times \text{Reduced instances of perpetration at age } i \times \text{Lifetime cost of perpetration} \right] \\
 \text{Social benefits for students} &= \text{Expected avoided cost of SH and SA per person} \times \text{Number of unique students serviced}
 \end{aligned}$$

Category	Assumption	Source
Marginal probability of committing the offence at age i	The probability that a person commits an act of sexual violence at a certain age follows the age distribution of sexual assault offenders' age (due to data constraints, only consider the period from age 15 to 45)	Australian Institute of Criminology (2024); Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2020)
Reduced instances of perpetration from Consent Labs at age i	Consent Labs' effectiveness follows best-practice CRRE's effectiveness in behavioural change, allowing for decay of effectiveness over time	Cahill et al. (2023); Degue et al. (2020)
Lifetime cost of perpetration	Assuming 1 perpetrator and 1 victim per each incident, this includes the net present value of health system costs, victim's wellbeing and productivity lost, and justice system cost	Various sources; Mandala analysis
Number of unique students serviced		Consent Labs internal data

<sup>1</sup> Sexual Harassment; <sup>2</sup> Sexual assault  
Source: Consent Labs data; Mandala analysis

# Teacher benefits combine time savings from reduced lesson planning burdens and fewer disciplinary interventions for sexual harassment related incidents

## Social benefits for teachers



Category	Assumptions	Source
Teachers' hourly wage	Approximated by median secondary teacher's hourly wage	JSA ( <a href="#">2024</a> )
Number of hours typically spent on disciplinary actions	Time spent dealing with incidents of sexual harassment, assault, and bullying can be approximated administrative time spent dealing with bullying incidents	Jadamba et al. ( <a href="#">2021</a> )
Reduction in instances of sexual harassment (%)	Consent Labs' effectiveness follows best-practice CRRE's effectiveness in behavioural change, allowing for decay of effectiveness over time	Cahill et al. ( <a href="#">2023</a> )
Total planning and teaching hours saved per teacher	Teachers will deliver one 1-hr CRRE lesson per term in a year, with planning time for lesson proportional to time spent delivering	Grattan ( <a href="#">2022</a> ); OECD ( <a href="#">2018</a> )

# Facilitator benefits combine professional skill development and sexual violence prevention, reflecting program delivery and personal learning outcomes

## Social benefits for facilitators

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Social benefits from improved work skills} &= \sum_{i=1}^N \left[ \text{Market value of comparable programs for attaining skill } i \right] \times \text{Number of facilitators} \\ \text{Social benefits from avoided cost of SH and SA} &= \text{Expected avoided cost of SH and SA pp} \times \text{Number of facilitators} \\ \text{Social benefits for facilitators} &= \text{Social benefits from avoided cost of SH and SA} + \text{Social benefits from improved work skills} \end{aligned}$$

Category	Assumptions	Source
Market value of comparable programs that achieve the same skills	Facilitators will achieve the same uplift in skills through an external training course	Various sources
Skills assessed	Public speaking and communications, sexual assault services training, trauma management, leadership, mental health first aid, and cultural competency.	Various sources; Consent Labs; Mandala analysis
Expected avoided cost of SH and SA pp	Facilitators will achieve the same level of cost savings as students	Mandala analysis (see students' social benefit)
Number of facilitators		Consent Labs internal data

# Parent benefits are calculated by measuring the avoided costs of providing informal care when sexual violence is prevented

## Social benefits for students

$$\text{Expected avoided cost of informal care per person} = \sum_{i=15}^{45} \left[ \text{Marginal probability of committing the offence at age } i \times \text{Reduced instances of perpetration at age } i \times \text{Lifetime cost of informal care} \right]$$
$$\text{Social benefits for parents} = \text{Expected avoided cost of informal care per person} \times \text{Number of unique students serviced}$$

Category	Assumption	Source
Marginal probability of committing the offence at age $i$	The probability that a person commits an act of sexual violence follows the age distribution of sexual assault offenders' age	Australian Institute of Criminology ( <a href="#">2024</a> ); Australian Institute of Health and Welfare ( <a href="#">2020</a> )
Reduced instances of perpetration from Consent Labs at age $i$	Consent Labs' effectiveness follows best-practice CRRE's effectiveness in behavioural change, allowing for decay of effectiveness over time	Cahill et al. ( <a href="#">2023</a> ); Degue et al. ( <a href="#">2020</a> )
Lifetime cost of informal care	Net present value of cost of informal care on parents and carers	Various sources; Mandala analysis
Number of unique students serviced		Consent Labs internal data



MANDALA