SEX, LOVE AND GENDER ROLES
Views on ‘what’s ok’ and ‘what’s not’ in sex, dating and relationships

The below findings are from The Line’s tracking research measuring attitudinal changes of 1,000 young people (aged 12-20) and 500 parents from September 2015 to May 2017. The Line is Australia’s national campaign helping young people to develop healthy, respectful relationships and reject all forms of violence. The Line is an initiative under the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022 and is delivered by Our Watch and funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

Visit www.theline.org.au for more info.

**YOUNG PEOPLE**

**PROMISING TRENDS**

- 75% disagree that if a girl wears revealing clothing she is partly responsible for unwanted sex, up from 71%.
- 73% disagree that if a girl is drunk or affected by drugs, she is at least partly responsible for unwanted sex, up from 67%.
- 64% believe screaming at someone or saying hurtful things is a form of violence, up from 58%.

**CONCERNING TRENDS**

- 59% believe that if a guy wants to have sex with a girl, it is up to the girl to make it very clear if she does not want to, consistent with 2015 findings.
- 45% of young people believe that most females could leave a violent relationship if they wanted to (consistent with 2015 findings).
- 43% believe that violent acts are ok in certain circumstances, that some violent acts are not serious, and that violence is a normal way of resolving conflict, consistent with 2015 findings.

**PARENTS**

**PROMISING TRENDS**

- 65% disagree that males should be the head of the household, up from 58%.
- 86% reject the notion that verbal threats, shouting and anger are all a normal part of having a relationship and are not worth worrying about, up from 80%.
- 13% believe that it is not manly for a male to express his feelings, consistent with 2015 findings.

**CONCERNING TRENDS**

- 13% believe that violent acts are ok in certain circumstances, that some violent acts are not serious, and that violence is a normal way of resolving conflict, consistent with 2015 findings.

**KEY INSIGHTS**

- **Young People**: Those who recognised the campaign were more likely (28%) to have talked to someone else recently about what makes relationships healthy, non-abusive or respectful; compared to 17% for those who had not seen the campaign.
- **Parents**: Those who recognised the campaign had higher confidence levels (96%) to discuss topics relating to healthy relationships with their child, compared to 89% for those who did not recognise the campaign.

Findings detailed in this infographic represent survey data drawn from over 1000 online interviews with young people and 500 online interviews with parents, each occurring at two time points. Baseline research was conducted by TNS Kantar in September 2015 and the latest research was conducted in May 2017.