



MELINDA TANKARD REIST, ALONG WITH DANIEL PRINCIPE WILL BE PRESENTING THE FOLLOWING TOPICS TO OUR STUDENTS:

Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6) students

Positive bodies

Beginning with an interactive, developmentally appropriate visual 'tour' of messages from social media, pop culture, fashion, music videos, games etc, Melinda invites the children to engage with the content, helping them to understand what they are being taught about their value and worth from these images. They also explore some of the pitfalls of social media and se*xualised imagery. There is time for questions and discussion throughout. A short video, 'Ruby Who', is shown, and students engage with how Ruby thinks she needs to be like everyone else and have all they have, then rejects this idea and accepts herself. If time permits, Melinda and Dan lead students in a the board game, which encourages them again to question the values offered by pop culture – they move ahead in the game with answers which demonstrate their self-worth and positive attitudes toward their bodies. The game re-enforces the overall message and ends on a positive and fun note.

SESSION TIME: 18 June | Morning session

Secondary girls

'Thin, Hot, S*x*y': Helping young women dissect negative cultural messages and rise up to make a difference

Melinda and Daniel take students on a 'tour' of media and popular culture in a dynamic, multi-visual presentation. They will unpack with your students the images, messages and ideas they receive every day from toys, games, music videos, advertising, marketing, clothing, magazines and explicit se*xual imagery, conveying a message that their value and worth lies solely in their bodies and physical appearance. Students will be enabled to understand how these messages contribute in harmful ways to their views of themselves, their bodies and relationships, negatively affecting their physical, emotional and social development. Melinda and Dan will then explore how girls can respond personally including by enforcing their boundaries and acting according to their values and collectively by taking action for social change and cultural transformation.

SESSION TIMES: 17 June | Years 7,8 & 9 11am-12.15pm Years 10,11&12 1.15-2.30pm

Secondary boys

How can boys rise above toxic messages about masculinity and become men of honour?

Boys are bombarded with hyper-se*xualised messages and images in media and popular culture. The lives of young men are increasingly socialised, conditioned and informed by exposure to p*rn related content online. They are exposed to this content even before their first kiss, with average age of first exposure 11. In a dynamic multi-media presentation which includes first person stories of young men, Melinda and Daniel will explore with male students how exposure to se*xual imagery is contributing to a distorted view of bodies and relationships. They will propose that boys are being raised in a callous and brutalised version of masculinity through these toxic messages, hampering their ability to form healthy respect-based relationships. In a po*nified cultural landscape, how can young men stand against the tide, resist the 'bystander' effect, and choose to grow into men of honour?

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Parents/Community Seminar – \$10 per person ([tickets available online](#))

Navigating a se*xed-up world: How can we help our children resist harmful messages from media + pop culture and aspire to respectful relationships?

Have you noticed that your children seem to be growing up too fast? That they are worried about their appearance and more aware of se*xual issues at earlier stages? Children and young people are bombarded with hyperse*xualised messages from media and popular culture. Even small children are worried about their looks and physical appearance, shaped and conditioned at the earliest of ages by a dominant message that tells them they have to be 'hot' to be liked and accepted. The lives of young people are increasingly socialised, conditioned and informed by exposure to p*rn related content online. They are exposed to this content not only before they have had s*x, but often before their first kiss, with average age of first exposure 11. Exposed to a po*nified landscape, young people are 'acting out' through social media and sexting, putting their bodies on display for attention and judgement. Drawing from current global literature on the subject, as well as the experiences of young people themselves, Melinda will explore with us how the proliferation of se*xualised images and messages contributes to a distorted view of bodies, relationships and s*xuality in young people, hampering their healthy physical, emotional and social development. How can we address this toxic culture and raise happy, healthy and resilient young people who value their dignity and self-worth and aspire to relationships based on respect and authentic connection?

SESSION TIME: 17 June | 7-8.30pm (Adult presentation, not suitable for U18s)

THURSDAY 17 & 18 JUNE, 2021



MELINDA TANKARD REIST - BIO

Melinda Tankard Reist (www.melindatankardreist.com) is an author, speaker, media commentator, blogger and advocate for young people. She is best known for her work addressing sexualisation, objectification, harms of pornography, sexual exploitation, trafficking and violence against women. Melinda is author/editor of six books including *Getting Real: Challenging the Sexualisation of Girls* (Spinifex Press, 2009), *Big Porn Inc: Exposing the harms of the global pornography industry* (Spinifex Press, 2011, co-edited with Dr Abigail Bray) and *Prostitution Narratives: Stories of survival in the sex trade* (Spinifex Press, co-edited with Dr Caroline Norma).

An opinion writer, Melinda has appeared on ABC's Q&A and The Gruen Sessions as well as many other TV and radio programs. Melinda is co-founder of the grassroots campaigning movement, Collective Shout: for a world free of sexploitation, exposing corporations, advertisers and marketers who objectify women and sexualise girls to sell products and services. An Ambassador for World Vision Australia, Compassion Australia, HagarNZ and the youth mentoring body the Raise Foundation, Melinda is also Senior Lecturer in the Centre for Culture and Ethics, Notre Dame University, Sydney. Melinda is named in the Who's Who of Australian Women and the World Who's Who of Women.

Endorsements

*"Melinda Tankard Reist has a simple message which is powerfully delivered. With her prodigious intellect, sand blasted sense of humour and immaculate research she puts a much needed spotlight on the erosion of childhood, the po*nification of our environment and the commodification of young people."* – Adolescent psychologist, Dr Michael Carr Gregg.

*"Melinda is probably the world's best presenter on the damage advertisers and p*rnography do to our children and teens – often when we don't even know. Her highly visual presentations will knock your socks off. You will be left angry in the very best way and be so much better equipped to talk to, and protect, your kids."* – Steve Biddulph AM, Author *Raising Girls and Raising Boys*.

"So grateful to Melinda and Daniel for their passion and conviction and for empowering our students to stand up for themselves and make their voice known. This will be one presentation they won't forget!" – Bek Brown, Director of Wellbeing at Hills Christian Community School, SA

"There are some things that you wish you didn't have to talk about with your children. It is the same feeling when you are considering students in your school, especially when they are still in Primary School. But to be informed is to be empowered, and Melinda did this at St Mary's Primary School Bellingen when she came to talk to our Stage 3 students. Melinda is a force of good - fighting against the sexualisation and exploitation of our young people with dedication and skill that comes from her years of experience and her passion for the cause. Our students connected with her instantly as if they knew intuitively that she is a champion for them and other young people like them. For parents, the reality is shocking. The realisation of the current state is necessary to bring about action and encourage people to stand up for our children." - Lisa Doolan, Acting Principal, St Mary's Primary School, Bellingen

"One of the most outstanding presentations I have heard" -Tony Fielke, Principal, Hills Christian Community School, SA

"I hesitantly went to Melinda's talk about children being sexualised in the media thinking it was going to be a sensationalist attempt to make me feel bad as a parent. During her introduction I realised it was the best 50 steps I took from the car to the auditorium and 90 minutes later, I had quantifiable evidence and authentic strategies to help educate my children against the normalisation of women and girls as sexual objects in the media." - Heather Douglas, parent, Adelaide S.A



DANIEL PRINCIPE - BIO

Daniel is a youth advocate, educator and event host. Daniel is a dynamic, passionate and natural communicator who has joined Melinda Tankard Reist in her work in schools.

Daniel partners with schools and communities to challenge porn culture and the sexualisation of women and girls.

Daniel works with young men across Australia to reimagine healthy expressions of masculinity and manhood.