



Gender rules

Respect

People might have different personal rules about how they try to attract someone. These rules can come from family, religion, media and other influences. The main thing is to respect others and not break any laws.

It can be hard to know how to respect a person and what that person expects of you.

If someone doesn't respect another person then conflict may happen.

You can't expect someone to respect you if you don't respect them.

It's smart to choose to be respectful. Learning respect is one of life's most important lessons. It is a key skill which we can always keep learning more about, whatever age we are.

Part of learning how to respect is learning what your legal rights and responsibilities are.

You can't expect someone to respect your rights if you don't respect their rights.

You should stand up for your rights if you're not respected. But you also need to understand your responsibilities.

Equal rights for males and females

The law in Australia tries to make sure everyone's human rights are respected.

Human rights are about giving respect whatever your colour, country, religion or group. These rights are basic standards or rules that all people should follow.

One of the most important human rights and responsibilities is that women and men should be treated fairly and equally.

In many countries for a very long time, women have not been treated equally. In the past, the law and culture in Australia treated women as less than men. For example, in the past in Australia women could not get jobs men could.

The law and culture in Australia and many countries about how females and males treat each other has changed a lot over the years. All people now should be treated equally.

Sex discrimination

In 1984 in Australia a law was passed to make it wrong to treat women worse than men. This law is called the *Sex Discrimination Act*.

Sex discrimination is where you are treated unfairly because of your sex - either because you are a woman or because you are a man. This discrimination has mostly been men treating women badly.

The law now says that women must be treated equally to men. Everyone should be given equal respect. Males have to respect the rights of females.

Sexual Abuse and harassment

It is a serious crime to abuse someone sexually or force someone to have sex when they don't want to.

It is a crime to have sex with someone under the age of 16.

In Queensland it is unlawful to have anal sex with someone under 18.

Sexual harassment is also against the law. Sexual harassment is any unwelcome act of a sexual type which makes a person feel offended, shamed or scared. It includes making unwelcome sexual comments.

You can complain to people in authority about sexual abuse and harassment.

In the 'Boys Don't Talk' story on the DVD :

Joseph and Raj both like Margi and try to win her over. Raj gives Margi a flower. Joseph impresses her by kissing her hand, with 'bling' and with his car. Margi likes Raj but then rejects him and goes with Joseph in his car.