

Accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls: preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in digital contexts (L.6)

Explanation of Vote before the vote on amendment L.32: Permanent Representative to the UN, Sally Mansfield

Australia supports equal access to, and equal treatment of, both men and women to comprehensive sexuality education.

Access to sexual and reproductive health is vital to health and wellbeing, particularly for young people. Early sexual experience, early and unplanned pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases have a profound and life-long negative impact on people's lives and their capacity to achieve their life goals. Access to quality comprehensive sexuality education is essential to enabling people to make their own informed decisions regarding their health and their lives.

This is recognised in SDGs 3.7 and 5.6 and underpins a global commitment to ensure everyone has access to quality, evidence-based comprehensive sexuality education. Recognising that many countries have yet to meet this commitment, it is critical that explicit reference to comprehensive sexuality education remain in all relevant international outcomes documents, and that the international community continues to press to ensure that quality information is made universally accessible.

Removing the reference to comprehensive sexuality education would weaken the resolution, and fail to address access to education and the broad range of issues that comprehensive sexuality education should cover.

Australia will be voting against this amendment and we urge other Council members to do the same.