

Do as I say, not as I do..

Dilemmas for supporting the rights of people with intellectual disability



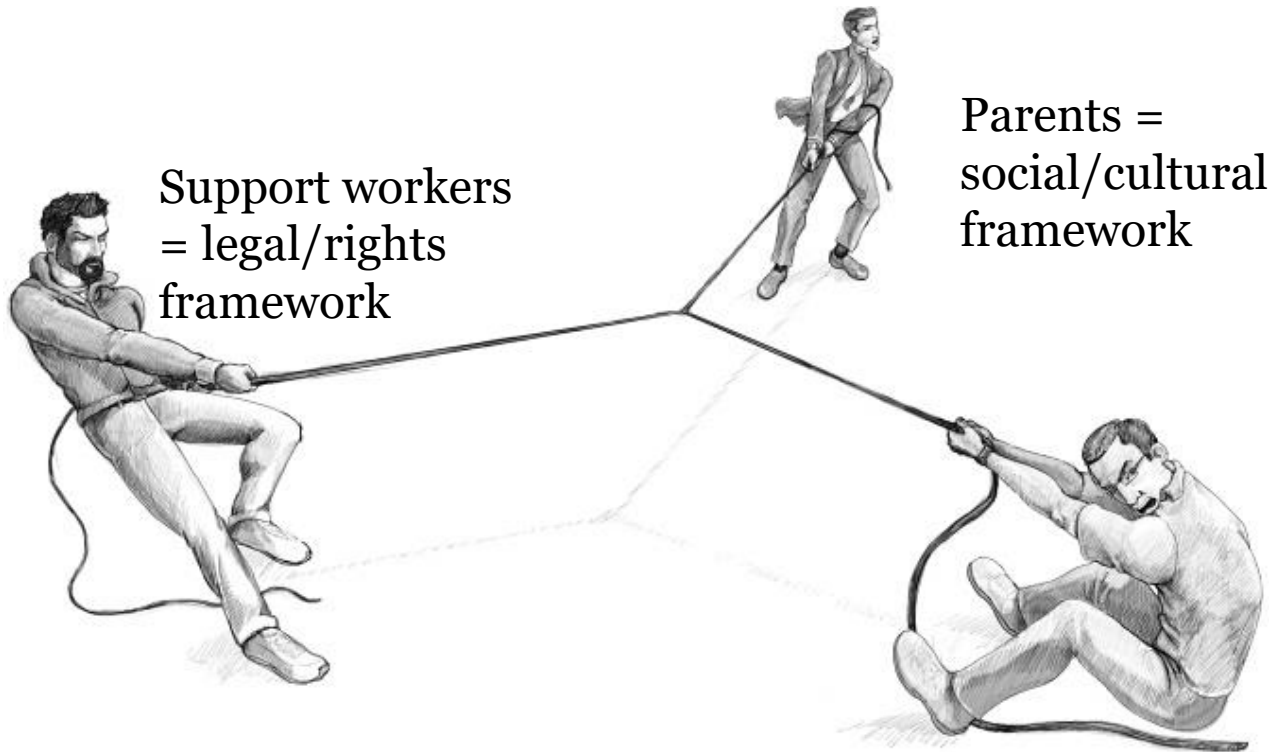
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When is an adult....

- It depends who is asking...
- It depends on which lens is used...
- It depends whether we are looking at this question from
 - A biological perspective
 - A legal perspective
 - A sociological perspective
 - A human rights perspective



Different frameworks



Support workers
= legal/rights
framework

Parents =
social/cultural
framework

Young people =
identity framework

From a human rights perspective:

UNCPRD states all persons with all types of disabilities must enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms.



But do they!!??

Judith's Project

- Do adults with intellectual disability access the internet based social media to form relationships and engage in sexual behaviours?
- If not, why not?



Let's talk about sex: How people with intellectual disability in Australia engage with online social media and intimate relationships

Judith Darragh, Louise Reynolds, Caroline Ellison, & Michelle Bellon

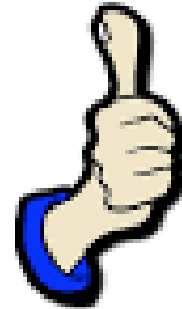
Cyberpsychology (2017)

Participants

Participants	Age	Gender	Employment Status	Relationship Status
Recruited From Metro Adelaide, SA, Australia N = 30	Between 20 – 66 (Mean 36)	Female N = 8	Full time N = 18	Married N = 4
		Male N = 22	Part time N = 9	Divorced N = 2
			Volunteer/ Advocate N = 1	Single N = 15
			Retired N = 2	Significant Other N = 9



May I ... ?



Yes, you may.



Permission?

GRANTED

What was stopping participation in research?



Participants were cherry picked



(I've got a good one for you!!)

Barriers to Participation

- Gatekeepers
 - Family members
 - Wives
 - Girl Friends
 - Support Workers
 - Organisation Management



**Support Staff censored the
questions to be asked**



Participants had already given permission

- Information offered in easy English,
- Participant were aware of the types of questions,
- Permission met Ethic Committee requirements.



The Questions were:

Are you interested in doing things that make you feel sexy?

**Tell me more about things you like to do.
Can I ask what kind of things you need to feel sexy?**

**Tell me more.
Do you look at pictures to feel sexy?**

Tell me about your experience doing this.

**Do you talk to people to feel sexy?
What happens inside your head?**

What happens inside of your body?



**Duty of Care
vs
Dignity of Risk**



Would the rights of the person with intellectual disability have been different if the topic was not about 'sex'?

**Were the participant's adult
rights respected?**

Human rights for
everybody
– there is no difference
(or is there!)

So back to the question... when is an adult? And when do adult rights really apply?

