
An Open Statement by the Psychological Society of South Africa (PsySSA) on CSE

Summary of key points

PsySSA strongly supports CSE in South Africa. It does so because the CSE curriculum is scientifically based, is sensitive to context, has been designed in recognition of the risks young people face, and helps them to reach a psychologically and sexually healthy adulthood.

Many teachers and parents are uncomfortable to teach around matters of sexuality and the CSE curriculum. However, its scripted lesson plans and support materials reflect a sensitive approach to building resilience in young people and shows that the State is taking its responsibilities seriously.

PsySSA respects the rights of parents and acknowledges their concerns, but parents and lobbyists who oppose CSE cannot cherry pick the science, which shows overwhelmingly that CSE is protective and not harmful.

There is a critical imperative to prepare young people for the real world, and to recognise the diversity of learners in classrooms across the country. Not to do so is a rejection of our Constitution and the rights of young people.