



## Activity: 9-10.9.2

### Key Message

- No-one is allowed to engage in sexual activity with a person who is unable to give consent.
- Honest and clear communication and negotiation is vital between partners in an intimate relationship.

### Activity Details

#### Victorian Curriculum

**Health & PE** Investigate how empathy and ethical decision-making contribute to respectful relationships  
VCHPEP146

**Capabilities** VCPSCSO048

**Time** 25 minutes

**Levels** 9 & 10

**Equipment** • a set of *Phil and Cindy* scenarios per group

Adapted with permission from Friedman, B 2005, *Boys-talk: a program for young men about masculinities, non-violence and relationships*, Boys and Relationships SA, Adelaide.

*Am I Old Enough? Common legal issues for young people*. 2012. Victoria Legal Aid <[www.legalaid.vic.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au)>.

# Phil and Cindy

## Purpose

To promote discussion about consent/coercion in relationships.

## Teaching notes

Change the names of characters if you have a Phil or a Cindy in your class. This activity follows a lesson on consent, the importance of which cannot be understated. It is imperative that students realise that consent means that both people engage of their own free will in a sexual activity. It means having a conversation and both agreeing, or saying 'yes'. A person cannot engage in any sexual activity with another person who cannot or does not give their consent.

"If you're asleep, unconscious or so affected by alcohol or drugs that you can't agree, it is sexual assault. (2012, *Am I Old Enough?*, Victoria Legal Aid).

*Please note: Although there are many ways you can run this activity, considering one scenario at a time may help to facilitate discussion and identify a shift in some student's opinions.*

## Procedure

1. Split the class into groups of 5-6 students per group (you may choose to divide the class according to gender).
2. Give each group a copy of Phil's story to read, or ask one student to read it to the class.
3. Ask each group to consider the following questions:
  - What went wrong?
  - How could it have been avoided?
  - How did this happen?
4. Repeat steps two and three with Cindy's story.
5. Invite students to share their observations about either story with the class.

## Discussion

A class discussion could focus on the following topics:

- How do you gain consent? ("Is that ok?", "Can I touch you there?", "Does that feel good?", etc.).
- Why did Phil think that what he was doing was OK? Is this OK? How would the law view his behaviour?
- Who was at fault?
- What impact did Cindy's behaviour have?
- Discuss the stereotypes and pressures on boys.
- Discuss the stereotypes and pressures on girls.
- Could Phil or Cindy have taken any other action to prevent this situation from occurring?
- What should you do if your partner doesn't give you a yes or no answer?
- Who/ where can you go to for help with decision-making about safer sex?





### Phil's story

I still don't understand what happened. Cindy and I had been dating for about two months and even though we hadn't slept together yet, I had made it clear that I really liked her and eventually wanted to have sex with her.

We were supposed to go to a party and when she showed up in this sexy, low-cut dress I thought maybe this was her way of saying she was ready.

At the party, we drank some alcohol, which made her sort of sleepy. When she said she wanted to go lie down and have me come snuggle with her, what was I supposed to think? Of course I thought she wanted to have sex. Okay, she did grumble a bit when I started to undress her, but I just figured she wanted to be persuaded. Lots of girls feel funny about being too forward and want men to take charge of sex. I don't know. We had sex and it was fine. I took her home from the party and I thought everything was OK. But, ever since then, she refuses to talk to me or go out with me. I thought she really liked me.

What happened?



### Cindy's story

I'll never forget that night. Phil and I had been dating a while and he had always acted like a perfect gentleman – well, we had done our share of kissing and stuff but he never gave me any reason not to trust him.

The night of the party, I wore this gorgeous dress that I borrowed from my roommate. It was a little flashier than I normally wear but I thought it looked great. At the party, I had some pre-mixed vodka-based drinks and they made me really tired, so I wanted to lie down. Maybe I shouldn't have suggested we both lie down together but it felt weird to go upstairs by myself and leave Phil all alone.

The next thing I knew, he was all over me, forcing me to have sex with him. It was horrible. I didn't want to scream and make a fool of myself with all those other people in the next room. I tried to fight him off but he was too strong. Needless to say, I never want to see Phil again. He seemed like such a nice guy.

What happened?