

Tween peer sex shock

Natasha Bita

SEXUAL activity among 11 and 12-year-olds — including those of the same sex — is normal, a new Federal Government report claims.

The Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault has listed “peer-related sexual activity” as “developmentally appropriate” for pre-teen children aged 11 and 12.

And it states sexual activity between kids of the same sex does not mean they are homosexual.

The “developmentally ap-

propriate sexual behaviours” are listed in a new report revealing big brothers are five times more likely than fathers or uncles to sexually abuse young children.

But the Australian Institute of Family Studies, which controls the Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault, is insisting “sexual activity” does not refer to penetrative sex.

“Everyone knows sexual activity does not mean pen-

etrative sex,” the institute’s head of research Daryl Higgins said yesterday.

“Everyone who has done research in the field knows it is a broad range of things, from kissing to flirting”.

Dr Higgins said the list of appropriate and inappropriate sexual behaviours for children of various ages was a summary of research studies, and “not advice to parents”.

But child protection group Bravehearts yester-

day said the list was “a bit misleading”.

“They probably needed to explain that a little bit better,” Bravehearts research manager Carol Ronken said.

“At that age, exploration is perfectly normal — it’s the old ‘first-base’ thing with kissing, but not actual penetrative sex.”

The federally-funded report reveals that most parents usually ignore, deny or downplay sibling sexual

abuse as child’s play. Little sisters are the usual victims, but often won’t do in their abusive brothers for fear of “rocking the boat”.

“Sibling abuse is an under-reported and hidden crime,” the report says.

“(It) has historically been ignored, minimised or denied by parents, professionals and authorities as benign sexual experimentation. (But) studies indicate that sibling sexual abuse is more prevalent

than other types of intra-familial sexual abuse.”

About eight in every 10 victims are younger than 13, the study says, but many fear telling their parents.

Dr Higgins urged parents to seek counselling for all their children if they suspected abuse.

“The first temptation for parents is to turn a blind eye, that it’s a bit of experimental mucking around. Often it takes young people three or four or five times before they’re believed and action is taken,” he said.

Net link: bravehearts.org.au

Federal report says pre-teen activity normal

Zentai seeks advice

ACCUSED war criminal Charles Zentai is seeking legal advice on the prospects of a damages case against the federal and WA governments for wrongful imprisonment as attempts were made to extradite him to Hungary.

The High Court in August upheld a decision to prevent Mr Zentai, 91, from being extradited to Hungary to answer an accusation of murdering an 18-year-old Jewish man in Budapest in November 1944 while he was serv-

ing in the Hungarian army.

The Commonwealth approved Mr Zentai’s extradition to Hungary in November 2009, but the decision was overturned on appeal in the Federal Court in August 2011.

Mr Zentai’s ordeal began in mid-2005 when he was aged 84 and suffering strokes, but he had fought the extradition attempts as he was emphatic about his innocence, his son Ernie Steiner said.

Mr Zentai wasn’t even

in Budapest at the time of the murder, Mr Steiner said.

He said his father had lodged a writ in Western Australia’s Supreme Court, seeking compensation for 57 days of wrongful imprisonment in Perth’s Hakea Prison between October 22 and December 16, 2009.

He was seeking legal advice on the prospects of the damages claim, Mr Steiner said. “He does deserve something back,” Mr Steiner said yesterday.

AAP



All creatures: Pat Rafter and Missy Higgins are speaking out against the cruel treatment of animals.

Plea to be kinder to Miss Piggy

ANIMALS lovers Pat Rafter and Missy Higgins have joined a national campaign against factory farming.

Animals Australia has launched a public awareness campaign, “Make It Possible”, to help consumers make more informed choices when buying animal products.

The campaign will include television, print and online ads, and aims to inspire Australians to refuse factory-farmed meat, eat fewer animal products, or even go meat-free.

“Australians are a pet loving nation and we don’t want to see

Holly Ife

any animal suffer unnecessary cruelty,” said tennis superstar Pat Rafter. “The more informed the public is about factory farming, the better chance we have to make change,” he said.

Singer Missy Higgins said it was easy to forget intensively farmed animals such as pigs and chickens were no different to pets: “They equally deserve to be treated humanely.”

Australian Pork Limited chief executive Andrew Spencer said the campaign was

“short on facts”. He said the industry was moving towards being sow-stall free. (Sow stalls place severe restrictions on the movements of sows.)

The campaign also coincided with Coles announcing it will phase out the use of sow stalls to produce its own brand pork and stop selling caged eggs.

In Australia, 90 per cent of pigs are bred and raised in factory farms where they can legally have their tails cut off, teeth cut through, or be castrated without pain relief — all would be animal cruelty offences if inflicted on a puppy.

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APOLOGY

In the Woolworths catalogue, on sale Wednesday 24th October, 2012, the Four'n Twenty Traditional Pies Pk4 on page 25 has been advertised with the incorrect comparative unit pricing (CUP). The correct CUP is 71c per 100g.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

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Doing it tough

WOMEN are closing the gender gap with men in health and education, but struggle to get top jobs and salaries, according to data from a study of 135 countries.

“Gaps in senior positions, wages and leadership levels still persist,” even in countries that promote equality in education and have a high level of economic

integration among women, the World Economic Forum said in its annual Global Gender Gap Report, released yesterday.

The new figures were released just hours after a European Union initiative to set a 40 per cent quota for women on the boards of listed companies stalled because of a lack of support.

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