



# ST ALOYSIUS

## CATHOLIC COLLEGE

20<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians

### Guest Presenter – Melinda Tankard Reist

We are pleased to advise that we have secured the services of guest presenter, Melinda Tankard Reist to speak with both students and parents in term four.

Melinda is an author, speaker, media commentator, blogger and advocate for women and girls. She is best known for her work addressing sexualisation, objectification, harms of pornography, sexual exploitation, trafficking and violence against women. Melinda is author/editor of five books including *Getting Real: Challenging the Sexualisation of Girls* (Spinifex Press, 2009), now in its 9th printing, *Big Porn Inc: Exposing the harms of the global pornography industry* (Spinifex Press, 2011, co-edited with Dr Abigail Bray) and her new release (Spinifex Press, co-edited with Dr Caroline Norma) *Prostitution Narratives: Stories of survival in the sex trade*. An opinion writer, Melinda is also a regular on morning television and has appeared on ABC's Q&A and The Gruen Sessions as well as many other TV and radio programs. Melinda is co-founder of the grassroots campaigning movement, *Collective Shout: for a world free of sexual exploitation*, exposing corporations, advertisers and marketers who objectify women and sexualise girls to sell products and services. An ambassador for World Vision Australia, Compassion Australia, HagarNZ and the youth mentoring body the Raise Foundation, Melinda is named in the *Who's Who of Australian Women* and the *World Who's Who of Women*. She has recently been appointed Senior Lecturer in the Centre for Culture and Ethics, Notre Dame University, Sydney.

The following articles may be of interest.

Growing Up in Pornland: Girls Have Had It with Porn Conditioned Boys, ABC Religion and Ethics.

<http://www.abc.net.au/religion/articles/2016/03/07/4420147.htm>

'Why are 5-year-olds creating porn themed images at school?' Australian Childhood Foundation

<http://melindatankardreist.com/2016/07/when-5-year-olds-creat-porn-themed-images-in-class/>

Melinda will be presenting to students in Grades 5-9 on Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> October. Parents are also invited to attend a session at 6.30pm on Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> October at the Huntingfield Campus. **Please note that all parents are invited to this session, not just those with children at the Huntingfield Campus.**

Melinda has provided the following summary of the Parent Information session:

**Navigating a sexed-up world: the sexualisation of children in a pornified world and what we can do about it**

Have you noticed that your children seem to be growing up too fast? That they are worried about their appearance and more aware of sexual issues at earlier stages? Children and young people are bombarded with hypersexualised messages from media and popular culture. Even small children are worried about their looks and physical appearance, shaped and conditioned at the earliest of ages by a dominant message that tells them they have to be 'hot' be liked and accepted. The lives of young people are increasingly socialised, conditioned and informed by exposure to porn related content online. They are exposed to this content not only before they have had sex, but often before their first kiss, with average age of first exposure 11. Exposed to a pornified landscape, young people are 'acting out' through social media and sexting, putting their bodies on display for attention and judgement. Drawing from current global literature on the subject, as well as the experiences of young people themselves, Melinda will explore with us how the proliferation of sexualized images and messages contributes to a distorted view of bodies, relationships and sexuality in young people, hampering their healthy physical emotional and social development. How can we address this toxic culture and raise happy, healthy and resilient young people who value their dignity and self-worth and aspire to relationships based on respect and authentic connection?

In order to gauge interest in the parent session, we would appreciate it if you could advise Samantha Wilton ([samantha.wilton@catholic.tas.edu.au](mailto:samantha.wilton@catholic.tas.edu.au)) if you will be attending the session. Your response would be appreciated by Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> October.

We look forward to welcoming Melinda to the College and hope that a number of parents are able to attend the evening session.

Yours sincerely

(Mr) Brendan Gill  
**Co-Principal**

(Mr) Joe Sandric  
**Co-Principal**