



# Think about drinks

IT WAS the scrunchie that ruined it for me. There I was sitting in an antenatal class about to watch a video of a woman in the early stages of labour. Excellent.

The video came on and as "Sharon" moaned, all I could think was that she had her hair in a scrunchie and appeared to be giving birth in shoulder pads. The video was made in the early '80s. I couldn't relate to Shazza. I kept wondering if the moment of conception had occurred to a backing of Roxette tunes.

Training DVDs, educational videos or "shock" public awareness commercials too often fail to connect with the intended audience. They're either outdated or, worse, trying too hard — a fact not lost on Toowoomba solicitor Adair Donaldson.

But I'm getting ahead of myself.

Two weeks ago I wrote a column saying that, sadly, women needed to be more proactive to help avoid becoming the victims of sexual assault. We needed to listen to our gut instincts more often. Binge-drinking led to impaired judgment and an inability to recognise dangerous situations. But responsibility, obviously, should not lie with the victim.

The real problem with binge-drinking and drug use is that it is often the cause of

## THE WAY WE LIVE REBECCA SPARROW



the perpetrator's reckless and/or criminal act. Enter Adair Donaldson. He and his partner Peter Shannon, of Shannon Donaldson Province Lawyers, are country solicitors who deal with young people facing serious criminal charges thanks to one reckless act of stupidity or naivety. An act usually caused by binge-drinking.

So the pair decided to be part of the solution. They have created an outstanding DVD and training manual to show teens how one bad judgment call can lead to a life-altering incident.

Putting *Youth In The Picture* covers everything from sexual assault, pub fights and recreational drug use to negligent

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driving, bullying and under-age drinking. The DVDs contain movie-style clips starring young Aussie actors with authentic language, clothing and music. Put it this way, there's not a scrunchie in sight. No one says: "Cool dude" or "peace out".

The DVDs and training manuals have lesson modules on each topic for teachers. Thanks to the team's legal knowledge, consequences are spelt out. Students learn the legal definition of sexual assault. They find out about the real legal ramifications of sending bitchy text messages. They learn how a schoolyard punch-up may result in detention, but belting a bloke at the pub can lead to a criminal conviction.

Better still, the training booklets teach students how to recognise warning signs and make better choices before things turn sour. Or deadly.

*Putting Youth In The Picture* should be compulsory viewing for all high school students. If we want change, we must be proactive and start teaching our kids (and reminding ourselves) about consequences. For more information, go to website [www.puttingyouthinthepicture.com](http://www.puttingyouthinthepicture.com), or telephone 4659 9277.

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