

# HOW SAFE IS YOUR SEARCH?

When you google, you can get all sorts of information. Not all of it is reliable or true. Here are some tips to make sure what you are reading is accurate and ultimately helpful for you.

## How reliable is the information you're finding?

Where did it come from?

Can you see who the organisation that created the site is?

- What are their values?
- Are they religious?

A company or organisation may tailor the information to the company's values and beliefs. For example a religious based group may not expand on all the options for contraception.

A reliable website should be non-biased!

## How up-to-date is the information?

What is the date of publication?

Books will have a date that it was published; websites will have a date that it was last updated or a copyright date. Sometimes information will stay the same for a few years but often it can change frequently or just need a small update;

Make sure the page you are reading isn't giving you old news.

## Is it Australian?

Lots of great sites can be informative and give a huge range of relevant and correct facts. However, if you are looking specifically into laws or costs its best to ensure that your site is Australian and/or specific to your state.

## Ensure your information is relevant by location.

Does the organisation have contact details?

A lot of the good sexual health education sites will be created by trusting organisations; these sites should provide their contact details. This allows their readers to ask more questions, submit a query or provide advice for their site.

## Check out their deets!

Do your statistics add up?

Be careful of the information you get, some sites may not be using correct or updated statistics. If you are unsure check it against other sites or with the Australia Bureau of Statistics [ABS]. (If you need it for school then ABS is the best way to get accurate and reliable population-based information).

## Do the numbers add up?

Who controls what is on the site?

Some sites can be changed by the users, like Wikipedia. While it can be a great source of information, it can also be easily edited by people; be careful of these sites, someone might be steering you in the wrong direction. Stick to sites that are managed solely by the organisation.

If you can edit it, don't bet on it.

## Who is making your YouTube video?

Anyone can upload YouTube videos so make sure they are legit. Do they lead to a website or provide information about the author? Don't avoid YouTube for your education, a lot of people choose to teach this way. Check out Laci Green, for some top quality sexual health education.

See it, to believe it.

## Is there funding for the website?

Anyone can design and upload a website these days. In most cases, if the website is funded by a Government, or non-for-profit organisation it will be legit. Non-funded websites, although they may contain correct information, they cannot always be reliable.



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