

Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault

(ECASA)



If you have any English language difficulties, please ask staff to book an interpreter. From home contact the Telephone Interpreter Service on 9605 3056. Services are provided free of charge. Ask staff if this information is available in your preferred language.

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What is Sexual Assault

Sexual assault is any behaviour of sexual nature that you have not agreed or consented to.

Sexually abusive behaviours may include:-

Indecent assault

Unwanted touching of another person's body e.g. kissing, fondling, touching breasts, buttocks, genitals. Being made to look at or pose for pornographic photos, videos or magazines. Being forced to watch masturbation.

Rape

Is sexual penetration without consent in any type of relationship. Sexual penetration means a penis being introduced into the vagina, anus or mouth. It also includes the insertion of an object or other body part eg finger or tongue into the vagina or anus.

Incest

Sexual penetration of a child or young person by a relative or family member. This includes sexual penetration between brothers, sisters and half brothers and sisters. The person abuses their position of trust and power.

Sexual harassment

Unwanted verbal sexual innuendo or harassment, e.g. suggestions of sexual behaviour, dirty talk.

Child sexual abuse

The law prohibits sexual contact by adults with anyone under the age of 16 years old.

Consent

The law defines consent as 'free agreement'. It cannot be given if the person: -

- Is asleep, unconscious or significantly affected by alcohol or other drugs
- Is unable to understand the sexual nature of the act
- Is mistaken about the sexual nature of the act or the identity of the person
- Surrenders because of force, fear of force, or fear of harm against them or someone else
- Surrenders because they are kept against their will (e.g. locked in a house or unable to leave for other reasons)

Silence does not mean consent

Just because a person doesn't protest, physically resist, or suffer additional injuries, doesn't mean that they freely agreed to the sexual activity.

The facts about sexual assault

- While both men and women can be victims and perpetrators of sexual assault, women face a disproportionately high risk of sexual victimisation.
- Most victims are assaulted by men they trust such as husbands, boyfriends or fathers, or by men they know such as neighbours, acquaintances or employers.
- Most sexual assaults are premeditated.
- Offenders come from all socio-economic backgrounds, all ages and ethnic backgrounds.

- People rarely lie about sexual assault. It is important to take all allegations of sexual assault seriously.

- Sexual assault is the abuse of the power and control that the sex offender has over the victim in order to hurt and humiliate, or to exploit the victim for his own sexual desires without regard for the harm done.

- Nobody asks or wants to be sexually assaulted. Sexual assault is a serious crime and the sex offender is always responsible.

- Men who are raped are vulnerable because of their age, isolation, or because they are seen as different. They are often raped as part of a violent attack that is aimed at domination and degradation.

- Men who are attacked undergo the same reactions as women. They are paralysed with fear, so frightened that they cannot call for help and afraid to resist in case this provokes more violence.



For more information or to book an appointment, call **9870 7330** or call the 24 hour sexual assault crisis line on **1800 806 292**

Protecting Your Privacy

Eastern Health is committed to protecting your privacy. We will keep your personal information secure and will disclose information about you only when required or permitted by law. We comply with relevant information and privacy legislation.

If you would like more information, please ask a staff member or visit our website www.easternhealth.org.au Eastern Health is accredited by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards.

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