

Aware

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

In this issue

Resources for adult victim/survivors of sexual assault

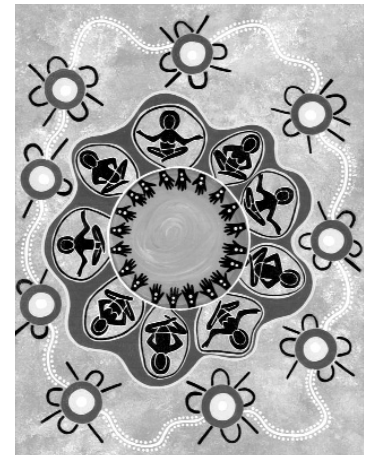
Welcome to the eleventh edition of *ACSSA Aware*, the newsletter of the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault. This issue reviews several resources relevant to adult victim/survivors of childhood sexual assault and those who work with them. For our service profile we talk to *Respond SA*, a relatively new service for adult victim/survivors of childhood sexual assault established by the South Australian Government in 2004. There is also a contribution by the Royal District Nursing Service Research Unit on the four new resources that the unit has produced in partnership with Catherine House in South Australia. The resource kit includes two books, the first aimed at providing support to adult victim/survivors around the impact of childhood sexual abuse, and the second aimed at resourcing service providers and group facilitators who work directly with this group. There is also a poster, and a report providing an extensive literature review and recommendations for service provision, as proposed by the research participants.

Also in this issue, we profile the projects that were successful in applying for the first round of funding under the *Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Initiative* from the Australian Government's Office for Women. The twenty-seven projects that received funding aim to reduce the impact of domestic and family violence and sexual assault through community-based action research, related partnership projects and product development.

This edition also includes reviews of several recently released reports, including the *Sentencing Statistics for Rape Offences* "snapshot", by the Victorian Sentencing Advisory Council; Amnesty International's report on military sexual slavery; and the *Safe at Work?* report by URCOT and RMIT, overseen by the Victorian Statewide Steering Committee to Reduce Violence Against Women in the Workplace. The "News in brief" section contains further overviews of recently released reports, DVDs and books, as well as news from the sector.

Our good practice profile is of a brochure, *What the Law Says about Sex*, produced as a joint project between Centrecare Goldfields and the Kalgoorlie Detectives Office in Western Australia. The brochure is aimed at educating on, and preventing, child abuse in remote Aboriginal communities. It covers legal considerations of inappropriate sexual behaviour and encourages reporting of offences and greater awareness of "what the law says about sex".

Finally, there are our regular columns on conferences and training as well as literature highlights from recent additions to the ACSSA library collection at the Australian Institute of Family Studies. As always, ACSSA remains keen to receive feedback on how we can better meet the needs of those committed to working against sexual assault, so please continue to provide us with your comments on current or future publications. If this is the first issue of *Aware* you've read, earlier editions can be requested via email or by returning the form on the back page of this issue. And don't forget, all our publications are freely available online at <http://www.aifs.gov.au/acssa>.



Artwork used for the "What the Law Says about Sex" brochure, by Joanne Honeysett of Taungurung, Victoria. Joanne says, "This painting depicts child abuse and speaking up. The middle of the circle is hands ... children's hands. The Elders sit outside the circle protecting the children and talking among themselves, encouraging community members to speak up. Each Elder then carries this information back to their communities encouraging others to do the same".



Australian Government

Australian Institute
of Family Studies
Australian Centre for the
Study of Sexual Assault

The Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault aims to improve access to current information on sexual assault in order to assist policy makers, service providers, and others interested in this area to develop evidence-based strategies to prevent, respond to, and ultimately reduce the incidence of sexual assault.

The Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault is funded by the Office for Women, Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services, through the Women's Safety Agenda. The Centre is hosted by the Australian Institute of Family Studies.

Contents

In this issue	1
ACSSA publications	2
Join ACSSA Alert	2
News in brief	3
ACSSA publications feedback	6
Sentencing trends for rape in Victoria	9
We invite your views	11
Rape for the "Comfort" of Soldiers	12
Four new resources for those working with survivors of child sexual abuse	17
Safe at work?	20
Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Initiative: New projects funded	24
Service profile: <i>Respond SA</i> , for adult victim/survivors of childhood sexual abuse	27
Good practice profile	35
Conferences	37
Preview: ACSSA publications	39
Training	40
Literature highlights	42
Women against violence: An Australian feminist journal	43
Contribute to <i>ACSSA Aware</i>	47
We welcome your feedback	47
ACSSA services	48
Membership Form	48

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The ACSSA team would like to take this opportunity to thank Melanie Heenan, who has decided to leave her position of Coordinator and Senior Research Fellow at the Centre. When Melanie was appointed ACSSA's first Coordinator three years ago, her task was nothing less than to build the sole national information port on sexual assault from scratch – a task she undertook with great skill, dedication and an infectious enthusiasm. It is thanks to Melanie that ACSSA is what it is: her commitment to ending sexual assault, and her integrity in researching the means to do so, are rare qualities that have not only shaped the workings of the centre, but also enriched the day-to-day lives of those of us lucky enough to work with her. We'll miss you Mel, and wish you all good things for the future!

ACSSA Publications

As there are so few forums in which those working in the sexual assault field can share information with one another, we are keen to publish articles within this newsletter. We now accept contributions of up to 5,000 words, as well as book reviews, news of conferences, training and research projects (up to 1,500 words). If you would like to contribute an article or review to *ACSSA Aware*, details of how to do so are on the inside back cover of this newsletter. You can access our "contributor's guidelines" from the website (<http://www.aifs.gov.au/acssa/pubs/pubsmenu.html>) or contact ACSSA directly.

Join ACSSA-Alert

News Alert Email Service: ACSSA-Alert

ACSSA-Alert is an email list for news and updates from the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault. You will receive messages with announcements about updates on the ACSSA website, release of publications, and new information or services.

You can join ACSSA-Alert through our web page on:

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/acssa/emallist.html>