

## LITERATURE HIGHLIGHTS

The resources listed here comprise selections from new additions to the ACSSA library collection. They may be borrowed from the Australian Institute of Family Studies library via the interlibrary loan system.

### Adult survivors

**Victimisation during childhood and revictimisation in dating relationships in adolescent girls**, by M-H. Gagne, F. Lavoie & M. Hebert, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.29, no.10, 2005, pp.1155-1172.

This study examined the revictimisation experiences of survivors of childhood trauma. Adolescent girls who had experienced extrafamilial violent or sexual abuse were more likely to be involved in date victimisation. Differences between repeat victimisation in a single long-term relationship and revictimisation by different partners were noted.

### Audio-visual resources

**Anyone's story: Understanding and responding to adult sexual assault**, by S. Brown, Parramatta, N.S.W., Education Centre Against Violence, 2004.

This video has been designed to promote greater understanding of adult sexual assault in the community and to promote best practice for professionals working with sexual assault victims. It can be used as a training tool for police, counsellors, doctors, and other professionals.

**Responding to sexual violence: Responding to sexual assault and abuse**, by Sexual Assault Resource Centre, Perth, WA, Sexual Assault Resource Centre, 2005.

This DVD depicts three counselling sessions, which involve an adolescent girl who has been sexually assaulted, a woman who was sexually abused as a child, and a woman who has been sexually assaulted and is preparing for a medical and forensic examination. The video demonstrates general counselling skills, responding to disclosures of sexual assault and child sexual abuse, raising and assessing links between sexual abuse, assault, mental health and alcohol and drug problems, and strategies to manage dissociation and self-harming behaviour. Training notes with key questions and issues for discussion accompany the video.

**Understanding sexual violence: The judge's role in stranger and nonstranger rape and sexual assault cases**, by the US National

Judicial Education Program, Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, 2005.

This DVD is intended as a self-directed or group curriculum resource for education about rape trials (particularly nonstranger rape). It is designed for a variety of audiences, including judges, law enforcement officials, prosecutors, lawyers, probation and parole departments, victim/survivor advocates, health professionals and researchers (see outline on page [insert page no. – under 'Two New DVDs' in *News in Brief* section] of this edition).

**Responding to sexual violence: working with Aboriginal adolescents and adults**, by Sexual Assault Resource Centre, Perth, WA, Sexual Assault Resource Centre, 2005.

This DVD depicts two counselling sessions, one with an adolescent Aboriginal girl who has experienced sexual abuse; the second with an Aboriginal woman who experienced sexual abuse as a child. The video demonstrates general counselling skills, working within a cultural context, and responding to disclosures of sexual assault and child sexual abuse. Training notes with key questions and issues for discussion accompany the video.

### Disability

**The health impact of violence: A disability perspective**, by C. Jennings, in *Home Truths: Stop Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, a National Challenge Conference, Melbourne, September 2004: presentations*, Melbourne, Vic, CASA Forum, 2004, Online only: [http://www.hometruths.com.au/presentations/Jennings\\_The\\_Health\\_Impact\\_of\\_Violence\\_Disability\\_Perspectiv.pdf](http://www.hometruths.com.au/presentations/Jennings_The_Health_Impact_of_Violence_Disability_Perspectiv.pdf)

Women identified as having a disability are recognised nationally and internationally as a group who experience violence at a greater rate than the general population. The author reviews current research and discourse on violence against women with disabilities particularly as a health issue, with a focus on the state of Victoria. A voice for women with disabilities is called for, as are legislative changes at the state and federal level.

**Responding to sexual assault in aged and disability care settings: The SADA project**, by Northern Sydney Health, in *Passion, power, practice: 2nd National ACROD Ageing and Disability*

Conference, Hobart, 19-20 July 2005: *speakers presentations*, Curtin, ACT, ACROD Limited, 2005, Online only: <http://www.acrod.org.au/conferences/a&d2005/concurrent/Kelly-SADAProject.doc>

A significant number of people in aged care and disability settings have been sexually assaulted and most of these people do not have fair access to the criminal justice system nor the resources to ensure their ongoing safety. The SADA (Sexual Assault in Disability and Ageing) project addresses the sexual assault of these vulnerable people, the difficulties involved in ensuring their safety and in pursuing prosecution. SADA aims to create a framework for action in which agencies work together to ensure protection of vulnerable people in care settings and to provide an effective response to incidents or concerns of sexual assault.

#### HIV / AIDS

**Addressing gender-based violence from the reproductive health/HIV sector: A literature review and analysis**, by A. C. Guedes, Washington, D.C., POPTECH, 2004, Online only: [http://www.poptechproject.com/pdf/04\\_164\\_020.pdf](http://www.poptechproject.com/pdf/04_164_020.pdf)

This document provides a literature review and analysis of programs used in developing countries to address gender-based violence with a link to the reproductive health/HIV sectors. It outlines the

range of approaches available to address gender based violence within sexual reproductive health and HIV programs, with a focus on the following areas: behaviour change communications programs; service delivery programs; community mobilisation programs; policy programs; programs aimed at youth; and programs working with refugees, internally displaced populations, and/or returnees.

#### Human rights

**Keynote address**, by K. Gilmore, in *Home Truths: Stop Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, a National Challenge Conference, Melbourne, September 2004: presentations*, Melbourne, Vic, CASA Forum, 2004, Online only: [http://www.hometruths.com.au/presentations/Gilmore\\_Keynote4.doc](http://www.hometruths.com.au/presentations/Gilmore_Keynote4.doc)

In this keynote conference address, the speaker maintains that sexual assault and violence against women is a human rights issue. She discusses Amnesty International's global and long-term campaign to stop violence against women and profiles violence against women on the global stage. The challenge ahead for Amnesty International and the elimination of violence against women lies in the regions of Mexico, of Darfur, and of Iraq.

**The challenges of securing human rights to safety in Australian family law frameworks**, by E. McInnes, in *Home Truths: Stop Sexual*

## Women against violence: An Australian feminist journal

The *Women Against Violence Journal* is a national journal examining issues relevant to the work to stop violence against women. The journal is founded on the belief that those working against violence against women welcome the opportunity to document initiatives, policy and practice development and encourage debate. The journal reflects a feminist philosophy and a social justice framework.

#### Issue 18 (available May 2006)

Issue 18 will be a general issue including articles exploring women's capacity to overcome oppressions in mental health care, the gendered needs of women clients when working with families where alcohol/drugs are involved, churches and institutionalised abuse, feminists researching domestic violence and perpetrator programs and best practice in violence prevention education with men. This journal will also feature a review of Dr Caroline Taylor's latest book, *Court Licensed Abuse*, and a briefing that critiques the Australian Government's *Violence Against Women – Australia says no!* campaign.

#### Issue 19 - Women's Right to Choose – Again

This special issue, to be published in 2006, is in response to current debates in Australia about abortion, fertility, pregnancy and women's right to choose and contributions will address issues of politics, policy and service provision in these areas.

For more information on the Women Against Violence Journal, contact Gail Draper at CASA House Melbourne on (03) 9347 3066, email [casa@rwh.org.au](mailto:casa@rwh.org.au) or visit the website at <http://www.rwh.org.au/casa/>

*Assault and Domestic Violence, a National Challenge Conference, Melbourne, September 2004: presentations*, Melbourne, Vic, CASA Forum, 2004, Online only: [http://www.hometruths.com.au/presentations/McInnes\\_The\\_Challenges\\_of\\_Securing\\_Human\\_Rights\\_to\\_Safety.doc](http://www.hometruths.com.au/presentations/McInnes_The_Challenges_of_Securing_Human_Rights_to_Safety.doc)

In this paper the speaker argues that human rights to safety for women and children are in jeopardy in the Australian family law system and that there is an urgent need for system reform. The speaker states that Australian family law frameworks currently routinely re-expose children and mothers to continuing abuse, sometimes with fatal results. Protecting victims of violence is blocked by a number of challenges including constitutional divisions, state responses to domestic violence and child protection, lack of legal aid and the family law pro-contact culture. It is recommended that a multidisciplinary national family violence unit be established as part of the family law system to gather evidence from relevant police, health, education and child welfare records and the parties in cases of alleged abuse to provide expert advice to inform court decision making. Legal aid should be extended to all cases involving abuse and violence to ensure vulnerable parties have access to their legal rights.

#### Indigenous women

**The prison merry go round: No way off**, by D. Kilroy, *Indigenous Law Bulletin*, vol.6, no.13, 2005, pp.25-27.

Indigenous women and girls are dramatically over represented in the prison system all around Australia and the majority have experienced sexual assault or abuse or physical violence before entering the prison system. The author argues that we need to address the causes of this current destructiveness and acknowledge that everyone plays a role in the destruction. The author looks at the needs of, and obstacles faced by, Indigenous women who are released from prison and makes recommendations about community involvement and programs for healing and personal development that would assist the women.

#### Intimate partner violence

**The impact of intimate partner violence on decisions to leave dating relationships: A test of the investment model**, by D. L. Rhatigan & A. E. Street, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, vol.20, no.12, 2005, pp.1580-1597.

This study examined the relation between the experience of physical violence in a dating relationship and the decision to leave that relationship. Findings

indicate that victimised and nonvictimised women based their relationship termination decisions on the same information. Exposure to psychological abuse had more impact on the decision to leave a relationship.

**Navigating the Family Court and understanding the new Family Violence Strategy**, by C. Stockley & D. Woollorton, in *Home Truths: Stop Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, a National Challenge Conference, Melbourne, September 2004: presentations*, Melbourne, Vic, CASA Forum, 2004, Online only: [http://www.hometruths.com.au/presentations/Stockley\\_Woollorton\\_Navigating\\_the\\_Family\\_Court.doc](http://www.hometruths.com.au/presentations/Stockley_Woollorton_Navigating_the_Family_Court.doc)

This paper provides information on the recently released Family Court Family Violence Strategy and provides some practical ideas to support workers and women who are involved with the Family Court where there is family violence. It is the belief of the authors that dissemination of information about the Court's Family Violence Strategy will assist in achieving the best possible outcomes for women who have experienced violence in their relationship and are seeking resolution through the Court.

**National challenge for action - domestic homicides in Western Australia**, by A. Hartwig, in *Home Truths: Stop Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, a National Challenge Conference, Melbourne, September 2004: presentations*, Melbourne, Vic, CASA Forum, 2004, Online only: [http://www.hometruths.com.au/presentations/Hartwig\\_National\\_Challenge\\_for\\_Action.ppt](http://www.hometruths.com.au/presentations/Hartwig_National_Challenge_for_Action.ppt)

This power point presentation covers a range of issues relating to domestic homicides in Western Australia including familicide; media coverage; policy, legislative and programmatic responses; the Annual Silent Domestic Violence Memorial, and police powers. It makes several recommendations for action in legislation, policy, practice and attitudes.

**Family violence and police response: Learning from research, policy and practice in European countries**, by M. Malsch & W. H. Smeenk, Burlington, VT, Ashgate, 2005.

"Police response to incidents to intimate partner violence can be critical. This volume investigates the elements in the institutional, legal and organisational context that are relevant for police response to incidents in the realm of the private sphere and whether there exists a relation with the reporting of such incidents by victims."—Book jacket.

**Dimensions of disability, rurality and lesbianism in women's experiences of intimate violence**, by K. Gray & M. Bradford, *Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research Newsletter*, vol.4, no.1, 2005, pp.6-9.

In this article the author expands on the notion of "intersectionality" discussed in a previous article. The focus of this article is the interaction of constructs of disability, rurality and lesbianism in shaping and compounding women's experiences of domestic and family violence. Disability, rurality and lesbianism may interact with other dimensions of gender, race and class to shape and amplify women's vulnerability to domestic violence. The authors conclude that responses that deconstruct and honour women's individual experiences together with recognition and exposure of the systemic and structural processes that support and perpetuate oppressive and discriminatory practices, are essential for supporting women to realise their rights to safety and freedom from abuse.

#### Law reform

**The impact of pre-recorded video and closed circuit television testimony by adult sexual assault complainants on jury decision-making: An experimental study**, by N. Taylor & J. Joudo, Canberra, ACT, Australian Institute of Criminology, 2005.

Findings from a mock sexual assault jury trial conducted in 2005 are presented in this report. The study investigated juror decisions and perceptions of various modes of adult sexual assault complainant testimony: via closed circuit television (CCTV), pre recorded videotape or face to face in the courtroom. The impact of emotional versus neutral complainant testimony was also examined. The report explains the methodology and discusses the following: the use of CCTV and pre recorded video in evidence; prior research on the manner in which testimony is presented in the courtroom; overall factors influencing juror perceptions; perceptions of jurors immediately following trial but before jury deliberation; jury verdicts and jury processes; post jury deliberation; factors that influenced beliefs about the guilt of the accused; and insights obtained from juror comments and feedback.

**Responding to sexual assault: The challenge of change**, by Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Canberra, Publishing Services for the Director of Public Prosecutions, 2005. Online only: [http://www.dpp.act.gov.au/pdf/DPP%20SARP%20report%20\(11Feb05\).pdf](http://www.dpp.act.gov.au/pdf/DPP%20SARP%20report%20(11Feb05).pdf)

This report examines the possibilities for change in criminal justice responses to sexual assault in the Australian Capital Territory. It makes a number of recommendations across the range of levels in legal process, including: Investigatory structures and processes; Collaborative approaches to investigating child sexual abuse; the role of the Director of Public Prosecutions; Sexual offence provisions in the ACT; Court practices, procedures and facilities; Support for victims during investigation and prosecution; Use of technology to allow victims to give evidence from outside the court and for pre-recorded evidence; Training in legal and non legal aspects of sexual offences for all professionals involved in the investigation and prosecution processes.

#### Rape

**Bedroom rape: sequences of sexual behaviour in stranger assaults**, by J. J. Fossi, D. D. Clarke & C. Lawrence, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, vol.20, no.11, 2005, pp.1444-1466.

In this article the sequence of sexual behaviour of both victim and offender in sexually charged situations resulting in rape are examined. Two distinct styles of offence were identified which may help inform rape prevention strategies.

**A gap or a chasm? Attrition in reported rape cases**, by L. Kelly, L. Regan & J. Lovett, London, Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate, 2005.

Home Office figures show an ongoing decline in the conviction rate for reported rape cases, with the conviction rate in 2002 being 5.6 per cent. This report draws on material from two evaluation projects funded by the Home Office Crime Reduction Programme Violence Against Women Initiative in an attempt to explain the high attrition rate in rape cases. It presents findings from the evaluation of two Sexual Assault Referral Centres, one non-centre based support service and three comparison areas where there was no specialist service for victims. Researchers tracked 3,500 rape cases through the courts and interviewed 228 rape victims. The authors identify six points at which attrition is likely to occur, and make recommendations for targeted interventions to reduce the attrition rate in these cases.

#### Sexual exploitation/objectification

**The perils of pornography**, by M. A. Layden, *Australian Family*, vol.26, no.3, 2005, pp.3-10.

Pornography, prostitution, stripping and sex trafficking are all variations on the abuse of women, this article argues. The article discusses the

demand driven nature of these services; the damage done to the sex life and sexual function of the viewer of pornography; the different effects of pictures and words, the nature of episodic memory and the treatment of pornography addicts; the rape myth; permission giving beliefs among offenders; cybersex addiction; damage to families; and the legal fight against pornography in the United States.

**Female chauvinist pigs: Women and the rise of raunch culture**, by A. Levy, Melbourne, Schwartz Publishing, 2005.

This book investigates the rise of a new branch in the women's movement, where women equate empowerment with the choice to be sexually aggressive, such as objectifying themselves and enjoying pornography and casual sex. The author disagrees that this is a liberating rebellion, and uses examples from the media and interviews with students and professional women to argue that treating themselves as pop culture sex objects is a backwards step to true power and freedom.

## Suicide

**Suicidality, interpersonal trauma and cultural diversity: A review of the literature**, by S. Stewart, *Australian e-Journal for the Advancement of Mental Health (AeJAMH)*, vol.4, no.2, 2005, Online only: <http://www.auseinet.com/journal/vol4iss2/stewart.pdf>

There are substantial bodies of literature focusing on suicide and interpersonal trauma, and on suicide across cultures, and a growing body of knowledge relating to interpersonal trauma across cultures. However, there is a marked gap in the literature that brings these three areas together. Studies that specifically investigate the prevalence of suicidality in relation to experiences of domestic violence, sexual assault and childhood abuse in a cross-cultural context are scant. Moreover, inconsistencies in data collection and reporting and considerable variability in results among the few existing studies highlight substantial methodological limitations and definitional differences in the research. This hampers both identification of at-risk groups and examination of possible risk and protective factors. What is clear is that interpersonal trauma and suicide are linked in significant and complex ways. What is less evident is how culture mediates this inter-relationship. It is suggested that gender and cultural biases in suicide research may account for our limited understandings in this area. Implications for practice include the need for alternative research perspectives and more inclusive frameworks that promote greater

cross-discipline dialogue and intersectoral collaboration. There is thus ample scope for further research in this area so as to elucidate the implications for suicide prevention, intervention and postvention work with culturally and linguistically diverse communities. (Author abstract, edited)

## Theories

**Theories of sexual offending**, by T. Ward, D. Polaschek & A. Beech, Chichester, England, John Wiley & Sons, c2006.

"This comprehensive text provides an up-to-date review and critique of current theorising about sexual offending. It presents the key ideas underpinning each theory in a clear and accessible manner. Theories are rigorously tested and evaluated, and their merits are examined from both a research and a clinical point of view."—Book jacket.

## Trafficking

**Sex trafficking: The global market in women and children**, by K. Farr, New York, Worth Publishers, 2005.

This book describes the global industry of sex trafficking; its victims, its buyers, the economic conditions that effect supply and demand, and the international networks. Sub-topics include organised crime, buyer profits and victim "debts", and the relationship between prostitution and the military - with wartime rape and the growth of the sex industry near foreign military bases.

**Trafficking in women for sexual exploitation**, by L. Fergus, Human Rights Defender, vol.14, no.3, 2005, pp.11-13.

The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, provided a definition of trafficking and a framework to address trafficking. This article discusses the situation in Australia, a destination country for victims of trafficking, and evaluates legislative and policy responses that aim to address trafficking.

**Victims of trafficking for forced prostitution: protection mechanisms and the right to remain in the destination countries**, by O. Simic, Geneva, Switzerland, Global Commission on International Migration, 2004, Online only: [http://www.gcim.org/en/ir\\_gmp.html](http://www.gcim.org/en/ir_gmp.html)

This study explores the right of trafficked victims of forced prostitution to remain in destination countries through the application of legal standards and victim protection mechanisms found in national, regional and international law. It highlights the importance of State recognition that

trafficked persons are victims of serious human rights abuses, and contends that states need to safeguard the legal rights and protective needs of trafficking victims. The study further considers the feasibility of the position that trafficked persons should have the right to temporary residence and work permits, thereby enabling trafficked persons to recover and rebuild their lives, and facilitating the effective prosecution of traffickers by encouraging victims to report to the authorities and to act as witnesses. Also under examination is the thesis that trafficked persons should be given the opportunity to apply for permanent residence permits under national and international laws.

**Integration of the human rights of women and a gender perspective: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights aspects of trafficking in persons, especially**

**women and children**, by Sigma Huda, February 2006, Online only: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/docs/62chr/ecn4-2006-62.doc>

In her second annual report since beginning her mandate, and her first substantive one in terms of presenting her findings, the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking, Sigma Huda has emphasised the relationship between sex trafficking and the demand for commercial sexual exploitation. Huda begins by explaining what is meant by the term “demand”, then discusses various factors relevant to a proper understanding of demand, and finally “highlights a variety of methods employed throughout the world by States, intergovernmental organisations, and non-governmental organisations in order to target the demand side of trafficking” (p.1) (see overview on p.3 in *News in Brief* of this edition).

## Contribute to *ACSSA Aware*

Service providers, researchers and those interested in working against sexual assault are encouraged to contribute to the *ACSSA Aware* newsletter. We are interested in short reviews (no more than 1500 words of books, conferences, workshops and projects. We will also consider more substantial articles (no more than 5000 words) on significant issues in understanding, responding to, or preventing sexual assault.

*ACSSA Aware* aims to provide a lively forum for ideas, argument and comment: thus we welcome readers' letters, comments and feedback on issues discussed in ACSSA publications.

*Please email contributions in a Microsoft Word document to [acssa@aifs.gov.au](mailto:acssa@aifs.gov.au), or post to the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault, 300 Queen Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000.*

## We welcome your feedback

### Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault

Help to shape the work of the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault. We are interested in hearing your views on the best way to meet the needs of our stakeholders. If you have any comments on services that could be offered, possible topics for publications or areas of research, please fill in the section below and return it to the Institute. Comments can also be provided on-line via the ACSSA website, or email us at: [acssa@aifs.gov.au](mailto:acssa@aifs.gov.au)

**What other services would you find useful for your work?**

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**What topics would you liked covered in ACSSA's publications, or considered for research projects?**

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Membership form overleaf ►

## ACSSA services

The Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault is funded by the Office for Women, Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs through the *Women's Safety Agenda*. ACSSA provides stakeholders with a variety of services (see below). ACSSA is located at the Australian Institute of Family Studies in Melbourne.

### Resources

ACSSA is building a collection of publications and best practice literature, reports, and training resources to inform initiatives and programs directed at improving the understanding of, and response to, sexual assault. These materials are available for browsing at the Australian Institute of Family Studies Information Centre, or may be borrowed through the interlibrary loan system. Bibliographic information on these resources may be searched online via the Institute's catalogue.

### Advisory service

ACSSA's research staff can provide specialist advice and information on current issues that impact on the response to sexual assault. Email research queries to [acssa@aifs.gov.au](mailto:acssa@aifs.gov.au)

### Policy advice

ACSSA offers policy advice to the Australian Government and other government agencies on matters relating to sexual assault, intervention and pathways to prevention.

### Publications

ACSSA produces Issues Papers, ACSSA *Wraps* (short resource papers) and Newsletters which are mailed free of charge to members of the mailing list. Publications can also be received electronically.

### Good Practice database

ACSSA is continuing to build its *Good Practice* database, to document and publicise best practice projects and activities being undertaken in relation to sexual assault.

### Research

ACSSA staff undertake primary and secondary research projects, commissioned by Government and non-government agencies.

### Email alert and discussion lists

*ACSSA-Alert* and *ACSSA-Discuss* keep members posted on what's new at the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault and in the sexual assault field generally, and allow networking and communication among those working on issues related to sexual violence against women.

## Membership form

### Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault

◀ Details overleaf

If you would like to join the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault mailing list, please fill in this form and return it to the Institute. Membership of the Centre is free.

- Please add my name to your mailing list to receive ACSSA publications
- I would like to receive publications in hard copy
- I would like to receive publications electronically
- I would like to receive back issues of ACSSA publications

Title	Full name
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**Send this completed form to: Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault**

Australian Institute of Family Studies  
300 Queen Street Melbourne Victoria 3000 Australia  
<http://www.aifs.gov.au/acssa/>