

Aware

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

In this issue

Welcome to the thirteenth edition of *ACSSA Aware*, the quarterly newsletter of the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault. This issue contains several articles relevant to adult victim/survivors of sexual assault, those who work with them, and all others interested in preventing sexual assault in our society.

We provide a summary of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' 2005 Personal Safety Survey (PSS), released on 10 August, 2006. The PSS is a study of violence experienced by Australians, and updates the 1995 (published in 1996) Women's Safety Survey. In this summary article, we particularly concentrate on aspects of the Personal Safety Survey that deal with sexual assault and other forms of sexual violence. This summary provides a prelude to more detailed analysis of the PSS data on sexual assault, to be undertaken by the Institute.

This issue also contains an article about a new Australian Government policy response to 'elder abuse' in care institutions, prompted by the disclosure of several incidents of sexual assault of elderly women in a nursing home in Victoria. The new policy response includes the establishment of mandatory reporting of physical or sexual assault of residents within aged care facilities by approved service providers. The article comments on these reforms, and goes on to discuss the broader issue of sexual assault of older women in the context of 'elder abuse'.

There is also a brief article on a new report released by the Victorian Law Reform Commission on changing the legal response to family violence in Victoria. This article concentrates on the report's recommendations that deal with how sexual forms of family violence should be responded to by the legal system.

Our usual 'News in Brief' section contains further overviews of recently released reports both in Australia and overseas.

For our 'Good Practice Profile', we profile the Education and Training Unit of the Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC) in WA, which has been running training programs for lawyers from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions for Western Australia, and other services providers in the community on working with victim/survivors sexual assault.

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. Also, all our publications are freely available online at www.aifs.gov.au/acssa.

We hope you find this newsletter informative, helpful, and inspiring.

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