

## CONFERENCES

COMPILED BY HELEN ARCH, WEB OFFICER

The following conference listings are taken from the website of the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault. For more conferences and events visit the Conferences page on the ACSSA website: [www.aifs.gov.au/acssa/conferences.html](http://www.aifs.gov.au/acssa/conferences.html)

### Victorian Offender Treatment Association Biennial Conference

28–30 November 2007,  
Melbourne

The VOTA conference aims to attract a wide body of representation drawing from all agencies and disciplines involved in the management of and working with sexual offenders and victim/survivors, and encourage collaboration between such agencies.

### International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence and Stalking

31 March–2 April 2008,  
New Orleans, USA

Organised by End Violence Against Women International. Details available online at [www.evawintl.org](http://www.evawintl.org)

For up-to-date information on upcoming Australian and international conferences, please check our website: [www.aifs.gov.au/acssa/conferences.html](http://www.aifs.gov.au/acssa/conferences.html)

## ACSSA Reference Group

The current ACSSA Reference Group convened for the first time, on 2 March 2007 in Melbourne. The reference group consists of highly regarded professionals from the practice, academic and policy arenas related to the issues of sexual assault and violence against women in Australia. The gathering of such an accomplished and passionate group was energising for the ACSSA team, and the day generated a host of ideas for future directions and priorities. The discussions highlighted not only what has been accomplished and the progress being made to improve responses to sexual assault in Australia, but also reminded us of the many challenges still ahead. We hope our future publications and activities will reflect some of the enthusiasm, generosity and wisdom present on the day.

The ACSSA Reference Group members are:

- Annabelle Allimant, Co-ordinator, Immigrant Women's Support Service, Queensland
- Dorinda Cox, Manager, Aboriginal Healing Project, WA
- Dr Lesley Laing, University of Sydney, NSW
- Gaby Marcus, Co-ordinator, Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse, NSW
- Vanessa Swan, Director, Yarrow Place Rape and Sexual Assault Service, SA
- Dr Caroline Taylor, University of Ballarat, Victoria
- Karen Willis, Manager, NSW Rape Crisis Centre, NSW

as well as representatives from AIFS and the Office for Women, Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.