

provide an overview of key research, policy and practice issues). Full text versions of the Centre's publications will be available on the Centre's website.

Research and advisory service

The Centre's research staff can provide free specialist advice and information, including the detailed analysis and interpretation of current issues that impact on the response to sexual assault. Specifically, they can review material, and assist service providers with program development and strategies for evaluation. They also ensure that information relevant to the Centre's role and current activities is regularly disseminated, including updates on the Centre's ongoing primary and secondary research program.

Research staff also welcome the opportunity to participate or present in relevant workshops, conferences and seminars.

Accessing the Centre

The primary point of access for the Centre will be via its website: <http://www.aifs.gov.au/acssa/>. The website's *What's New* section highlights new developments for the Centre such as the latest publications and research information, as well as important developments in the wider sexual assault field.

All of the Centre's publications are available to download from the *Publications* page, which also includes links to other selected online papers. Print copies of publications can be obtained by completing the form provided (see 15-16 of this Newsletter) and returning it to the Australian Institute of Family Studies.

The *Resources* section of the website provides further information about useful research publications and literature on a variety of issues relating to sexual assault, through bibliographies and online access to the Australian Institute of Family Studies library catalogue. There are also links to Australian and international organisations working to address sexual assault.

Forthcoming conferences, seminars and events are listed on the *Conferences* page. An online registration form for the Centre's free mailing list can be filled out on the *Mailing Lists* page, which also provides information about joining the email discussion group.

Any contributions to the Centre's website can be emailed to Bianca.Dobson@aifs.gov.au or faxed on (03) 9214 7839.

Ensuring we meet the needs of stakeholders

Finally, the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault is interested in hearing your views on the best way for us to meet your needs. If you have any comments on services that could be offered, possible topics for publications or areas of research, or other feedback, we would love to hear your views.

You can fill in the feedback section of this Newsletter (see back page), provide comments on-line on our website, or email us at: acssa@aifs.gov.au

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Worldwide survey on violence against women

The International Violence Against Women Survey is an international, comparative survey designed specifically to collect information on women's experiences of domestic violence and sexual assault.

The objective of the survey is to assess the level of victimisation of women in a number of countries, worldwide, and to assist countries to implement victimisation surveys on violence against women as an important research and policy tool.

The survey is the result of collaborative efforts involving two United Nations criminal justice agencies – the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, and the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control – and Statistics Canada.

Australia is a participant in the project and is the first country to fully implement the survey after two extensive pilots. In Australia, the survey is coordinated by the Australian Institute of Criminology, and funded by the Australian Government's

Office of the Status of Women through the *National Initiative to Combat Sexual Assault*.

Fieldwork for the Australian component of the survey has been completed, with more than 6,000 interviews with women aged 18 to 69 years conducted in 2002-2003. The analysis of survey responses, currently in progress, aims to provide prevalence rates of the various types of sexual and non-sexual violence against women, in order to gauge the level of victimisation of women in Australia.

Countries participating in the project include Argentina, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Trinidad and Tobago, Estonia, Serbia, Ukraine, Poland, Indonesia, Philippines, South Africa, Canada, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Netherlands, Italy, Czech Republic, Spain, and Switzerland. Results from the Australian component of the project will be available in early 2004.

Further information: International Violence Against Women Survey (IVAWS). Internet: www.unicri.it/ivaws.htm