

LITERATURE HIGHLIGHTS

The following are a selection of resources addressing current issues in the sexual violence field. The Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault (ACSSA) receives many of these resources. Print resources are available via the interlibrary loan system. Contact your local library for details. Electronic resources are available directly via the web address. The inclusion of a publication in this list does not necessarily mean that it is endorsed by ACSSA.

Sport and sexual assault

Thank God for El Masri: Madame Defarge is alive and well and living in Australian sport. (2008) Hickie, T. In: T. Hickie (ed.) *Essays in sport and the law*. Melbourne: Australian Society for Sports History (pp. 285–306).

The author considers whether the legal rights of individuals were compromised by the media coverage of the allegation of sexual assault made against members of the Canterbury Bulldogs Rugby League Club. He also addresses the larger issue of the relationship of the media and politics to sport in a robust democracy and asks whether sport is being used as the platform to undermine many fundamental freedoms.

Towards champions: A better culture, a better game. (2005). Football Fans Against Sexual Assault, Australia.

This submission aims to inform the AFL's and NRL's development of: codes, rules, charters, and procedures to deal with sexual assault and harassment complaints and sexual misconduct; training and education programs; recruitment and player development processes; and initiatives for including the broader football community in cultural change. Where recommendations mirror those currently being pursued by the AFL and/or NRL, the submission demonstrates the extent of support and demands real follow-through and commitment in their implementation.

Respect and responsibility: Creating a safe and inclusive environment for women at all levels of Australian football. (2005). Australian Football League. Melbourne: AFL. Available online at <<http://tinyurl.com/mx3apj>>

The Australian Football League Commission, with the support of the 16 AFL Clubs, has adopted a policy to address issues of sexual harassment, sexual discrimination and violence towards women. This paper outlines the policy, which includes: an introduction of model anti sexual harassment and anti sexual discrimination procedures across the AFL; the development of organisational policies and procedures to ensure a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for women; changes to AFL rules relating to "Conduct Unbecoming";

education of players and other club officials; the dissemination of model policies and procedures at community club level; and the development of a public education program. It defines "Conduct Unbecoming", and discusses sexual assault as a major community health issue and outlines steps taken by the AFL since March 2004 to combat sexual assault.

Zeroing in on violence against women. (2006). Jacobson, S. *Law Institute Journal*, 80(3), 82

Ways that the international framework of human rights can be used more effectively in Australia to address issues of violence against women are discussed. The article considers anti domestic violence strategies for public awareness campaigns, and anti sexual harassment and anti sexual discrimination procedures for the Australian Football League.

Playing by the rules—off the field. (2005). Lumby, C. *University of New South Wales Law Journal Forum*, 11(1), 41–42

The National Rugby League commissioned research on player attitudes and behaviours to women and the role and status of women across the game. Among the research findings were: many of the player attitudes and behaviours towards women are not markedly different from those of other young men; players were unanimous in denouncing sexual assault; and many were asking for more support in managing social and sexual encounters with women. However, a key issue identified in the research is the ongoing double standard according to which women are regarded as "sluts" if they are sexually active and assertive—an attitude which not only leads to women being "punished" for having sex and treated with contempt but one which can lead women to rely on non verbal cues instead of clearly communicating their wishes. Masculine cultural beliefs about the inevitability of some men offending are discussed, along side a refusal by some sectors in the sport to have faith in education and mentoring as a preventative measure.

Sport and the law. Sex and the team player: When a team becomes a gang. (2005). Kift, S. *Alternative Law Journal*, 30(3), 136–137

The sexual assault scandals of Australian football in 2004 and 2005 are discussed in this article in

relation to male sporting celebrity culture and the sexual mistreatment of women. The article asks what is so difficult for these men about complying with minimal standards of acceptable off field behaviour. It discusses the role of power, dominance and ritual humiliation in many male sports.

Dereliction: women, rape and football. (2004). Philadelphoff-Puren, N. *Australian Feminist Law Journal*, 21, 35–51

In the last year, there have been numerous sexual assault allegations against Australian footballers, yet not one case has been brought to trial. This article asks: why is it so difficult for women to signify as credible witnesses in sexual assault crimes, particularly when the accused is a footballer? It suggests that the symbolic organisation of sport and sexual difference in the national Australian imaginary automatically extinguishes the possibility of women testifying to rape against sportsmen. The article discusses sexual citizenship, relations between men, rape complainants in the national imaginary, and relations between women.

The right to play safely: A report on violence against women in sport and recreation. (2003). Morrone, A. Melbourne: CASA House .

This report investigates the prevalence and attitudes to sexual assault and violence against women in sports environments. It reviews current research and attitudes and interviews 44 women to assess attitudes and self perception in relation to sexual violence and sport. It is recommended that education programs be conducted in sporting clubs, secondary schools, and other sports service areas, directed at both men and women.

Playing by the rules project. (2004). Lumby, C., McCarthy, W., Willis, K., & Flood, M. Sydney: University of Sydney.

The aim of this project was to investigate attitudes and behaviours towards women amongst players in the National Rugby League and to make recommendations about education and mentoring programs, codes of conduct and other approaches to ensuring fair and respectful treatment of women. Interviews were conducted with players, CEOs, Chairs, senior management, coaches, trainers, administrators, welfare officers, and women working in rugby league. This report summary lists the project's key findings and recommendations.

CALD communities and sexual assault

Adult sexual violence in Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse communities in Australia. (2007). Taylor, N., & Putt, J. (Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice, No. 345). Canberra, ACT: Australian Institute of Criminology. Available online at <www.aic.gov.au/publications/tandi2/tandi345t.html>

Knowledge about sexual violence against women from Indigenous and culturally and linguistically

diverse backgrounds is scant. While many of the reasons for not reporting sexual violence to police are likely to be similar to those for mainstream women, women from diverse backgrounds can face additional cultural and related factors affecting their ability and/or willingness to report violence. This paper reports on findings from a multi dimensional study investigating these issues. Participants indicated the need for appropriate interpreters when reporting sexual violence, a preference for female police officers to handle the case, protection of complainants, and more effective dissemination of information on how the criminal justice system processes sexual assault cases. There is a clear need to address fundamental attitudes and beliefs within particular communities about sexual violence and this will require strong community leadership and the support of local community members.

Responding to the complex and gendered needs of refugee women. (2009, June). Deacon, Z., & Sullivan, C. *Journal of Women and Social Work*.

Refugee women's experiences and needs are qualitatively different from those of men. However, women's experiences have long been overlooked in favor of a male-centered paradigm that governs the response to survivors of warfare. To close this gap in science and practice, a needs assessment was conducted with 31 refugee women. The findings revealed the importance of considering the impact of refugee women's sociodemographic characteristics on their experiences in resettlement and the significance of their need for basic resources. Meeting these needs may facilitate the resettlement process and ameliorate the gendered effects of resettlement on refugee women.

Intimate partner violence among Asian immigrant communities

Health/Mental Health Consequences, Help-Seeking Behaviors, and Service Utilization. (2009). Lee, Y-S., & Linda Hadeed, L. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 10(2), 143–170

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a serious epidemic among Asian immigrant communities. Yet little is known about the scope, nature, and related contextual, cultural, and social factors among this population. In particular, the lack of research has been evident in examining health and mental health outcomes of IPV and service utilisation, revealing notable gaps in health disparities which result in a failure to provide relevant services and law enforcement protection for battered Asian immigrant women. This article examines critically the growing body of literature on IPV among Asian immigrant populations in several areas, and future directions for practice, policy, and research are discussed.

People of Color with Disabilities: Intersectionality as a Framework for Analyzing Intimate Partner Violence in Social, Historical, and Political

Contexts. (2009). Cramer, E. P., & Plummer, S-B. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 18(2), 162–181.

The authors use the conceptual framework of intersectionality to deconstruct the help-seeking and help-receiving behaviors of abused persons of color with disabilities. Two case examples illuminate the complex interplay of race, gender, accent, immigration status, sexual orientation, disability, and socioeconomic status in women's help-seeking decisions. The case examples highlight the women's perceived experiences based on their decisions to seek assistance from formal helping systems. The authors note limitations in some existing models of system response to persons of color with disabilities, as well as describe programs that are more attentive to intersectionality. The article concludes with implications for various stakeholders. (Abstract, edited)

Violence Against Women: Vulnerable Populations. (2009). Brownridge, D. A. New York: Routledge.

This book investigates under-researched and under-served groups of women who are particularly vulnerable to violent victimisation from an intimate male partner. In the past, there has been an understandable reluctance to address this issue to avoid stereotyping vulnerable groups of women. However, developments in the field, particularly intersectionality theory, which recognises women's diversity in experiences of violence, suggest that the time has come to make the study of violence in vulnerable populations a new sub-field in the area. This book identifies where violence on vulnerable

populations fits within the field, develops a method for studying vulnerable populations, and brings vital new knowledge to the field through the analysis original data (from three large-scale representative surveys) on eight populations of women who are particularly vulnerable to violence.

No room: Homelessness and the experiences of women of non-english speaking backgrounds. (2008, May). Allimant, A., & Anne, S. Paper presented at 5th National Homelessness Conference, Adelaide, Australia. Available at: <www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au/UserFiles/File/Allimant%20and%20Anne.pdf>

Women from NESB experience a heightened risk of homelessness due to multiple barriers in reporting their experiences of domestic violence and in accessing relevant information and support services. Women from NESB are often unaware of their rights in Australia and lack an understanding of what constitutes domestic violence and what protection is available to them. Working with culturally and linguistically diverse communities, particularly women from NESB, requires workers to engage in continuing professional development and self reflection to ensure the development of ethical, sensitive and responsive practices. This paper will critically examine service responses to women from NESB who have experienced domestic and family violence and address specific barriers that may be experienced. Factors leading to and compounding experiences of homelessness will also be addressed.



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

What other services would you find useful for your work?

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

Membership form overleaf ➤