

Responding to Sexual Assault and Promoting Sexual Safety within the Queensland Health inpatient mental health services

ACSSA is very keen to build on our national collection of Good Practice Programs and Responses for Sexual Assault. This online collection of programs provides an important resource for national information-sharing across the work of service providers and policy makers in developing or refining models for responding to sexual assault. See details below for how to submit an entry to the database.

A recent addition to ACSSA's good practice collection is the initiative *Responding to Sexual Assault and Promoting Sexual Safety*, within Queensland Health inpatient mental health services.

In 2003-2004, this initiative undertook extensive state-wide consultation to develop the *Responding to Sexual Assault and Promoting Sexual Safety Guidelines* (2004) for Queensland Health inpatient mental health services. The Guidelines inform the development of local area policy and procedures for responding to victims of recent and past sexual assault and promoting sexual safety within Queensland Health inpatient mental health services for consumers aged 16 years and over.

In late 2004, implementation workshops were developed and conducted with inpatient mental health services to embed the Guidelines in practice. The initiative also involved the development of information resources accessible to staff and consumers within inpatient mental health services to improve the knowledge, understanding and response to the combined issues of recent and past sexual assault, sexual safety and mental health.

In 2005, the work of the *Responding to Sexual Assault and Promoting Sexual Safety* initiative will involve the development and implementation of a state-wide professional development and training strategy for inpatient mental health services to support the implementation of the Guidelines and improve knowledge, understanding and responses in relation to the combined issues of recent and past sexual assault, sexual safety and mental health.

To obtain further information and a copy of the Guidelines, contact Mel Shelley, Senior Project Officer. Phone: (07) 3271 8645. Fax: (07) 3271 8634. Email: mel_shelley@health.qld.gov.au

Submissions invited

ACSSA invites submissions of examples of Good Practice Programs and Responses for Sexual Assault from service providers, policy and program developers, educators and trainers, researchers and others working to address sexual violence. These can be programs, approaches or initiatives currently or recently conducted.

For more information or to contribute a good practice program by completing the short online questionnaire, go to <http://www.aifs.gov.au/acssa/gpdb/goodpractice.html> or phone ACSSA on (03) 9214 7888.