

# SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT FACTSHEET FOR STUDENTS

[swinburne.edu.au/safercommunity](https://swinburne.edu.au/safercommunity)

MADE BY THE SAFER COMMUNITY TEAM

## Creating a safe and respectful Swinburne community.

### What is sexual assault?

Sexual assault is when a person is forced, coerced or tricked into sexual acts against their will or without their consent. Consent is when a person freely (without coercion, force, intimidation or any other means) agrees to an activity.

Sexual assault is a crime.

#### Examples:

- Unwanted touching, hugging, fondling, or kissing.
- Being made to look at, or pose for, pornographic photos.
- Public exposure.
- Voyeurism (e.g. being watched doing intimate things without permission).
- Incest.
- Rape.

### What is sexual harassment?

Sexual harassment is when a person makes an unwelcome sexual advance, or an unwelcome request for sexual favours to another person, and/or engages in any other unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature in relation to another person.

#### Examples:

- Intrusive questions or statements about a person's private life.
- Repeatedly asking a person for sex or dates.
- Offensive sexual comments or jokes.
- Sexually suggestive behaviour such as leering or staring.

## If you experience sexual assault or sexual harassment

If you have experienced sexual assault or sexual harassment, here are some steps you can take.

### 1 SEEK URGENT HELP IF YOU ARE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER

- If you or someone you know is hurt or in immediate danger, call for help.
  - Emergency services **000**
  - Swinburne security **03 9214 3333**

### 2 REPORT THE INCIDENT

- You can report an incident to Victoria Police or to Swinburne's Safer Community team at any time if you wish. You don't have to make a formal report if you don't want to. When reporting an incident, you will receive confidential advice on next steps to take and be referred on to relevant support services.
  - Victoria Police, Sexual Offence and Child Abuse Investigation Teams (SOCIT) [police.vic.gov.au](https://police.vic.gov.au)
  - Swinburne Safer Community [safercommunity@swinburne.edu.au](mailto:safercommunity@swinburne.edu.au) [swinburne.edu.au/safercommunity](https://swinburne.edu.au/safercommunity)
- It's helpful to have a trusted friend or family member act as your support person when making contact with the police or the university about the incident.
- When making a report to Swinburne, you always have control over what actions are taken. We will respect your privacy and how you want to deal with the matter.
- You can choose to report an incident to the university anonymously if you prefer. This will enable Swinburne to provide general advice and support services information.

### 3 CONSIDER HAVING A MEDICAL EXAMINATION

- You may be asked to undergo a forensic medical examination following an incident of sexual assault. It is your choice whether to proceed, however it's important to consider that evidence will be lost over time if you delay the examination.
- It is always recommended that victim/survivors seek medical attention to screen for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and pregnancy.

### 4 SEEK ADVICE AND SUPPORT

Incidents of sexual assault and harassment can be traumatic and leave you feeling uncomfortable. Your usual coping mechanisms may be affected by the trauma, so it's good to seek support.

- Tell a trusted friend or family member about the incident, who can then help you seek out support services.
- Report incident to the university, e.g. teaching staff, Security, or Safer Community, who can link you in with other support services.
- Seek free and confidential support services both on campus and within the community. See details of support services on reverse of this factsheet.

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## Some statistics (Australia)

- 17% of women and 4% of men over 18 years old have experienced sexual assault since the age of 15.
- 53% of women and 25% of men over 18 years old have experienced sexual harassment during their lifetime.

*(Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016)*

## Australian university students:

- 1.6% of all students surveyed reported they experienced sexual assault in a university setting in 2015 and/or 2016.
- 5.3% of all respondents reported they experienced sexual assault off-campus in 2015 and/or 2016.
- 51% of all university students surveyed experienced sexual harassment in 2016, including on- and off-campus settings.
- 26% of all university students surveyed experienced sexual harassment in a university setting in 2016.

*(Australian Human Rights Commission, 2017)*

## Support on campus

### SAFER COMMUNITY

Safer Community offers advice, support, intervention, and risk management for students who experience or witness concerning behaviours on or off campus. These concerning behaviours include stalking, bullying, harassment, family violence, and sexual assault or harassment. To report concerning behaviour email Safer Community or complete the online incident reporting form.

[safercommunity@swinburne.edu.au](mailto:safercommunity@swinburne.edu.au)

[swinburne.edu.au/incident-reporting-form](https://swinburne.edu.au/incident-reporting-form)

### STUDENT COUNSELLING

If you are struggling with a personal, emotional or mental health difficulty, whether related to your studies or your life away from university, counselling may help. Register and make an appointment with Swinburne's counselling services.

03 9214 8483

[swinburne.edu.au/counselling](https://swinburne.edu.au/counselling)

### SWINBURNE SECURITY

Contact campus security services for emergencies on campus or for a security officer escort.

03 9214 3333

### CRISIS LINE – OUT OF HOURS

The Swinburne crisis line is available to help 24 hours a day on weekends and public holidays, and outside business hours on weekdays (before 9am and after 5pm).

Call 1300 854 144

Text 0488 884 145

### INDEPENDENT ADVOCACY SERVICE

Swinburne Student Life provides policy advice, support and guidance in academic issues, and advocates for best outcomes in complaints, grievances, appeals and misconduct hearings.

03 9214 5445

[studentlife@swin.edu.au](mailto:studentlife@swin.edu.au)

[swinburne.edu.au/advocacy](https://swinburne.edu.au/advocacy)

## Support off campus

### VICTORIA POLICE, SEXUAL OFFENCE AND CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS TEAM (SOCIT)

National emergency response and reporting.

In emergencies call 000

[police.vic.gov.au](https://police.vic.gov.au)

### VICTORIAN SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS LINE

For confidential crisis counselling outside business hours.

1800 806 292

### NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE

24/7 phone and online counselling service for victims of family violence.

1800 737 732

[1800respect.org.au](https://1800respect.org.au)

### EASTERN CENTRE AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT (ECASA)

Free counselling and support service for people who have experienced sexual assault either recently or in the past.

03 9870 7330

[easternhealth.org.au/services](https://easternhealth.org.au/services)

and search "ECASA"

### MEN'S REFERRAL SERVICE (NO TO VIOLENCE)

Advice and support for men concerned about their anger or violence towards their family.

1300 766 491

[ntvmrs.org.au](https://ntvmrs.org.au)

The information contained in this flyer was correct at the time of publication, October 2019. The university reserves the right to alter or amend the material contained in this guide.