

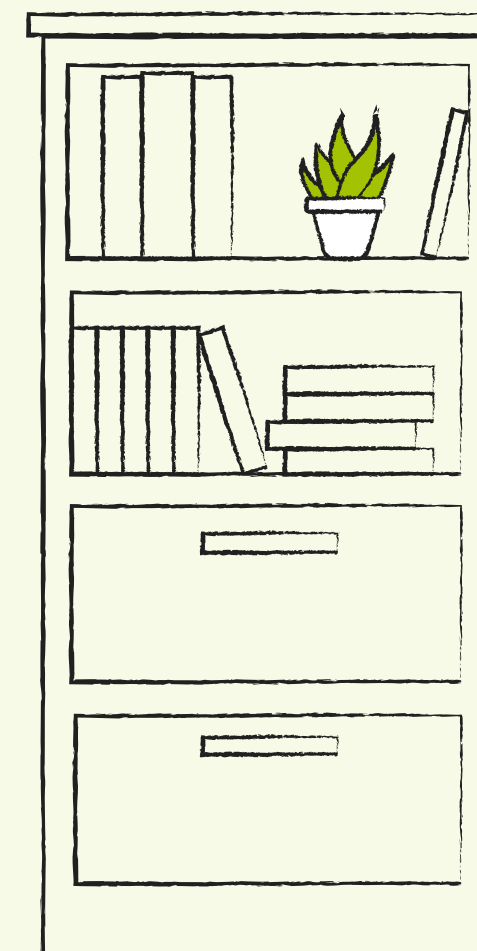
# Sexual Assault Services Victoria Annual Report

2021-2022



Sexual Assault  
Services Victoria

Sexual Assault Services Victoria (SASVic) is the peak body for sexual assault and harmful sexual behaviour services in Victoria.



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# Chair report

**For years, the leaders of specialist sexual assault services imagined – and advocated about – the difference our sector would make if we had a properly resourced peak body.**

In 2020, we turned this imagining into reality when we established Sexual Assault Services Victoria (SASVic).

This year, our ability to realise our ambition for policy reform and sector development has been super-charged – we have expanded significantly, both in terms of staff and reach, at a time when sexual violence is increasingly recognised as a high-profile community and policy issue.

Our establishment came just in time, as this year has seen significant policy debate and reform on sexual violence.

We have actively participated in shaping these reforms, as our CEO explains below. Our new peak body is also working to address issues that impinge on members' capacity to delivery high quality services, ranging from barriers to access to forensic medical examinations, to the outdated funding model for sexual assault services and long waiting lists, and, as for everyone, the challenges of delivering services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

One of our intentions is that more and more members of the specialist sexual assault workforce will be both informed by and involved in SASVic.

This year's strategic planning involved staff from across our membership, including senior practitioners and other direct service staff, as well as managers. Complementing this, since SASVic was formed, we have been building up our members' forums. As well as our longstanding Sexual Assault Services Network and Harmful Sexual Behaviour Network, we now have the Prevention Practitioners Community of Practice, Crisis Care Working Group and Clinical Services Managers/Senior Counsellors Meeting, as well as ad hoc working groups, such as the Funding Model Working Group.

2021-2022 started with the appointment of our inaugural CEO, Kathleen Maltzahn, who joined our existing staff members, Policy Officer Libby Eltringham and MARAMIS Capacity Building Project Worker, Eleni Kyrpigiakidis. By the end of this reporting period, we had a team of eleven, with plans – and funds – for further expansion. Our growing team has allowed us to amplify the voice of survivors and our sector. I thank them for their skilled and strategic work.

Accompanying SASVic staff changes, this has also been a year of profound change in the leadership of our member services.

The managers of seven of our 17 members changed this year, most of them retiring. Between them, they had well over a century of leadership in our sector. On behalf of SASVic and the specialist sexual assault sector, I thank them for their leadership.

My particular thanks to SASVic's inaugural chair, Karen Hogan. One of Karen's final contributions in her long and influential career in our sector was the establishment of SASVic. Happily, this changing of the guard has brought many new leaders into our sector, and it has been a pleasure to welcome and work with them.

Our expanded work at SASVic has been made possible by increased funding from the state government, complemented by a stronger policy and program focus on sexual assault, particularly in Family Safety Victoria and the Department of Justice and Community Safety.

We thank the Victorian state government for this investment in SASVic.

I also wish to thank Kathleen Maltzahn CEO for her strategic leadership, knowledge and advocacy in building SASVic as the representative peak body for the specialist specialist sexual assault sector.

Finally, I thank my fellow board for their leadership. Despite the demands of running busy services during the COVID-19 pandemic, they continue to show commitment to our shared project of building SASVic.



**Kate Wright**  
**Chair**

# CEO report

**There are moments when it suddenly feels like stubborn injustices may be seriously challenged and even threatened. Invariably, those times of rapid change are driven by decades of persistent, often invisibilised, work.**

Nonetheless, it is extraordinary to experience such periods, and right now feels like it could be one of them. It is a particular privilege, therefore, to have started at SASVic this year.

There has been almost too much policy reform to keep track of, all of it welcome.

Nationally, this year saw concerted work both on sexual harassment, in response to the Human Rights Commission's Respect@Work report, and on a new National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children. As a Victorian representative on the National Women's Safety Summit, SASVic advocated successfully for a stronger focus in the Delegates' Statement on sexual violence.

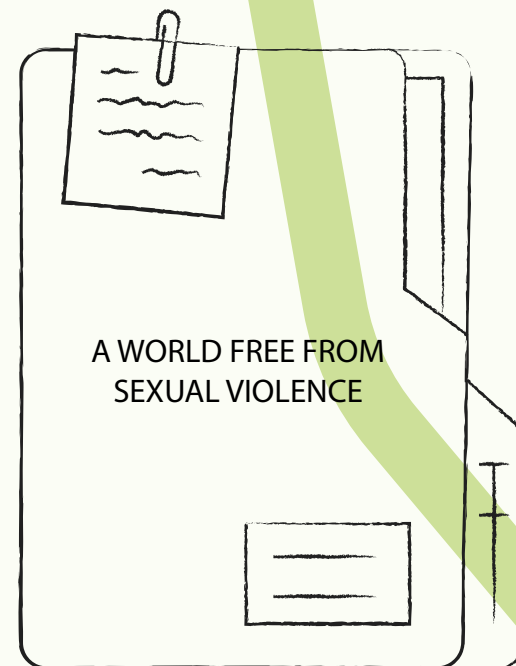
The statement consequently called for a shared national definition of sexual violence and recognition that specialist sexual assault services need to be adequately funded to support survivors' recovery for as long as needed, as well as to respond to harmful sexual behaviours.

We wrote submissions on the National Plan and joined with colleagues across the country to advocate for implementation of the Respect@Work recommendations.

In Victoria, we saw the release of the VLRC's blueprint for once-in-a-generation change on sexual offences. Let me pay tribute here to Libby Eltringham, who, alongside SASVic members, assiduously advocated to the Commission on behalf of survivors and the specialist sexual assault sector.

The fact that all our priorities and proposals were picked up by the Commission is testimony to her skill and commitment.

We conducted a concerted media blitz when the report was released, and have been advocating strongly since for all of the Commission's recommendations to be implemented and funded. To keep a strong focus on the report,



we ran a forum with GenVic, 'Gender equality in and out of court: Affirmative consent, restorative justice and sexual assault law reform', chaired by SASVic Chair Kate Wright, with speakers including VLRC member Viv Waller, lived experience advocate Geraldine Bilston, GenVic CEO Tanja Kovac and me.

We also advocated in policy reform processes on affirmative consent, the whole of Victorian government sexual violence and harm strategy, non-fatal strangulation and 'drag and grab' offences. We appeared before the Victorian Parliament's Legal and Social Issues Committee's Inquiry into Victoria's Criminal Justice System, highlighting the high numbers of survivors of sexual violence who were incarcerated and concrete strategies to address trauma that can lead to criminalisation.

Complementing our external advocacy, we have worked to address some of the serious pressures on members, such as the inadequate funding

model applied to sexual assault services.

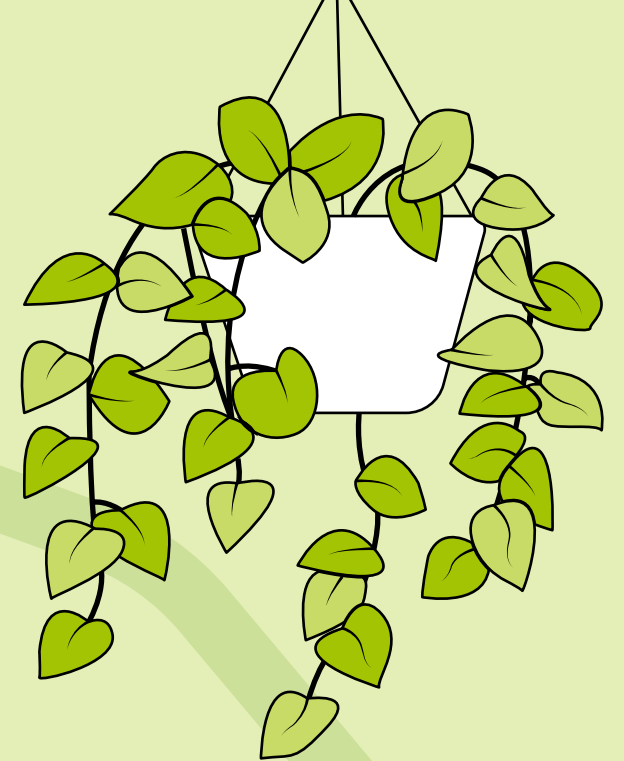
We replaced our out-dated standards of practice with the new National Association of Services against Sexual Violence (NASASV) standards, and began work identifying what Victoria-specific guidelines we would need to complement the NASASV standards.

We have also worked closely with our community sector partners, particularly our fellow peak, Safe and Equal, to strengthen responses to sexual violence experienced in the context of family violence.

My thanks to our many partners in the community sector and across government for supporting our work and our shared project of strengthening response to and prevention of sexual violence. It is striking to me how positive our working relationship is with government, including across the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, the Department of Justice and Community Safety and Victoria Police.

My particular thanks to Family Safety Victoria CEO Eleri Butler and her team for their strong support for SASVic.

None of our success this year would be possible





without the generosity of members, who, alongside their demanding work in their own services, consistently share their expertise with us. Our advocacy works because it is informed by their specialist analysis and insight.

I wish to particularly thank our auspice organisation, Mallee Sexual Assault Unit/Mallee Domestic Violence Service. Led by CEO Jo Sheehan-Paterson, her team has generously provided operations support and advice. My thanks to Jo, Simon Rodhe, Donna Langanke and Luisa Falivene.

Our work has also been possible because of our strong and skilled staff team. When I started at SASVic in July, we had two staff. By February, we were a team of ten, growing to 12 by the end of the year.

Despite the particularities of starting a new job while working from home (for most of our new group), our staff quickly became a team with a palpable commitment both to high-quality work and working in a way that reflects our values. You make every day at work satisfying and pleasurable – thank you.

While this year has been overwhelmingly positive here at SASVic, the reporting year ended with sadness in June, when our Operations and Organisational Development Coordinator, Gabriella Muzsnai, was badly injured in a road accident. Gabriella started work with us in October 2021, and was instrumental in preparing us to bring in our new colleagues, a big undertaking in a new organisation. We miss her presence every day but are pleased to know she is recovering.

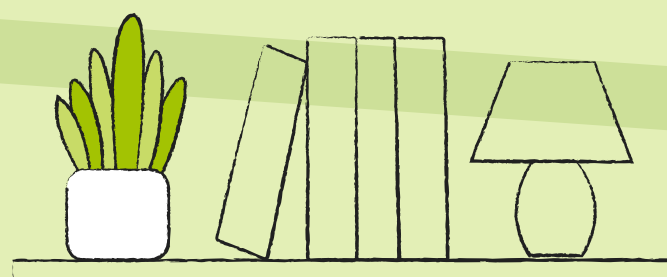
While we were onboarding our new team, South East CASA continued to provide a high-quality workforce calendar to members, as well as supporting SASVic staff to take on this role the following year. A big thank you to Sarah McGregor, Sheryl Musgrove and the team at SECASA for this work, this year and for so many years prior.

In closing, I want to thank the board for all they do to realise SASVic's goals and support our staff team. Thank you to Karen Hogan, who led the board when I was recruited, and current chair, Kate Wright. It is a privilege to be led by such strategic, generous women.

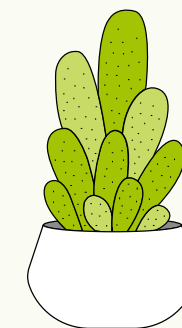
With these strong foundations, SASVic is well placed in coming years to promote rights, recovery and respect for victim survivors and other people impacted by sexual violence and harm.



**Kathleen Maltzahn**  
**CEO**



## Our Members' Forums



**SASVic members are the primary experts on sexual assault response in Victoria. Our member forums provide an unrivalled opportunity to learn from and act upon our members' expertise, whether in terms of trends in relation to sexual offending, barriers to recovery and justice, workforce issues or the potential for new programs or Policy.**

### SASNetwork

The SASNetwork is at the heart of SASVic, bringing our members' service leaders together every month, as CASAForum did for decades before our establishment.

Complementing the board, the SASNetwork plays a key role in identifying pressing issues for our members, developing cross-sector solutions and informing the development of our programs and advocacy.

Partners in government, the community sector and universities regularly ask to attend the SASNetwork to consult with members.

Member participation is very high, with member CEOs, directors and managers regularly attending, providing SASVic, and our many partners, a powerful avenue for tapping our members' expertise.

### HSBNetwork

The HSBNetwork is made up of Harmful Sexual Behaviour practice leads and member service leaders, with the addition of non-member representatives from Male Adolescent Program for Positive Sexuality.

The monthly meeting, like the SASNetwork, has high participation rates, and provides members with opportunities to track service trends, seek peer support grappling with practice dilemmas and inform advocacy and research.

## Crisis Care Working Group

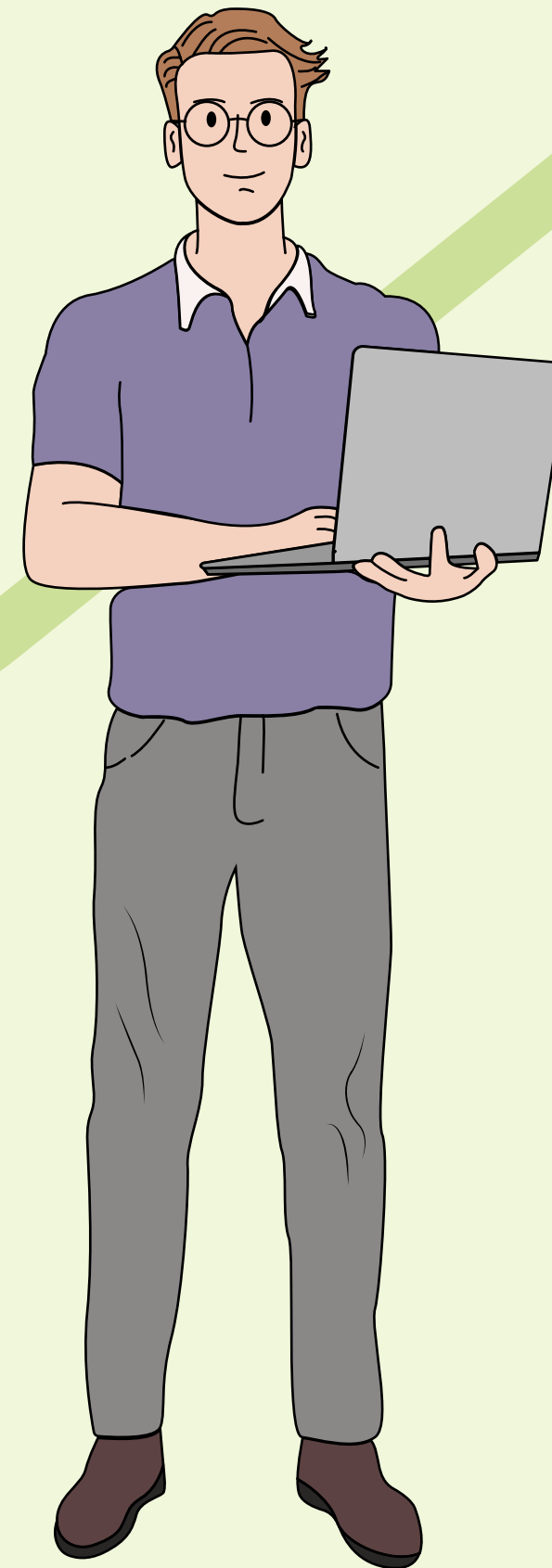
The newly established Crisis Care Working Group is convened by SASVic member, the Sexual Assault Crisis Line for Crisis Care Unit practice leads, and is an invaluable forum to monitor trends in crisis care responses for victims of recent sexual assaults.

This year, a key issue has been the contraction of forensic medical services, which has resulted in a significant deterioration in access to forensic medical examinations by victims of recent sexual assaults.

## Prevention Practitioners Community of Practice

Sexual assault services have a long-standing role in delivering sexual assault prevention programs. Our bi-monthly Prevention Practitioners Community of Practice was established this financial year with the aim of harnessing our members' prevention expertise and expanding our sectors knowledge around prevention.

The Community of Practice provides a forum for knowledge sharing between members, opportunities to hear from sector partners as well as forum to discuss issues, opportunities and challenges across the sector.



## Clinical Services Managers/ Senior Counsellors Meeting

Senior practitioners and clinical service managers play a critical role in ensuring our members deliver high-quality services to clients.

Over the years, senior practitioners have met together to explore practice questions, and with the formation of SASVic, re-established a regular forum for senior practitioners to meet together. Senior practitioners from across the SASVic membership have been convening and facilitating these meetings.

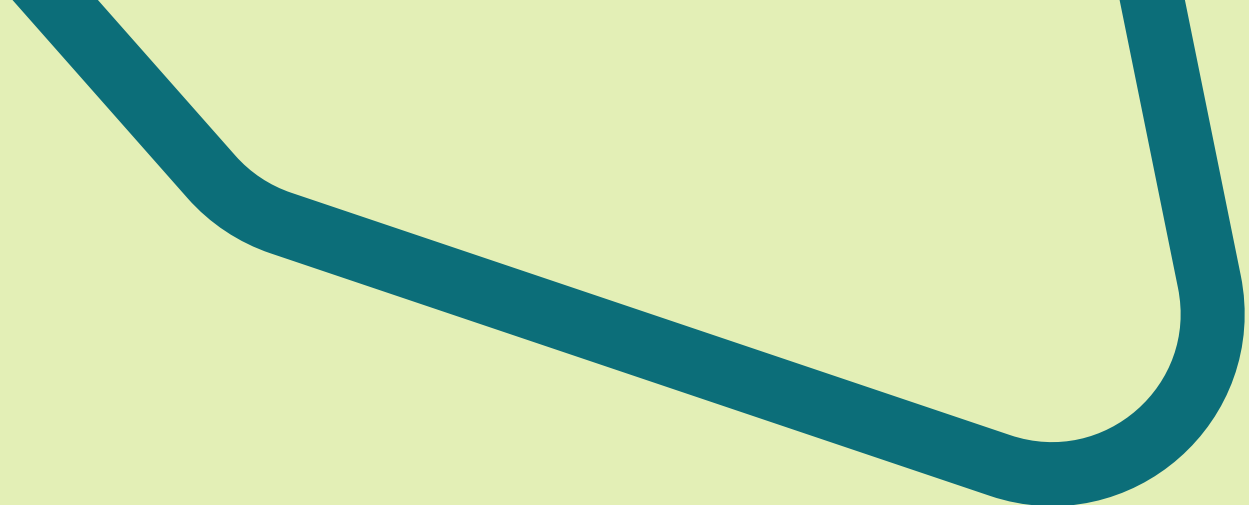
## Funding Model Working Group

One of the most persistent issues identified by SASVic members is the inadequacy of and lack of clarity about the current funding model.

For example, the funding model requires services to treat the majority of clients as short-term, meaning they should be provided with no more than ten hours of response.

We established the Funding Model Working Group as an ad hoc working group to analyse problems with the model, ensure members knew what state government required from providers and explore improvements to the model. An early outcome of the group was a forum with Family Safety Victoria on the current funding model, which provided a clear cross-sector understanding of funding requirements.

We have also documented the negative impacts of the current model, and next year will begin exploring alternative models.



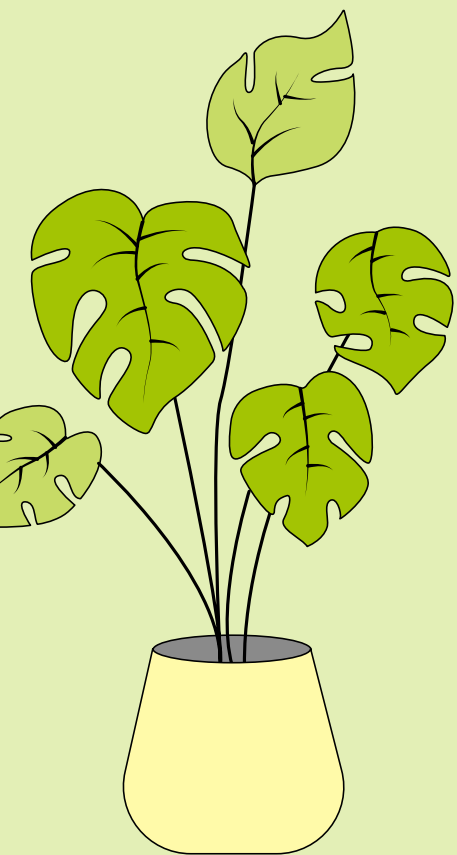
## An example of the power of members' working groups

Forensic medical examinations (FME) can help identify perpetrators, corroborate victims' accounts, confirm sexual activity has taken place and establish if the perpetrator used physical force or if the victim physically resisted.

Nonetheless, having a forensic medical examination can be a distressing experience, and where a victim decides to have one, every step should be taken to minimise further distress. In Victoria, however, there are many barriers to survivors of recent sexual assault accessing forensic medical examinations.

After forensic medical services were significantly reduced, SASVic worked with members to document the impact of this change.

We found that victim survivors are travelling hundreds of kilometres to access forensic medical exams; in a third of cases recorded by members, survivors travelled 100kms or more, with one survivor travelling 300 kilometres.



Some survivors waited many hours, the longest for 28 hours. One person was sent to four sites before finally getting a forensic medical exam, and some survivors missed out on an examination altogether because a forensic medical officer was not available.

The examples our members shared were of people 15 years and older, but members have previously also had small children travelling large distances for an FME.

Members identified the impact on survivors as anxiety and fatigue, frustration and distress, and confusion, physical and emotional exhaustion.

As well as the impact on survivors at the time, lack of access to FMEs compromises a victim's right to know that evidence of the assault has been collected for use in an investigation or court case.

This information has informed our advocacy in the media, with forensic medical service providers and government. It demonstrates the value of members coming together to identify problems for survivors and other sector trends.

# Advocacy

As SASVic formalised as a new peak body, we maintained and expanded the strong advocacy, media and policy presence and networks already built by CASA Forum and Policy Officer Libby Eltringham.

Libby retired in December 2021, having driven CASA Forum and subsequently SASVic's policy and advocacy agenda since 2015. She played a critical role in establishing SASVic as a new peak body and **we remain incredibly grateful for Libby's foundational contribution and legacy.**



## Policy and Advocacy

### Victorian Law Reform Commission (VLRC) Report

In November 2021, SASVic celebrated the release of the VLRC report: Improving the Response of the Justice System to Sexual Offences.

The report has been described as a 'once-in-a-decade opportunity' to reshape the experiences of victim survivors and ensure that perpetrators of sexual violence are held to account. SASVic has been working continuously since its release to ensure that recommendations are fully implemented and informed by our members from sexual assault and harmful sexual behaviour services.

### Sexual Violence and Harm Strategy

In 2021, SASVic worked hard to influence and inform the early development of the long-awaited Sexual Violence and Sexual Harm Strategy, working closely with The Department of Justice and Community Safety and Family Safety Victoria. SASVic recommended that the strategy respond to the continuum of sexual violence and harm seriously and is not dominated by a criminal justice focus.

A draft framework to inform the whole-of-government strategy was developed in October 2021. The final strategy is expected in early 2023.

### Formal Submissions

SASVic also made a number of formal submissions on behalf of our members in 2021- 2022, including submissions informing:

- The Victorian Parliament Legal and Social Issues Committee Inquiry into Victoria's Criminal Justice System
- Respect@Work – Options to progress further legislative recommendations consultation
- The National Plan to End Violence Against Women & Children 2022 - 2032



### Affirmative Consent and Stealthing Bill

SASVic is also proud to have been closely involved in the development and introduction of the Justice Legislation Amendment (Sexual Offences and Other Matters) Bill 2022 (affirmative consent and stealthing). The Bill has now passed and represents a profound shift in the way the law in Victoria understands consent. Importantly, The Bill also makes explicit that the removal, non-use or tampering of a condom without the other person's knowledge or consent (colloquially known as stealthing) is a crime.

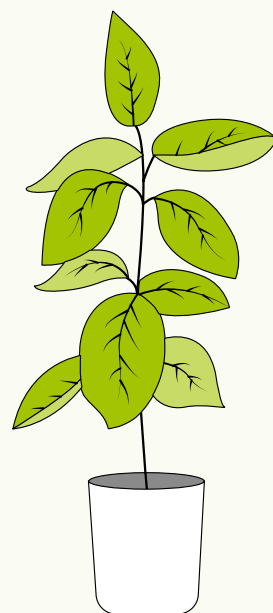
While we know changes to legislation will not address all the issues survivors of sexual assault encounter when accessing the legal system (far from it), we as a sector can be proud of playing a key role in bringing these important reforms about over many years, and we look forward to working closely with government, members and the wider community to ensure that legislative changes translate into improved community attitudes and legal outcomes for survivors.

### Forensic Medical Exams

Improving statewide access to forensic medical exams for victim survivors of sexual assault and violence has been another area of continued 'behind the scenes' and media advocacy for SASVic and our members in this period. Sadly, very little has changed despite the VLRC calling for the government to provide greater access to forensic services in its landmark 2021 report.

### National Women's Safety Alliance

SASVic also represented the interests of our members and people impacted by sexual violence and harm through our membership of the National Women's Safety Alliance. This included having input into their federal pre-election statement in March 2022.



## Research

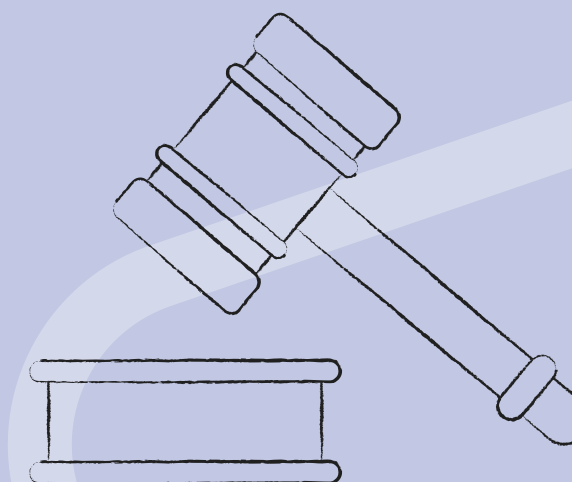
SASVic's capacity to drive and contribute to research into sexual assault and harm and harmful sexual behaviours has expanded as our staff team has grown.

### Future-proofing safety

In 2021-22, we contributed as a Project Advisory Group member to the Future-proofing Safety project, a major research project examining how family violence in Victoria has changed since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Future-proofing Safety is being led by Drummond Street Services' Centre for Family Research and Evaluation, alongside research partners RMIT University's Centre for Innovative Justice and the Australian Institute of Family Studies, and sector partners Good Shepherd and Women's Health West.

### Research Placements

SASVic was also pleased to be able to provide a research internship placement to Sharray Ash a Counsellor Advocate at Northern CASA exploring the (re)criminalisation of people who have experienced sexual assault trauma in Victoria.



The research, which included consultation with SASVic members and Counsellor Advocates, explores the links between sexual assault victimisation, system responses, untreated trauma and criminal (re)offending.

We are so grateful to Sharray for the excellent work she did researching and coordinating this important research.

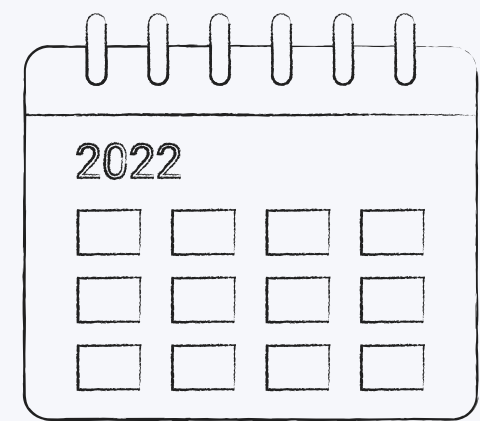
### The REACH Project

Finally, SASVic is proud to have secured funding for a new research project aimed at supporting Victorian services to deliver effective therapeutic approaches that promote recovery and healing for the diverse range of adult survivors of sexual violence. The REACH Project (Recovery And Care to promote Healing for Victorian survivors of sexual violence) is a partnership between Melbourne University and Women with Disabilities Victoria.

# Projects

## Workforce Development Calendar

During 2021-22, sexual assault services and harmful sexual behaviour workers were once again provided with a wide range of workforce development opportunities, featuring a mix of local, interstate and international presenters.



The workforce were able to access 25 training sessions over a twelve month period

While the impact of COVID-19 continued to restrict much of the program to online delivery, it was with great pleasure we were able to welcome participants back for some face-to-face delivery in early 2022, including a visit to the County Court of Victoria and the Child Witness Service as part of the Supporting Victim Survivors through the Legal System workshop.

Other highlights included presentations from Canadian therapeutic supervisor and activist, **Vikki Reynolds**, US academic and expert in harmful sexual behaviour, **Kevin Creedon**, and expert in sexual trauma from The Netherlands, **Iva Bicanic**.

### Thank you

SASVic took over the operation of the Workforce Development Program in May 2022 from South Eastern CASA, the former lead agency for this work - **we extend our immense gratitude to Sarah McGregor and Sheryl Musgrove** for their work over many years in establishing and leading this program.

We are also grateful to our members who regularly deliver training as part of the Workforce Development Program, including **Jenna Tuke** from CASA House and **Jackie Bateman** from KidsFirst.

## The Peaks Practice Projects: Strengthening integrated multidisciplinary practice approaches

The Peaks Practice Project is a collaboration across SASVic, Safe and Equal, No To Violence, and the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare.

Funded by Family Safety Victoria, the project aims to strengthen integrated/ multidisciplinary practice across the sector (for example at The Orange Door) through learning from the workforce and people with lived experience, and documenting this practice in published 'case studies'.

We have an opportunity to elevate and showcase the great work already occurring across the sector, and continue to develop and strengthen the service system for the benefit of everyone.

In 2021-22, we commenced early engagement across the sector to build a rich and detailed understanding of context, drivers and outcomes of effective practice and the project will continue into 2023.

## Better responses to survivors of family and sexual violence

**Recommendation 31 of the family violence royal commission called for better intergration between the family violence and specialist sexual assault sectors, to ensure that victim survivors of concurrent sexual and family violence receive the response they needed.**

While sexual assault and family violence services already often collaborate closely, as a next step, we are partnering with Safe and Equal to develop a prototype training for family violence specialists on responding to disclosures of sexual violence, with more initiatives to strengthen closer coordination to follow.

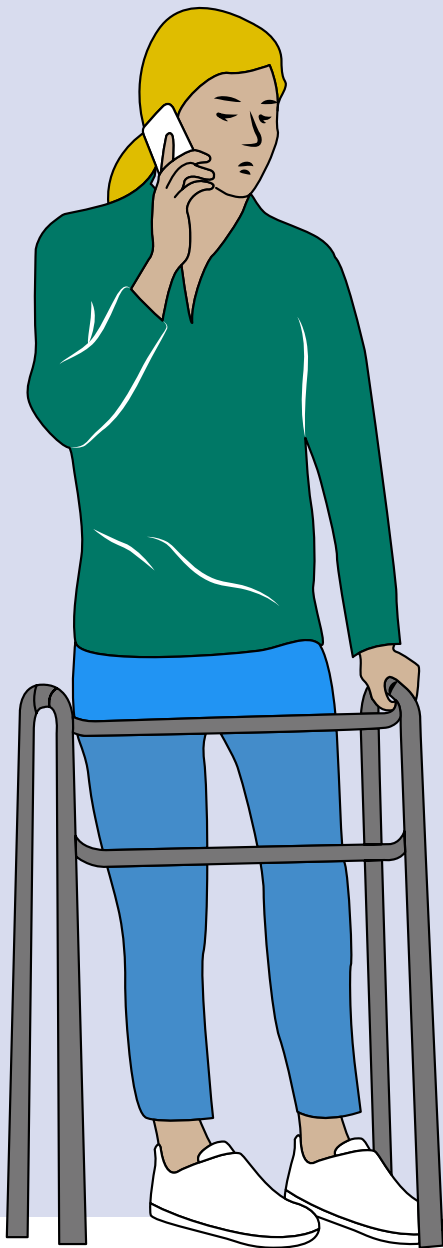


# Inclusion and Diversity - Disability

## Background

Women with disability experience far higher rates of sexual violence than those without disability, with women with disability twice as likely than women without disability to have experienced sexual violence from the age of 15 (according to the 2016 Personal Safety Survey).

SASVic is committed to ensuring equitable access to sexual assault services for people with disability across Victoria, as well as continuous improvement in policy, practice, and service provision.



## The Role

Working in partnership with Women with Disabilities Victoria (WDV), a proud feminist organisation, lead and informed by lived experience, our Equity and Inclusion - Disability role works to ensure that SASVic, and our member services, are well-informed and working to evidence-based best practice.

We co-facilitate a Community of Practice for Family Violence Disability Practice Leads, a joint initiative with Safe and Equal, with the aim of strengthening the practice and service interface between sexual assault and family violence services.

We have also provided ongoing advocacy for legislative reform needed to adequately protect people with cognitive impairment or mental illness from sexual violence without impacting their human right to sexual expression. This has been realised through the Affirmative Consent and Stealthing Bill.



# Inclusion & Diversity - LGBTQ+

## Background

LGBTIQ+ people experience sexual violence at considerably high rates. A recent ANROWS report found that bisexual and lesbian women are more likely to report sexual violence in their lifetime than heterosexual women.

Similarly, more than half of the trans and gender diverse people involved in the 2018 Australian Trans & Gender Diverse Sexual Health Survey, reported experiencing sexual violence or coercion, which is four times the rates within the general population.

## The Role

Our Equity and Inclusion - LGBTQ+ role at SASVic aims to support the specialist sexual assault sector to increase service provision and access for LGBTQ+ victim survivors.

Through initial scoping activities, it has been great to see that the sexual assault sector has been undertaking inclusion work in this area. LGBTQ+ people are accessing services, however, still in relatively low numbers.

We have been focusing on building relationships within our sector and with the LGBTQ+ controlled organisations. We will continue to build on this and continue to undertake activities to support an increase in service provision and access for LGBTQ+ victim survivors.

## Sector Development

SASVic identifies and develops the information and resources needed for the specialist sexual assault sector. We aim to equip our workforce so they can offer consistently high-quality services to all victim survivors while ensuring we promote workers' health, safety and wellbeing.

Guided by the "Strengthening the Foundations: First Rolling Action Plan 2019-2022" (RAP 1) and "Building from Strength: 10 Year Industry Plan for Family Violence and Prevention and Response" (The Industry Plan), SASVic actively reviews and implements actions proposed by the government for the benefit of the specialist sexual assault sector.

We also work in close partnership with Family Safety Victoria and the peak bodies for family violence Safe and Equal and No To Violence to strengthen member services and workforce capacity to respond to sexual assault in the context of family violence.

In the past year, we engaged in consultation on the Second Rolling Action Plan, 2022 Family Violence and Sexual Assault Graduate Program, the launch of the Health and Safety Wellbeing Pilot, Capability Frameworks Review, and other sector development projects. We provided sector feedback on key Family Safety Victoria policy documents, based on our members' feedback.

## Traineeship Program

Workforce development in the sexual assault and family violence sectors was strengthened by the introduction of a new program in 2022. The Family Violence and Sexual Assault Traineeship Program was the result of the State Government's investment of \$8.1 million over 3 years, supporting the coordination of 240 traineeships across Victoria. Our members across the state were invited to apply for the program, with SASVic providing support and advice on the sector's engagement.

The program aims to strengthen the existing workforce and help organisations bring in more people to the family violence, sexual assault and prevention workforces. SASVic continued to collaborate with Safe and Equal and No To Violence in the delivery of this program, strengthening the integration of the sectors and developing resources for shared capacity building.

Our advocacy to Family Safety Victoria helped ensure that the second and third grant rounds were relevant to the specialist sexual assault sector.

We supported our members to apply for the program, offering members a standardised orientation program to apply for.

This program, which SASVic will run, meets an acute need in our sector for consistent, cross-sector training for new staff, particularly at a graduate level.

The focus for the 2021-22 period has been on submissions for this funding, and preparing for training to commence in the new year.

## Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Management and Information Projects

**The Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) Framework aims to ensure all relevant services are contributing effectively to the identification, assessment and management of family violence risk.**

In 2021-22, we continued to support our members to implement the MARAM Framework, as well as, the Family Violence Information Sharing Schemes and the Child Information Sharing Schemes.

Funded by Family Safety Victoria Sector Capacity Building Grants Program, we continued to share our expertise on sexual assault and intimate partner sexual violence across the specialist family violence services and perpetrator intervention services.

### Trauma and Violence Informed Practice

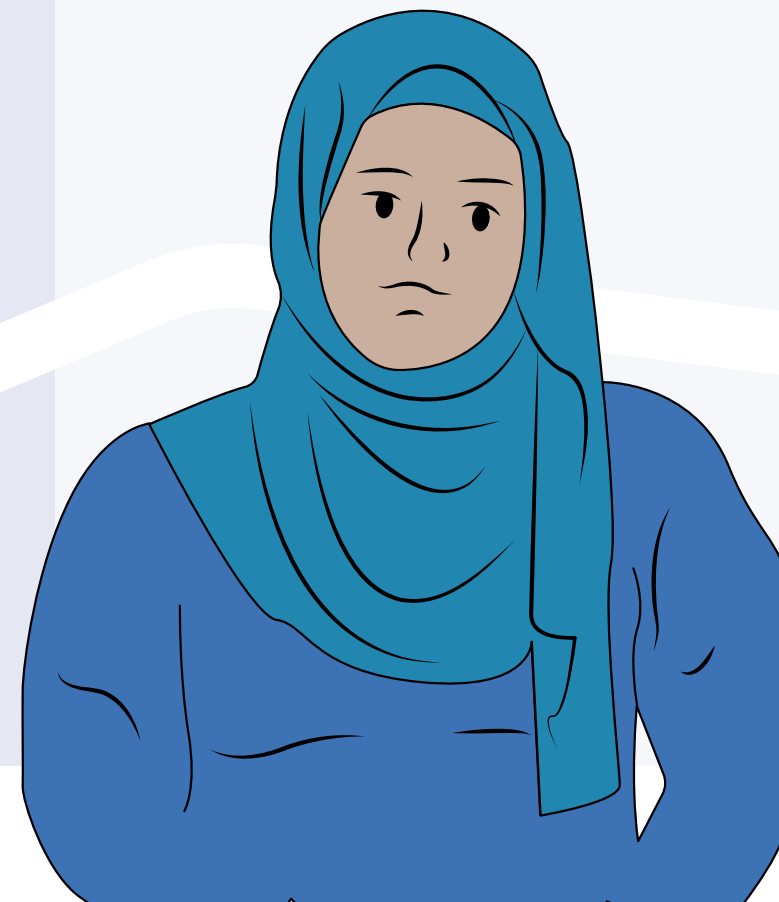
We collaborated with Safe and Equal and No To Violence to deliver a series of webinars on trauma and violence-informed practice, intimate partner sexual violence and reproductive coercion in the context of MARAM.

Based on content extracted from the trauma and violence-informed webinar, we created an additional resource for practitioners in the specialist family violence services, including perpetrator intervention services.

The resource provides helpful guidance that can be used in every day practice on trauma and violence-informed responses across the three sectors.

### Harmful Sexual Behaviour

The MARMIS project has also worked closely with the Harmful Sexual Behaviours network and Family Safety Victoria contributing to the development of MARAM practice guidance for working with children and young people that engage in harmful sexual behaviours. These guides will provide a shared understanding across sectors on how the response to harmful sexual behaviours in the context of family violence and practitioners will be better supported to undertake risk assessments and safety planning.

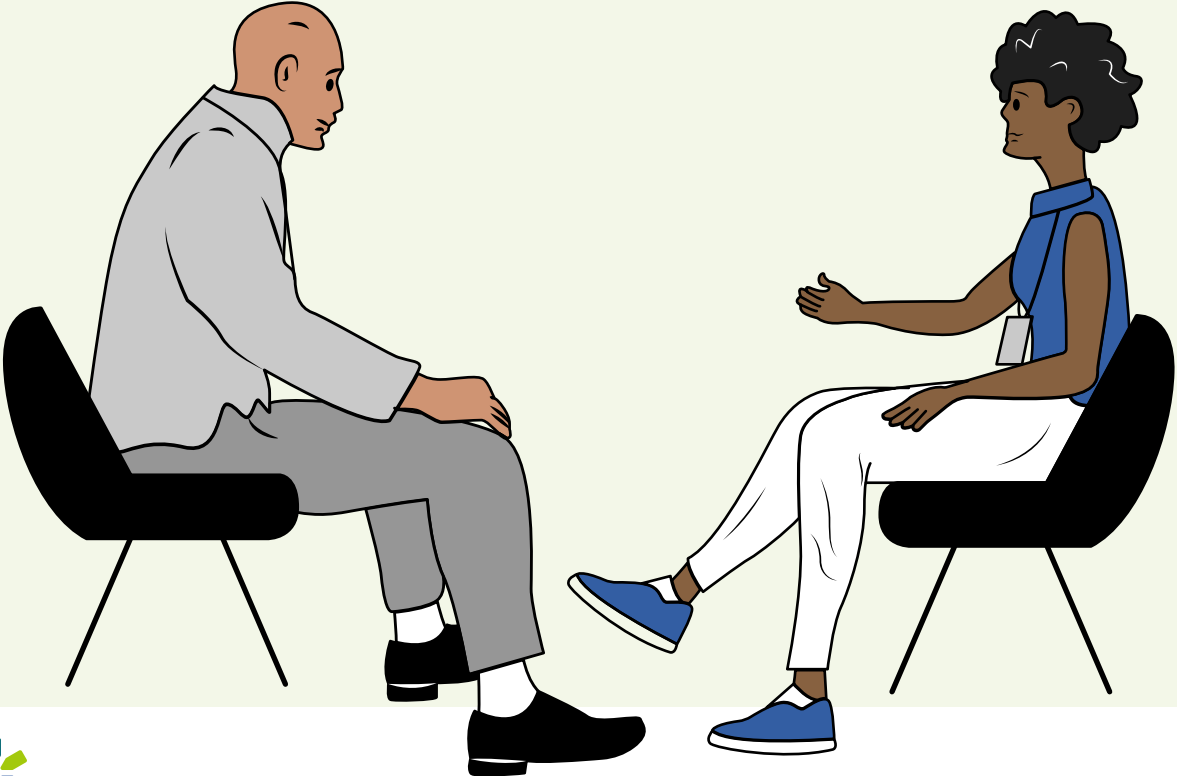




# Collaborations & representation

In 2021-2022, SASVic was represented on or a member of a wide-range of bodies, including:

- Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Primary Prevention Sector Reference Group
- Department of Justice and Community Safety's Sexual Offences Reform Justice Partnership Committee - Sexual Offences subgroup
- Family Safety Victoria's Disability and Family Violence Reform Advisory Group
- Family Violence Reform Advisory Group and related groups such as the Service System Accessibility Working Group
- Future Proofing Safety research advisory group
- MDC State-wide Operational Reference Group (SORG)
- Multi-Disciplinary Centre (MDC) Cross-Government Policy Advisory Coordination Group (CGPACG)
- National Association of Services against Sexual Violence board (NASASV)
- National Women's Safety Alliance's Sexual Harassment Working Group
- RMIT Centre for Innovative Justice's Restorative Response to Sexual Violence Working Group
- RMIT Workforce Innovation and Development Institution Expert Advisory Panel
- Social Services Regulation Taskforce
- Women's Health Victoria's Women's Mental Health Alliance



## Our people

### Our board

#### Board chair

Karen Hogan (until December 2021),  
Kate Wright (from December 2021)

#### Vice-Chair

Kathryn Dowson (to March 2022),  
Jenny Wing (from June 2022)

#### Treasurer

Joanne Sheehan Paterson

#### Chair of SASNetwork

Jane Barr

#### Chair of HSB Network

Jenny Wing

#### Other members

Christine Denton, Elisa Buggy (from April 2022),  
Jamie Chubb (from April 2022)

#### Board resignations

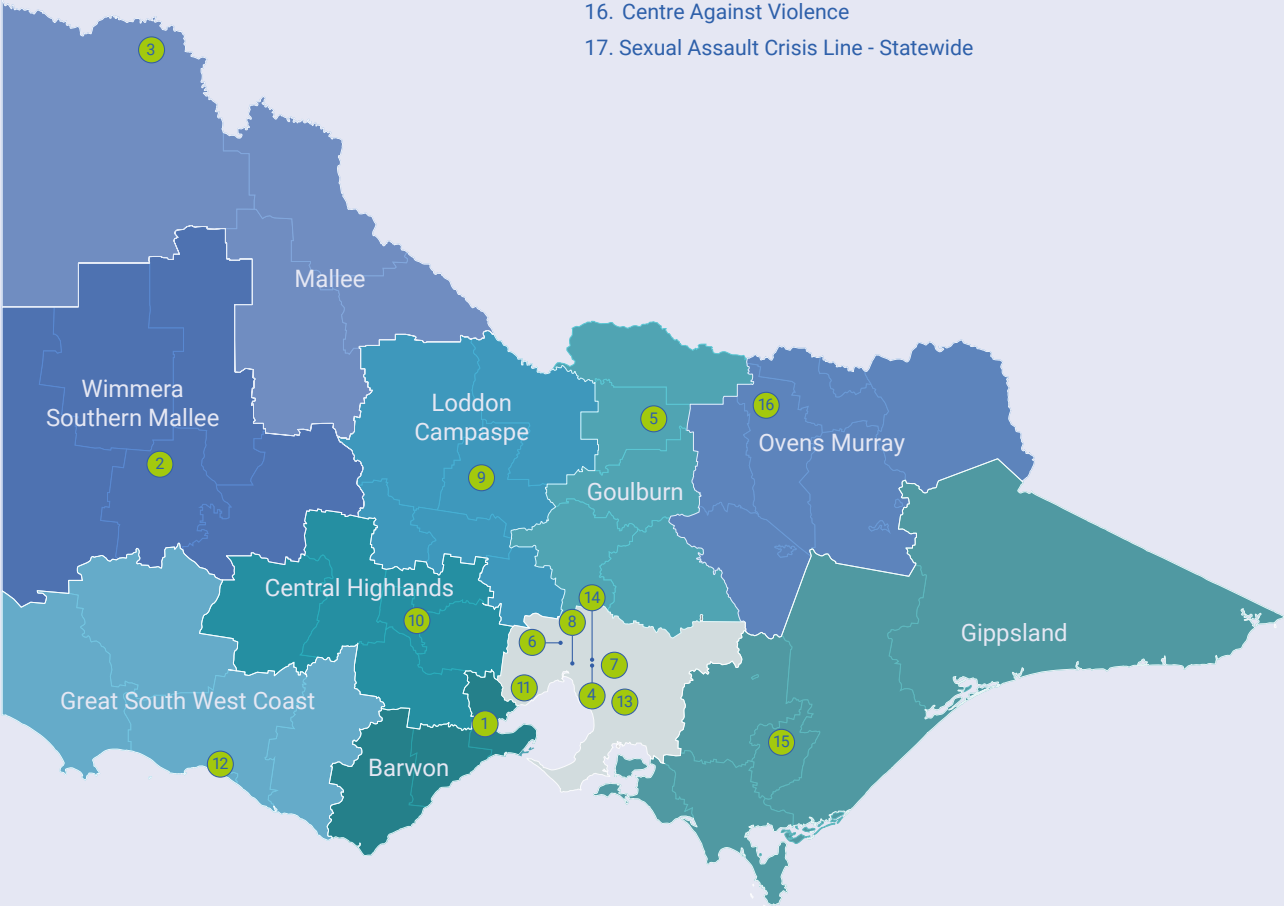
Karen Hogan December 2021,  
Kathryn Dowson March 2022





## Our member services

1. Sexual Assault & Family Violence Centre - Barwon
2. Sexual Assault & Family Violence Centre - Wimmera
3. Mallee Sexual Assault Unit
4. Kids First
5. Goulburn Valley CASA
6. Gatehouse Centre
7. Eastern CASA
8. CASA House
9. CASA Central Victoria
10. Ballarat CASA
11. West CASA
12. South Western CASA
13. South Eastern CASA
14. Northern CASA
15. Gippsland CASA
16. Centre Against Violence
17. Sexual Assault Crisis Line - Statewide



## Our staff team

**Our team grew rapidly this year, from two people on 1 July to eleven by year's end, with the May Victorian budget promising yet more expansion to come.**

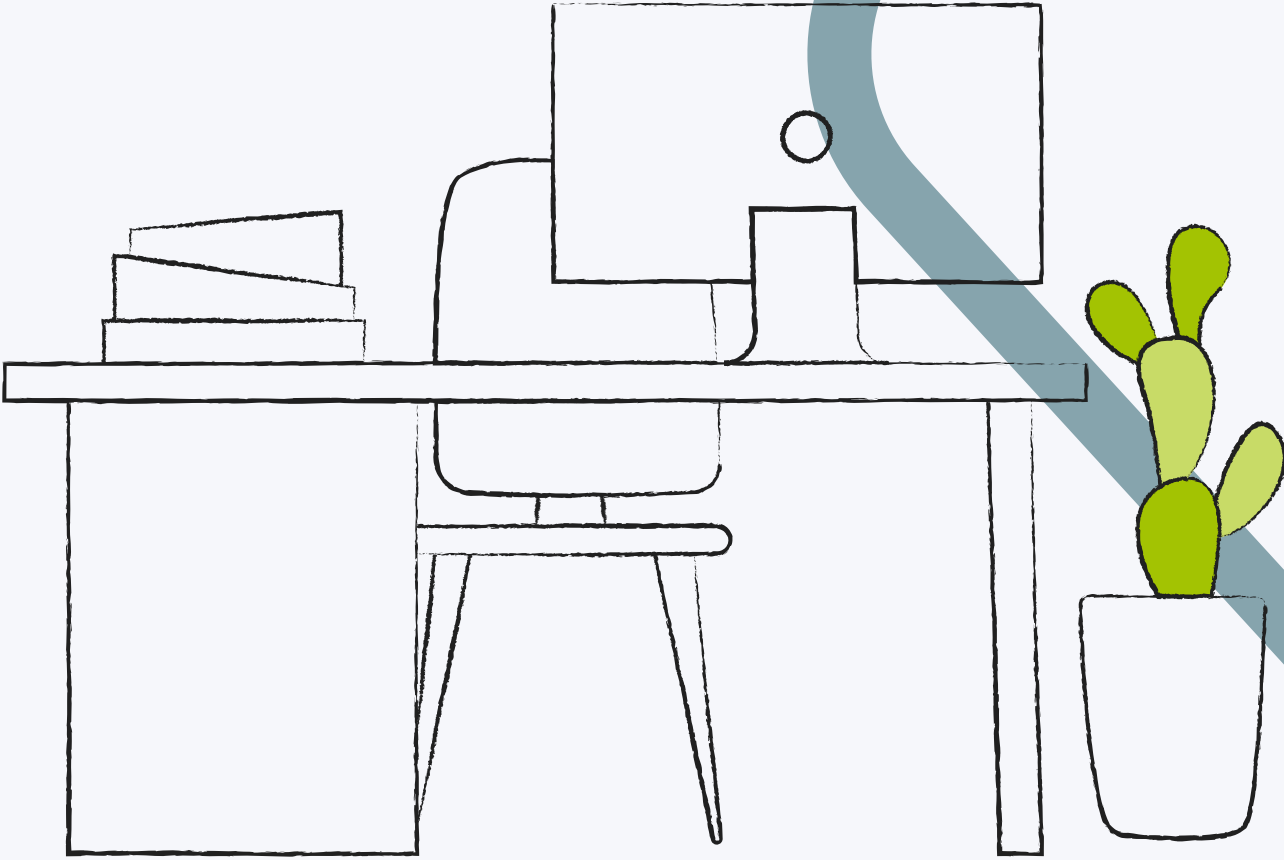
Because of this welcome increase in staff, and our relative youth as a peak body, we have had a strong focus this year on team development, as we work to develop a team culture that reflects and strengthens our values, and processes and policies that support us to work well.

### The Team this year.

Alice Hon, Amy Webster, Christine Jennings, Eleni Kyrpigikidis, Emily King, Emily Roberts, Gabriella Muzsnai, Jessica Bigby, Kat Stroud, Kathleen Maltzahn, Libby Eltringham (to December 2021), Tash Rubinstein



You can find SASVic's 2021-22  
Financial Report [here](#)



## Thank you

Thank you to the government agencies who fund our work, including the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing particularly Family Safety Victoria.

Thanks to our community sector partners, particularly Safe and Equal, No To Violence and Women with Disabilities Victoria, and our university partners such as Melbourne and RMIT universities.

Our work as the peak is only possible because of the generosity of our members in sharing their expertise - thank you.

Thank you too to the individuals who have strengthened our work and supported us in diverse ways, including Libby Eltringham, Amanda Sinclair, Cath Smith, Jim Buckell, Lorenza Biglisi, Lorenzo Nuti, Luke Hall and colleagues at Baker & McKenzie, Pru Gell, Sarah Norton, Sash de Lorenzo, Sharray Ash and our colleagues at Mallee Sexual Assault Service-Mallee Domestic Violence Unit, who as well as being our member are our auspice agency. Particular thanks to Joanne Sheehan-Paterson, Simon Rodhe, Donna Langanke and Luisa Falivene.



## Acknowledgement

SASVic acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional and ongoing custodians of the lands on which we live and work. We pay respects to Elders past and present. We acknowledge that sovereignty has never been ceded and recognise First Nations peoples' rights to self-determination and continuing connections to land, waters, community and culture.



Sexual Assault  
Services Victoria

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

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