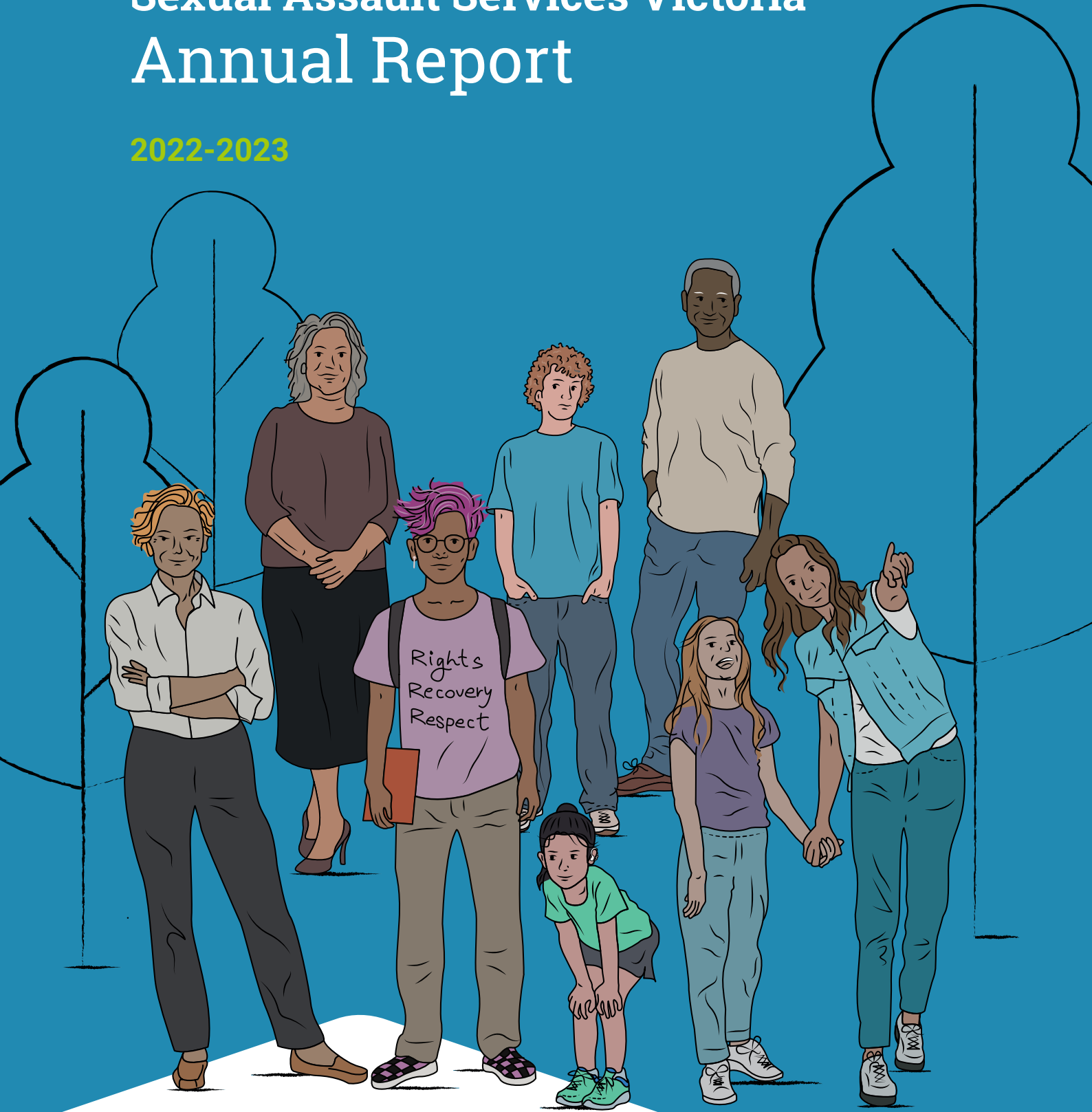


Sexual Assault Services Victoria Annual Report

2022-2023



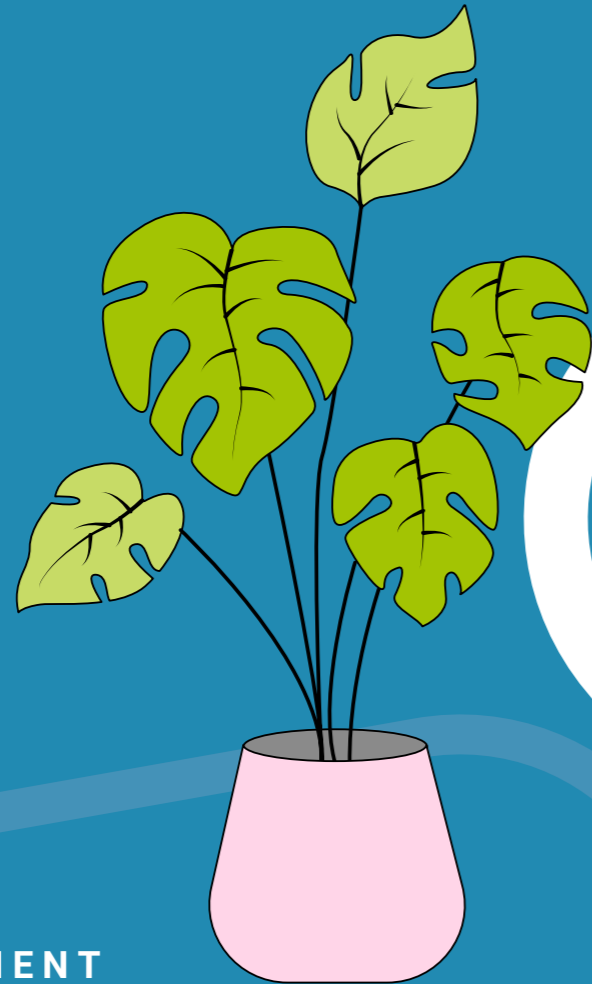
Sexual Assault
Services Victoria

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.

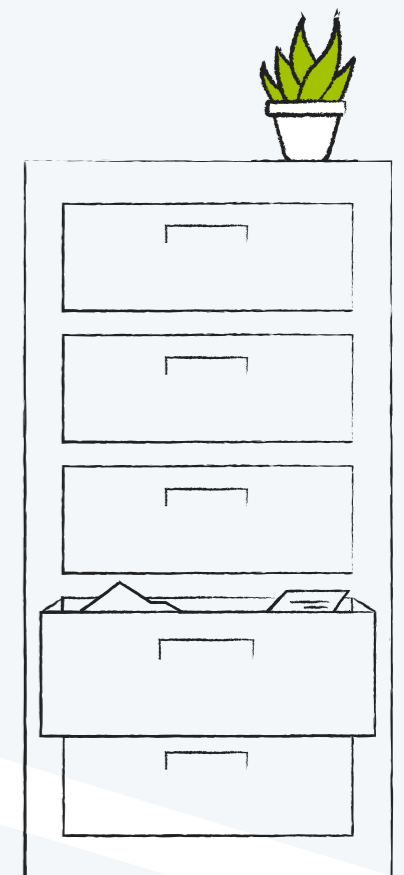
We acknowledge that sovereignty has never been ceded and recognise First Nations peoples' right to self-determination and continuing connection to land, waters, community and culture.

SASVic acknowledges victim survivors of sexual violence who we work for every day. We acknowledge the pervasive nature of sexual violence, and the impact that it has on survivors and their communities. We celebrate the powerful advocacy of survivors that is changing systems and policy.



CONTENTS

- 4 About SASVic**
- 6 Chair report**
- 8 CEO report**
- 10 Our strategic directions**
- 12 Strategic direction 1**
 - Member forum highlights
 - Equity and inclusion
 - REACH research project
- 16 Strategic direction 2**
 - Supporting Young People to Understand Affirmative Consent
 - Sexual Harassment webinar
 - Using MARAM across the sector
 - Midsumma Carnival
- 20 Strategic direction 3**
 - Advocacy at SASVic
 - Vote Against Violence state election tour
 - SASVic in the media
- 24 Strategic direction 4**
 - A snapshot of our workforce
 - Workforce development and training
 - Visiting our members
- 28 Our team**
- 30 Financial reports**
- 38 Thank you**



ABOUT SASVIC

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

We work to promote rights, recovery and respect for victim survivors and other people impacted by sexual violence and harm.

We seek to achieve this by working collectively to change the attitudes, systems and structures that enable sexual violence to occur. SASVic members bring over 30 years of feminist practice and specialist expertise to the task of reforming system responses to sexual violence and harmful sexual behaviours.



Our vision

A world free from sexual violence



Our purpose

Rights, recovery and respect for people impacted by sexual violence



Our values

Courage, expertise, rights & equity

Our member services

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



ABOUT THE SPECIALIST SEXUAL ASSAULT SECTOR

SASVic is the peak body for 18 specialist sexual assault services across Victoria, from Horsham to Bairnsdale, Wodonga to Warrnambool.

Together, our member services provide a free, 24/7 specialist response to victim survivors and other people impacted by sexual violence.

This includes 24/7 crisis support for people who have experienced a recent sexual assault, counselling and advocacy for victim survivors and others impacted by sexual assault, and

support and services for children and young people exhibiting harmful sexual behaviours. Members' response work is complemented by community education and other prevention activities, systemic advocacy and training and support for other professionals.

You can use our service map to find which of our member services is your local specialist sexual assault service.



You'll find all our member services' details here.

CHAIR REPORT



Three years later, as increased media attention to sexual violence continues and governments are having to respond, the promise of SASVic is being realised.

When we established Sexual Assault Services Victoria three years ago, we were responding in part to the significant changes that were happening, politically, socially and at a sector level, in relation to sexual violence.

We were seeing the ongoing ripples from the #metoo movement, first in the UK and then globally, including here in Australia.

We were responding to the changes at home in Victoria driven by the state government's implementation of the family violence royal commission's recommendations. And, most importantly, we were listening, as our services have been for forty years, to the experiences and voices of survivors of sexual assault. As a sector who for decades has fought to break the silence on sexual violence, we could see that things were changing, and we wanted to be in the best position possible to respond.

We knew specialist sexual assault services needed to be more coordinated and innovative, and we wanted to have a louder voice so that we could push for the deep changes needed to prevent and respond to sexual violence, including harmful sexual behaviours. Our vision was that this new entity, SASVic, would better enable us to respond to this long-standing but urgent challenge.

Three years later, as increased media attention to sexual violence continues and governments are having to respond, the promise of SASVic is being realised.

As you will read in our annual report, we have had an active and exciting year in 2022-2023. Our strategic advocacy has included many policy submissions highlighting the impact of sexual violence. With partner peaks No to Violence and Safe and Equal, we also ran an election campaign talking to political candidates across Victoria.

We've worked with members to support them as they deliver services, managing long waiting lists and difficulty accessing forensic medical examinations for people who had recently been sexually assaulted. We have expanded our workforce development program to better meet the needs of new counsellor advocates, whose numbers have grown due to welcomed increase in state government funding, as well as offering development opportunities for managers and CEOs. This has been possible in part because of our growing staff team, which has almost doubled in the last year.

We've also begun to broaden our national and international engagement. This includes building on the work of SASVic board member Jo Sheehan-Patterson who for many years has helped lead the National Association of Services Against Sexual Assault Services (NASASV), we've joined the NASASV board, allowing us to engage more actively in national policy development and strengthen our links with colleagues across the country.

Internationally, we brought UK researcher and teacher Dr Fiona Vera-Gray to Australia for a powerful series of trainings, for our new orientation program, as well as a bespoke session for senior practitioners, and another for service leaders exploring our theory of change.

This work is guided by our strategic plan. As we reported last year, our 2022-2026 strategic plan was developed with representatives from across the sector and is proving a solid guide for our work.

This year, we are also delighted to have a new member, Bass Coast Health, bringing our total membership to eighteen.

Thank you to the SASVic Board for providing your insights and expertise in representing the membership agencies which provide services to children, young people and adults.

Finally, thank you to the SASVic staff team in particular CEO Kathleen Maltzahn for her leadership and advocacy ensuring sexual violence remains in the policy and funding agenda.



Kate Wright
Chair



CEO REPORT

SASVic is now three years old. So how are we growing?

Over 2022-2023, SASVic's twenty-one employees have written five submissions, run trainings for 420 participants, initiated two research projects and made sure members were well informed through over 40 updates for staff across our member services.

We haven't worked alone. For example, with our partners No to Violence and Safe and Equal we ran forums for 158 practitioners on topics such as understanding disability and sexual assault in the context of family violence and as part of the National Association of Services against Sexual Assault we met with over 15 federal parliamentarians to advocate for better responses on sexual violence.

We finished the year with the very welcome addition of one new member, Bass Coast Health, who takes the number of SASVic members up to eighteen. Which is, arguably, a pretty good effort for a three-year-old.

We've found out more about our sector, too, including that there are 492 staff. While that piece of information might not sound exciting, until this year, no one really knew how many people our sector employed. It's emblematic, for me, of the many gaps in knowledge about our sector, and, indeed, about what's needed by survivors and other people impacted by sexual violence.

The existence of a thriving specialist sexual assault sector peak in Victoria means we're starting to fill in the gaps on sexual assault, ranging from making our sector's vital work more visible to advocating for legal reforms so that survivors get real justice.

We're a sector that often works in words, with counsellor advocates helping people say the unsayable. The numbers above, though, also show us something important, including the volume of work we've been able to do, young as we are; it suggests both how much work there is that a peak like SASVic can undertake, and the contribution we can make, now and in the future.

Our growth has only been possible because of a host of people and institutions who share our vision. My thanks to the Victorian Government for its deeply appreciated financial support for SASVic. Thank you too to Family Safety Victoria, the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing and the Department of Justice and Community Safety for their collegiality and commitment to addressing sexual violence.

Our work is strengthened immeasurably by our partners and colleagues, here in Victoria and around the country, in the sexual assault, family violence, legal and broader community sectors. Thank you!



It's a great privilege to work with our members, the bedrock of SASVic.

Your expertise informs and drives our work here at the peak. Special thanks to Mallee Sexual Assault Services - Mallee Domestic Violence Services for providing vital organisational support as we've grown.

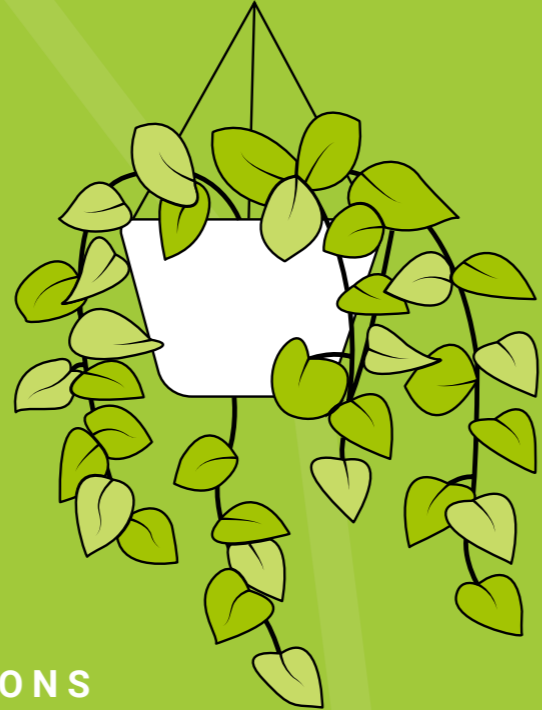
My particular thanks to the SASVic team. I am constantly thankful for the skill, commitment and good humour you bring to our work. You make every week at work a pleasure.

Finally, thank you to the board, for your drive for excellence and willingness to take time out from your demanding roles to lead SASVic, and to board chair Kate Wright, whose strategic thinking and vision for the sector is matched by her tremendous generosity towards SASVic.



Kathleen Maltzahn
CEO





OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

In 2022, SASVic launched our first Strategic Plan to steer our work from 2022 to 2026.

Our vision and strategic directions came directly from our members, informed by staff in a range of positions across our sector.



STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1

Ensure people affected by sexual violence have access to high-quality, timely specialist therapeutic support.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2

Build community capacity to prevent, recognise and respond to sexual violence.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3

Drive structural and systemic change.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4

Grow and resource the specialist sexual assault and harmful sexual behaviour workforce and the peak.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1

Ensure people affected by sexual violence have access to high-quality, timely specialist therapeutic support.

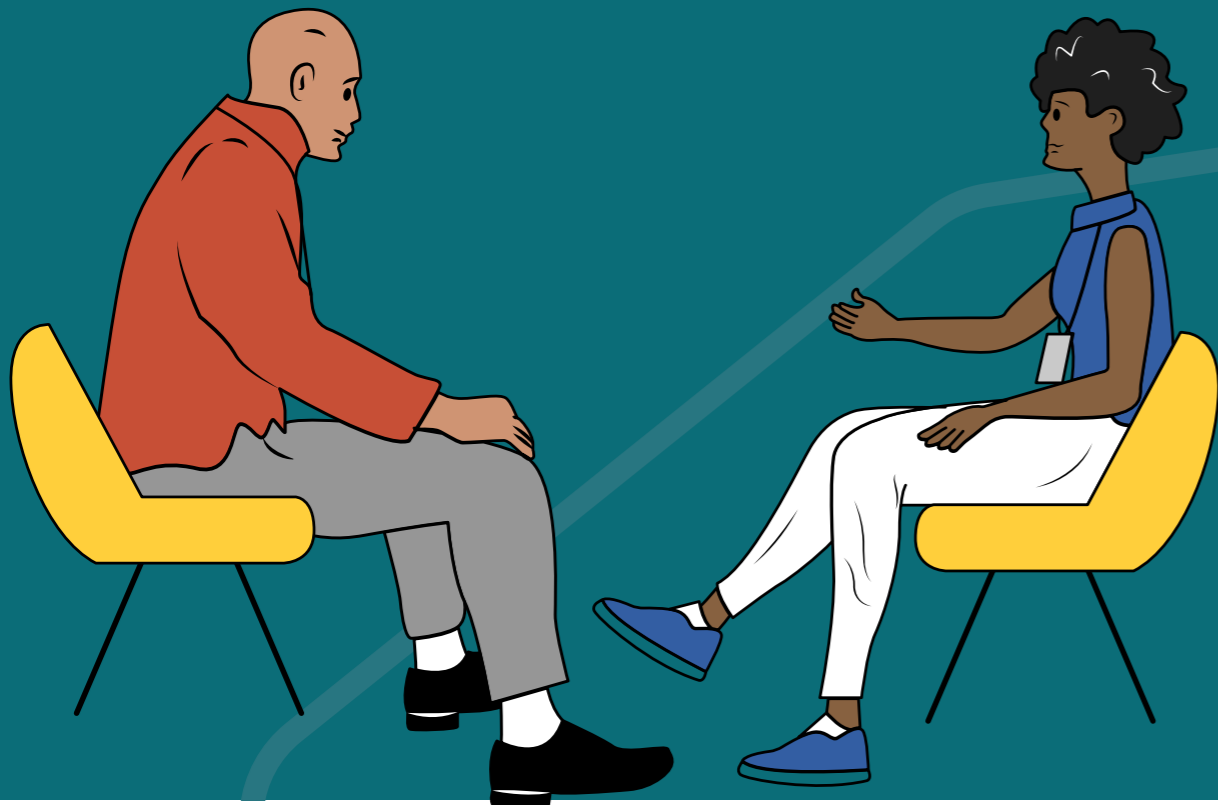
The Australian Child Maltreatment Study (2023) shows in stark terms the negative impact of child sexual abuse and identifies increasing levels of harmful sexual behaviour by young people.

Survivors of sexual abuse in adulthood are also confronted with significant harm.

For forty years, Victoria's specialist sexual assault services have worked with survivors to recover and, more recently, with children and young people who use harmful sexual behaviours to stop ongoing harm.

To support this work, SASVic's role is to work with members to adopt agreed standards and meet them, develop strong service models, including for people who experience the greatest barriers to recovery and build the evidence base of what helps people to recover after sexual violence.

In the 2022-23 financial year, we facilitated eight ongoing member forums including the Harmful Sexual Behaviour Network and newly established LGBTIQ+ Community of Practice, progressed the REACH Research Project, and supported the Making Rights Reality program, which aims to improve access to reporting and recovery for people with disability.



MEMBER FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

HSBNetwork

The Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) Network provides opportunities for practitioners to track service trends, seek peer support with practice dilemmas, and inform advocacy and research.

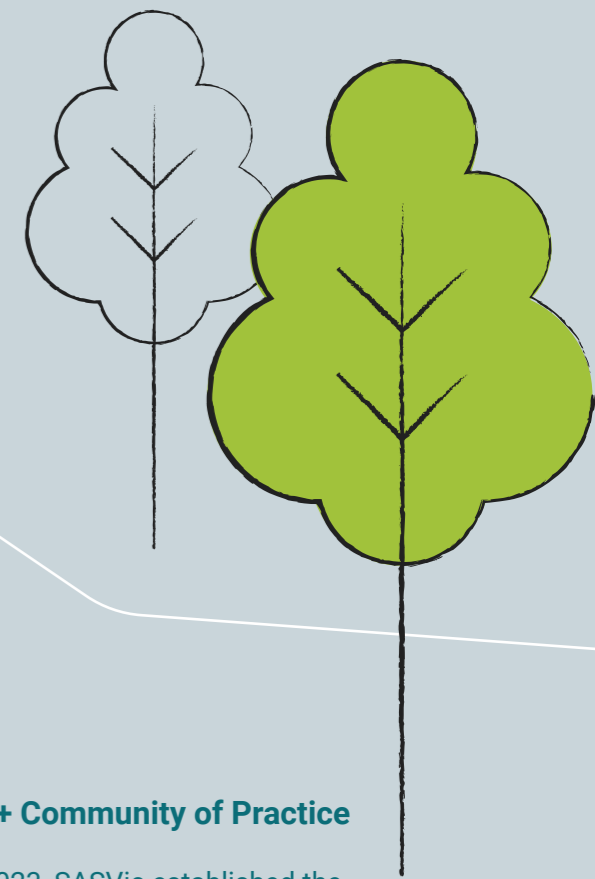
The Network participates in consultations and informs the development of resources, as the experts in child and young people exhibiting HSB. In June 2023, Family Safety Victoria (FSV) consulted the Network to inform the development of MARAM Practice Guides. The Network advised on what guidance professionals need to identify HSB and respond to disclosures, what presentations are defined as harm, as well as tools that help professionals recognise common developmental stages and where healthy development may have been interrupted or negatively affected in some way.

LGBTIQ+ Community of Practice

In March 2023, SASVic established the LGBTIQ+ Community of Practice (CoP).

The CoP has representation from almost all member services in our sector. They come together with the aim of increasing LGBTIQ+ -affirming service delivery and practice resources and supporting each other in undertaking organisational and cultural change within their services.

Sexual violence affects everyone and this includes the LGBTIQ+ community. In the Private Lives 3: the health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ People in Victoria report, it was found that almost half (48.6%) of participants reported having ever been coerced or forced into sexual acts that they did not want to engage in. This study also found that many people in the LGBTIQ+ community prefer to access mainstream services that are LGBTIQ+ inclusive. This data highlights the importance of the LGBTIQ+ CoP and continuous improvement to ensure that our services are accessible.





Disability Audit Tool

In the 2022-23 financial year, our Equity and Inclusion – Disability officer worked in partnership with Women with Disabilities Victoria to produce a Disability Audit Tool for the specialist sexual assault sector.

The Audit Tool helps services to reflect on their capacity to create an environment in which disability inclusive practice can occur, as well as identify existing barriers to inclusion and plan for their removal.



EQUITY AND INCLUSION - DISABILITY

Equity and Inclusion

Our Equity and Inclusion - LGBTIQ+ and Disability Officers provide a vital lens to many of our service design projects, as well as advocacy and research. They work together with our members on specific initiatives that aim to ensure our services are appropriate for victim survivors for people with disability and the LGBTIQ+ community.

Making Rights Reality

We worked with South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault (SECASA) to support their Making Rights Reality program.

This program, first piloted in 2012, provides extra help to adults and children with disability who have experienced sexual assault or family violence. The program aims to make sure people with disability have equal access to counselling and the legal and justice systems. This could include adaptations and adjustments to meet access requirements like easy-to-read materials, sensory requirements and working with other supports and systems. Our Equity and Inclusion – Disability Officer supports SECASA’s Making Rights Reality worker with advice and reflection on how best to support clients.



REACH RESEARCH PROJECT

The REACH Research Project is led by SASVic, the University of Melbourne and Women with Disabilities Victoria.

The purpose of the project is to better understand what helps people to recover and heal after sexual violence and use the information that people share with us to improve services in Victoria to support people to recover. The project is informed and guided by people with lived experience of sexual violence via the project’s expert advisory committee and has included interviews with victim survivors and focus groups with practitioners (facilitated with support and representations from SASVic members).

The project has been funded by FSV and we expect findings and knowledge translation activities to be completed in early 2024.



STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2

Build community capacity to prevent, recognise and respond to sexual violence.

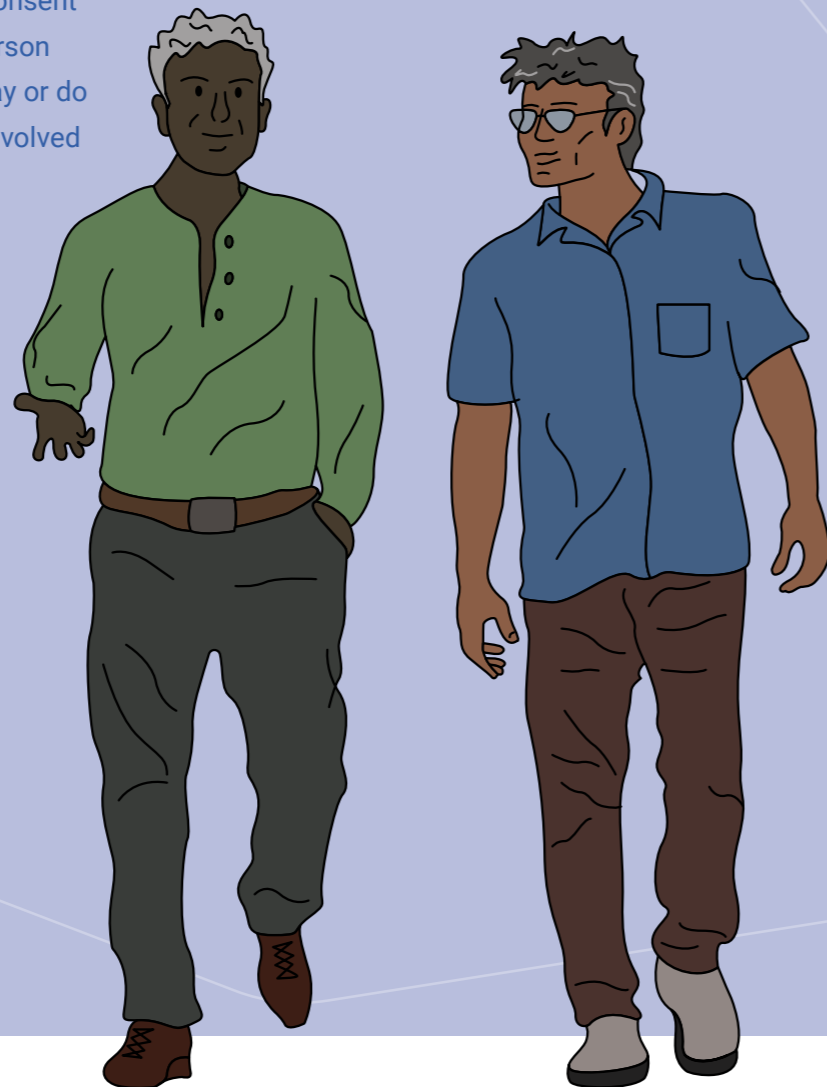
The sector's vision is to create a world free from sexual violence.

This cannot happen without a whole-of-community response to sexual violence and harm.

SASVic's role in this is to lead the development of education, training and professional protocols for key areas of sexual violence reform, and to strengthen links and service pathways with key sectors.

In the 2022-23 financial year, SASVic strengthened service partnerships with the family violence and youth support sectors, working with them on Multi Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM), intimate partner sexual violence within the context of family violence, as well as affirmative consent education.

In 2022, the Victorian Government introduced new affirmative consent laws. Affirmative sexual consent places the responsibility on each individual person participating in a sexual act to take steps to say or do something to check that the other person(s) involved are consenting freely and voluntarily. SASVic welcomed these changes, highlighting the significant potential for the new laws to help drive education and change in community attitudes and norms in relation to sexual violence and consent.



SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT PROGRAM

As part of the introduction of affirmative consent legislation, the government funded 12 projects across Victoria with the aim of educating young people about the reforms, consent and sexual violence, and building an evidence base about what works to promote affirmative consent and prevent sexual violence in specific communities and settings. SASVic partnered with Youth Affairs Council Victoria (YACVic) and Safe and Equal, with support from the Community Legal Education Team at Victoria Legal Aid (VLA) to support this work.

Alongside these organisations, we ensured the projects were resourced to succeed by delivering a range of training opportunities, running an Affirmative Consent Community of Practice (CoP) and supporting the development of effective affirmative consent messaging and education with young people.

The Affirmative Consent CoP provides opportunities for lead project staff to develop relationships, share knowledge and discuss learnings, successes and challenges such as resistance and backlash. The partnership with YACVic, VLA and Safe and Equal has supported deeper connections and knowledge sharing between sexual assault, family violence and youth sector peak bodies, as well as highlighted future areas for advocacy.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT WEBINAR

SASVic was delighted to host our first public webinar this year, with featured guest, Dr Fiona Vera-Gray from the Women and Child Abuse Studies Unit. She spoke about the research included in her book 'The Right Amount of Panic', which explores traditional forms of safety advice and how they play a part in producing rather than reducing the harms of violence against women and girls. The webinar drew on examples from both UK and Australia to talk about the impacts of sexual harassment and violence. Dr Vera-Gray explored how women and girls too often feel the burden of managing risk and fear in public spaces, and how this can prevent them from fully and equally participating in society.



MIDSUMMA CARNIVAL

In January, our sector had a significant presence at Midsumma Carnival with stalls from SASVic, Northern CASA and South Eastern CASA.

We shared information with the LGBTIQ+ community in the form of postcards, posters, stickers and discussions to build awareness that our services are for everyone and to increase access.

To help us start important discussions, Bianca Pezzutto from Gippsland CASA put together an interactive art installation, where people were encouraged to write down what respect means to them on colour paper and roll it up. The artwork was brought to life by hundreds of messages from the community.

USING MARAM ACROSS THE SECTOR

The MARAM framework is instrumental to identifying and responding to family violence risks, a prevalent issue in many sexual assault cases. The purpose of MARAM is to support workers across the service sector to better understand their responsibilities to undertake risk assessment and management, including information sharing and working collaboratively with other agencies. The framework aims to foster safe environments for victim survivors, while holding perpetrators accountable.

SASVic MARAM Forum

As part of SASVic work to embed MARAM across the sector, we established the MARAM Forum. The Forum is a unique opportunity to gather representatives from each service and explore diverse ideas, build stronger relationships and formulate effective strategies.

The first Forum, held in 2023, allowed members to discuss the needs and barriers faced by member organisations, highlighting the need for standardised training for counsellor advocates to adeptly navigate the intricacies of family violence risk assessment within therapeutic settings.

There was a shared agreement among participants that more support and guidance was needed and clear criteria for determining service eligibility for individuals with a history of perpetrating sexual violence.

DISABILITY AND SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE CONTEXT OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

Since 2020, SASVic has partnered with Safe and Equal and No to Violence to strengthen shared understandings across our three sector of risk assessment. This work helps us promote a shared understanding of intimate partner sexual violence within the context of family violence across the three sectors.

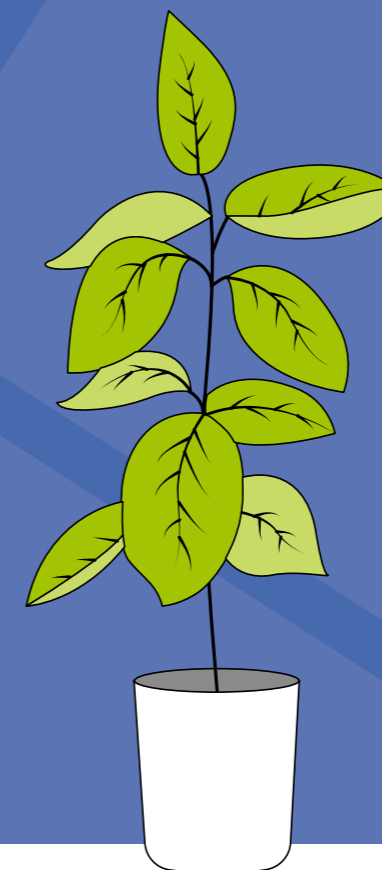
As part of this work, in 2023, the three peaks partnered to host a workshop to enhance practice capability when responding to women with disability who have experienced sexual assault within the context of family or intimate partner violence. The workshop assisted practitioners in cultivating a nuanced understanding of the intersection between disability and experiences of violence.

It also aimed to enhance the practice of utilising the MARAM framework to support both victim survivors and perpetrators with disabilities more effectively. SASVic's knowledge and expertise around sexual assault and sexual violence helped practitioners feel more confident to ask about sexual assault in the context of family violence in an assessment framework.

The focus on disability in the context of family violence is important because international and local literature shows us that a key perpetrator group of sexual violence against women with disability has been identified as family members.

The workshop was offered twice, in May and June, with 158 practitioners in attendance.

Across the two workshops the majority of participants agreed or strongly agreed that the workshop increased their knowledge of how structural inequalities experienced by people with disability impact sexual assault and family violence.



STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3

Drive structural and systemic change.

Meaningful action on sexual violence is long overdue.

In 2020, the Victorian Government commissioned the Victorian Law Reform Commission (VLRC) to undertake an inquiry to establish what was needed to improve the justice system response to sexual offences and in response, introduced affirmative consent legislation, invested in consent education for young people and provided a funding boost to our sector.

This is just the first step in what is needed to end sexual violence in Victoria. Together, we must continue to improve the experiences of survivors navigating our complex legal and justice system, develop a strategy to end sexual violence that encompasses at least 10-years of meaningful action and we must grow and resource a strong sector and peak. SASVic's role in this is to develop and advocate for evidence-based policy, and campaign for structural change.

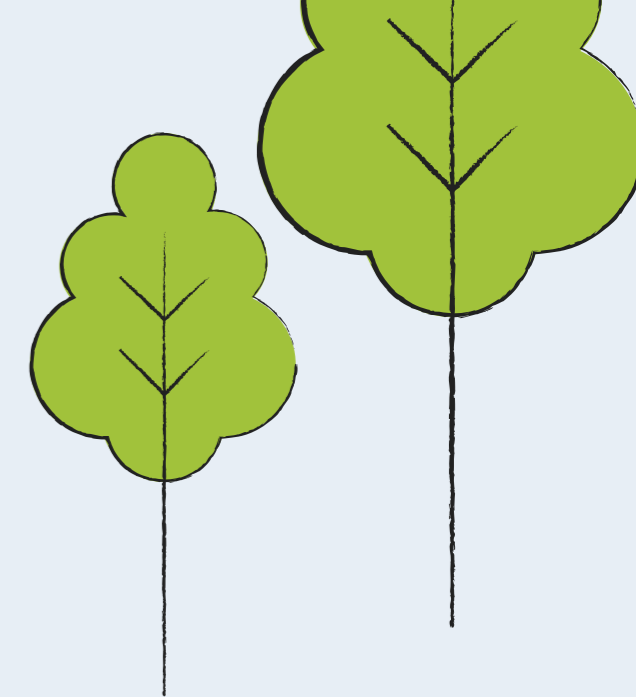


ADVOCACY AT SASVIC

Over the last financial year, SASVic advocated on behalf of our sector and all those impacted by sexual violence at both a state and national level. We pushed for change, through five policy submissions, meetings with politicians and through the media, highlighting the urgent reform needed. Our advocacy work is informed by what our members see in their work everyday and the victim survivors that they work with.

Harmonising affirmative consent laws in Australia

In 2023, SASVic wrote a submission for the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee's Inquiry into current and proposed sexual consent laws in Australia. In our submission, we supported the introduction of harmonised affirmative consent laws across Australia, noting that to have the most impact, a whole-of-community approach should be taken to legislative reform. Due to our submission, we were invited to give evidence at the public hearing and were referenced more than 20 times in the tabled report.



Presumption of equal shared parent responsibility removed

In our submission on the Exposure Draft of the Family Law Amendment Bill 2023 to the Attorney-General's Department, SASVic, alongside many other organisations, called for the removal of the presumption of equal shared parent responsibility and the requirement to consider specific time arrangements with each parent.

This long overdue step is now coming into effect, with the best interests of the child becoming the prime consideration.

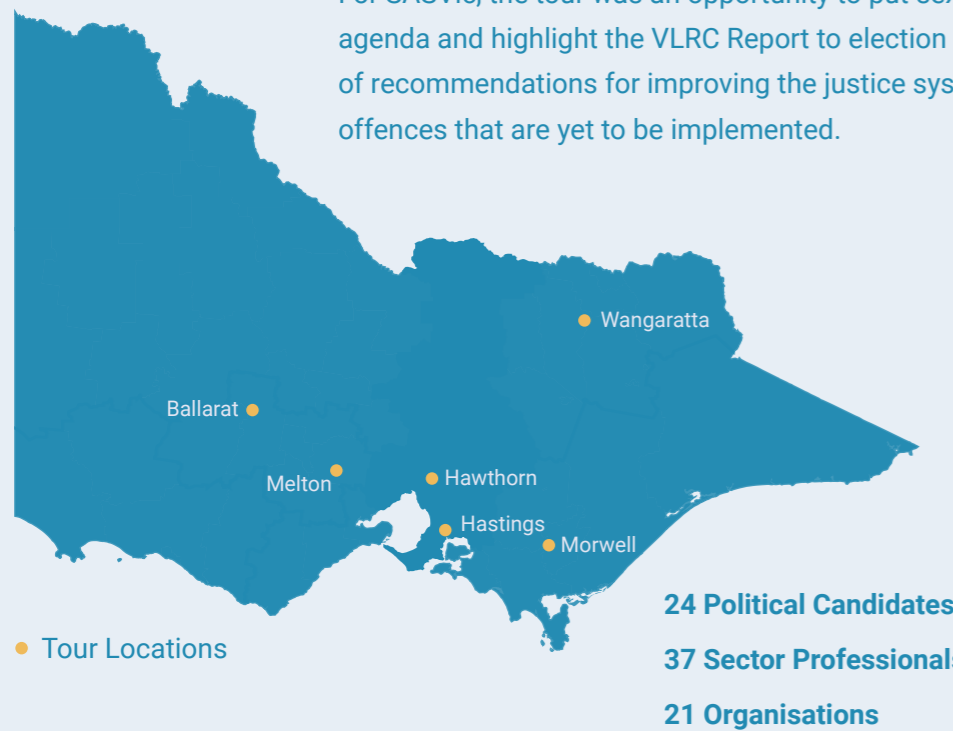


Vote Against Violence' Candidate Forum – 17 November 2022, Wheeler Centre
 From left to right: Mary Gearin (Host), The Hon. Ros Spence MP, Dr Samantha Ratnam MP, Ms Emma Kealy MP (on screen).

VOTE AGAINST VIOLENCE STATE ELECTION TOUR

In the lead up to the 2022 Victorian election, SASVic partnered with Safe and Equal and No to Violence to meet with local political candidates in key electorates to highlight the impacts of increasing demand on sexual and family violence services, workforce challenges, housing shortages and inequitable access to justice and legal support for victim survivors of family violence and sexual assault.

For SASVic, the tour was an opportunity to put sexual violence on the agenda and highlight the VLRC Report to election candidates and the list of recommendations for improving the justice system response to sexual offences that are yet to be implemented.



SASVIC IN THE MEDIA

Victoria's affirmative consent reforms

In June 2022, SASVic welcomed the government's affirmative consent reforms, writing an opinion piece for The Age and recognised this historic moment achieved through decades of campaigning by advocates.

In the lead up to the laws being implemented, we knew that more had to be done to make these reforms work. We spoke with the Australian Associated Press to call for "better education and training for legal professionals and the broader community, independent advocates for victim-survivors from the moment they report sexual violence and adequate funding for specialist sexual assault services."

Access to Forensic Medical Examinations

Victim survivors' access to forensic medical examinations plummeted in recent years. Our member survey showed that a third of victim survivors had had to travel hundreds of kilometres to access a forensic medical examination (FME) after a recent sexual assault, with many others waiting long periods or missing out on FMEs entirely. We spoke to the ABC to call for action.

We advocated consistently to government to address this serious problem and have been encouraged by the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine's commitment to providing improved services for survivors.

And more...

SASVic also spoke to ABC about the common issue of sexual assault in the massage industry and signed open letters that garnered media attention, including:

- standing against "cost neutrality" in sexual harassment litigation, requiring both sides in sexual harassment suits to pay their own costs
- standing with End Rape on Campus and Fair agenda in calling for Federal Government to urgently intervene and address university failures to prevent and respond to sexual violence at campuses across the country.

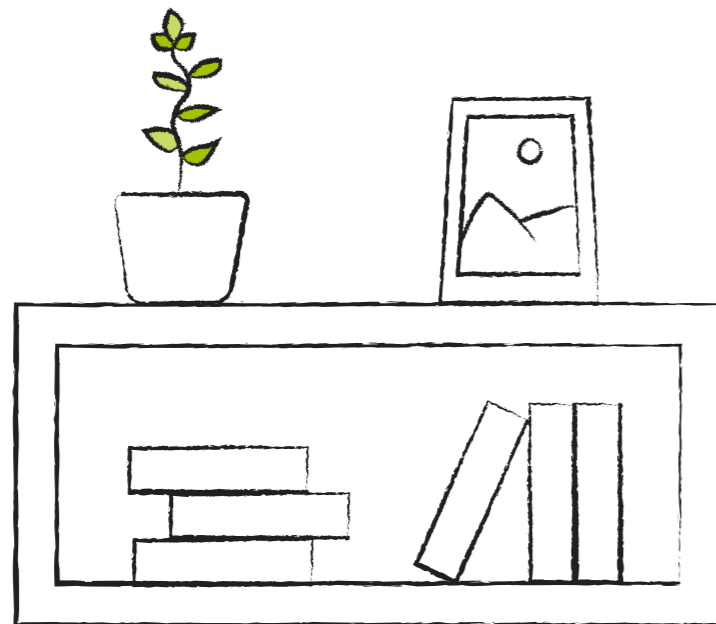


STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4

Grow and resource the specialist sexual assault and harmful sexual behaviour workforce and the peak.

To meet the needs of victim survivors in Victoria, we need a strong sector and strong peak. To achieve this, we need to understand the specific workforce needs of our sector, extend the range of workforce development opportunities available and secure ongoing funding for SASVic as a peak to ensure its sustainability as a peak body.

In the 2022-23 financial year, we launched the Workforce Data project, which helped us to better understand who works in our sector and what their needs are. We also expanded our workforce development opportunities, offering a new orientation program to the growing sector.



A SNAPSHOT OF OUR WORKFORCE

The specialist sexual assault sector workforce

April 2023

492

staff worked across our 17 members services.

90%

of workers in the specialist sexual assault service sector have a bachelor's degree or higher.

2 in 5

workers (39%) have been part of the specialist sexual assault sector for less than two years.

51%

of the workforce have a background in social work, while 14.9% hold a psychology qualification.

24%

of workers have been in the sector for between 2 and 5 years.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

Over the past financial year, SASVic offered 13 workforce development opportunities. This included a mix of ongoing and new opportunities, both in-person and online.

This was the first year that we offered an orientation program to staff new to the sector, which included a foundational 6-day course by Dr Fiona Vera-Grey.

We were pleased to be able to support trainees from our sector as part of the Family Violence and Sexual Violence Traineeships Program to access training opportunities.



HIGHLIGHTS

6-Day Course with Dr Fiona Vera-Gray

Over three weeks, 32 new staff members from the specialist sexual assault sector attended a six-day series with Dr Fiona Vera-Gray, Deputy Director of the Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit (CWASU) at London Metropolitan University.

This course provided foundational knowledge for work in the specialist sexual assault sector., developing strong foundational knowledge of frameworks to work with clients. Participants told us they gained understanding of the history of the feminist survivor movement and the impact of a patriarchal society, misogyny, power and systems of sexual violence.

Participants also told us that they left feeling empowered and motivated to continue their work in activism and supporting victim survivors, and expressed a desire for continued learning and research to deepen their understanding of sexual violence.

Supporting Victim Survivors through the Legal System

This two day course offers an in-depth walk-through of criminal and civil procedures as they pertain to victim survivors of sexual violence.

We were delighted to be able to offer it twice with guest speakers from Victoria Police.

The Office of Public Prosecutions and agencies that provide support to victim survivors going through these processes. Thank you to Jenna Tuke, Manager of CASA House, who brought the material together with a breadth of expertise and experience.

VISITING OUR MEMBERS

When SASVic was incorporated, one of our ambitions was to visit each of our member services across Victoria. With lockdowns behind us, we were finally able to at the end of the financial year, visiting CASA House, Gatehouse Centre and West CASA.

We found these visits important in understanding the issues our member services and clients face and ensuring that staff in member services knew about the purpose and strategic direction of SASVic. We wanted to ensure members could have confidence in our work and to provide opportunities to shape it.

We had a chance to see the physical space of multidisciplinary centres that are co-located with other services, forensic medical examination rooms, sensory rooms, rooms for trauma-informed yoga and creative arts, and the warmth of counselling rooms. The visits brought to life the work our members do, and the way that victim survivors access and move through our members' services.

Thank you to all our members who accommodated these visits and shared their work with us.

Polyvagal Theory

This year, we were pleased to expand our offers to the sector and deliver an online workshop on Polyvagal Theory for the first time.

This two-part workshop provided an introduction to Polyvagal Theory and explored the application and value of this theory in clinical settings and in advocacy work.

Harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) training

We ran a number of sessions to assist clinicians working with children and young people engaging in HSB. These sessions included topics such as understanding the role of pornography, understanding and working with young people with autism spectrum disorder who display HSB and focusing on the skills needed to work with young people that display HSB and the treatment options to support them.

Thank you to Cyra Fernandes, for running these sessions and sharing your expertise.

OUR STAFF TEAM

Our team rapidly expanded in the last financial year, from 11 people on 1 July 2022 to 17 by the end of June 2023.

The growth of SASVic included the introduction of a new team leader position, as well as our Rights and Equity and Service Design and Improvement teams.

Our Rights and Equity team was created with a focus on progressing reforms that improve the rights and experiences of victim survivors in civil and criminal proceedings, as well as to work with stakeholders on achieving support for criminalised survivors of sexual abuse.

Our Service Design and Improvement team was created to support members in tackling wait lists and other operational pressures on services collectively.

The team this year.

Alice Hon	Esther Toomey	Tash Rubinstein (to May 2023)
Amy Webster	Gabriella Muzsnai	Maria Papadontos
Anastasia Chung	Kat Stroud (to February 2023)	Raelene Schmidt
Belinda Rule (to April 2023)	Kathleen Maltzahn	Rebekah Gregory (to April 2023)
Chris Jennings	Holly Duffy	Virgina De Santis
Emily Corbett	Jaeme Opie	Phoebe Turner-Myatt
Emily Roberts	Jess Bigby	
Emily King (to April 2023)	Kayti Murphy	



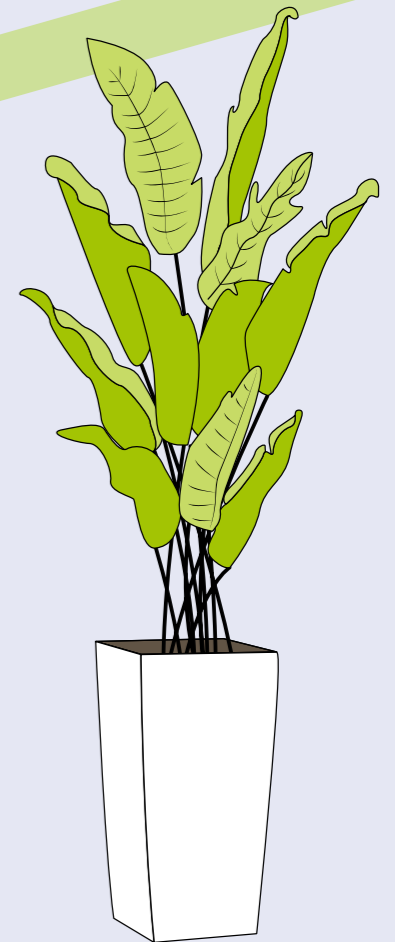
OUR NEW HOME

With the rapid growth of SASVic, it has come time to find a permanent location for the organisation.

Post COVID there was an increase in office rentals so it appeared to be an ideal time to secure our own premises. After viewing many offices, it became evident that the commercial property sector fell short of providing suitable accessible office space.

Although offices are required to comply with the accessibility standards, this often falls well short of the access required in reality.

It was a priority to SASVic that our office was accessible to all without limitation and we believe our Elizabeth Street site has the ability to be adapted to meet individual disability needs.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Operating Statement for year ending 30th June 2023

	Total Year 2023 \$	Total Year 2022 \$
Revenue	2,087,923	1,160,310
Employee benefits expense	(3,752)	(1,553)
Administration & operating expenses	(2,082,880)	(793,424)
Depreciation & amortisation expenses	(25,945)	(10,384)
Interest expense	-	-
Profit before income tax expense	(24,654)	354,949
Income tax expense	-	-
Profit from operations	(24,654)	354,949

Statement of changes in equity for year ending 30th June 2023

	Total Year 2023 \$	Total Year 2022 \$
Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year	1,554,931	1,199,982
Adjustment to prior year Retained profits	-	-
Net profit from operations after tax	(24,654)	354,949
Retained profits at the end of the financial year	1,530,277	1,554,931

Cash Flow Statement for year ending 30th June 2023

	Total Year 2023	Total Year 2022
Cash Flows From Operating Activities		
Operating grants receipts	2,239,256	1,159,715
Payments to suppliers and employees	(2,038,313)	(687,011)
Interest received	2,561	30
Other income	207,105	21,992
Net cash provided by operating activities 9a	410,609	494,726
Cash Flows From Investing Activities		
Purchase of property, plant & equipment	(33,919)	(37,442)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant & equipment	-	-
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(33,919)	(37,442)
Cash Flows From Financing Activities		
Proceeds of borrowings	-	-
Repayment of borrowings	-	-
Net cash used in financing activities	-	-
Net increase in cash held	376,690	457,284
Cash at beginning of year	1,721,394	1,264,110
Cash at end of year 9b	2,098,084	1,721,394



FINANCIAL REPORT

Notes to the accountants For the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (VIC). The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (VIC).

No other applicable Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

Basis of Preparation

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values, or except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report:

(A) INCOME TAX

The association is exempt from income tax by virtue of division 50-10 of the Income Tax Assessment Act, 1997 relating to not-for-profit bodies engaged in the promotion of community support and services.

(B) CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

(C) REVENUE

Revenues are recognised when received. Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

(D) GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense.

Receivables and payables in the Statement of Financial Position are shown inclusive of GST.

(E) PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value, less where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by the committee of management to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from those assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets' employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have not been discounted to present values in determining recoverable amounts.

DEPRECIATION

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their useful lives to the Association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable asset are:

Class of Fixed Asset	Depreciation Rate
Office Equipment	40%
Motor Vehicles	20%

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed and adjusted, if appropriate, at each balance date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included in the income statement. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

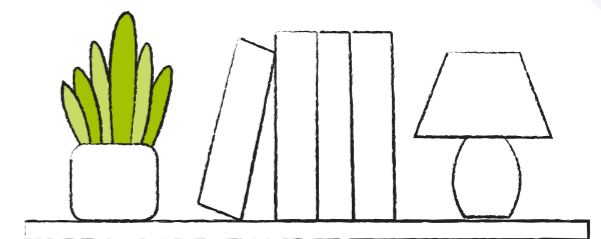
(F) EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits expected to be settled within one year have been measured at amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.

(G) IMPAIRMENT OF ASSETS

At each reporting date, the association reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value-in-use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income statement.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the association estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Notes to the accountants for year ending 30th June 2023

	Total Year 2023 \$	Total Year 2022 \$
Note 2: Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cheque Account	1,643,213	1,419,076
Online Saver Account	304,871	302,318
Term Deposit	150,000	-
	<u>2,098,084</u>	<u>1,721,394</u>
Note 3: Trade and Other Receivables		
Accounts Receivable	148,026	37,818
Tax Receivable	(106,102)	7,072
	<u>41,924</u>	<u>44,890</u>
Note 4: Other Assets		
CURRENT		
Security Deposits	<u>105,083</u>	<u>2,640</u>
Note 5: Property, Plant & Equipment		
NON CURRENT		
Office Equipment and Furniture		
Office Equipment At Cost	71,361	37,442
Less Accumulated Depreciation Office Equipment	(30,555)	(7,497)
	<u>40,806</u>	<u>29,945</u>
Motor Vehicles		
Motor Vehicles At Cost	14,436	14,436
Less Accumulated Depreciation Motor Vehicles	(14,411)	(11,524)
	<u>25</u>	<u>2,912</u>
TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT	<u>40,831</u>	<u>32,857</u>
Note 6: Trade and Other Payables		
CURRENT		
Accounts Payable	<u>147,480</u>	<u>161,271</u>
Note 7: Other Liabilities		
CURRENT		
Funding in Advance	403,217	-
Auspice Funds Held	117,519	49,529
	<u>520,736</u>	<u>49,529</u>
Note 8: Provisions		
CURRENT		
Employee Entitlements	<u>83,338</u>	<u>35,203</u>
NON-CURRENT		
Deferred Employee Entitlements	<u>4,091</u>	<u>847</u>

	Total Year 2023 \$	Total Year 2022 \$
Note 9: Cash Flow Information		
(a) Reconciliation Of Cash from Operations with Profit from Ordinary Activities after Income Tax		
Profit after income tax	(24,654)	354,949
Cash flows excluded from profit attributable to operating activities		
Non-cash flows in profit:		
Depreciation	25,945	10,384
Amortisation	-	-
(Profit)/ Loss on disposal of assets	-	-
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)Decrease in receivables	2,966	(29,104)
(Increase)Decrease in other assets	(102,443)	(2,640)
(Decrease)Increase in payables	(13,791)	90,738
(Decrease)Increase in other liabilities	471,207	49,529
(Decrease)Increase in provisions	51,379	20,870
Cash Flow from Operating Activities	<u>410,609</u>	<u>494,726</u>
(b) Reconciliation of cash		
Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to items in the balance sheet as follows:		
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>2,098,084</u>	<u>1,721,394</u>
Note 10: Committed Funds		
The following amounts represent recurrent funding received in the current financial year, committed for use in future years.		
	<u>403,217</u>	<u>925,940</u>
Note 11: Auspice Funds		
In 2021 the Association agreed to be the Auspice Agency for the Victorian Subpoena Defence Fund for sexual assault subpoenas. The funding is included in the Association's income and outgoings as expenditure. The balance of the Fund is recorded as a current liability.		



FINANCIAL REPORT

Detailed income statement for year ending 30th June 2023

	Total Year 2023 \$	Total Year 2022 \$
Revenue		
Recurrent Grants	1,716,039	1,110,186
Memberships	25,500	25,500
Interest	2,561	30
Reimbursements and Sundry Income	291,813	24,594
Auspice Income	52,010	-
Total Revenue	2,087,923	1,160,310
Expenditure		
Administration Costs	192,856	75,993
Program Costs	109,785	57,768
Staff Costs	1,447,068	510,436
Rental Property Costs	166,366	70,516
Depreciation	25,945	10,384
Travelling	3,752	1,553
Vehicle Costs	2,083	1,547
Workshops and Webinars	112,712	6,500
Auspice Expense	52,010	70,664
Total Expenditure	2,112,577	805,361
PROFIT / LOSS FROM OPERATIONS	(24,654)	354,949

OUR BOARD

Kate Wright
Chair

Jenny Wing
Vice Chair

Joanne Sheehan-Paterson
Treasurer

Elisa Buggy

Jane Barr

Jaime Chubb

Carla Collins

Jackie Bateman



THANK YOU

To our funders, including the Department of Family, Fairness and Housing, particularly Family Safety Victoria, as well as the National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse.

To our members, our work as a peak is only possible because of the generosity of our members in sharing their expertise.

In particular, thank you to our colleagues at Mallee Sexual Assault Services - Mallee Domestic Violence Unit, who are our members as well as our auspice agency.

To our community sector partners, particularly Safe and Equal, No to Violence, Women with Disabilities Victoria, Youth Affairs Council Victoria and our university partners, University of Melbourne and University of New South Wales.

To other organisations and individuals who have strengthened our work and supported us in diverse ways, including Victoria Legal Aid, Rainbow Health Australia, Zoe Belle Gender Collective, Laurenza Biglisi, Lorenzo Nuti, Dr Fiona Vera-Gray from Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit, London Metropolitan University, Sharray Ash, Megal Liew and Luke Hall from Baker McKenzie, Tim Bolton and Dr Shaez Mortimer.





Sexual Assault
Services Victoria

sasvic.org.au

351 Elizabeth Street
Melbourne, Victoria 3000