



# Sexual Assault Services Victoria

## Annual Report 2020-2021

SAS Vic acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government



*SAS Victoria acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia. We pay our respects to Aboriginal people and their cultures, and to elders past and present.*

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# Foreword: Karen Hogan, SAS Victoria Chair

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The last year has been one of transformative change for the peak body for sexual assault services in Victoria. Formerly CASA Forum, SAS Victoria is now the peak body for all Victorian government funded sexual assault and harmful sexual behaviours services across Victoria.

Since joining forces in early 2020, the sector has invested time and energy to undertake foundational work to strengthen the peak to help to drive change and shape responses to sexual assault in Victoria.

We reincorporated as an organisation, formalised governance arrangements, elected a new Board, and undertook a rebranding exercise that led to our new name and identity as Sexual Assault Services Victoria. We also developed a new website for the peak.

We affirmed our key directions for the next few years, and lobbied government for resources to ensure this work can happen. Through our advocacy, we built awareness and ensured greater attention is now being paid to sexual assault in policy, planning and budgeting. Sexual assault is now included in the Victorian Government Family Violence Reform Rolling Action Plan 2020-2023, with commitment to develop a comprehensive Sexual Assault Strategy as part of the Plan.

In recognition of the need for us to contribute to this work, SAS Victoria received funding to employ our inaugural CEO, Kathleen Maltzahn who joined us in July 2021.

We also received funding from Family Safety Victoria to strengthen the capacity of the sector, improve collaborative approaches between sexual assault and family violence services, and bring our expertise to assist and inform the development of the Strategy over the coming years.

In the middle of this process of reorientation and renewal, the organisation and our members were also grappling with the impact of COVID on our services and on our services users. We were all forced to adapt, change and evolve. Much creativity, innovation and resilience was evident as member services adapted to providing online services as well as face to face critical care. Newly created approaches to best meet the requirements of those who had been sexually assaulted were created and shared between services.

Requests for sexual assault services continued to grow during the pandemic, and all services continued to meet this increased demand despite COVID limitations.

The Workforce development Program continues to target the training needs of Victorian sexual assault staff – both new and existing and experienced staff. This specialist SAS Vic training program allows all staff to receive specialist sexual assault and harmful sexual abuse training.



Karen Hogan

SAS Victoria Chair

# Creating a world free from sexual assault and violence: Advocacy. Support. Expertise.

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## Our vision

SAS Victoria shares a vision for a world free from sexual assault and violence. We know that sexual assault is both a consequence and reinforcer of the power disparity that exists largely between men, women and children. It also happens within families and in multiple other settings and types of relationships, including within the LGBTIQ+ community.

Sexual assault occurs along a continuum of violent behaviour, from: uninvited sexual behaviour that makes the recipient feel uncomfortable, harassed, or afraid. unwanted touching or remarks; sexual harassment. coerced sexual activity. to rape with physical violence and threat to life.

We believe in the power to prevent sexual assault and violence with coordinated social, cultural and political action. This action exposes the gendered nature of sexual assault and challenges the context in which sexual assault is able to thrive.

We also believe in the possibility of recovery from sexual assault and family violence when systems are in place to provide timely and appropriate support. We advocate for services that address trauma and empower service users through a victims' rights model.

## Our purpose

SAS Victoria aims to build a consistent, responsive, quality, coordinated service system, that promotes the rights and recovery of victim survivors of sexual assault and addresses the social and systemic factors that contribute to harmful sexual behaviours in children and young people impacted by violence and abuse.

Our work is based on our shared understanding of the causes, consequences and impact of sexual assault.

Our advocacy is founded on service user experiences.

We bring over 30 years of evidence-based practice knowledge, and practice-based evidence wisdom to the task of reforming system responses to sexual assault. We aim to help shape and guide systems to ensure service users are able to get the support they need when they need it.

## Our objectives

- ❖ **Access to services** – we aim to ensure victim/survivors of sexual assault have access to sensitive, confidential and culturally appropriate services that meet their needs and empower them to make informed choices; and children and young people using harmful sexual behaviours can access appropriate treatment programs to address their behaviour and the underlying harm they have experienced.

- ❖ **Education and training** - education and training of professionals reflects understanding of and sensitivity to the needs and concerns of victim/survivors of sexual assault and young people who have engaged in harmful sexual behaviour; and contributes to prevention of sexual assault, through community and professional education, public awareness strategies and media.
- ❖ **Policy and advocacy** – inform government policy so that services are relevant and responsive to the needs of victim/survivors of sexual assault and young people who have engaged in harmful sexual behaviour; and influence reforms to legal, police and judicial systems to matters which impinge on the rights of victim/survivors of sexual assault
- ❖ **Research** - Inform, partner and commission research about sexual assault to enhance society's understanding of the sexual assault area.

## Our services

Our members work with all victims of sexual assault and sexual violence, including women, children, young people, men, and those who identify as gender diverse. Many are women who have experienced sexual assault in an intimate partner relationship or were sexually abused as children; have experienced date rape; or sexual assault by a stranger or recent acquaintance; or have experienced sexual assault within an institutional setting. Children and young people also make up a large proportion of CASA clients; they have most often been sexually abused by a family member or someone they know and trust.

Services provide a 24-hour crisis care response to victims of recent assaults and to recent disclosures of sexual assault. The majority of crisis care responses are provided to women, children and young people.

While the number of male victims accessing our services has increased, many are men seeking support to deal with the impact of historical childhood sexual assault perpetrated by male family members, by friends, or within institutional settings or same sex assaults.

Our members also provide programs and treatment services for children and young people aged 5 - 18 using problem or harmful sexual behaviour, with a view to intervening, undertaking risk assessment and safety planning, and supporting young people and key adults in their lives to establish effective supports and build healthy attitudes and approaches to relationships. Our data and our work points to a significant overlap between children and young people who demonstrate sexually harmful behaviours, and their own experience of family violence.

SAS Victoria continues to build a focus on improving access and services for victim survivors from diverse communities, including LGBTIQ communities, people with disabilities, CALD communities and first nations people.

Our members operate within a variety of service contexts and models, to a shared set of Standards. Some are auspiced by health services; others are independent; several operate as merged sexual assault and family violence services. Eight currently deliver services as key

partners in seven regional Multi-Disciplinary Centre (MDC)<sup>1</sup>. They are co-located with key statutory and other agencies including Victoria Police Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Teams (SOCITs), DFFH Child Protection teams, and Community Health Nurses. Some have Forensic Medical Officers attend from the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM).

All operate outreach services within their own regions, with Counsellor Advocates visiting an additional 94 locations across the state.

Two member services provide outreach to incarcerated women in their regions, at Dame Phyllis Frost Centre, and at Tarrengower prison with funding from the Department of Justice and Community Safety.

### Accreditation

All Victorian sexual assault services maintain accreditation against Department of Health and Human Services Standards. These Standards have been developed by the Victorian Government DFFH and focus on ensuring compliance in four key areas: Empowerment, Access & Engagement, Wellbeing and Participation.

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<sup>1</sup> As of 30.6.21, MDCs operated at Seaford PenSAC (SECASA); Dandenong (SECASA); Bendigo (CASACV); Geelong (Sexual Assault and Family Violence Centre); Mildura (Mallee SAU); Morwell (Gippsland CASA); Wyndham (West CASA and Gatehouse Centre). Further sites are being rolled out in 2021.

For more info about MDCs: <https://www.police.vic.gov.au/sexual-offences-and-child-abuse-investigation-teams>

# A new era, new identity, new ways of working

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## COVID-19 and sector response

The global COVID-19 pandemic has significantly affected our whole community. It continues to be a time of great uncertainty with serious impacts for victim survivors of sexual assault. In ordinary times, the barriers to disclosing and reporting sexual assault in order to access services and receive support are enormous. COVID-19 added layers and additional obstacles to reporting, particularly in relation to intra-familial sexual assault.

Sexual assault services rose to the challenges inherent in transitioning to remote service delivery during the pandemic. The sector continued to provide essential support to clients whilst introducing new ways for people to access services during the pandemic. Arrangements were made to continue to provide counselling, crisis and support services via video/online sessions, via telephone and limited face-to-face sessions.

SAS Vic increased opportunities for service managers to meet and share experiences during this period, providing vital peer support for our sector leaders. Managers reported concerns about the impact on staff who were experiencing more complex caseloads while being exposed to the trauma of their clients while working from home.

Our services welcomed COVID federal and state boost funding to assist in meeting demand and adapting their service models with the purchase of resources such as laptops, phones and home office supplies to help facilitate counsellor advocates to work from home.

## Sexual assault in the news

Prominent national and international focus on sexual assault over the past year saw an escalation in demand for counselling and support services across our member agencies. Our members reported increases in demand of between 35-75% over a period of two to three months in early 2021.

On the heels of the #MeToo movement, a number of high-profile media stories and campaigns drew attention to the blight of sexual assault and harassment within families, institutions, workplaces and across the community.

The 4Corners 'Canberra Bubble' story; Grace Tame being named Australian of the Year; Brittany Higgins' revelations about being raped in her Parliament House workplace in Canberra; and the follow-up 4Corners 'Bursting the Canberra Bubble' story all dominated news cycles at different times and led to the national #Enough campaign.

SAS Victoria added our voice to this campaign, joining with hundreds of thousands across the country in the #March4Justice on 15 March 2021.

A further welcome boost in funding to assist with the increased referrals to all services arrived in recognition of the impact on sexual assault services.

## Building our peak body

As CASA Forum, the organisation re-incorporated in December 2019, paving the way to open membership to all government funded sexual assault services, including those providing Harmful Sexual Behaviours services across Victoria.

With a new Board in place from February 2020, our members participated in a process to refocus our vision, goals and identity as the peak body for all specialist sexual assault services in Victoria. This led to a decision on a new name - Sexual Assault Services Victoria. We decided it was critical that our new name clearly articulates what we do. The name was launched in November 2020.

We developed a new website for the peak, that continues to evolve.

In expanding our membership and strengthening our governance arrangements, SAS Victoria has built our capacity as a peak and has been better able to work with the Victorian Government to reshape approaches to preventing and responding to sexual assault. In late 2020, we received funds from Family Safety Victoria to employ a Chief Executive Officer, who started in July 2021.

Under the new structure, we continued to lobby for funding to support our work as the sexual assault peak body, and in May 2021 received funding for a range of sector capacity building initiatives and to support reform priorities over the next two years, including:

- ❖ **Responding to Recommendation 31** of the Family Violence Royal Commission to *'build approaches to shared case work and joint training between specialist family violence and sexual assault services.*
- ❖ **Inclusion and Equity capacity building project** to *'support participation in key inclusion and equity initiatives, with a focus on people from LGBTIQ communities and people with disability';* and
- ❖ **Sexual assault workforce capability building project** to *support sexual assault services workforce to navigate, participate and benefit from the family violence workforce initiatives in the Industry Plan RAP including the MARAM Framework and Information sharing Scheme'.*

The coming 2021-2022 financial year will be a very different one for SAS Victoria, with an expanded staff team positioned to help shape a sexual assault strategy for Victoria.



# Advocacy, reform, influence

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SAS Victoria contributed to the work of a wide range of committees, advisory and reference groups (government and non-government) over the past year, with the aim of increasing focus on sexual assault and abuse and elevating the voices and perspectives of victim survivors.

We wrote submissions to a range of inquiries and regularly provided comment to media outlets.

## Advisory committees, reference & working groups

- ❖ Family Violence Reform Advisory Group
- ❖ Family Safety Victoria/SAS Victoria Executive Reference Group
- ❖ FSV Centre for Workforce Excellence (CWE):
  - FSV Advanced Supervision Pilot Program
  - FSV Workforce Attraction and Recruitment Campaign
  - FSV Traineeships Stakeholder Workshops
  - FSV Health & Wellbeing Project
- ❖ FSV CWE / RMIT Workforce Project Expert Advisory Group
- ❖ FSV / Peaks regular meetings
- ❖ FSV MARAMIS Expert Advisory Group
- ❖ Strengthening Hospital Responses to FV Project Advisory Group
- ❖ MDC Statewide Operational Reference Group
- ❖ DJCS Sexual Offences Reform Subgroup
- ❖ ANROWS Practitioner Engagement Group
- ❖ National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence (NASASV)

## Policy advice, consultations & submissions

SAS Victoria contributed our practice and policy expertise to a wide range of inquiries over the year, through submissions and consultations with our members across state and national policy environments.

Through this work we highlighted persistent sexual assault policy advocacy concerns and issues, tapping into the experiences and expertise of our members and of their clients as appropriate; and sharing our expertise and collaborating with sector partners as relevant.

### Our key submissions included:

- ❖ A submission to the **Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor**, outlining our concerns about the invisibility of and silence around sexual assault in many family violence reform implementation spaces.
- ❖ Consultations and submissions to inform the **Family Violence Rolling Action Plan 2020-2023**. We successfully lobbied for sexual assault to be included in a more substantial way within the next Rolling Action Plan.
- ❖ A submission to the **Australian Parliament House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy & Legal Affairs** Inquiry into family, domestic and sexual violence, to help

inform the next National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children. We stressed the need to name and address intra-familial sexual assault in the next National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children.

- ❖ A submission to the **Victorian Law Reform Commission (VLRC)** in relation to the inquiry into **Improving the Response of the Justice System to Sexual Offences** (see 'Highlight' below for key themes addressed in our submission).
- ❖ A submission to the **VLRC** in relation to the **Issues Paper** exploring options for a '**Grab and Drag**' Offence. Rather than introducing a separate offence, we indicated our support to change existing offences to include 'grab and drag' actions.

### Key policy engagements included:

- ❖ Consultations with the **Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP)** in relation to the inquiry into children and young people who go missing from care, and their experience of victimisation, including as victims of sexual exploitation.
- ❖ Several consultations with the **Department of Justice & Community Safety (DJCS)** in relation to reforms of the **Judicial Proceedings Reports Act**. The reforms were a response to the #LetHerSpeak campaign, and recommendations of the VLRC Contempt Inquiry, and intended to make it easier for victim survivors of sexual offences to tell their stories. We supported the principle that survivors should have control of their own stories; and safeguards via a victim privacy order to protect the identity of deceased victims of sexual offending in appropriate cases.
- ❖ Consultations with the **VLRC Stalking reference** team and the SAS and HSB Networks.
- ❖ Ongoing consultations with DJCS regarding the introduction a standalone **Non-fatal strangulation offence**. SAS Vic continued to raise concerns about the increasing prevalence and severity of injury caused by non-fatal strangulation; and the need to raise awareness about the dangers of strangulation and suffocation.
- ❖ Consultation with DJCS regarding the **Financial Assistance Scheme for Victims of Crime**.
- ❖ Consultation with the office of the **Victims of Crime Commissioner** in relation to **Compliance with the Victims' Charter**, and current compliance requirements of members.

## HIGHLIGHT

An inquiry of significant interest with implications for the work of SAS Vic and our members was the **Victorian Law Reform Commission (VLRC)** inquiry into **Improving the Response of the Justice System to Sexual Offences**.

We spent a considerable amount of time liaising with and arranging consultation sessions with the VLRC and our members, via Network meetings and targeted sessions around a range of issues being considered as part of the review.

Our members held their own in-service sessions with staff, to facilitate their contributions to our SAS Vic submission, which was forwarded to the VLRC in December 2020.

Some of the key themes and recommendations addressed in our submission included:

- ❖ The need for **shared understandings** and definitions - about the prevalence, nature and dynamics of sexual assault and harm; the range of behaviours that constitute sexual assault; the settings in which it occurs; the prevalence of sexual assault within families and as part of family violence; and about children and young people as victims of sexual harm.
- ❖ The need for **greater investment** in building the capacity of the universal service system to respond earlier; increase screening for suspected abuse; improve information and referrals to specialist sexual assault services; and ensure greater visibility of access points for crisis support, information, and counselling and support. Responses need to be inclusive of and targeted to diverse groups.
- ❖ The need for **cultural change and increased specialisation** within the legal and justice system (police, Office of Public Prosecutions, Courts, lawyers); and reforms (including independent advisors) to support victims through the legal process so they can access coordinated trauma informed, victim centred responses and specialist support, from first report to finalisation in the justice system.
- ❖ **Education and training programs** to target and dispel the myths around sexual abuse; raise awareness about issues of consent, and the introduction of a communicative consent model that requires parties to demonstrate that they took steps to ensure that the other party was consenting.
- ❖ Ensuring that victim survivors (including children) have **the right to a forensic medical examination** regardless of police referral, location or institution in the context of COVID-19; and 'Just In Case' Forensic Medical Examinations (JICS) must be accessible to all victims.
- ❖ Strengthened provisions to **protect 'confidential communications'** records; **joint hearings** where there are multiple victims of the same offender; and a Model Bill that would change the test on tendency and coincidence in Victoria, as adopted in NSW.
- ❖ A **governance framework** that systematises and regulates partnerships between agencies such as Victoria Police, VIFM, Child Protection and Sexual Assault Services to work together on behalf of victim survivors, through **strengthened codes of practice**.
- ❖ A **Statewide Sexual Assault Strategy** incorporating prevention to tertiary responses across ages and settings, and

- ❖ **Consolidating data and evidence** to measure impact, manage responses and measure outcomes across all jurisdictions is required to develop (and inform) comprehensive responses to sexual violence within our community.

## Media / social media

The SAS Victoria Convenor and members responded to a wide range of media inquiries and requests for comment across print media, radio and television during the last financial year. Additionally, SAS Victoria and its member agencies engaged in social media via the SAS Victoria website and a dedicated SAS Victoria twitter account.

### **SAS Victoria website: [www.sasvic.org.au](http://www.sasvic.org.au)**

The new SAS Victoria website went live on 11 November 2020. The process of transitioning material from the CASA Forum website continues.

In the period from go-live to 30 June 2021, 2,500 people:

- ❖ visited the SAS Victoria website 3,100 times
- ❖ viewed 7,800 web pages

### **Twitter: @CASAForum / @SASVictoria**

In the year to 30 June 2021 our Twitter account:

- ❖ attracted an additional 667 followers, bringing the total to 952.
- ❖ generated 4,739 profile visits (ie clicked through to details about SAS Vic/ who we are).
- ❖ over 73,000 twitter impressions.

# Alliances, campaigns & joint projects

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SAS Vic continued to work with key sector allies and partners on a range of projects, campaigns and joint reform projects and campaigns.

- ❖ With funding from FSV, SAS Vic and DV Vic completed **Progressing Recommendation 31: Phase 1 Project** which explored opportunities for improved collaboration between specialist family violence and sexual assault services. We delivered our report to FSV in September 2020 that identified 20 recommendations for work required to ‘align[ing] policy and practice response to family violence and sexual assault’.<sup>2</sup> (SAS Vic has since been funded to implement a number of these recommendations in partnership with DV Vic over the next two years).
- ❖ Sexual assault services were included as a target group in the DV Vic/ Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare **NDIS Sector Capacity Building project**. We worked with the project leads as part of an advisory group, providing feedback on project plans and training materials, and promoting the training to members.
- ❖ SAS Vic was included as a partner in the FSV funded **Disability Inclusion Project**, designed to improve access for people with disabilities to family violence and sexual assault services. We received a small grant to facilitate our participation in the project advisory group (still to convene); and provide feedback on program guidelines and materials. (SAS Vic has also now been funded by FSV facilitate broader capacity building in our sector in relation to disability).
- ❖ We worked with sector partners DV Vic, Switchboard and NTV to develop a joint consortium bid to FSV for a **LGBTIQ inclusion capacity building project** for our three sectors. While the bid was unsuccessful, SAS Vic has now received separate funding to assist us to build LGBTIQ capacity our sector, over the next year.
- ❖ SAS Vic continues to work with the Women’s Health Victoria-led **Women’s Mental Health Alliance**, a group of organisations and professionals that has been able to provide a critical gendered analysis of the Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health System final report that was released in March 2021. The Alliance has provided expert advice to policy makers and health services, and undertaken advocacy to ensure all women have access to evidence-based, gender-sensitive and trauma-informed mental health support.
- ❖ SAS Vic continues to be represented on the **Victorian Forced Marriage Network**.
- ❖ We continued to work with and support the Victoria Legal Aid-led **Power 2 Prevent Campaign**, with allies and sector partners, to call on State, Territory and Federal Governments to implement reforms to ensure sexual harassment free workplaces.
- ❖ We joined the **March4Justice** rally in Melbourne’s Treasury Gardens in March 2021, with staff of several member services walking together under the new SAS Vic banner.

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<sup>2</sup> State of Victoria, Royal Commission into Family Violence: Summary and recommendations, Parl Paper No 132 (2014–16).

# Specialist practice & expertise

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## SAS Victoria Workforce Development

SAS Vic provides a statewide workforce development program for staff in all Department of Families, Fairness and Housing funded sexual assault services. Training – across SAS essential foundations, SAS advanced training, and harmful sexual behaviour programs – continues to be in high demand, often oversubscribed, and generate highly rated evaluations.

During the 2020-2021 financial year, the following programs were delivered:

### SAS Essential Foundations:

- ❖ Assessment and case formulation with adults
- ❖ Assessment and case formulation through a trauma lens with children
- ❖ Working with victim survivors with Cognitive Impairment and/or complex communication needs
- ❖ Challenging Emotions: Safely Supporting Clients to Approach the Unapproachable
- ❖ Supporting Victim/Survivors through the Legal System
- ❖ Facilitation and presentation
- ❖ Working with Men
- ❖ Trauma Focused Cognitive Therapy – Helping Sexual Assault Survivors

### SAS Advanced:

- ❖ Therapeutic uses of music with children, young people and families
- ❖ Dialectical Behavioural Therapy for Survivors of CSA with Complex Presentations
- ❖ Trauma and the Moving Body
- ❖ Compassion Focused Therapy for Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse
- ❖ Resisting Vicarious Trauma with Solidarity & Collective Care
- ❖ External Regulator in Traumatic Play
- ❖ Polyvagal Theory with Trauma Survivors

### HSB programs:

- ❖ Doing Shame without shaming Part 2
- ❖ Autism spectrum disorder and sexualised behaviour
- ❖ Working with children engaging in PSB and or HSB
- ❖ Clinical formulation and Assessment
- ❖ Using Strengths Based work when working with children who have engaged in harmful sexual behaviours
- ❖ Developmental Dyadic Psychotherapy Workshop
- ❖ Sensory Motor Arousal Regulation Treatment -SMART Model
- ❖ Affective Possibilities: a Neuro-politics with young people

## Communities of practice

### **Senior Practitioners Forum**

Senior Practitioners have continued to meet bi-monthly, to provide mutual support, share experiences of systems responses, update each other on new developments, share policy and procedures and discuss clinical issues and implications of funding and reform work.

### **Prevention Practitioners Community of Practice**

SAS Vic developed Terms of Reference and established a Prevention Practitioners Community of Practice, to enable lead prevention practitioners to access peer support, share expertise and resources, develop shared approaches and identify prevention opportunities and demand, and explore funding and resource implications.

## MARAMIS Capacity Building Program for SAS & HSB services

SAS Victoria has continued to build capacity in SAS and HSB services around the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme, the Child Information Sharing Scheme, and the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework (MARAM), supporting services to embed the reforms.

The project has mapped sector practice, challenges, gaps and support needs of our member services'; enabled us to develop tailored tools, templates and resources; and deliver training and workshops to support staff to build their knowledge and align their practice. Project workers initiated a sector-specific community of practice that was well received and attended by members.

SAS Vic also worked with DV Vic and NTV to deliver four cross sector webinars, with overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants. Recordings of the webinars are available via the SAS Vic website. Webinars covered topics of:

**Webinar #1:** Exploring the foundations of asking and responding to sexual assault in the context of family violence.

**Webinar #2:** Exploring how we respond to sexual violence within intimate partner relationships as a coordinated system and how system responses can maintain a victim-survivor centered approach.

**Webinar #3:** Responding to complexities in intimate partner violence in LGBTIQ relationships.

**Webinar #4:** Responding to Serious Risk: Sexual Assault in the context of intimate partner violence.

## Sexual assault prevention activities, training and community education

Over the past year sexual assault services have provided training and professional education for other sectors, and community education in a wide range of settings. Programs cover the continuum from prevention to response including responding to disclosure training; delivery of respectful relationship programs; specialist information and support for disability sector workers; and advanced personal safety programs and in primary schools.

Other programs and settings included:

- ❖ Hospitals and medical settings, including the Strengthening Hospital Responses program
- ❖ Primary, secondary and tertiary education settings
- ❖ Youth services
- ❖ Kindergarten/ long day care
- ❖ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services
- ❖ CALD services
- ❖ Community Health Services
- ❖ Prisons
- ❖ Independent Third Person Program
- ❖ Child placement and protection services
- ❖ Aged care facilities
- ❖ Mental Health services
- ❖ Disability services

## Standards of Practice Manual

In 2000 CASA Forum launched its first Standards of Practice Manual (The Standards) to guide the work of member services to ensure quality, consistent state-wide counselling services, education and training programs across all funded sexual assault services.

The Standards are currently being reviewed and updated to ensure alignment with MARAMIS, and other legal and reform initiatives.



# Membership | Board | Staff

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Formerly CASA Forum, Sexual Assault Services Victoria (SAS Victoria) is the newly incorporated and expanded peak body for sexual assault services and harmful sexual behaviour services.

## Our members

<i>Ballarat CASA</i>	Shireen Gunn
<i>CASA House</i>	Jenna Tuke
<i>Eastern CASA</i>	Melinda Dows
<i>Gatehouse Centre</i>	Karen Hogan
<i>Gippsland CASA</i>	Jane Barr
<i>Goulburn Valley CASA</i>	Andrea Caia
<i>CASA Central Victoria (CASACV)</i>	Kate Wright
<i>Mallee Sexual Assault Unit/ Mallee Domestic Violence Service</i>	Jo Sheehan-Paterson
<i>Northern CASA</i>	Heather Clarke
<i>Sexual Assault Crisis Line (SACL)</i>	Dianne Rokvic & Barbara Drossos
<i>South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault (SECASA)</i>	Katherine Dowson
<i>South Western CASA</i>	Mary Clapham
<i>The Sexual Assault and Family Violence Centre</i>	Helen Bolton
<i>Centre Against Violence – Ovens &amp; Murray CASA</i>	Kerry Burns
<i>West CASA</i>	Robyn Mclvor
<i>Australian Childhood Foundation</i>	Jenny Wing
<i>Kids First</i>	Christine Denton

## Our Board

<i>Chair</i>	Karen Hogan
<i>Deputy Chair/Convenor SAS Network</i>	Kate Wright
<i>Secretary</i>	Kerry Burns
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jo Sheehan-Paterson
<i>Convenor HSB Network</i>	Jenny Wing
<i>Member</i>	Shireen Gunn (to 15/10/2020)
<i>Member</i>	Katherine Dowson
<i>Member</i>	Jane Barr
<i>Member</i>	Robyn Mclvor
<i>Member</i>	Christine Denton

## Our staff

<i>Policy Officer</i>	Libby Eltringham
<i>MARAMIS Capacity Building Project Worker</i>	Alice Henderson (to May 2021)
<i>MARAMIS Capacity Building Project Worker</i>	Eleni Kyrpigikidis

# Network reports

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## Sexual Assault Services Network Report 2020-2021 Kate Wright, Chair

Following the election of a new Board In February 2020, SAS Victoria renewed member meetings via the SAS Network and the Harmful Sexual Behaviours Networks. These have continued to meet monthly, but because of the pandemic, all meetings have been online.

The SAS Network brings together representatives of 17 funded Sexual Assault Services that provide specialist therapeutic counselling, advocacy and education in over 90 locations across Victoria. Collectively, member agencies employ around 400 specialist staff working with children, young people and adults. With over 30 years' experience, member services are committed to ensuring quality support and advocacy for all clients and engaging the community and other organisations in preventing and responding to sexual violence.

This year has involved responding to the impact of COVID 19 for clients and advocating for additional funding to reduce the expanding service waitlists for clients across the state.

The Network advocated strongly for consistent access to forensic medical examinations (FME) by the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine for people recently assaulted during COVID 19. Service locations were restricted forcing victim survivors to travel and or experience delays in accessing an FME. Network members also contributed their expertise, evidence and experience to SAS Vic submissions including to the Victorian Law Reform Commission 'Improving Justice Responses to Sexual Offences' Inquiry, and to the Family Violence Reform Rolling Action Plan 2020-2023.

The SAS Network also provides Government and other partners with a point of contact for consultation and discussion regarding policy, research and new initiatives; and is the forum for partnerships, policy and practice development for the sexual assault sector.



## Harmful Sexual Behaviours Network Report 2020-2021

### Jenny Wing, Chair

Since 2007, the Harmful Sexual Behaviour Network (formerly the CEASE Network) has represented the collaborative voice of specialist services funded to deliver treatment to children and young people who have engaged in harmful sexual behaviours. The Network has a primary focus on sector and practice development and provides a collective approach to model development across the sector. The Network's focus is to work together with government to identify and resolve operational and systemic issues that impact service delivery and outcomes for young people who engage in harmful sexual behaviours.

Over the course of the past 12 months, the Network has addressed emerging themes such as the increase in number of young people being placed on short term (3 month) Diversion Orders through the Children's Court, rather than being referred for a full therapeutic treatment service (12-18 months) through a Therapeutic Treatment Order. Strengthening relationships between therapeutic providers and Victoria Police is a key priority for the Network in 2021/22 to continue to develop understanding around the therapeutic treatment needs of young people who engage in harmful sexual behaviours and who come to the attention of police and courts.

Engaging young people who have engaged in harmful sexual behaviour prior to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, but who require therapeutic treatment that is developmentally appropriate for their age has been an area for development across many member organisations this year. We continue to work together to build capacity across our sector to meaningfully engage older young people in this important therapeutic work.

Throughout the year, the Network has participated in several sector consultations relevant to the current Victorian Law Reform Commission's review, and with the Victims of Crime Commission, and is actively contributing to the development of Victoria's whole of government sexual assault strategy.

The Network also utilises member expertise and international sector colleagues to continue to build knowledge and capability across our Victorian services. In 2020/21 year 110 specialist HSB clinicians participated in professional development workshops offered through Sexual Assault Victoria's Workforce Development program. Learning focus areas included: "Autism spectrum disorder and sexualised behaviour"; "Working with children engaging in PSP or HSB"; "Using strength based work when working with children have engaged in harmful sexual behaviours"; "Dyadic therapy DDP inspired workshop". As we continue to strengthen our workforce expertise, future workshops for the coming year include exploration of the use of sensory tools for regulation, addressing HSB by young people with an intellectual disability, working with families in context of sibling abuse, and clinical formulation and assessment.

We look forward to continuing our collaborative sector development work in the coming year.

# Financial Report

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## SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES VICTORIA INCORPORATED

### OPERATING STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Total Year 2021 \$	Total Year 2020 \$
Revenue	1,353,044	152,646
Employee benefits expense	█ (231,301)	█ (187,578)
Administration & operating expenses	(167,738)	(59,544)
	-	-
Interest expense	-	-
<b><i>Profit before income tax expense</i></b>	<u>954,005</u>	<u>(94,476)</u>
<b><i>Income tax expense</i></b>	-	-
<b><i>Profit from operations</i></b>	<u>954,005</u>	<u>(94,476)</u>
Depreciation & amortisation expenses		

### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Total Year 2021 \$	Total Year 2020 \$
Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year	240,178	334,654
Net profit from operations after tax	954,005	(94,476)
Retained profits at the end of the financial year	<u>1,194,183</u>	<u>240,178</u>

# SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES VICTORIA INCORPORATED

## BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	1,264,110	332,649
Trade and other receivables	3	15,786	-
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<u>1,279,896</u>	<u>332,649</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u>1,279,896</u>	<u>332,649</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	4	70,533	92,471
Provisions	5	14,084	-
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<u>84,617</u>	<u>92,471</u>
<b>Non Current Liabilities</b>			
Provisions	5	1,096	-
<b>Total Non Current Liabilities</b>		<u>1,096</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u>85,713</u>	<u>92,471</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>1,194,183</u>	<u>240,178</u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained earnings		1,194,183	240,178
<b>Total Equity</b>		<u>1,194,183</u>	<u>240,178</u>

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

		Total Year 2021	Total Year 2020
<b>Cash Flows From Operating Activities</b>			
Operating grants receipts		1,317,132	-
Payments to suppliers and employees		(427,047)	(141,033)
Interest received		98	367
Other income		26,098	31,500
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	6a	<u>916,281</u>	<u>(109,166)</u>
<b>Cash Flows From Investing Activities</b>			
Purchase of property, plant & equipment		-	-
Proceeds from sale of property, plant & equipment		-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Cash Flows From Financing Activities</b>			
Proceeds of borrowings		-	-
Repayment of borrowings		-	-
<b>Net cash used In financing activities</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net increase in cash held</b>		<u>916,281</u>	<u>(109,166)</u>
<b>Cash at beginning of year</b>		332,649	441,815
<b>Cash at end of year</b>	6b	<u>1,248,930</u>	<u>332,649</u>

# SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES VICTORIA INCORPORATED

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Total Year 2021 \$	Total Year 2020 \$
<b>Note 2: Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		
SAS Vic Cheque Account	961,823	-
CASA Cheque Account	-	30,460
CASA Online Saver Account	<u>302,287</u>	<u>302,189</u>
	<u>1,264,110</u>	<u>332,649</u>
<b>Note 3: Trade and Other Receivables</b>		
Accounts Receivable	9,716	-
Tax Receivable	<u>6,070</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>15,786</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Note 4: Trade and Other Payables</b>		
CURRENT		
Accounts Payable	<u>70,533</u>	<u>92,471</u>
<b>Note 5: Provisions</b>		
CURRENT		
Employee Entitlements	<u>14,084</u>	<u>-</u>
NON-CURRENT		
Employee Entitlements	<u>1,096</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Note 6: Cash Flow Information</b>		
<b>(a) Reconciliation Of Cash from Operations with Profit from Ordinary Activities after Income Tax</b>		
<i>Profit after income tax</i>	954,005	(94,476)
Cash flows excluded from profit attributable to operating activities		
Non-cash flows in profit:		
Depreciation	-	-
Amortisation	-	-
(Profit)/ Loss on disposal of assets	-	-
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)Decrease in receivables	(15,786)	-
(Decrease)Increase in payables	(21,938)	(14,690)
(Decrease)Increase in provisions	<u>15,180</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Cash Flow from Operating Activities</i>	<u>916,281</u>	<u>(109,166)</u>
<b>(b) Reconciliation of cash</b>		
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>1,264,110</u>	<u>332,649</u>
<b>Note 7: Committed Funds</b>		
The following amounts represent recurrent funding received in the current financial year, committed for use in future years.		
	<u>925,940</u>	<u>-</u>

# SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES VICTORIA INCORPORATED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

### **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.



# SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES VICTORIA INCORPORATED

## DETAILED INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Total Year 2021 \$	Total Year 2020 \$
<b>Revenue</b>		
Recurrent Grants	1,317,132	120,779
Memberships	27,000	22,500
Interest	98	367
Reimbursements and Sundry Income	8,814	9,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,353,044</b>	<b>152,646</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Administration Costs	73,610	2,703
Advertising	15,303	1,750
Consultancy Fees	12,180	-
Office Rental	35,067	34,989
Catering	-	1,743
Community Development	-	54
Dues & Subscriptions	1,832	1,781
Educational Materials	-	4,759
Employee Entitlements	20,901	-
IT Support	3,400	-
Printing and Stationary	532	-
Repairs / Minor Equipment	1,680	5,770

Salaries	195,244	165,451
Superannuation	18,181	15,584
Workcover	5,822	1,117
Professional Development	11,598	4,647
Travelling	456	779
Telephone	1,959	1,904
Vehicle Costs	1,274	4,091
<b><i>Total Expenditure</i></b>	<b>399,039</b>	<b>247,122</b>
<b><i>PROFIT / LOSS FROM OPERATIONS</i></b>	<b>954,005</b>	<b>(94,476)</b>