

SEXUAL ASSAULT & HARASSMENT FACTSHEET

What to do

Sexual assault and harassment can happen to anyone, and it can happen anywhere. Sexual assault and harassment are against the law in Australia. Everyone has the right to feel safe. If you or someone you know experiences sexual assault or harassment, seek support.

WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT & HARASSMENT?

Sexual assault is any type of sexual contact or behaviour that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient. Consent means a person must freely (without coercion, force, intimidation or any other means) agree to the activity.

Examples

- Unwanted touching, hugging or kissing
- Forced viewing of pornographic content or sexual acts
- Public exposure
- Sextortion
- Incest
- Rape

Sexual harassment is unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that causes a person to feel offended, humiliated or intimidated, including sexual assault.

Examples

- Persistent unwanted sexual advances or requests to go out
- Offensive sexual comments or jokes
- Sexually suggestive behaviour, such as leering or staring

Statistics (Australia)

1 in 5 women and 1 in 10 men are sexually assaulted in their life

90% of sexual assaults occur without injury

70% of perpetrators are known (e.g. family, friend, or colleague)

60% of sexual assaults occur in the home, car or workplace of either person

17% of sexual assaults are reported to the Police

2% of sexual assault reports are false

WHAT TO DO IF YOU EXPERIENCE SEXUAL ASSAULT OR HARASSMENT

Immediate assistance

If you or someone you know is unsafe or needs immediate assistance, for example if you are hurt or injured, call for help as soon as you can.

- On campus — Security 9919 6666 (24/7)
- Off campus — Police & Ambulance 000 (Triple Zero)

Physical evidence: you may have physical evidence on you (such as hair, saliva, or semen), it is important to maintain evidence where possible.

Medical attention: you should see a medical professional to treat any injuries, and screen for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) or pregnancy.

Report

Report your concerns or an incident of sexual assault and harassment. You will receive confidential advice and assistance about your options, as well as referrals to support services.

- On campus
 - Security 9919 4999 (24/7) or Security.Centre@vu.edu.au
 - Safer Community 9919 5707 or Safer.Community@vu.edu.au
- Off campus
 - Victoria Police, Sexual Offence and Child Abuse Investigation Teams (SOCIT) find online at www.police.vic.gov.au

If you feel uncomfortable reporting, talk to a trusted friend or family member. Ask them to help you make contact or to come with you to report.

Control over your report: when you report to the University you have control over the action we take. We will not take any action without your knowledge.

Anonymous reports to the University: where possible to contact you, we will provide advice about your options and referrals to support services. However, the University's ability to respond will be limited.

Seek advice and support

Seek free and confidential counselling support. Sexual assault and harassment can be traumatic, so your usual coping mechanisms may be affected. Normal and common reactions to sexual assault and harassment may feel strange or uncomfortable. Counselling support can assist you to manage these impacts.

- On campus
 - Student Counselling 9919 5400
 - Staff EAP 1300 327 288 (24/7)
- Off campus
 - Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA) 9635 3610 (business hours) or 1800 806 292 (after hours)

If you feel uncomfortable seeking professional support, talk to a trusted friend or family member and ask them to help you contact a support service.

SAFETY AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Get help on campus

VUSafe (App)

All your safety and support services at VU in one app! Features: a silent alarm to Campus Security for immediate assistance, safety notifications, request first aid or a security escort, track the VU shuttle bus, start a virtual safe walk with a friend, report a tip to campus security, campus maps, emergency plans, as well as support services on and off campus. Download free for [iOS](#) and [Android](#).

www.vu.edu.au/safety-app

Security Services

Request a security escort, report a concern or incident, or seek emergency assistance on campus.

www.vu.edu.au/security

P: 9919 6666 (Emergency) or 9919 4999 (Enquiry)

Safer Community

Advice, assistance and referrals for students who experience or witness concerning behaviours on or off campus, including bullying, stalking, harassment, family violence, and sexual assault. Read our online resources, and report something concerning by phone, email or online.

www.vu.edu.au/safer-community

P: 9919 5707 E: Safer.Community@vu.edu.au

Student Advocacy

Confidential advice, support and representation to help you progress successfully during your course, for example discuss your progress, prepare for show cause hearings, attend misconduct hearings and advice on special consideration.

www.vu.edu.au/student-advocacy

P: 9919 5400 E: advocacy@vu.edu.au

Student Counselling

A free and confidential support service. You can speak to a counsellor about any concerns affecting your experience at VU or attend workshops to enhance study and personal skills, including time-management, and emotional intelligence.

www.vu.edu.au/counselling

P: 9919 5400

Student Matters

Manage the University complaint resolution process. Students can lodge a complaint in relation to the provision of University services or functions, behaviour of another student, or allegations of discrimination, harassment and bullying.

www.vu.edu.au/complaint-resolution

P: 9919 5007 E: Student.Matters@vu.edu.au

Welfare Services

Senior advisers provide free and confidential support and assistance to help you with a range of issues, including welfare, finance, and housing support. Our international student advisors are available to provide specialist advice for international students.

www.vu.edu.au/welfare

P: 9919 6100

Get help off campus

Sexual Offence and Child Abuse Investigation Teams (SOCIT)

Specialist Police trained to respond to and investigate sexual offences.

www.police.vic.gov.au

P: 000

Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA)

Comprehensive and timely support and intervention for sexual assault.

www.casa.org.au

P: 9635 3610

Sexual Assault Crisis Line

After hours crisis counselling and support service for victims of sexual assault.

www.sacl.com.au

P: 1800 806 292

National Sexual Assault Domestic Violence Service

24/7 phone and online counselling service for victims of sexual assault.

www.1800respect.org.au

P: 1800 737 732

Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission

After hours crisis counselling and support service for victims of sexual assault.

www.sacl.com.au

P: 1800 806 292

Men's Referral Service

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

www.ntvmrs.org.au

P: 1300 766 491

References

www.thelookout.org.au/fact-sheet-2-sexual-assault

www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?Document_ID=43353

www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/sex-discrimination