

What are people telling us?

“He molested me when I was 8 years old”

“I do not want this happening to anyone else”

“... a convicted paedophile (is) housed across the street ... (he) has been seen recently standing at the bus stop (watching) groups of school children”

“I wish I had the courage to take this further but this is all I can do at this time. I am not sure if this will help anyone but it just might and it helps me heal”

“He was my Martial Arts instructor ...”

“He is the new boyfriend of the mother ...”

“He is my husband”

“... I witnessed a woman touching her daughter ... The little girl was crying saying don't mummy”

“I said NO but she wouldn't stop, I left and she still is after me, I am hiding”

“... he has been involved in community groups with children for the past 30 years, we are compelled to speak up”

“Please help ... please tell me that what happened was not my fault”

“... the pain was incredible ... I never told anyone ... I am continually haunted by the experience”

“He touched me where I feel ashamed, I am scared he will hurt me if I say anything ... he's in a high position, I don't want people to get hurt like I did. I trusted him”

“I didn't report it or even get mad because I blamed myself for getting drunk and thinking I deserved it ...”

“I felt powerless, as though I didn't have a voice, and who would listen to me now?”

Contact SECASA

Crisis 03 9594 2289 (24 hour)

Toll Free 1800 806 292 (24 hour)

www.secasa.com.au

Sexual Assault Report Anonymously

www.sara.org.au

The South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence (SECASA) provides sexual assault and family violence services in the Southern Metropolitan region of Melbourne to children and adults, both female and male, who have been sexually or physically assaulted. SECASA operates under the auspices of Monash Health.

About SARA

The SARA mobile friendly website was created by and is maintained by the South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence (SECASA) in Melbourne.

Anyone in Australia can use SARA to anonymously report sexual assault.

Reporters can describe the incident and the offender in as much or as little detail as they choose.

No information about the reporter is required. The police **do not** receive any information about the reporter.

If reporters choose to leave their **contact** details, a SECASA worker will call them within **48 hours**, or on the **next business day**. The worker will speak with the reporter about counselling options and police follow-up. The worker can help facilitate communication with police.

SARA is the only **Australia-wide anonymous reporting mechanism for sexual assault**.

Information provided to SARA is passed on to police and contributes to police intelligence about sexual assault, helping to keep our community safer. There is an ever-growing Australia-wide community of police who use SARA data.

SARA is a secure site which uses SSL Hi Grade **encryption**.

Prevalence of sexual assault

- In 2012 approximately 17% (almost 1.5 million) of Australian women and 4% (336,000) of men had experienced sexual assault since the age of 15. ¹
- In 2005, almost 60% (57.4%) of female victim/survivors and 66.5% of male victim/survivors were **under 35**. ²
- Approximately 88% of female and 75% of male victim/survivors are assaulted by a **known person**. ³
- **8 out of 10** women **do not report** to police. ⁴ Women assaulted by a known person are **much less likely** to report to police than those assaulted by a stranger. ⁵

- Of the 2013-2014 **SARA reporters** who provide some details, 94% had never told anyone and at least 39% had been sexually assaulted on multiple occasions before telling SARA.

Universities and sexual assault

In 2011 the Australian National Union of Students conducted a survey about violence against women. Some key results from the 1549 respondents are:

- 86% had experienced someone making unwanted sexual comments
- 35% had experienced unwanted groping or touching
- 67% had an unwanted sexual experience
- 31% had sex when they were, or felt, unable to consent
- 17% had been raped
- 12% had experienced attempted rape
- 56% said their attacker was an acquaintance or friend, and 22% said that they knew their attacker intimately
- Only 3% of respondents who had experienced assault or harassment had reported it to their university
- Only 2% had reported it to police
- 68% stated that they did not report the incident because they didn't think it was serious enough. ⁶

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2012, Personal Safety Survey. Cat. 4906.0

2. Tarczon C and Quadara A 2012, ACSSA Resource Sheet: The Nature and Extent of Sexual Assault and Abuse in Australia. p 8.

3. ABS 2012, op. cit.

4. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2005, Personal Safety Survey. Cat 4906.0

5. Lievore D 2003, Non-reporting and Hidden Recording of Sexual Assault: An International Literature Review.

6. Sloane C 2011, Talk about it survey: Results and recommendations.