

WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT?

Sexual assault is any unwanted or forced sexual contact with another person. This can be any act from touching someone to forcing them to have sex against their will.

Sexual assault is a crime.

Types of sexual assault

A person can be charged with sexual assault if they:

- put their finger, penis, hand or tongue, or an object, into another persons vagina, anus or mouth against their will
- force a person to put objects into their own vagina or anus
- perform oral sex on a person against their will, or make them perform oral sex.

It is also a crime if a person tries to do any of these things.

Who does it affect?

ANYONE!!

You can be straight, gay, lesbian, transgender , young, old, male, female, of any cultural or religious background AND be a victim of sexual assault. Some people are more vulnerable to sexual assault but it can happen to anyone.

Getting help

If you have been recently assaulted...

1. Go to a safe place
2. Tell a friend or family member
3. Call the NSW Rape Crisis Centre for support (1800 424 017)

Reporting to police:

- Reporting to the police is your choice.
- If you decide to report to the police, it is recommended that you do not: wash, eat, drink or brush your teeth, use the toilet, or tidy anything including yourself. All of these activities can affect evidence the police could use. It is advised that you have a medical examination as soon as possible.
- To make a report call 000



General support

If you or someone you know has experienced sexual assault there are many organisations that can provide free and confidential advice and support.

- **NSW Rape Crisis Centre**
1800 424 017 (24 hour)
- **Your local sexual assault service** (contact details will be provided by your local hospital or the NSW Rape Crisis Centre)
- **ACON Lesbian & Gay Anti-Violence Project**
1800 063 060 - (10am-6pm)
- **Kids Helpline**
1800 551 800 (24 hour)

General information is also available on the internet:

- *NSW Rape Crisis Centre*
www.nswrapecrisis.com.au
- *Bursting the Bubble*
www.burstingthebubble.com
- *When Love Hurts*
www.dvirc.org.au/whenlove
- *Kids Helpline*
www.kidshelpline.com.au

Helping a Friend – A note to remember

People who are affected by violence will often turn to friends and family. It is important that you listen and support them without passing judgment on the situation. Your guidance and support will help them to make decisions to keep them safe and make them feel stronger.

