



Australian
Human Rights
Commission

Release of the report on sexual assault and sexual harassment at Australian universities

On Tuesday 1 August 2017, the Australian Human Rights Commission will release its national report on sexual assault and sexual harassment at Australian universities.

This report contains sensitive information about the nature and extent of sexual assault and sexual harassment. Our primary concern is ensuring that this information is released in a way that ensures, as far as possible, the safety of survivors of sexual assault and sexual harassment.

For this reason, we have taken steps to keep the national and institutional data from the survey conducted by the Commission confidential until the release of our national report on 1 August, when appropriate support services for survivors will be in place. As announced over the weekend, a national 1800 hotline to provide support to student survivors will be operational from this date (<http://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/real-life/news-life/victory-for-students-free-hotline-announced-for-victims-of-sexual-assault/news-story/2d918c227be31858eef0ed25fd701274>).

The Commission provided university Vice-Chancellors with embargoed, confidential copies of the national report and their institutional data on Tuesday 25 July 2017.

We have given advance copies of this information to Vice-Chancellors because we expect them to consider our recommendations and the resources required to respond to them in a timely manner.

We have asked that Vice-Chancellors keep the national report and their institutional data confidential. However, we have encouraged them to consult with their student representatives regarding the support services required for the release of the report on 1 August and into the future.

We acknowledge that students have played a vital role in this project. Many student representatives have taken a leadership role on these issues within their universities.

We recognise that our approach may be disappointing for student representatives who had hoped to receive an advance copy of the report. However, our primary concern is ensuring that the information contained within the report is released in a uniform way, with appropriate safeguards in place.

The Commission will provide a briefing for student representatives on the report at 10am on Monday 31 July 2017. This briefing will not contain the confidential prevalence statistics. However, it will provide the information that student representatives require to prepare their organisations for the release of the report.

Any student representative who wishes to attend the briefing on the 31st, either in person at the Commission's offices or via Skype, should RSVP to

universitiesproject@humanrights.gov.au by this Friday 28 July 2017. Please also advise of any accessibility requirements when you RSVP.

The national report on sexual assault and sexual harassment at Australian universities will be available on the Commission's website at 10.00am on **Tuesday 1 August** at www.humanrights.gov.au/universityreport. It will include a concise Executive Summary outlining the key findings and data. All 39 universities have committed to publicly releasing their institutional data on the same day.

Key dates

- **Tuesday 25 July 2017** – Embargoed copy of the national report and institutional-level data provided to Vice-Chancellors.
- **Monday 31 July 2017** – Briefing for student representatives.
- **Tuesday 1 August 2017** – Report released on the Commission's website and national hotline operational.

If you have any questions about the release of the report, please contact the Australian Human Rights Commission at universitiesproject@humanrights.gov.au.

List of support services

<p style="text-align: center;">Australian Capital Territory</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Canberra Rape Crisis Centre Crisis Line: (02) 6247 2525 Email: crcc@rapecrisis.org.au www.crcc.org.au</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">New South Wales</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NSW Rape Crisis Centre (02) 9819 6565 1800 424 017 (outside Sydney) www.nswrapecrisis.com.au</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NSW Health Sexual Assault Services http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/kidsfamilies/protection/Pages/health-sas-services.aspx</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Northern Territory</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sexual Assault Referral Services (SARC) Alice Springs: (08) 8955 4500 Darwin: (08) 8922 6472 Katherine: (08) 8973 8524 Tennant Creek: (08) 8962 4100</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Queensland</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Brisbane Rape & Incest Survivors Support Centre (07) 3391 0004 www.brissc.org.au</p>

Sexual Assault Help Line
1800 010 120

South Australia

Yarrow Place Rape & Sexual Assault Service
Free call: 1800 817 421
After hours and emergency: (08) 8226 8787

Tasmania

Sexual Assault Support Service
24 hour crisis line: 1800 697 877
Ph: 03 6231 1811
Email: admin@sass.org.au
Laurel House Launceston
Ph: (03) 6334 2740
Ph (After hours): 1800 697 877
www.laurelhouse.org.au

Laurel House North West
Ph: (03) 6431 9711
Ph (After hours): 1800 697 877
<http://www.laurelhouse.org.au>

Victoria

Sexual Assault Crisis Line
Free call: 1800 806 292
Email: ahcasa@thewomens.org.au

Western Australia

Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC)
Crisis 24 hour: (08) 9340 1828
Country areas (free call): 1800 199 888