

SEXUAL ASSAULT & HARASSMENT FACTSHEET

Sexual Assault and Harassment is against the law and is never acceptable. Everyone has the right to feel safe at all times. If you or someone you know experiences sexual assault or harassment, seek support.

WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT OR HARASSMENT?

Sexual assault is an act in which a person inappropriately touches another person without that person's consent, or coerces or physically forces a person to engage in a sexual act against their will.

Consent means a person is able to freely (without coercion, force intimidation or any other means) agree to the sexual activity. You have the right to withdraw your consent at any time during a sexual encounter or to only consent to certain sex acts and not others. Some examples of this include;

- Indecent Exposure
- Rape or Incest
- Unwanted touching, hugging or kissing
- Being forced to watch pornographic content or live sex acts.

Sexual Harassment is unwelcome attention of a sexual nature that causes a person to feel offended, humiliated or intimidated, including sexual assault. Some examples of this include;

- Unwanted sexual comments or jokes e.g. comments about a person's body or relationships.
- Unwanted, offensive and invasive interpersonal communication through technologies such as mobile phones, internet social networking sites and email.
- Offensive written material e.g. dirty notes, letters, phone messages, emails, SMS, pictures.
- Pressuring for dates or demand for sex e.g. invitations that turn into threats or not taking 'no' for an answer.
- Sexually suggestive behaviors, such as leering or staring.

REPORT/IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE

If you or someone else you know needs immediate assistance, please call:

Campus Security: (02) 8267 1414
Emergency Services: 000

You should seek medical attention as soon as possible for any injuries. You should also be screened for pregnancy and STI's (Sexually Transmitted Infections).

You may have physical evidence on you (such as hair, saliva and semen) these can be used by authorities. Therefore it is best to seek medical and police assistance as soon as possible. **DO NOT** shower or remove evidence by changing/cleaning yourself.

If you choose to report your concerns or an incident of sexual assault. MIT provides **FREE** confidential advice and assistance about your options, as well as referral to support services. You may wish to talk to a trusted friend or family member so they can support you through the reporting process.



SEEK ADVICE AND SUPPORT

Speak to one of our professional counsellors (MIT Counselling Services) located on Level 7 or call 8600 6402 during office hours.

Below are some organisations that can assist you in receiving the assistance you need (including outside of normal office hours).

NSW Health Sexual Assault Services
Counselling and medical assistance
w: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/parvan/sexualassault/Pages/health-sas-services.aspx>

NSW Rape Crisis Centre
24/7 telephone and online crisis counselling service for anyone in NSW (men and women) who has experienced or is at risk of sexual assault and their non offending supporters
t: 1800 424 017 | w: <https://www.nswrapecrisis.com.au/>

National Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Service (1800 RESPECT)
24/7 phone and online counselling service for victims of family violence.
t: 1800 737 732 | w: www.1800respect.org.au

Sydney Sexual Health Centre
LGBTI safe place particularly if you want information on sexually transmitted diseases
t: 02 9382 7440 | w: <https://www.sshc.org.au/OurServices>

NSW Victims Services
Provides information, referral and support for victims of sexual assault
t: 1800 633 063 | w: www.victimsservices.justice.nsw.gov.au/sexualassault

Mensline Australia
Advice and support for men concerned about their anger or violence towards their family
t: 1300 789 978 | w: www.mensline.org.au

Lifeline
Provides 24/7 mental health help and crisis line
t: 13 11 44 | w: www.lifeline.org.au/