



# Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc.

*A safe space for women to heal*



## Marie Stojanovska

**Chair Person**

As the 2016-2017 year comes to an end, I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their dedication, passion and expertise throughout the year.

CASV is a valued organisation amongst the Logan and Redlands Communities, providing support for women who have been sexually assaulted by providing counsellors who are tertiary qualified trauma-informed specialists. CASV is a team that continually strives to meet the needs for their clients and their community through genuine concern and care.

This year the CASV was audited for Human Services Quality Frameworks compliance. The organisation was compliant at all levels and received compliance above and beyond what was required in some areas.

This is my second year on the management committee I have been privileged to observe an enthusiastic committee and a strong bond amongst staff members. It has been a pleasure to be part of CASV in 2016-2017 and to witness the highly valued work by their clients and the recognition by professional referring bodies.

To Management Committee, Deb and the staff at CASV, thank you for your inclusiveness, your enthusiasm and your kindness. I am looking forward to 2017-2018 working alongside women of CASV.

## Who we are-

The Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc. (CASV) is a community based sexual assault service dedicated to providing counselling, education and information to the Logan, Beaudesert and Redlands Communities.

CASV has a vision to eliminate sexual violence while providing counselling and support to the survivors of this gender based crime. CASV is for all women and young women from the age of 12 years and over. Services available in Logan and Redlands are wheelchair accessible.





## Lynette Denning

### Treasurer

I was welcomed to the CASV Management Committee in February 2017 after being asked if I would like to undertake the Treasurer role. CASV

is a great service with wonderful staff working with the women of Logan and the Redlands. I have worked closely with CASV staff previously but during the last 10 months I have been able to fully understand and appreciate the amount of work that is provided by the dedicated and skilled women of this service.

CASV has been able to manage funding from the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services and federal funding from the Department of Social Services during 2016-2017. CASV continues to run counselling services and programs in Logan, Beenleigh, Beaudesert and the Redlands area. I would like to thank the departments for their continued support and commitment to the funding of these exceptional services.

I would also like to thank Heather Blinkhorne, my predecessor in the treasurer role for her efforts as treasurer prior to February this year.

It is a privilege and inspiration to work in an organisation where we are witness to the strength, courage and resilience of many women and young women who have survived sexual violence.

At the governance level, the CASV spent considerable time, effort and resources preparing for the Human Services Quality Frameworks Audit in order to be HSQF compliant. I would like to thank IHCA auditing body for guiding the CASV through this process so that we achieved accreditation, zero non compliances and a number of positive observations. We are now able to proudly display the certification below, informing the Logan and Redlands community that the CASV is fully compliant.

A big thank you to all the CASV Staff, Management Committee and clients who participated in this process. We all worked very hard to make this happen as a team.

This year our core staff team remained the same.

I would like to acknowledge the incredible and dedicated work of Kate McCormick, Katherine Yeh, Miranda Clark, Joyce Westerman, Julia Stubbs, Rachel Simpkin Bale, Melissa Langridge and Katrina Weeks. Throughout the year we called upon relief staff at times to work at the centre. I would like to thank Sarah Poppe, Emily Howarth and Marisol Pacheco for providing much needed relief so that permanent staff could take leave.

One student placement was provided to Emily Howarth by Katrina Weeks. We hope that Emily found her placement at the CASV an educational and rewarding learning experience.

Sadly we did say goodbye to two Management Committee members. Thank you to Anna Weber and Sarah Bokhee Kim who both contributed significantly and volunteered their time to the governance of the CASV. A big welcome to Lynette Denning and Chantel Gallant who joined the committee throughout the year. Thank you to our ongoing Committee members Marie Stojanovska, Nat Wust and Heather Blinkhorne for providing stable and ethical governance to the CASV organisation.

On behalf of CASV staff and Management Committee, thank you to the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (State) and the Department of Social Services (Federal) for funding the Centre Against Sexual Violence to continue delivering



## Debbie Aldridge

### Manager

It's been another big year for the Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc (CASV) continuing to serve the diverse needs of the Logan Community and now the Redlands community. This has only been achievable

through the support of Federal and State Government funding; strong networks, partnerships and alliances in the community; robust governance and committed volunteer management committee; dedicated professional and compassionate staff; and of course the many clients who continue to place their trust and faith in CASV to support them on their healing journey.

professional cost effective services to the Logan, Redlands and Beaudesert Community.

In closing, being a member of the CASV staff and Management Committee team continues to be a deeply rewarding, purposeful and inspirational place to work.



**Katrina Weeks**  
Counsellor, Educator  
Young Women

In March this year I celebrated 10 years of working at the Centre Against Sexual Violence. In that time I have had the privilege to work alongside girls and young women aged 12 to 18 years

who have experienced sexual violence at any time in their lives. I admire and appreciate their courage but it would be best if such a job didn't have to exist!

Highlights this year include giving evidence to the parliamentary committee for Victims of Crime Assistance and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 regarding a submission prepared by our manager Debbie Aldridge. This amendment bill generated beneficial legislation including: the privileging of sexual assault counselling notes, automatic special witness status for survivors of sexual assault and improvements to victim assist applications.

I have prepared a submission to Queensland Parliament on behalf of CASV on improving the delivery of respectful relationships and sex education relevant to the use of technology in Queensland state schools and will again be giving evidence to the relevant committee. Clients of the CASV present having experienced various kinds of technology assisted sexual abuse or assault including: sexting, non-consensual sharing of images, pressure to participate in or watch pornography, victimisation on revenge porn sites, cyberstalking and repeated requests for sexualised images. Women and children are groomed online, silenced through threats of exposure and shamed and isolated through electronic communications and social media. The CASV would support a holistic curriculum based school program that has the safety of women and children and survivors of sexual abuse as its main objective.



**Katherine Yeh**  
Counsellor, Educator

This year is full of changes and interesting challenges! It has been very busy for the CASV team, for example, we have dedicated workers traveling between Logan and Redland

offices to provide counselling and juggling multiple tasks at the same time. We also have gone through Human Service Quality Framework (HSQF) audit and passed it with Deb's lead and other workers' hard work.

As a team, we are constantly preparing ourselves to adapt to change and collaborate with each other during this period – I am so proud of CASV women and be one of them! In terms of my position, I have felt the pressure from the increased referrals of young women's cases. Although it is a sad situation to see that we have more referrals, it is also a good sign knowing survivors are reaching out and speaking up.

Groups and other community education I participated in this year are: A Quiet Mind with Katrina; Griffith 1st Year Medical Student Placement with Kate; and Information Session for mothers (and female carers) of children who have been sexually abused with Marisol. To sum up, I love my work, and I can always see the light.

I also want to thank UnitingCare Community Beenleigh-Nerang IFSS program for providing a lovely and supportive counselling environment for our Beenleigh outreach.

“ Kindness  
is giving hope to  
those who think  
they are all alone in  
this world. ”  
– RAKtivist



**Joyce Westerman**  
Counsellor, Group  
Worker

It has been another busy year with both regular Centre clients and people referred through the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. I have been privileged

to continue working with survivors on their healing journeys and witness them working through their personal issues to come to terms with past experiences of violence so they can achieve their full potential.

We continue to advocate on behalf of the women and men we see with the police and legal systems, as well as with other professionals in assisting them to address increasingly complex needs. Many access the services of Victim Assist, which necessitates writing reports to assist clients to gain compensation. Along with direct counselling contact, information provision is important in accessing the justice system and providing court support when survivors testify in court. I have also been privileged to support or accompany several clients telling their story to the Royal Commission. In particular these survivors show immense courage in contributing to knowledge needed to help ensure that this type of abuse no longer occurs.

I continue to reap the benefit of a wide array of professional training, and also enjoy high quality internal and external supervision that supports my work in counselling. I have also attended events to highlight women's issues generally through celebrations such as International Women's Day. Attendance at these forums assists with networking and cooperation with a variety of local organisations in providing vital services for mutual clients.

Group work has continued, although on a more limited basis since it is increasingly difficult to work collaboratively with the other group worker who is very busy providing services at our new Redlands service. The weekly Crochet Group that provides friendship, support and mindfulness activities for local women maintains a core group of women who enjoy its benefits regularly.

It is a privilege to work alongside survivors who continually teach me new ways of facilitating healing for them as they display courage in overcoming barriers to their wellbeing. This work provides immense personal and professional rewards in watching women achieve healing. I hope that our team can encourage others in the community in working towards eliminating sexual violence.



**Melissa Langridge**  
Individual Group  
Worker

This year has been a gratifying experience setting up the new CASV service in the Redlands. Inspired by Logan's reputation as a safe space to recover and heal from sexual violence, Kate

and I have worked hard to establish this same safe environment in the Redlands. We are very grateful to the Redlands Centre for Women who have been supportive and open to us utilising their space due to our shared values and beliefs around all women's right to be safe and valued so that they can explore and reach their full potential.

The new service in Redlands has been welcomed by Survivors, their friends and families and we receive support and referrals from Government and non-Government services, Police, Hospital and Health Centre, Drug and Alcohol Services, Mental Health Services, Schools and Local Council.

It is wonderful that we have safe spaces to provide a service and to have staff that have the heart, commitment and training but it is mostly the courage and strength of survivors who walk through CASV doors I would like to acknowledge and applaud most of all. Sexual violence is a profound betrayal of trust causing the survivor to experience disempowerment and disconnection from self and others.

Walking through the doors at CASV can often involve a hope for healing but also a fear of being betrayed again. Therefore I would like to thank and honour the women from Logan and Redlands for having the

courage to step forward on their healing journey and to allow CASV to support them in rediscovering and reconnecting with themselves and those around them worthy of their trust.

I continue to be grateful to have the opportunity to work with such an empathic and committed team and to have the opportunity to be a witness to survivors' empowerment and healing.



**Kate McCormick**  
Counsellor/  
Community Liaison

This year has been full of both challenging and rewarding experiences, as the CASV Redlands has established itself in the community. We have experienced a steady increase

in referrals across both the young and adult women population during 2016-17. Most of this year has been dedicated to direct counselling work in Redlands and Logan. I continue to be grateful and humbled as I walk this journey of healing and growth alongside the courageous women who access the CASV.

Melissa and I have gradually been building relationships across the Redlands and would like to thank everyone, both government and non-government organisations for their support and guidance during our service's transition into the Redlands. After two years with the CASV, I am so grateful for the positive, supportive and ethical work culture I experience daily and the uniquely exceptional women I call my colleagues.

“ Kindness is  
seeing the best in  
others when they  
cannot see it in  
themselves. ”  
- RAKtivist



**Rachel Simpkin-Bale**  
Finance / Project  
Worker

This year is my 11th year with CASV and again has been an amazing year. It's been great to hear all the lovely feed back about the renovations CASV has last year, the

office much need reno was well received by the women accessing the service.

My role as finance worker continues to keep me busy with three pools of funding, from Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (Logan and Redlands) and from the Department of Social Services to work with people effected by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Assault. CASV also generates money which helps fund workers hours. Again I would like to thank everyone that donates to the centre; all donated monies goes direct to client services.

Katrina and I completed a group with women looking at Social Action. This was the first time we have run a group on this topic. The women were amazing and exciting things will come out of this group. Sexual Violence Awareness Month activities in October consisted of Vigils in Logan and Redlands, Candle Lighting Ceremony at which four amazing guest speakers spoke, an Awareness Raising Workshop and we finished the month by going to Reclaim the Night. I also feel so impressed by the women that access CASV and support the events CASV has.



**Julia Stubbs**  
Centre Support  
Worker

I was employed at CASV in September 2014 working 50 hours a fortnight, now I work 67.5 a fortnight spread over both Logan and Redlands. Taking referrals and



being the first point of contact for survivors is a large part of my role as the Centre Support Worker. It's my goal to provide a caring and supportive first response to women of the Logan and Redlands communities with a continuing warmth as they return for appointments.

I always admire the strengths of our counsellors in complex situations as they grow relationships with other supportive services to help aid survivors of sexual violence. I am always amazed at the bravery of our clients making that first call to either CASV, police, school or their doctors to seek support after sexual violence. Being believed and heard is the beginning of healing and CASV does both. I'm proud to work amongst such dedicated people and I hope to continue in this important role.



### **Miranda Clarke** Sexual Assault Counsellor

The past 12 months has seen increased demand for services from the community particularly with the provision of services in the Redlands. The CASV team strives to provide a comprehensive

medium-term counselling, information, advocacy and support to survivors of sexual assault to break the cycle of violence and to produce positive lifelong impacts in survivors' lives. Despite the increased demand, we still

strive to maintain the same comprehensive provision of services to all survivors to the best of our abilities. I have had the privilege to work with, and learn from so many inspiring and empowering survivors this year. It is such a joy to see the positive growth and change for my clients.

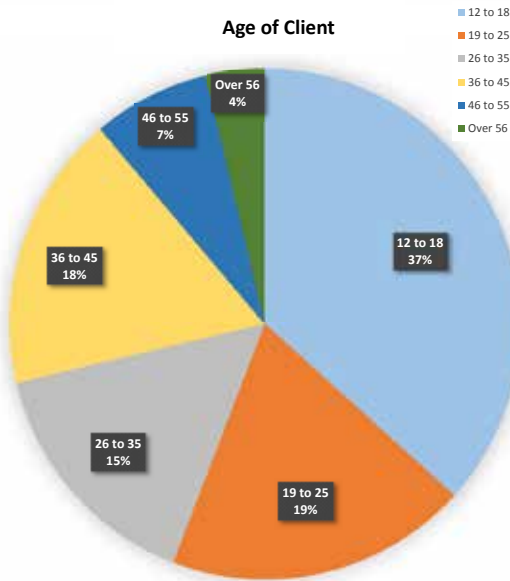
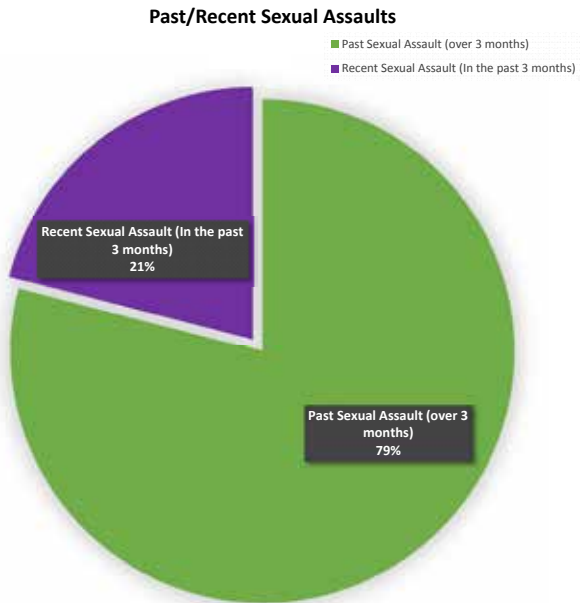
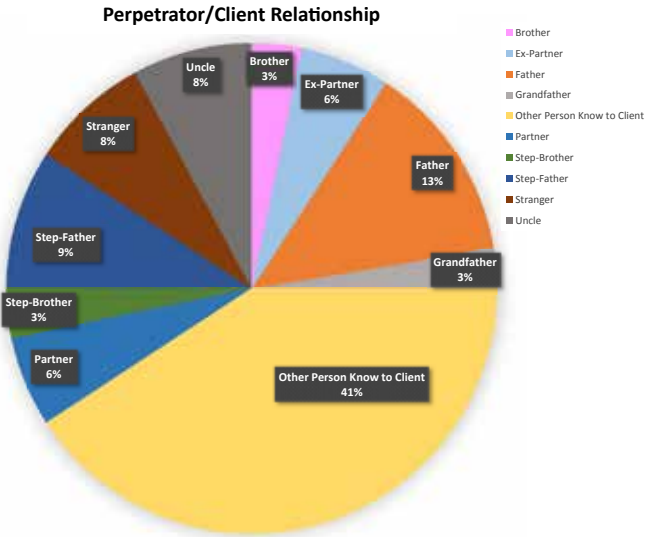


I have also enjoyed taking on a variety of projects during the past year. Liaising on behalf of CASV in regards to matters involving the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse is a key component of my position in addition to providing counselling. In the past 12 months I have provided a response to the Criminal Justice Consultation Paper and was subsequently asked to give evidence at a Public Hearing into the Criminal Justice System for survivors of child sexual abuse in Sydney. I have also enjoyed greater participation in the Queensland Sexual Assault Network (QSAN), particularly in starting the QSAN social media working group to develop resources for Sexual Violence Awareness Month throughout Queensland.

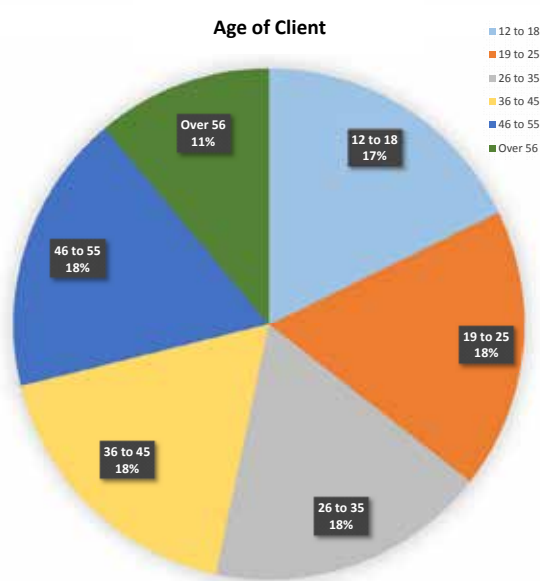
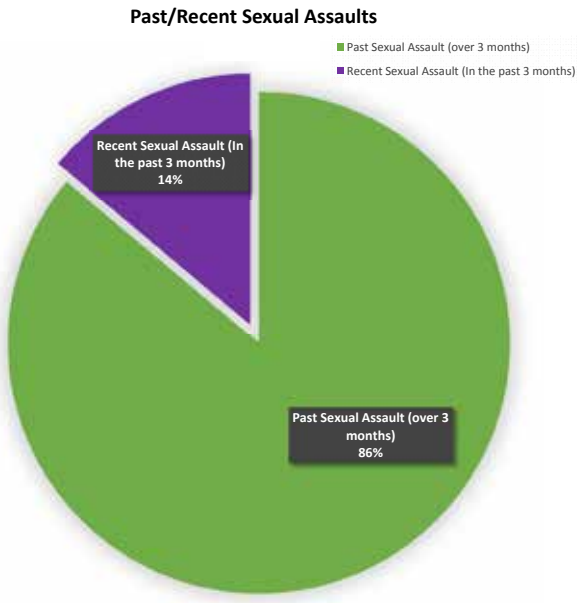
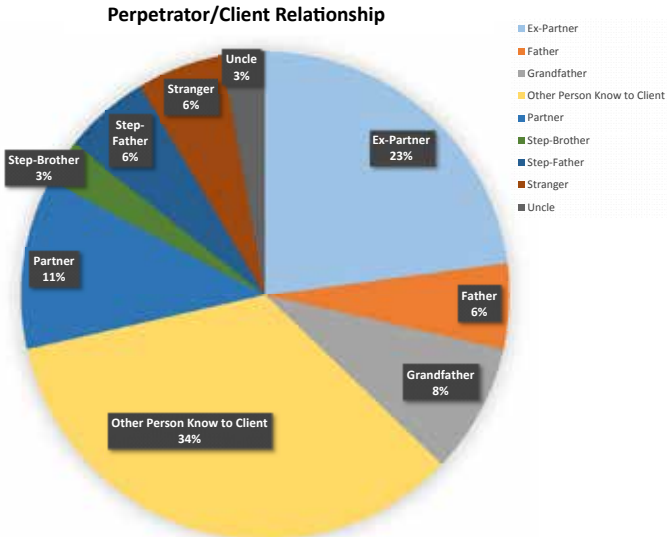
I also enjoyed working with Julia, Rachel and Natalie in developing CASV's new logo. I have thrived in the opportunity to advocate for survivors on both an individual and collective level and in strengthening relationships with other key agencies including the QPS, ODPP, SART and VAQ in providing a response to sexual assault. I look forward to continuing to work with you all toward the eradication of sexual violence in our community.

The Year in Review

Logan



Redlands



Thank you to the 2016/2017 Management Committee CASV Members and supporters.  
The Centre relies on committed people to make the right decisions to support women of the Logan, Beaudesert and Redlands Communities who require specialised counselling for sexual assault.

#### 2016/2017 Management Committee

Chairperson - Marie Stojanovska

Treasurer - Lynette Denning

Secretary - Heather Blinkhorne

Committee Member - Natalie Wust & Chantal Gallant

Staff Representatives – Debbie Aldridge, Joyce Westerman



The Centre Against Sexual Violence (CASV) Inc., humbly acknowledges the traditional owners and continuing custodians of the land on which we live, work, dream and play here at CASV Inc. We hope to continue learning from your struggle, strength, wisdom and survival.

#### Centre Against Sexual Violence is located at:

Unit 5, 13-21 Mayes Ave, Logan Central Qld 4114

#### Business Hours are:

Monday: 9am to 5pm

Tuesday: 1pm – 5pm

Wednesday: 9am – 5pm

Thursday: 9am – 5pm

Friday: 9am – 5pm.

Counselling by appointment.

Services also available in Redlands.



The Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc. would like to thank the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services & Department of Social Services for funded support for 2016/2017.



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