



Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc.

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016

CASV is committed to providing safe, respectful services to assist women and young women on their path to healing; to work toward dispelling the social and cultural myths surrounding sexual violence; and to encourage the community to take responsibility for the eradication of sexual violence.

CASV is a community based sexual assault service dedicated to serving the sexual assault support, education and information needs of the Logan, Beaudesert and Redlands communities.

The staff, management and members of CASV have a vision to eliminate sexual violence while providing counselling and support to the victims of this gender-based crime.



**Marie Stojanovska**  
Chair Person

Almost a year ago I put my hand up as a volunteer at CASV. The idea of the centre appealed to me; supporting the recovery of women from the impacts of sexual violence. I had however underestimated what a wonderful organization I was given the privilege to participate in and serve. Looking back over this year I realise this amazing place is invaluable to vulnerable, injured, recovering women from all walks of life. The dedication and hard work of the staff, is nothing short of inspirational. I know I speak on behalf of the management committee when I say, it's an absolute honour and a pleasure, to contribute in our small way towards supporting the centre.

This year has been filled with challenges, beginning with the renovation of the building. Incredibly this huge task was completed in a timely manner and within budget restraints. We can all agree the place looks and feels amazing and will serve the clients and the staff well into the future. The last remaining improvements are to the roof and this has been planned for, and funds have already been allocated. At approximately the same time the successful tender for delivering sexual assault services to the Redlands was achieved, and the work of staffing, furnishing and providing all necessary infrastructure to open the service began. Again the team met this challenge and passed with flying colors, and the women of Redlands have a much needed service. Importantly for the first time ever CASV has received a 5 year service agreement. This is an excellent result, and provides confidence and stability to the organisation and a capacity to plan for the future beyond the next year. In an environment where funding is paramount to the success and continuation of CASV, having five years of freedom is a relief to all.

This year Debbie has been working hard and is well on track to acquire certification of the Human Service Quality Framework within the required time frame. One can only appreciate the magnitude of this task when one sees the enormous size of the tome she is reading, copying, correcting, reorganising etc.

We have also seen a few staffing changes at the centre. We said thank you and goodbye to Naomi, and welcome back to our world traveller Miranda. We also welcome Kate McCormick as the Counsellor Community Educator who will be working alongside Melissa in the Redlands as well as seeing women at Logan. Our management committee has also had a renewal, with some of our favorites leaving. Thank you for everything Aunty Rosie Bell and Jackie Power for your invaluable service and support to CASV. The lovely Dolly Chang has also left us for greener pastures, and we extend our thanks to Anna for her efforts as secretary of the management committee. We welcomed some wonderful volunteers in Sarah Bookhee Kim, our new secretary, Heather Blinkhorne, our new treasurer, and Natalie Wust, our newest committee member. Welcome women and be prepared for another fun filled year with plenty to keep us busy and many challenges to meet. Until next time be kind to each other.

## Heather Blinkhorne

### Treasurer

CASV started the financial year in a strong position thanks to a generous donation the centre received last year. In 2016 CASV received two pools of funding; state funding from the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services and federal funding from the Department of Social Services. Through this funding CASV is able to employ 8 women to run programs in Logan, Beenleigh and Beaudesert. Since April 2016 CASV has extended its reach into the Redlands area thanks to further funding, including an additional counselling position.

I would like to thank everyone who has donated to CASV over the past twelve months as well as the departments for their ongoing commitment to funding sexual assault services.

I would also like to thank Dolly Chang for her efforts as treasurer over the past three years. She will be sadly missed and we wish her the best with her future endeavours.



## Debbie Aldridge

### Manager

It's been a big year for the Centre Against Sexual Violence with a whirlwind of excitement, change and growth, spreading branches across the organisation.

We commenced the year with discussions and exciting conversations about what the organisation would look like with a makeover to the premises. By February 2016 it was happening. Some of us continued to work in one half of the building while renovations took place in the other half and then we swapped places. Counselling was delivered outside the building to reduce disruption to the vital service delivery for many women who were in need of sexual assault services. A massive thank you to WAVSS, Murrigunyah and YFS for welcoming, accommodating and supporting CASV staff into your organisation for the duration.



Shortly after renovations the CASV was successful in gaining funds to provide a sexual assault service to the Redlands. We were very fortunate in securing an appropriate room in Cleveland. A big thank you to the Redlands Centre for Women who have extended enormous lengths to accommodate the needs of the CASV and the many women in the Redlands community who have and will continue to access sexual assault services.

CASV continued to provide professional specialist trauma informed counselling for women in the Logan region. It is a humbling privilege to witness the many courageous women in their path to healing and recovery from sexual violence and other forms of violence that have been perpetrated against them.

This has only been achievable through the ongoing Federal and State Government funding. Thank you to the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability services and the Department of Social Services for providing funds to deliver crucial sexual assault services. Lynn McNeilly (DCCSDS) and Helen Tamashiro (DSS) have been a wonderful resource to the CASV providing ongoing guidance, support and information so that we can continue to provide best practice client centred services to the Logan, Beaudesert and Redlands community. Thank you Lynn and Helen.

This year we had an additional staff member join the team. A big welcome to Kate McCormick who was employed with the additional funds we received for Redlands. We said goodbye to Naomi Barrett who relieved in Miranda Clarke's position for 12 months while Miranda took a year's leave to go travelling. Farewell Naomi and welcome back Miranda.

We also said goodbye to Tash Keller who cleaned the centre for the last four years. Tash left to further her education. Our new cleaning staff member is Safie Qasmi. Farewell to Tash and welcome Safia.

Katrina supervised two student placements this year, one being Kate McCormick and the other Emily Howarth. We hope that the CASV workplace provided a rich learning environment for you both.

There were changes in the Management Committee throughout the year. Aunty Rosie Bell, Jacki Power and Dolly Chang left the committee. Farewell to Aunty Rosie, Jacki and Dolly and thank you for the time, effort, expertise and passion you all brought to the CASV committee. Welcome to our new Committee members, Sarah Bookhee Kim, Heather Blinkhorne and Natalie Wust.

In closing, I look forward to another eventful year working with a fabulous team of women committed and passionate about the elimination of sexual violence in Logan, Beaudesert, Redlands, and across the nation and globally.

## **Katrina Weeks**

### **Counsellor/Educator Young Women**

I continue to work with young women aged 12 to 18 years who have experienced sexual assault at any time in their life. I provide outreach to schools on invitation by the school. I have also begun to provide outreach at the Headspace office in Meadowbrook and this year I have begun to see adult women at Beaudesert as well.

I continue to work collaboratively with other supporters and educators of young people in the prevention of sexual assault and domestic violence through the provision of the Love Bites program.

Katherine and I have provided two separate groups on the topic of A Quiet Mind. We shared a variety of techniques that women and young women might use to help them to quieten their minds. I really enjoyed co-facilitating with Katherine and also with Social Work student Emily. We ensured these groups were experiential by practicing meditations and producing art pieces. Thank you to all my colleagues at CASV and those who support myself and CASV in the community. Thank you to the remarkable young women I work with. I appreciate your commitment to healing your lives and living into your potential.



## **Katherine Yeh**

### **Counsellor/Educator**

I am extremely grateful for every experience I had at CASV from day dot. To name a few community education activities I took part in this year, despite all kinds of mini challenges, it has been fun and rewarding facilitating Love bites (a school-based Domestic and Family Violence & Sexual Assault prevention program) with Katrina, School based Youth Health Nurses, Guidance Officers, Police Officers and other professionals. Naomi and I have also delivered two workshops/placements for the 1st year medical students from Griffith University. These students showed their passion and hope to make a difference by not only being aware of their own judgements and actions, but also by challenging victim-blaming attitudes which is a part of the vicious rape culture. Naomi is such a passionate,

dedicated, and courageous woman bringing her unique energy and love to this work, thank you Naomi. Lastly, I want to send a special Thank You to Uniting Care Community Referral for Active Intervention (RAI) Beenleigh for providing the lovely counselling space for CASV workers and clients, you have been so welcoming and supportive.

## **Joyce Westerman**

### **Counsellor Group Worker**

What an inspiring year! In February we achieved a major renovation of our premises, resulting in an attractive and welcoming atmosphere in which to provide counselling. Work with adult clients continues to provide inspiration through witnessing them working through personal problems and coming to terms with past experiences.

As counsellors we continue to advocate extensively on behalf of the women and men we see: with the police and legal system and with other service providers. Advocacy is important in addressing survivors' increasingly complex needs and in assisting clients referred through the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Increasing time has been spent in writing compensation reports for clients accessing Victim Assist. I was able to provide information about the justice system, including providing court support aimed at reducing traumatisation as witnesses in court. The task of highlighting sexual violence issues in the community continues, including attendance at a variety of interagency meetings and events such as the International Women's Day Breakfast in Beenleigh. Such activities allow us to network and collaborate with other organisations to provide vital services for our clients.

I look forward to another stimulating year ahead working alongside survivors who continually teach me constructive ways to facilitate their wellbeing. It is satisfying to see clients triumph over high levels of adversity in their lives to achieve healing and make the changes they want to enable them to achieve their true potential. This provides immense personal and professional rewards as a counsellor.





## **Miranda Clarke**

### **Sexual Assault Counsellor**

The Sexual Assault Counsellor (SAC) role incorporates both a trauma-informed specialist counselling component and liaising on all matters regarding the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. I love the flexibility and dual nature of the role.

I was grateful to be given the opportunity to take a year sabbatical, returning to the SAC position in July 2016. My time away gave me the opportunity to reflect and get in touch with my values and self-care needs. It also gave me time to pause and reflect on my work. In doing so, I found immense gratitude for the work that we do and the wonderful clients that we work with. I reflected on the amount I have learnt from my peers and clients. The time off has given me the opportunity to learn and explore the world. I feel like I “hit the reset button” and that the sabbatical has provided me with greater longevity in working with trauma.

Along with the rest of the staff at the CASV, I was so pleased to have Naomi Barrett step into the SAC role in my absence. After meeting and conducting a handover with Naomi I was confident that I was leaving the SAC role in safe hands as Naomi was wonderfully skilled, qualified, knowledgeable and compassionate. The feedback I received from staff, clients and other stakeholders was that Naomi seamlessly transitioned into the role as both a counsellor and Royal Commission liaison. She was highly valued and regarded by all her peers and clients and I have no doubt that her presence in the organisation will be missed.

The CASV provides an invaluable role in the lives of our clients and in meeting the sexual assault needs of the Logan, Beenleigh, Beaudesert and Redlands communities. I believe that we are best placed as a trauma-informed, feminist and specialist counselling service to holistically provide counselling, support, information and advocacy for survivors of sexual abuse.



## **Melissa Langridge**

### **Individual / Group Worker**

I started at CASV eight years ago as a locum and was involved in various roles, and after three years I was offered a permanent position as adult counsellor and group worker. Since July this year I have split my time between our Logan office and our new service in the Redlands. I share this position with Kate McCormick and we have spent many hours setting up the new office to create an environment that feels safe and welcoming for women in the Redlands. Part of our role in setting up this new service has been profiling CASV services and building relationships with services such as police, hospitals, mental health services, schools, Indigenous services and other government and non-government services. We have been warmly received and have been viewed as a much needed service in the Redlands region. I am looking forward to working with Kate in the years to come, supporting survivors of sexual violence and raising community awareness.



## **Kate McCormick**

### **Counsellor Community Liason**

I began working at CASV in November 2015, in a locum position and transitioned to permanent part-time in July, when the CASV secured funding for a new service in the Redlands. I currently work between Logan and Redlands, sharing the Redlands position with Melissa. In my role as Counsellor Community Liaison worker, I am able to engage in both individual counselling and in the broader community to advocate for increased awareness of sexual violence in our community. In Redlands I work primarily with young women, a role that I feel comfortable in, having worked across the community with young people for 15 years. This year has provided plenty of new learning's, as I navigated sometimes unfamiliar terrain alongside some amazing women; including

clients and colleagues. The strength and courage of the women I am surrounded by continuously inspires me to strive for justice and to provide a safe space for healing. I feel honoured and privileged to be working at the CASV and look forward to the journey ahead.

## Rachel Simpkin-Bale

### Finance / Project Worker

The past year has been another amazing year for my role at CASV as the Finance / Project Worker. The finance part of my role has been very busy with three pools of funding from the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (Logan and Redlands) and from Department of Social Services to work with people effected by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. CASV also generates income and funds over 500 hours of worker time per year. I thank everyone who has made donations to CASV as this helps women accessing the Centre. In February 2016, CASV office went through a major office refurbishment which created work, keeping track of tradespeople and insuring their payments were kept update. This was a very exciting time to see the office transform.



As my split role includes Project Work, I spent time networking in Beaudesert and participating in meetings to let the community know we have a worker the offers a service in Beaudesert. Organising Sexual violence Awareness Month activities included "Candle Lighting Ceremony", four "Vigils" across Logan and "Showcasing Resilience" which was a product of the Camera Group I co-facilitated with Carol (Locum) and Kate (student on placement). This video can be seen on You Tube [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sakpn\\_hsRio](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sakpn_hsRio).

I have also been a Committee Member on Ending Violence Against Women Queensland (EVAWQ) and the Treasurer of Logan Women's Health and Wellbeing Centre. I have learnt so much from being on these committees. Again it has been a pleasure to work with such wonderful, passionate women working towards ending Sexual Violence in our Community. Thank you to each and every Woman that has walked in the door at CASV, your strength is amazing and inspirational.

## Julia Stubbs

### Centre Support Worker

The last 12 months have been challenging and productive in my role at CASV. The centre has completed some much needed renovations to the building and this has provided an easier to-use space with a more relaxed supportive environment for the counsellors and clients. Redlands funding was approved and two of our staff members are sharing one position in the Redlands with a steady flow of referrals. My role here at CASV has grown with extra hours to accommodate the Work Health and Safety commitments and the dynamic of booking clients into two services. In the last year my position has become busier than ever. The support of caring and encouraging co-workers has enabled me to continue my position as the Centre Support Worker to the best of my abilities.



Welcoming clients and providing them with the best possible entrance towards healing is still my main focus and I hope I succeed in doing this.

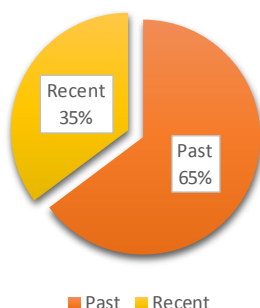
'Our Sorrows and wounds are healed only when we touch them with compassion'. Buddha.



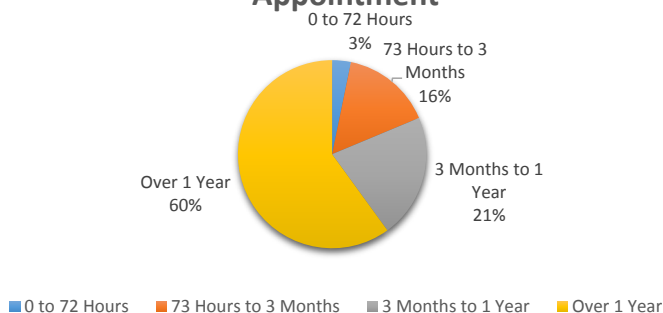


## Year in Review

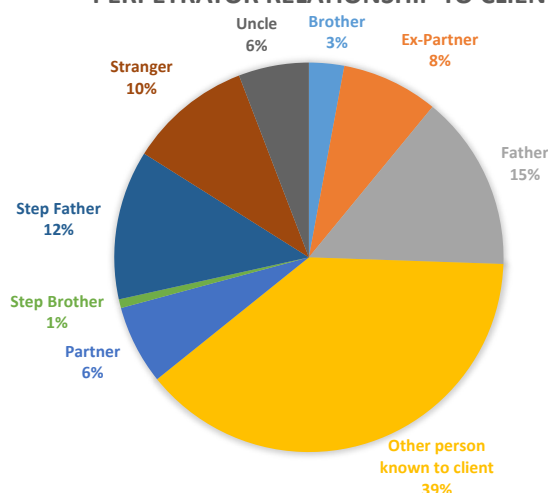
### Recent / Past Sexual Assaults



### Time Between Assault Occurrence & Appointment



### PERPETRATOR RELATIONSHIP TO CLIENT



Thank you to the 2015/2016 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.

#### 2015/2016 Management Committee

Chairperson – Marie Stojanovska  
 Vice Chairperson – Sarah Bokhee Kim  
 Treasurer – Heather Blinkhorne  
 Secretary – Anna Webber  
 Committee Member – Natalie Wust  
 Staff Representatives – Debbie Aldridge, Katherine Yeh



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 Cleveland.



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 2015/2016.