



Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc.

A safe space for women to heal



Chantal Gallant

Chair Person

As the year comes to a close, it signals the time to reflect on the achievements of the CASV team and what a pleasure it has been serving as Chairperson on their Management Committee. CASV has made leaps and bounds over the last 12 months as it celebrates its 18th year in service.

I would like to thank the Organisational Manager Deb Aldridge, the Operations Manager Katrina Weeks, my fellow MC members and every single employee, student and volunteer at CASV for their dedication to providing the best possible service to vulnerable women in Logan and Redlands.

The 2017-2018 financial year saw CASV awarded funding from the Department of Social Services, including the National Redress Scheme, and the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors and of course the opening of the new Redlands office. The Centre Manager worked diligently with staff to set up a warm and welcoming space for victims of sexual violence to feel safe and dignified at Redlands. The service reached capacity within a matter of months, further demonstrating the need for sexual assault support in Redlands.

Many people would not know the level of need for CASV in the Logan and surrounding area. CASV provided 1868 hours of counselling to 122 women since being awarded the funding in February 2018. The Logan Service supported 404 clients with 5763 counselling hours through Department of Communities funding and 38 clients with 1309 hours through Department of Social Services funding. Unfortunately, these numbers only scratch the surface of the true story of sexual assault, as most cases go unreported.

I cannot go without mentioning the incredible advocacy work of the Survivors of Sexual Violence Advocacy group, who have attended multiple protests and events to raise awareness of sexual violence and who continue to use their voices to empower other women.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the strength and resilience of CASV clients. I commend them on their bravery to come forward and begin their healing journey.

CASV is a well structured organisation with a clear vision and mission statement, competent and dedicated staff and clear policies and procedures. I congratulate the CASV team on their 18 years of service and look forward to supporting them in whatever challenges and opportunities we may encounter in the future.

Who we are

The Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc. (CASV) is located in both Logan and Redlands and specialises in providing trauma informed sexual assault counselling for women and young women from the age of 12. CASV has been part of the Logan Community for 18 years and has been present in the Redlands for 2 years. 26 Free sessions are available for women who have experienced historical or recent sexual assaults. CASV counsellors are tertiary qualified trauma-informed specialists with specific counsellors dedicated to young women from the age of 12. Clients attending CASV are believed and heard within a private, safe and confidential space. CASV is a women's only centre providing counselling to women from all nationalities. CASV is committed to addressing language barriers that women may face when presenting and a confidential interpreter can be arranged. CASV also provides support and advocacy addressing legal, health, medical and information for supporters of survivors (Over 12yrs) and will work alongside other referring agencies. Clients attending CASV will be treated with respect and dignity.



Three members of the 'Supporters of Sexual Violence Group'.



Lynette Denning

Treasurer

Having been a member of the CASV management committee since February 2017, I would like to say a big thank you to all the staff of CASV for all their hard work, and to the other MC members that I have worked alongside over the last year.

There has been such a big growth within the service.

After receiving money to undertake services in the Redlands and further funding from the Department of Social Services, the staff have been able to continue to provide exceptional services to clients and still have a smile on their face at the end of the day.

Managing funds from the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services and federal funding from the Department of Social Services, CASV is continuing to provide services and programs in Logan, Beenleigh, Beaudesert and the Redlands area.

Thank you to the departments for their continued support and commitment to the funding of these much needed services.

Debbie Aldridge

*Organisational
Manager/Counsellor*

Once again it has been a very busy year for the Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc (CASV) continuing to serve the diverse needs of the Logan and Redlands community. This has only been achievable through the support of ongoing 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 staff to support them on their healing journey.

To the amazing women and young women who have survived sexual assault and found their way to CASV services; you continue to inspire us with your strength, courage and resilience. You remind us of



*Wonderful Waterford
Women's Award*

how important it is for us to continue advocating for and challenging the current structures towards a community that will one day be free of sexual violence.

This year we welcomed two new members to the Management Committee, Shannon Fentiman and Kirstin Reglin. On behalf of the Committee I would like to formally extend a warm welcome to Shannon and Kirstin. Sadly we also said goodbye to Heather Blinkhorne. Marie Stojanovska has also made a decision to not renominate for the committee this year. On behalf of the CASV staff and committee I would also like to thank Heather who had been with us for two years and Marie who had been with us since May 2015 (nearly four years). Heather held the position of Secretary for a year and Marie held the position of Chair for two years. A big thank you to



both of you for your energy, passion and so generously volunteering your time to the CASV organisation. This year the CASV received additional funding for the Redlands. The service then needed to relocate from Redlands Centre for Women to our own premises in Cleveland. A big thank you to the Redlands Centre for Women for accommodating the CASV service and we hope to continue working with you in the future.

With the CASV extending further into the Redlands a mini restructure took place in March 2018 to accommodate the new service and to backfill positions in Logan that moved over to the Redlands. I had been wanting to take on a clinical role again in my position for a number of years but had not been able to find the time needed to do so because of my management role.

The restructure provided an opportunity to split the Manager's role into two new dual positions of Organisational Manager/Counsellor which I have filled and Operations Manager/Counsellor which was filled by Katrina Weeks. I am loving my new role and am extremely grateful to the staff and Management Committee for accommodating this change and your trust and faith in our capacity to transition through the changes smoothly.

On behalf of CASV staff and Management Committee, thank you to the Department of Child Safety Youth and Women (State) and the Department of Social Services (Federal) for funding the Centre Against Sexual Violence to continue delivering professional cost-effective services to the Logan, Beaudesert and Redlands Communities.





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

Katrina Weeks

Operations Manager Counsellor Young Women

In March this year I took on the new role of Operations Manager at the Centre Against Sexual Violence (CASV). After 11 years as the Counsellor/Educator for Young Women at CASV I was pleased to still have 2 days a week to devote to counselling for young women. The Operations Manager part of my role includes the supervision of staff involved in client delivery and the day to day management of the organisation. I would like to acknowledge the caring and committed work of the CASV team including: Kate McCormick, Katherine Yeh, Miranda Clark, Joyce Westerman, Rana Merhi, Sarah Poppe, Marisol Pacheco, Rachel Simpkin Bale, Melissa Langridge, Debbie Aldridge and Julia Stubbs. What a team!

Clients of the CASV present having experienced various kinds of technology assisted sexual abuse or assault including: sexting, non-consensual sharing of intimate images, pressure to participate in or watch pornography, victimisation on revenge porn sites, cyberstalking and repeated requests for sexualised photographs. Although this type of victimisation is particularly prevalent amongst younger clients of the service, technology assisted abuse is increasingly becoming an issue that clients of all age groups are facing. The effects

can be devastating and often result in mental pain and anguish, isolation from family and friends, difficulties at work and in their professional lives, and disruptions to schooling or to dropping out of school altogether. Victim blaming is normalised in our experience. Judging of young women or women who might have originally been filmed or photographed by consent is often brutal and uncompromising. Victims of sexual assault have traditionally been shamed into silence, and with the advent of technology, the shaming can be instantly spread on social media. Blaming women or girls for being involved in intimate photographs is rampant. As part of my role, I have written a submission on behalf of CASV in support of the proposed new legislation Criminal Code (Non-consensual Sharing of Intimate Images) Amendment Bill 2018. I was privileged to represent CASV and speak on behalf of survivors of sexual abuse to the parliamentary committee reviewing this proposed legislation. It is vital that legislation keep pace with the realities of technology in Queenslanders' lives.

Katherine Yeh

Counsellor/Educator

I was a student 5 years ago, and for the first time I put my hand up to take on a UQ Master of Counselling student on placement from the beginning of 2018! It was a very significant, exciting and meaningful decision and moment to me, and I have been enjoying sharing what I have learnt with this wonderful student Rana and also being inspired by and learning new perspectives from her. Community Education I participated in this year



were facilitating Love Bites program with Katrina, and providing student placement/training to Griffith Uni 1st year medical student with Miranda.

Another exciting project that CASV has decided to take on this year is to be involved in a PhD research project developed and would be run by Lisa McLean on Compassion Focussed Therapy for childhood sexual assault survivors, and I also put my hand up to be the co-facilitator. This program didn't start until July 2018, so I will share more next year! Also a Big THANK YOU to UnitingCare Community Beenleigh-Nerang IFSS Team for providing a lovely and supportive counselling environment for our Beenleigh clients; and I can't believe it has been 4 years! You have been so kind and friendly each time I visited you, CASV and I have been very grateful!

Joyce Westerman

Counsellor/Group Worker

Such a lot has changed in the last year at CASV! With the extra staff at the Redlands office our team has grown immensely. It is sometimes difficult to keep up with what everyone is doing, but we still meet regularly for meetings. Although I have dropped back to working fewer days this year, the work nevertheless has been constant and with quite a lot of variety, just as I like it!

Along with working with regular CASV clients I continue to work with women who have accessed counselling related to the Royal Commission into Institutional Abuse. This work is complex but very rewarding, as

the commission winds up and we begin to assist them with Redress claims. The small group of women who attended a consultation about the proposed Apology by the Prime Minister felt exhilarated and empowered to be able to express their views, some for the first time.

In addition to my counselling role I have been privileged to oversee the group work program, and a variety of groups have been offered by workers for women this year. It is great to see the survivors who access our service continue their healing journeys and to witness them coming to terms with past experiences of violence so they can achieve their full potential.

Advocacy work also continues, as well as support for women in the court system. Many women access the services of Victim Assist, which necessitates writing reports to assist clients to gain compensation. While time-consuming, it feels very worthwhile to see women enabled to start afresh and achieve the kind of life they want.

It is a privilege to work alongside survivors from whom I continually learn new ways of facilitating their healing as they courageously overcome barriers to their healing and wellbeing. This work provides immense personal and professional rewards in watching women recover. The aim of our team is to encourage other community members to work towards eliminating sexual violence.

Melissa Langridge

Individual/ Group Worker

We have had an interesting and rewarding year establishing CASV in the Redlands. The CASV team have been busy networking with stakeholders across the community, building important relationships and support networks for sexual assault counselling in the Redlands. We found an office space that is experienced by women to be safe and nurturing and a space where they can make new connections with other women. We have recently run our first group, all of the participants enjoyed chatting and learning about mindfulness and planning for potential future groups. In a short amount of time the CASV team have created a service that has been greatly appreciated by survivors and the wider

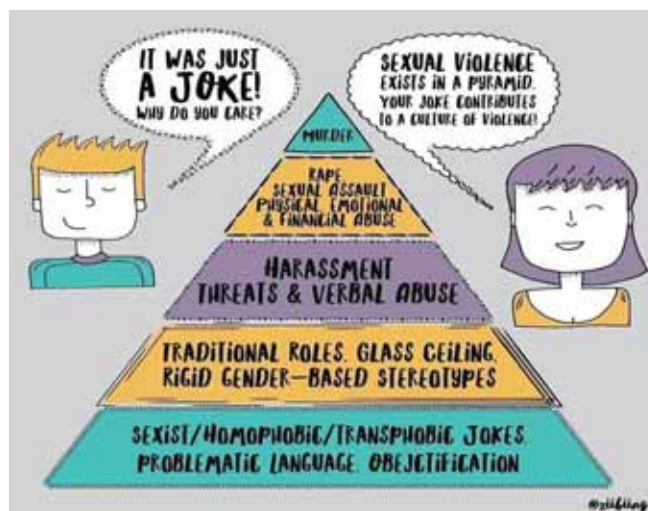


community, who are all working together for healing and for the ultimate goal of ending sexual violence.

Kate McCormick

Counsellor/Community Liaison

This year CASV Redlands has moved into a new premises in Cleveland, as we secured additional funding to meet the needs of women and young women in the Redlands. The additional funding has enabled outreach to the local high schools and Headspace, and the development of group programs. We have also been actively engaging in consultation with the Southern Moreton Bay Islands, in order to minimise barriers for women who wish to access counselling and support. During the year we have engaged in more community events and community consultations in order to build relationships, enhance referral pathways and raise awareness of sexual violence in our community. In my counselling role there has been an increase in young women on my case load. Across our team we have worked together to manage the transition to our new premises and the variations in our roles and responsibilities. I am very grateful for my work colleagues and the support I have received from the managers and management committee of CASV.



I have also appreciated the opportunity to meet with and learn from many young women and men through delivering the Love Bites program in our local schools. It is encouraging to hear young men and women understanding and talking about issues of consent, equality and power. From this work I find hope for our future generations.

A final thank you to all the wonderful women who have invited me to share in their journeys this year and to the wonderful women from CASV who support me.

Miranda Clarke

Sexual Assault Counsellor

The past 12 months at CASV have flown by as CASV continues to counsel, advocate, inform and support women in the Logan, Beenleigh, Beaudesert and Redlands communities. In December 2017, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse concluded with the Final Report being handed down. The CASV has strongly advocated to National and State Governments in relation to the implementation of a National Redress Scheme that is equitable, safe and survivor-focused. This included providing evidence in Canberra to the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs in regards to the Inquiry into the Commonwealth Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Bill.

The CASV is currently supporting institutional child sexual abuse survivors to safely access the National Redress Scheme.

I have greatly enjoyed increasing the CASV's social media presence via our new website, Facebook and Instagram. Social media provides CASV with the opportunity to engage and educate both women and men around issues of gender-based violence and sexual assault who we would not otherwise have the opportunity to connect with. Our largest social media engagement occurs during Sexual Violence Awareness Month.



Logan Water Tower Lights lit up for SVAM 2017

Rachel Simpkin-Bale

Finance / Project Worker

Finance Work:

My role as finance worker continues to keep me busy with three pools of funding, from Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women (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 (in Logan). CASV also generates money which helps fund workers hours and projects for the Service. CASV funds



contributed to promotional items for Sexual Violence Awareness Month and other events. CASV now has 10 permanent employees over Logan and Redlands. Again I would like to thank everyone that donates to the centre, all donated monies goes direct to client services.

Project Work:

Wow what an amazing year with some great projects. The Supporters Against Sexual Violence (SASV) formed and signed off on their Terms of Reference. The Group meets monthly and training was delivered through some meetings. SASV has actively been responsible for Road Side Vigils since July. Members spoke at CASV Candle Lighting Ceremony and at Reclaim the Night. They held their first raffle for Mother's Day and generated over \$600.00 which they donated to help clients of the

Service. Along with Sexual Violence Awareness Months events it was a very productive year for projects at CASV.

Julia Stubbs

Centre Support Worker

What an interesting journey CASV has had with securing the service new premises in Cleveland. My position is now spread between both Logan and Redland. The Logan service is respected highly in the community and is well known amongst other local referring services. The Redland service is becoming better known with an increase of walk-ins and police/website referrals. I enjoy the diversity of both centres and having the privilege of working alongside compassionate counsellors in both centres is inspirational. I feel privileged knowing I work for a place that is making a difference through education with a vision to eliminate sexual violence and to dispel the social and cultural myths surrounding sexual violence. I hope to continue in my position for a long time to come at CASV as the Centre Support Worker.

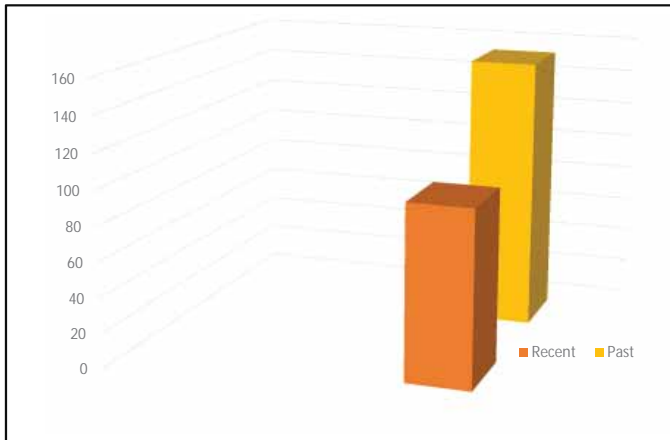
'Be kind whenever possible, It's always possible'
Dalai Lama

'The photo before the acceptable photo' CASV Staff

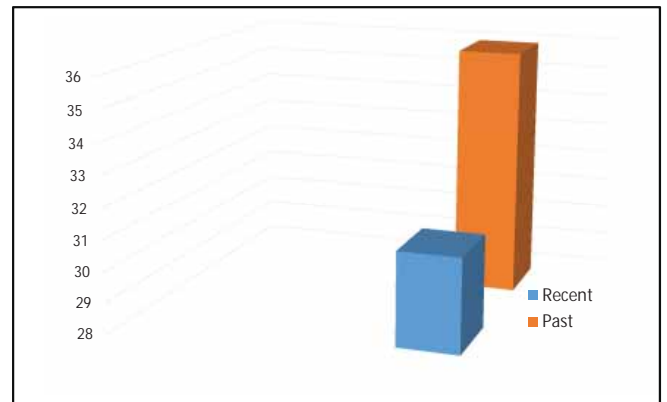


The Year in Review

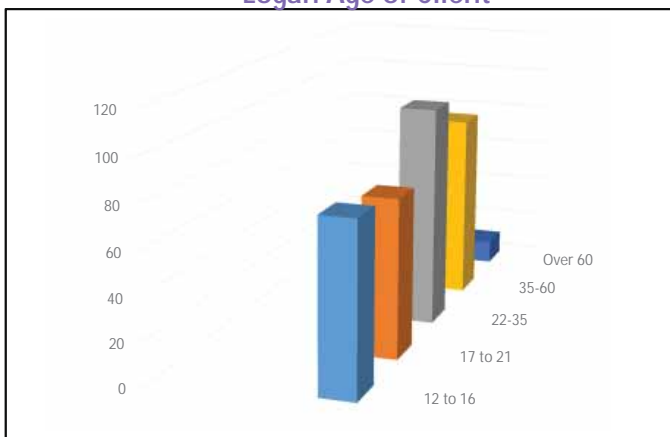
Logan - Recent or Past Sexual Assault



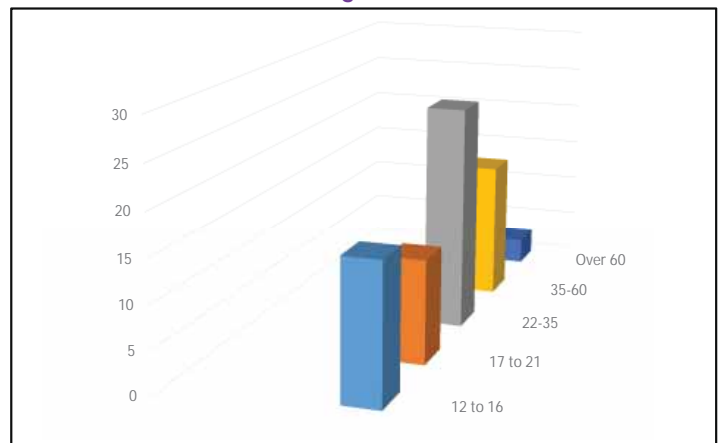
Redlands - Recent or Past Sexual Assault



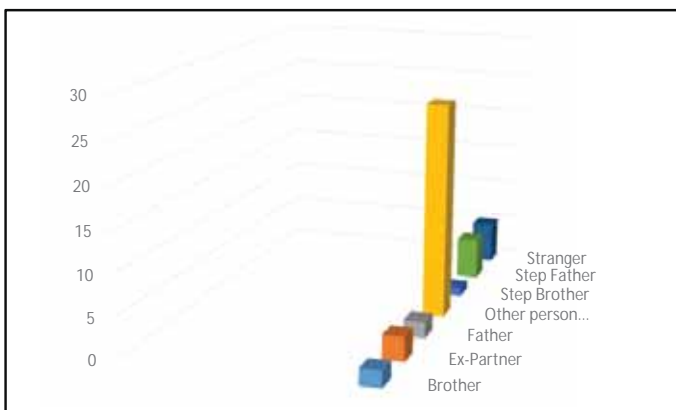
Logan Age of Client



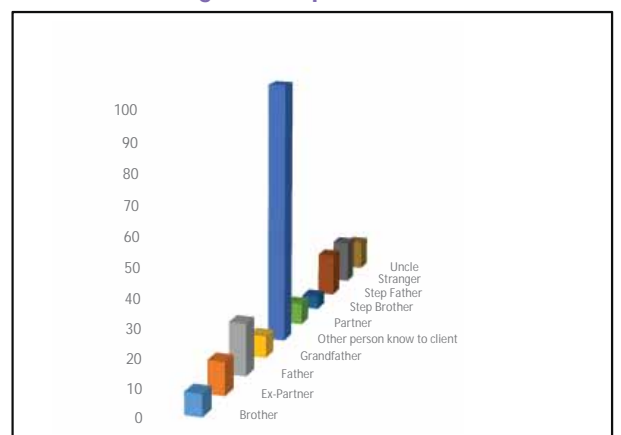
Redlands - Age of Client



Redlands - Perpetrator



Logan - Prepetrator



Thank you to the 2017/2018 Management Committee CASV Members and supporters. Both centres in the Logan and Redland Communities rely on committed people to make the right decisions for women's support in these areas.

2017/2018 Management Committee

Chair Person - Chantal Gallant

Treasurer - Lynette Denning

Secretary - Shannon Fentiman (Heather Blinkhorne resigned)

Committee Members - Marie Stojanovska & Kirstin Reglin

Staff Representatives - Debbie Aldridge & Julia Stubbs



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 Inc. Logan

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

Business Hours are:

Monday: 9am-5pm

Tuesday: 1pm-5pm

Wednesday: 9am-5pm

Thursday: 9am-5pm

Friday: 9am-5pm

Counselling by appointment.

Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc. Redland

Shop 9/165 Bloomfield St, Cleveland Qld 4163

Business Hours are:

Monday: 9am-5pm

Tuesday: 2pm-5pm

Wednesday: 9am-5pm

Thursday: 9am-5pm

Friday: Telephone Only

Counselling by appointment.



The Centre Against Sexual Violence would like to thank the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women & the Department of Social Services for funded support in 2017/2018.



Funded by the Department of
Communities, Child Safety,
Youth and Women



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Violence Inc.
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