



ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc.

A safe space for women to heal

Chantal Gallant

Chair Person

As Chairperson of the Centre Against Sexual Violence (CASV) management committee, I am delighted to introduce our 2018 – 2019 annual report.

It has again been a great pleasure to work with my fellow management committee members and the dedicated CASV staff this year. In September, the management committee farewelled Beenush Kho, who retired to support women escaping domestic violence in rural Victoria. The management committee received valuable training from Deb Aldridge and Kate McCormick on the background and context of sexual assault services and the tailored trauma-informed therapy CASV provides to clients. Jenny Gilmore provided governance training to new management committee members so that they can confidently represent CASV staff and clients. We were also proud to see Finance Officer Rachel Simpkin-Bale awarded a certificate of appreciation for all the work she does in the community during women's week.

The CASV team has amplified their social media presence, keeping up the momentum after the #metoo movement which has no doubt led to an increase in reports of sexual assault and national redress applications. The women of CASV have not skipped a beat in answering every enquiry or referral that comes through the door. It has been heart-warming to watch the Supporters Against Sexual Violence (SASV) continue their work to empower women who have survived the trauma of sexual assault. Not only do they organise and carry out roadside vigils with Project Worker Rachel Simpkin-Bale, but they have started to mobilise input at the policy level. Keep up the great work Womyn.

CASV thanks the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women for state government funding for sexual assault support and prevention to women and young women of Logan and Redlands and the Department of Social Services for funding to support female clients through the Redress process. We also thank all our silent funders and community donors – we could not do our work without you.

The number of hours and clients serviced this year demonstrates the continued need for sexual assault support in Logan and the Redlands. CASV provides approximately 5000 hours of counselling and 567 hours of community education per year in Logan and 2992 hours



Left to right – Kate McCormick (Staff representative), Lynette Denning (Treasurer), Shannon Fentiman (Secretary), Kirstin Reglin (Vice-Chairperson), Chantal Gallant (Chairperson), Debbie Aldridge (Organisational Manager)

of counselling and 130 hours of community education per year in Redlands. Despite being a small team, CASV works diligently with local police and support services to manage their waiting list, which they try to keep to a minimum.

This report highlights CASV's considerable innovations, achievements and challenges over the past year as we continue our important work, providing quality and trauma-informed sexual assault services to the financially disadvantaged in this culturally diverse area. I would like to thank the Organisational and Operational Managers Deb Aldridge and Katrina Weeks, my fellow MC members and every employee, student and volunteer at CASV for their tireless commitment to providing advocacy, dignity and hope to Womyn in Logan and Redlands.

**CASV had a
total of 371
Clients in
2018-2019**



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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.

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 and continue to place their trust in us to support them on their healing journey.

**171 of Clients
were recently
Sexually Assaulted
and 200 presented
with past
Sexual Assaults**

**22% Identified as
either Aboriginal
and/or Torres
Straight
Islanders or
CALD.**

This year our devoted and dynamic Management Committee remained unchanged and always responsive and available to the changing needs of the CASV as they have arrived. On behalf of the CASV staff and CASV Association Members, a big thank you to Chantal Gallant (Chairperson) Shannon Fentiman (Secretary), Lynette Denning (Treasurer) and Kirstin Reglin (Committee Member).

It has been a year of follow through and implementation from the previous year's increase to funding in the Redlands, resulting in a location change for the service, new staff employed and a restructure within the existing staff team. In the preparation for this change I could not have imagined it possible for the transition to unfold as smoothly and incident free as it did.

This was only possible with the support, trust and faith of the CASV staff and Management Committee working together towards a unified purpose, and it did.

I have really enjoyed the separation of the Manager's role into two positions enabling me to now take on a client load and be a part of front line service delivery again. Something I have been wanting to do for a number of years now. Thank you.

Debbie Aldridge

Organisational Manager/Counsellor

Once again it has been a privilege and a joy to be a part of the CASV staff and Management Committee team for the 2018 to 2019 year. To spend my working day surrounded by wonderful women is continuously rewarding, inspiring and energising. This has only been achievable through the funded support of Federal and State Government; strong networks, partnerships and alliances in the community; robust governance and committed volunteer management committee; dedicated professional and compassionate staff; and the many women who have accessed the CASV for support over the last twelve months.

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, 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.



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Tania, Marisol, Kate, Naomi, Julia, Melissa, Sarah, Rachel, Debbie, Katrina, Rana, Miranda & Joyce.

Katrina Weeks

Operations Manager Counsellor Young Women

This is my second report as the Operations Manager at the Centre Against Sexual Violence (CASV). I have also worked as a young women's counsellor here at CASV for over 12 years now. 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 Tautau, Marisol Pacheco, Rachel Simpkin Bale, Melissa Langridge, Deborah Aldridge, Naomi Barrett, Tania Cusack, Sonam Damani and Julia Stubbs. What a team! What a year for us, we have had a baby and a wedding! Clients of the CASV present having experienced various kinds of sexual assault. They present often with an expectation that the community, police and courts have a shared understanding of consent. CASV staff in conjunction with school, police and other community workers seek to educate students, young men and women, about the importance of consensual sex. This is a very important part of the work that we do in schools. There is a clear message given to young people that consent must be explicit and the idea of enthusiastic consent, where all parties have freely given consent and there is no confusion. We tell young people that you better make sure you know for certain you have

**267 Clients
presented at
Logan and
104
presented at
Redlands**

consent. that there is no coercion what so ever. Morally, ethically and with a hope that all of us are entitled to learn and grow; to have safe and mutually satisfying relationships: we give this education to young people. Indeed there is an expectation in the larger community that this is what consent means: it is the responsibility of all to make sure there is consent.

Unfortunately when we support survivors in court we begin to understand that this expectation does not match the law in Queensland. Because under section 24 of the Criminal Code: Mistake of Fact, a defence is being given by the accused that there was a belief that consent did exist.

There is no need for an alleged perpetrator to have received an enthusiastic yes at all. They can propose they believed they had consent. Sadly this defence is given in cases where women we support in no way agreed, consented or even wanted any sexual activity or the abuse that took place. Women we support are often left feeling revictimised by the legal system. They put their lives on hold often for years in a belief that justice will be served only to feel they again are not believed or supported. Well we believe and support you here at CASV! We are very hopeful that the call by the Attorney General Yvette Maree D'ath for a review of the mistake of fact defence will see real changes in the Queensland courts.

Changes that meet the current expectations of the community, afford survivors of rape and sexual assault the justice and dignity they deserve, serve to protect the community from perpetrators of sexual abuse and rape. But also importantly means we can give young people a consistent and authentic message about consent.

Joyce Westerman

Counsellor Group Worker

I still work only three days a week, but nevertheless keep very busy. I have been involved in a variety of tasks, including counselling adult women, providing information and assistance with completing application forms for Redress after the recent Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Victims of Childhood Sexual Abuse, attending external network meetings such as the Logan Mental Health Community Collaborative, and sometimes accompanying Miranda to meetings of the National Redress Scheme, and assisting with

A total 93% of clients were Sexually Assaulted in a private space.

organising group work, including co-presenting some groups. My work also includes a variety of advocacy tasks associated with the needs of the women I see. The variety of work tasks suits me very well! It is great to see the clients who access our service continue their healing journeys through attending groups, which adds another dimension to psychoeducation and forming social networks with other survivors. This assists them in coming to terms with past experiences of violence so they can continue to heal and achieve their full potential.

It is a privilege to work alongside survivors from whom I continually learn new ways of working to assist them with recovery. This work provides immense personal and professional rewards in watching women progress and heal, knowing that my work contributes towards encouragement of other community members to work towards complete elimination of sexual violence.

25% of Clients were under 18 years of age

Melissa Langridge

Individual/ Group Worker

As 2019 comes to an end I would like to thank all the women who have bravely and willingly come through the doors of CASV to face an often unknown and feared journey towards recovery and healing. Every year I meet courageous women who are committed to restoring and healing themselves with many of them becoming beacons of hope for other survivors, always willing to share their new resources and skills to those with similar experiences. I would also like to thank the CASV team who year after year commit themselves to developing and maintaining a safe space for survivors to heal, learn and grow.

Kate McCormick

Counsellor/Community Liaison

This year Redlands CASV have been very busy, with a constant flow of referral from the police, school guidance officers, Headspace and the broader community. Relationships and communication has been established creating a timely, respectful and smooth referral process for young women. The ability to provide an outreach service to schools and Headspace has enabled prompt access to counselling and support for young women in the community. I would like to acknowledge my appreciation for the Guidance Officers, School Based Health Nurses, Youth Support Coordinators, Headspace Capalaba and the Police for supporting CASV and young women on their journey towards healing, recovery and justice.



Miranda Clarke

Sexual Assault Counsellor



The National Redress Scheme (NRS) commenced on the 1st July 2018 and will continue for 10 years. The Scheme was created in response to recommendations by the Royal Commission into Institutional Response to Child Sexual Abuse and acknowledges that many children were sexually abused in Australian institutions. The

**99% of
Perpetrators
were Male**

NRS helps people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse gain access to counselling, a direct personal response, and a Redress payment.

The CASV is currently funded to provide trauma-informed and culturally appropriate community-based support to women to engage with the National Redress Scheme who live in Logan, Beenleigh and Beaudesert. Since the commencement of the Scheme I have been engaging with funding bodies and other key stakeholders to learn about the NRS in order to best support CASV clients to access the Scheme. I have also provided community education about the NRS to CASV staff, the Queensland Sexual Assault Network, the Logan Mental Health Community Collaborative and Interagency Response to Sexual Assault. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to support all my clients, including those wishing to access the NRS. This year I have been working across both the Logan and Redlands offices.

Marisol Pacheco

Counsellor

I am back! Some of you might remember I left CASV in 2014 after 10 years of work, well I came back in March 2017 on a casual basis and have slowly re-settled into a Counsellor/Group Worker position with funding until June 2021. I am very happy to be part of the CASV team again. My position is varied, working with young and adult women, doing individual, face to face counselling and facilitating groups, delivering information sessions and attending external meetings. This year I have co-facilitated several groups – Group work provides a soft entry for women who might be considering counselling

but feel unsure – they can come in and check out the centre and the workers. For others, groups provide an opportunity for connection with others who have experienced similar trauma. In a group, we provide a non-threatening, safe and fun space for women to come together, to learn about a particular topic, such as our last one on ‘boundaries’. My work also includes working with young women, 12 to 18 year olds – some of this work involves making sure that they can access the service and it might require going to their schools to provide counselling. We only do this in partnership with the school staff, usually the Guidance Officers or school-based-health nurse. I always know it’s going to be challenging work when I attend a school, as the young women tend to be more isolated, have less tangible and non-tangible resources, they are more vulnerable to further harm and they are often still dependant on others for care, money, transport. It’s rewarding work and I am glad to be doing it. I look forward to next year!

**358 of 371
CASV Clients
knew their
perpetrators**

Rana Merhi

Counsellor & Educator

The past year for me personally has been one of the most rewarding years. I have graduated from the Master of Counselling Program, completed my one year practicum at the CASV, and been offered a counselling position at the CASV. I couldn’t have asked for more! I absolutely love working with CASV women, both staff members and the women who come to heal. To be offered the opportunity to be part of CASV team is very rewarding. The first six months of my work proved to offer a great learning experience. I participated in different community education events such as the Logan Youth Festival Event (LYFE) and the Griffith Medical Students Training. I also ran a group workshop with Marisol, attended a roadside vigil with Rachel, Marisol and the SASV group, and of course conducted individual counselling sessions. In addition to all this, I enjoyed great support through regular supervision sessions, numerous trainings, and different socialization events with the CASV team. I am very lucky to be part of the CASV team!



Naomi Barrett

Counsellor Young Women

It has been wonderful to return to CASV in another locum position in January 2019. I really value being supported to do meaningful work with the young women, adult women, parents and schools that contact CASV. All of the CASV team have again impressed me with their ability to hold survivors at the centre of the work they do and find ways to provide accessible sexual assault counselling, whilst creating a space that sustains and supports fellow workers. I continue to learn from the young and adult women that walk through the CASV doors and share with us the journey they have been on and the resistance they have connected with to get them through. I look forward to continuing with CASV in 2019.

**153 Clients
Reported
Sexual
Assault to
the Police**

Rachel Simpkin-Bale

Finance Project Worker

Finance Work is a majority of my work and being funded by Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women Qld Government and Department of Social Services, Federal Government has meant my role has been extremely busy. CASV was funded a total of \$1,2641,055 and received \$29,845.90 in one off grants. CASV also received over \$5,660.00 in donations and I thank each and every one that has donated to CASV. My project work role keeps me busy too and the Supporters Against Sexual Violence (an ongoing group run by CASV) have done some amazing work in the Logan Community. Sexual Violence Awareness Month was an opportunity to hold "Candle Lighting Ceremony in partnership with Murrigunyah and "What Were You Wearing" A Survivors Exhibition which helps eliminate the myth about sexual assault survivors' clothing. I still enjoy working with a great group of skilled, caring women and women that access CASV inspire me every day with their strength and resilience.

Julia Stubbs & Sarah Tautau/Poppe

Administration

CASV Administration staff would like to thank the brave and amazing clients who phone, email or walk in to CASV at both Logan and Redland. Our hope is that you are all provided with the care and information that you require. We would also like to thank Katrina & Debbie for their professional and kind support which is essential to our every work day and Rachel for her guidance and knowledge around financial requirements of the centre. The CASV counsellors are compassionate, trauma informed specialists and we know once a referral has been taken, the client will be supported with respect, dignity and understanding. Welcome to CASV :)



The Supporters Against Sexual Violence (SASV)



The Supporters Against Sexual Violence (SASV) has had an amazing year. They have been holding regular Roadside Vigils in Logan and recently fundraised over \$2,000.00. SASV contributed to the Sexual Assault Prevention consultations and spent one on one time with the Hon Di Farmer, Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence explaining how sexual assault has affected their lives. The Hon Shannon Fentiman, Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development hosted the SASV at Parliament House for lunch thanking them for their work in the Logan community.



Thank you to the 2018/2019 Management Committee for their commitment and support for both the Logan and Redbank Centres.

2018/2019 Management Committee

Chairperson – Chantal Galtum

Vice Chairperson – Kirstin Fagan

Treasurer – Lyndale Danning

Secretary – Shannon Penman

Staff Representatives – Debbie Andrade & Kate McCormack



The Centre Against Sexual Violence provides the primary counselling service to women & children who are seeking assistance after sexual violence has been committed against them. CASV provides a safe space for women to heal from their trauma, through support and advocacy.



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Logan & Redbank

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Phone: 07 3808 3299



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 2018/2019.



Partnership: the Department of
Community, Child Safety,
Youth and Women



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