



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

Centre Against Sexual  
Violence Inc.

*A safe space for women to heal*



## Management Committee Report

We are delighted to be reporting on another year of achievement for CASV in all areas of our operations, thanks to the dedicated contributions of our dynamic staff and volunteers.

Without question, 2020 has been an incredibly difficult year for Australians, which has had a compounding effect on victims of sexual violence. CASV saw 578 clients last financial year, and we thank all staff for diligently and sensitively responding to their needs. We commend the CASV staff for their seamless transition to working from home as well as the leadership team for supporting staff in this process.

Where to from here? We aim to support CASV staff in delivering the best quality service possible to women who access our Logan and Redland services. We also hope to secure a larger building for the ever-growing Redland service. We encourage our stakeholders to follow our Facebook page to see what the staff and SASV volunteers are doing in the community.

While there are presently many challenges in our community and nationally, we and the CASV team will remain vigilant in upholding our mission to end sexual violence against women and their children through healing, education and prevention.

## Katrina Weeks

*Operations Manager/Counsellor Young Women*

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, Julia Stubbs, Suzie Linton and our student Sonam Damani.

The CASV team have been extraordinary in their flexibility necessitated by the covid19 pandemic. At the time of moving to work from home we were being audited for HSQF. Staff provided services to women via phone and teleconference and continued to support one another. I would like to acknowledge that although staff were quick to take on changes, the potential for impacts on staff home life and wellbeing were great. It is a huge expectation for workers to allow sexual assault work into the sanctity of their homes and to be working in isolation. Thankyou.



### Some highlights of the year include:

- The attendance of Dr Cathy Lincoln Forensic Physician, Deputy Director Gold Coast Forensic Medicine Gold Coast Hospital and health service at the Integrated Service Response to Sexual Assault to discuss just in case forensics available in Queensland.
- The establishment of the pilot project of the Sexual Violence Liaison Officers roles at Logan CIB and CPIU which has led to improved relationships with QPS and better outcomes for survivors.
- Our ongoing collaborative work with 99steps and the focus on Culturally and Linguistically Diverse women, along with cultural training with Murrigunyah.
- Our work with the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence on the Start By Believing campaign.

CASV made submissions and I attended a forum to advocate for legislative change re the consent and mistake of fact provisions. The Queensland Law Reform Commission have made their recommendations and CASV have joined with



other Queensland Sexual Assault Network members to call for a broader based review that reflects the experience of survivors throughout the whole criminal justice process. We believe the current review missed some important opportunities for legislative change that could lead to increased safety for women and children.



I would like to express my appreciation to Deb, Miranda and Rachel for all their contributions to the Queensland Sexual Assault Network (QSAN). Deb's drive and hard work was behind the QSAN being incorporated. Also thank you to the SASV women for their ongoing advocacy which was directly involved in the pilot SVLO project. Thank you to Rachel and Marisol for your support of the SASV.

Personally, I took on a position on the Workup Queensland reference group and I continue to enjoy the counselling with young women aspect of my dual role. I appreciate the opportunity to be the supervisor of such an amazing group of counsellors. I remain committed to ending sexual violence against women and their children through healing, education and prevention.

## Debbie Aldridge

Organisational Manager/Counsellor

This year has been a very challenging year for the Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc (CASV). Continuing to provide a service to some of the most vulnerable women in the community in their greatest time of need during the COVID 19 pandemic required the organisation to adapt and respond quickly to a rapidly changing environment on a daily basis. Despite this, the CASV continued to provide a seamless service to meet the diverse needs of the Logan and Redlands communities. This was only achieved through a combined whole of organisation effort. Thank you to all CASV staff for making this happen during a difficult time. The impacts of COVID 19 continue to reshape and inform challenges and new possibilities in delivering sexual assault counselling and support services.

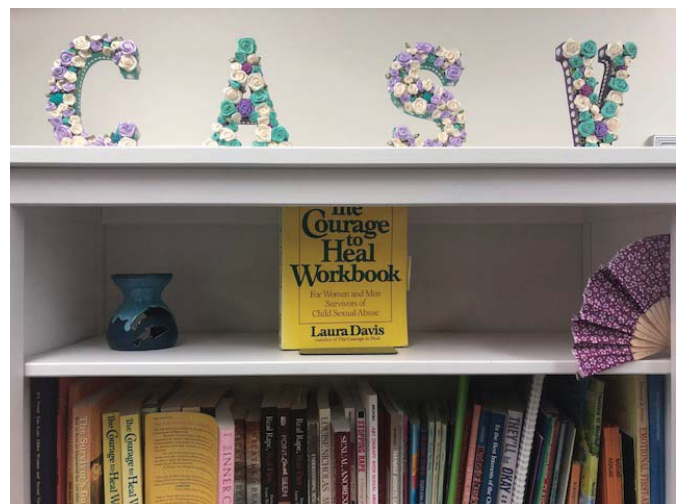
To the amazing women and young women who have survived sexual assault and found their way to CASV services; you continue to inspire us with your strength, courage and resilience. You remind us of how important it is for us to



continue advocating for and challenging the current structures towards a community that will one day be free of sexual violence.

This year we welcomed one new member to the Management Committee, Eloise Faye. On behalf of the Committee I would like to formally extend a warm welcome to Eloise. On behalf of all CASV staff, I would like to thank all of the CASV Management Committee for the time, effort and passion, volunteered to oversee the governance functions of the organisation.

Additional one-off funds of \$120,000 were provided to the CASV from the Department of Social Services (federal funding). This injection of funds was utilised to strengthen National Redress access, assistance support and trauma informed counselling for eligible women in the Redlands, Logan and



Beaudesert region.

The CASV also received enhanced one-off funding from the Department of Child Safety Youth and Women (state funding) of \$80, 281. This was provided to assist in responding to the increased demand for support and associated client related costs, arising as a result of the impacts of COVID 19.

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.







## Logan and Redlands Counsellors Annual Report

Through this challenging year CASV counsellors strived to be flexible, adaptable, creative and compassionate. In the midst of COVID-19, CASV counsellors have adapted to new ways of supporting clients through telephone and videoconferencing facilities. This was a sharp learning curve for some counsellors. At times during this year, CASV counsellors worked from home in line with health directives. Some counsellors welcomed the flexible working conditions whilst others missed the connection and support system of coming to work. CASV counsellors



have endeavoured to provide clients with choice around how they engaged with counselling support to every extent that we could whilst adhering to the health advice. As a result of COVID-19 and lockdown restrictions, counsellors noted an increase in mental health issues

for some clients, particularly young woman who were disconnected from their schools and support services. Counsellors also noted an increase of sexual violence in their homes including domestic and family violence as well as non-family violence e.g. landlords, housemates.

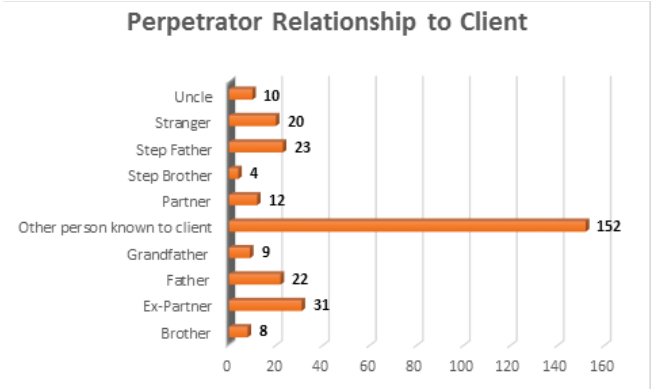
During the 2019-2020 financial year, CASV counsellors ran a number of groups across both the Redlands



and Logan venues. These groups included a boundaries group, vision workshop and a trauma informed yoga workshop. The trauma informed yoga workshop received positive feedback from attendees.

The CASV is funded to support women to access the National Redress Scheme (NRS). The CASV received enhanced NRS funding to increase the outreach support for The Scheme to the Redlands, Beaudesert and Beenleigh. The CASV counsellors also raised community awareness about the NRS by engaging with over 50 services within these regions.

The CASV Logan and Redlands counsellors would like to thank all of our clients for their flexibility, understanding and continued engagement despite the challenges we have all faced this year.



# Administration and Finance Annual Report

Rachel Simpkin-Bale, Sarah Poppe and Julia Stubbs

Every year it amazes the Administration Team (the A Team😊) the courage it takes for women and young women from the Redland & Logan areas to make contact with CASV. Contact can be by phone, CASV Website, Queensland Police, schools, other agencies or walking into the service. We work closely with counsellors and managers to provide a kind and professional reception to all who come through the doors.

Julia & Sarah both share the role of the minute taker at various meetings and are generally the first point of contact, for referrals for both Redland & Logan. Administration at CASV is a wide & varied role from organising a plumber to having a crisis client on the phone. Working at CASV is rewarding and valuable. We wouldn't change it for the world😊.

The A Team received Trauma Informed, Accidental Counsellor training in the past year. Rachel attended the 'Not for Profit' Conference in Melbourne to add to her already skilled portfolio. Thank you to all CASV staff for their competent response to the COVID 19 pandemic requirements and transitioning to working from home. Client support did not waver during this

time and the team supported both employees and clients through providing a transitioned phone system, teleconference meetings, calendar bookings and anything else that was required.

Thanks to the SASV group who create Sensory bags and affirmation cards for clients and for your ongoing dedication and work towards creating Sexual Violence awareness in the community. Centre against Sexual Violence team along with SASV group attended the first combined Candle Lighting ceremony for Sexual Violence Awareness Month at Murrigunyah Family and Cultural Healing Centre. SASV had a significant role in helping and speaking at this event.

We would like to thank everyone that has donated to CASV over the past 12 months and would like to thank Advance Business Technologies for their generous donations and their ongoing support of the SASV. CASV received over \$1.4 million in the past 12 months and Rachel is always busy doing Budgets to insure funded monies are spent correctly. We would like to express our thanks to the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women for funding and extra funding for women in need during COVID 19 and federal funding from the Department of Social Services for funding in the Sexual Violence Sector. Julia, Rachel & Sarah (The A Team😊)

Thank you to the 2019/2020 Management Committee for their commitment and support for both the Logan & Redland Centres.



Centre Against  
Sexual Violence Inc.

Logan & Redland

*A safe space for women to heal*

Phone: 07 3808 3299



## 2019/2020 Management Committee

Chairperson – Chantal Gallant

Vice Chairperson- Kirstin Reglin

Treasurer- Lynette Denning

Secretary- Shannon Fentiman

Committee Member- Eloise Fay

Staff Representatives – Debbie Aldridge,  
Katrina Weeks, Marisol Pacheco & Rachel Simpkin-Bale



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.

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 2019/2020.



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



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