



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

Centre Against Sexual  
Violence Inc.

*A safe space for women to heal*



## Management Committee Report

As 2021 draws to a close we give thanks and celebrate the achievements of CASV this year. Our team of dedicated, passionate and caring women have worked diligently towards our mission to end sexual violence against women and their children through healing, education and prevention.

The continuing changes of COVID-19 and a volatile political landscape provided a background for challenges in our community and abroad. The team adapted to lockdowns, new technologies and legislation. We expanded the Redlands office and our reach into the island communities. We are proud to continue to support our staff who in turn support our valued and inspirational clients.

## Managers Report

The Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc (CASV) has met many challenges this year. CASV has continued to provide a service to some of the most vulnerable women across the Redlands and Logan communities through the uncertain times of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you to all CASV staff: our counsellors and the 'A Team', for your commitment and adaptability in responding to the ongoing impacts and challenges of COVID-19 on our own lives and to the many women we continue to support.

CASV continues to be inspired and grateful to the women and young women who have survived sexual assault and seek out a healing journey in partnership with CASV. Clients have also shown adaptability and perseverance.

We continue to learn from survivors the importance of advocating for system changes and seeking to have the community take responsibility for ending sexual violence. Thanks to strong young women such as Grace Tame and Brittany Higgins, sexual assault has never been spoken about more in Australia. Yet we are reminded how far Australia needs to go when

we witness the lack of outrage at the high levels of violence against Indigenous Australian women and men.

This year we welcomed one new member to the Management Committee, Tatiana Monteiro da Silva and we appreciate the ongoing support and expertise of Lynette Denning as our Treasurer. We formally extend a warm welcome to Tatiana and we look forward to welcoming other new members at our AGM. We would like to wish an appreciative farewell to retiring committee members Eloise Fay, Chantal Gallant and Kirstin Reglin. We thank you for all your many dedicated volunteer hours, your support and passion for the work of CASV.



*Healthy Relationships Know Your Rights; A multi-cultural perspective partners.*

The CASV received enhanced one-off funding from the Department of Child Safety Youth and Women (state funding) of \$120,000 for the Redlands and \$150,000 for Logan to help meet the extra demands for service due to COVID-19, for the calendar year of 2021. CASV has also received COVID-19 enhancement funding of \$72,897 to be spent over the year commencing 1/7/2021. We are also grateful for a DCSYW grant for Sexual Violence



Awareness Month. This enabled us to partner with Women’s Sahara House and 99 steps of Access Inc to enhance our services to culturally diverse communities through the Healthy Relationships: Know Your Rights a multicultural perspective project.

CASV Redlands office moved into a larger premises in the same complex at Cleveland to expand the support we provide to the Redlands community. Thank you to all the staff who contributed to this move, but particularly the ‘A Team’, it was a massive effort. CASV have also been able to extend our reach to the Bay Islands thanks to a State Government grant that now sees CASV staff providing counselling on both Minjerribah and Russell Islands.



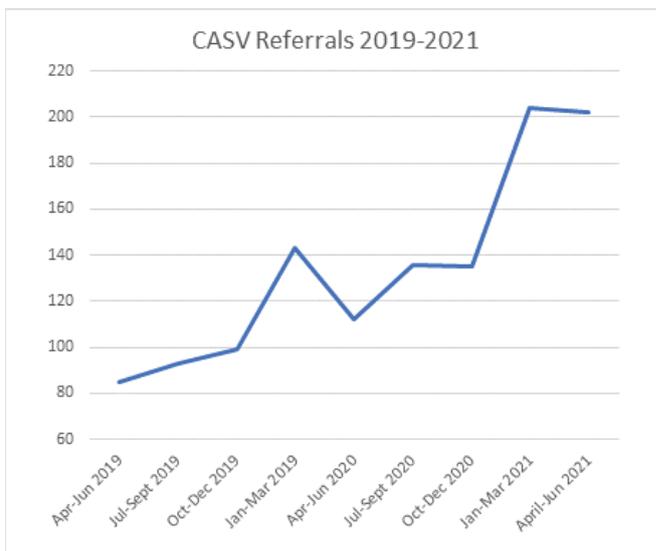
CASV Counsellors have continued to provide support to eligible clients to access the National Redress Scheme (NRS). CASV provides a trauma-informed counselling and support service that wraps around the NRS application process. It has been an honour for CASV Counsellors to witness the positive changes for NRS clients as they move through the NRS process. Suzie Linton has stepped into the role of Redress Counsellor at CASV.

This year CASV moved from the Department of Child Safety Youth and Women to the Department of Justice and Attorney General. On behalf of CASV staff and Management Committee, thank you to

the Department of Child Safety Youth and Women and later the Department of Justice and Attorney General (State) and the Department of Social Services (Federal) for funding the Centre Against Sexual Violence to continue delivering professional caring services to the Logan, Beaudesert, and Redlands Communities.

## Logan and Redlands Counsellors Report

This year, we have received the highest number of referrals in the Centre Against Sexual Violence’s history. This increase in referrals has resulted in longer wait times for clients and has also created new challenges for staff to address. CASV has reviewed how best to respond to the needs of women and young women on the waitlist for both the Logan and Redland areas. One aspect that has helped address this growing need for counselling across the CASV catchment areas was the onboarding of six new part-time sexual assault locum counsellors. The contributions of these skilled workers has been greatly appreciated during this full and busy year.



All staff enjoyed the opportunity for team building at Tanya’s Art House. It was a great opportunity to relax and build team cohesion through the therapeutic benefits of art making.

This year we have enjoyed having the ability to spend more time in the office to connect in person with other staff and meet with clients face to face. Due to last years’ experience of lockdowns, we have become very adept at managing a quick transition to working from home when following COVID-19 health directives. It has also been noticed by counsellors that women and young women have



become more comfortable with platforms such as phone and video conferencing for their sessions.

As a result of needing to prioritise counselling the CASV team only had the capacity to run two groups this year. Marisol and Joyce ran a 'Vision Board', group where participants enjoyed the opportunity to use craft to map out their goals and dreams for the year. The second group 'Crafting Connections' run by Melissa and Florence provided an opportunity for women to connect over craft.

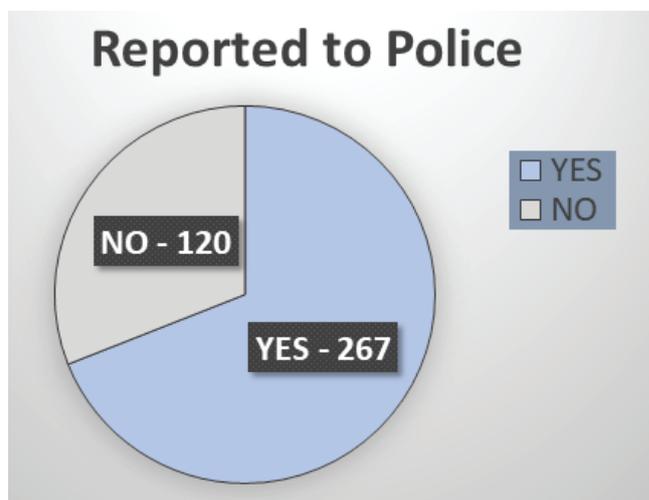


This year saw the Redlands team transition to a bigger premises within the same arcade allowing us to maintain ease of access and convenient parking. The women who attend CASV are now enjoying the new office which has a spacious reception area, four counselling rooms, two bathrooms, two kitchens and a designated room for activities and groups. This move to a larger space was in response to the increasing need for CASV services within the Redlands community. One additional improvement for the CASV has been the extension of free WIFI to our clients.

CASV has been continuing to provide high quality, trauma informed counselling support to clients who are wanting information and support to engage with the National Redress Scheme. Our Redress Support Counsellor is now Suzie, with Miranda moving into the Senior Practitioner role. Suzie attends regular network meetings to remain abreast of the latest developments regarding the Scheme. The most recent of these was the release of the 2nd anniversary review report and the government announcements regarding implementation of recommendations. CASV continues to receive referrals for clients to access the NRS due to our specialist sexual assault experience.

## Administration Team Report

The Admin Team has had quite a challenging year. The Team has managed lockdowns and increased referrals for women requiring support during this time. The 'A Team' have managed to keep up with immediate unexpected changes and worked through ideas and challenges. During lockdown periods, the team have succeeded in keeping the phones and IT systems operating ensuring support for both clients and counsellors. This includes meetings on Teams, counselling appointments online and over the phone, timely responses to referrals and organising Management Committee meetings via video conference. CASV also had its first ever Annual General Meeting online. The 'A Team' are proud to have kept CASV to a standard to meet service delivery during this year.



The 'A Team' are the first point of contact for women to access the service and provide a warm welcome to clients when they attend appointments. Being the Centre Support for CASV, Julia and Sarah have varied administrative and other duties, which requires versatility. Julia and Sarah provide supportive and caring conversations to clients when the initial call is made and communicate with counsellors on referral topics. A major part of our responsibilities this year was to move the Redlands service into their new larger offices to provide group work and to accommodate a growing need in the Redland area.

Rachel is responsible for Finances and provides up to date reports to the Management Committee and P21 reporting. Rachel provides budgets and



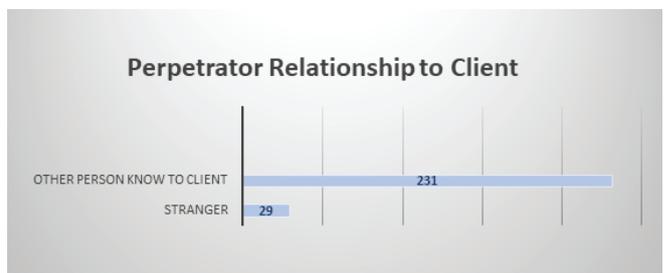
works with management to implement and provide information from different streams of income. Julia & Sarah have been trained in wages and payments to provide support to the financial role when required. It was a considerable financial year with extra funding due to growth in the sector. CASV turned over \$1,668,000.00 during this period which helped to welcome new staff members.

The Supporters Against Sexual Violence (SASV) a group run by CASV has done some amazing work over the past 12 months including launching the “Ask, Listen, Respect” campaign which included drink coasters and two different types of stickers.

CASV would like to thank people who have donated to the service over the past 12 months. This includes “Share the Dignity” with their donations of personal hygiene products and handbags for clients at the end of each year. We are always amazed and inspired by the women that walk through the doors and enjoy providing support to help start their healing journey.



The Honorable Shannon Fentiman, Attorney-General hosted SASV at Parliament House.



Thank you to the 2020/2021 Management Committee for their commitment and support to CASV Inc. Logan & Redland



**Centre Against  
Sexual Violence Inc.**

**Logan & Redland**

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**Phone: 07 3808 3299**



- 2020/2021 Management Committee
- Chair – Tania Mearns
- Treasurer – Tania Mearns
- Secretary – Tania Mearns
- Committee Members – Tania Mearns, Tania Mearns, Tania Mearns
- Committee Member – Tania Mearns
- Staff Representative – Tania Mearns
- Melissa Layton



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 Justice and Attorney-General and the Department of Social Services for funded support in 2020/2021



Funded by the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General