

2022-23

Annual Report



**Centre Against
Sexual Violence Inc.**

A safe space for women to heal

Chairperson

Centre Against Sexual Violence is committed to ending sexual violence against women and their children through healing, education, and prevention.

CASV recognises sexual violence as a gender-based crime and is committed to eliminating sexual violence in society.

CASV core values are equity, access, growth, safety, recovery, healing, compassion, and empowerment.

We are immensely proud to lead such a strong, vibrant, and innovative organisation. As representatives of the Centre Against Sexual Violence, we would like to thank the A team for their outstanding dedication and hard work and their commitment and resilience throughout the year. Together, you cared for over **758** clients. Congratulations! We are very proud to have you and appreciate your commitment.

Our Management Committee Members have provided invaluable guidance, advice, and support, and have kept us grounded and focused on our values and responsible management, while always remaining cognisant of our commitment to high-quality services and the needs of our clients and of our staff.

We are making the time and space now to imagine what the future looks like for CASV, and we do know that you can't just let the future happen, that it is up to all of us to create it. And what we want is stable and secure funding base, premises to expand to support service delivery, strong and inclusive governance, and strong relationships with related services and networks. This is going to require all of us to have the will to forge that change, and I look forward to supporting this organization as it grows from strength to strength.

On behalf of Centre Against Sexual Violence Management Committee, we thank each and every staff member and volunteer for their dedication and unwavering commitment to the vision and goals of CASV. You are what makes CASV the caring and vibrant organisation we are.

As this year closes, we choose hope and optimism. We know that through diligence and courage, Centre Against Sexual Violence is transforming lives, even on our hardest days.

Sincerely,

Tatiana

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Manager

The Centre Against Sexual Violence, (CASV), continues to support some of the most vulnerable women and young women across Logan and Redlands communities. With referrals continuing to grow weekly across both regions. 2022-2023 saw CASV receiving 1078 referrals. CASV has a vision to eliminate sexual violence while providing trauma informed safe and respectful, client focused free counselling to women and young women who are on their path to healing.

CASV would not be what it is without the amazing team that goes above and beyond each and every day. Thank you to our administration team Julia, Rachel, Sarah and Yasmin, your commitment and adaptability to respond to the constant increase in demand for CASV services, is valued and appreciated.

Thank you to our specialised sexual assault counsellors, current and previous counsellors for your passion, dedication, determination, and support, you not only give to our clients but also to each other and the community. Senior Practitioner Miranda, thank you for all the support you give our counselling team, the ongoing support you have given to me, and your ongoing support and advocacy with Queensland Sexual Assault Network while being on the Management Committee in the Secretary position. I have valued your support and knowledge that I have gained while handing over the position of Secretary to me.

This year I was lucky to be successful in gaining the permanent Manager role at CASV, I would like to acknowledge Katrina as acting manager and say thank you for your ongoing support and planning in handover to myself as Manager. Your knowledge, support and guidance throughout this year has been appreciated by everyone. All your hard work in preparation of HSQF and throughout the process of CASV becoming re certified is greatly appreciated.

Thanks to our Management Committee for your ongoing support and commitment to CASV, Tatiana, our Chairperson, Pia, Vice Chair Jane, Secretary, Vicki, Treasurer and general members Fiona, Lourdes and Kim.

CASV continues to advocate for increase in permanent funding to meet the significant ongoing increase in demand across Logan and Redlands regions. The pressures of temporary funding continue to effect job security for staff on short term contracts, with some staff making the decision to leave CASV, to gain permanent roles. Client waitlists are longer, and referrals are more complex.

Due to the increased referrals, and extended time on the waitlist CASV has needed to implement a new intake process for referrals, which has included bringing back a dedicated intake worker, this process has been very successful, allowing faster connection to all women who have been referred to CASV.

CASV has a team of amazing dedicated and experienced workers who go above and beyond to meet the constant growth in demand, prioritising self-care, and prevention of burn out is imperative to be able to sustain the services we offer our clients.



A-Team

The A-team at CASV consists of a team of dedicated women supporting an end to violence against women. We are Sarah, Julia, Rachel, and Yasmin and are the first point of contact for clients accessing the service and provide a warm welcome to clients when they attend appointments.

Contact can be by phone, CASV Website, Queensland Police, schools, other agencies or walking into the service. We work closely with Counsellors and the Senior Practitioner to provide a kind and professional reception to all who come through the doors.

We would like to thank everyone for attending the AGM, and we acknowledge the hard work all Staff and Clients have done during the last financial year. The A-Team works closely with the Counsellors and Management Committee and respect the commitment and dedication from both teams. We send out a big thanks to Aimee, CASV Manager who joined the team in December 2022.

Sarah and Rachel both completed the "Love Bites Training", Rachel and Julia completed the "Dare to Lead" training and Julia and Rachel also completed their "Advance Diploma of Community Sector Management". As well as attending International Women's Day and Sexual Violence Awareness Month Events.

CASV turned over \$1,900,000.00 and Rachel's role as Finance Worker has been busy managing budgets and ensure staff are paid correctly. Sarah has been trained and stepped up to do payroll while Rachel is on Leave. We would like to thank everyone who has donated to CASV in the past year and all cash donations to CASV are tax deductible.

SASV

Rachel & Sarah are dedicated to The Supporters Against Sexual (SASV) group, who meet regularly throughout the year. The SASV group ran a campaign this year called "My Body Belongs to Me" and made stickers and temporary tattoos which were given out to the community and local schools. SASV also hosted a Journal Writing Morning Tea at the Whitehouse of Waterford which was funded with a grant from the Office for Women.

CASV A-Team

Counsellors

This year we welcomed Aimee (Manager), Sonya (Sexual Assault Counsellor), Tegan (Sexual Assault Counsellor and National Redress Support), and 2 new students Chantal and Mercia to be a part of the CASV team. We were also re-joined by our staff who were on maternity leave Naomi and Katherine. Unfortunately, the CASV team also had to say goodbye to Sophia, Kristylee, Melissa, and Petar.

The impacts of inflation and the ongoing housing crisis made the already challenging work that CASV does all the more difficult for both the clients and the workers due to limited supports and resources. CASV has however, been advocating louder than ever for our clients and for ourselves to be able to continue the important work that we do.

Whilst CASV has had to undergo tough times with the loss of staff, increasing waitlist and insufficient funding, CASV has been dedicated to providing optimal care to our clients, both that are already assigned to counsellors and the ones that are on the waitlist. CASV implemented an intake system that ensured that clients on the wait list are contacted to provide information about the service, to assess needs and complexity, and to be prioritised when needed.

The counselling team would like to acknowledge and thank Katrina Weeks for stepping up as Acting Manager during the year and helping to guide and support the team through the many levels of change which occurred. In addition, Katrina's diligence in the preparation of the HSQF audit maintained the high standard of the organisation.

Thank you also to Miranda, CASV senior practitioner, for supporting the counselling team over the past year, through the many complexities we face daily.

The Counselling team would like to acknowledge the amazing work of the Administration Team that not only keep our diaries and appointments running smoothly, but more importantly, are the first people that women speak to, establishing a trauma informed experience with CASV.

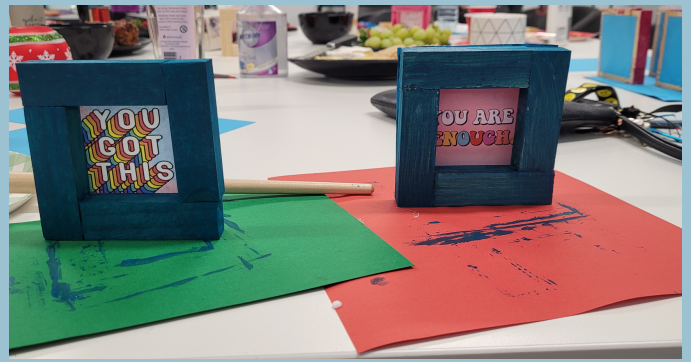
Our Redlands team has experienced some changes over the past year, with a few counsellors sharing their time between Logan and Redlands. This has enabled a rich sharing of knowledge, support, and resources across the team.

During the past year there has been an increase in networking across the Redlands, with Management and staff regularly attending a number of network meetings, and community and government organisations, providing service information and in service training.

These include:

- Redlands Hospital Social Workers
- Eating Disorders Queensland
- Youth Justice
- Integrated Service Response (ISR)
- Mental Health Network
- School Guidance Officers

Our Redlands team has continued to build relationships, share information and experiences with the First Nations Peoples of the Redlands and Bay Island communities.



Some of the highlights of July 2022-June 2023 included:

- CASV Counsellors supported over 1,000 clients to engage in specialist sexual violence counselling, advocacy, and support.
- CASV supported over 50 clients with information and support to access the National Redress Scheme.
- CASV continued to facilitate the interagency response to sexual assault and built strong relationships with the Queensland Police Service Sexual Violence Liaison Officers to ensure CASV clients were supported throughout engagement with the criminal justice process.
- The counselling team attended an Advanced Suicide Prevention Training facilitated by the Black Dog Institute.
- The whole team attended a training on workplace Bullying and Harassment.
- CASV has been doing some expressive groupwork with the "Self-care Gift Basket" in August-September 2022, and the "Drawing for Self-care" running quarterly from February 2023 until November 2023.
- CASV joined with Murrigunyah to host a Candle Lighting event to acknowledge the impacts of sexual violence in our community. This event was also held as a part of SVAM.
- CASV hosted Christmas parties for our Logan and Redlands clients. The parties involved the clients creating various Christmas crafts. Both the parties were well-attended and enjoyed by the clients.
- The whole team attended training on Case Notes Protect facilitated by Julia Sarkozi of Women's Legal Service.
- CASV facilitated the Griffith University Medical Students Placement in April 2023. The placement aimed at increasing awareness among future medical professionals on sexual violence and its impacts, and ways to support victim-survivors using a trauma-informed approach.
- Our Redlands team has continued to provide outreach counselling to five schools in the area as well as Headspace at Capalaba. In Addition, Redlands has established outreach counselling to the Bay Islands, one day a week, which currently has a full case load.
- CASV completed the HSQF audit in the beginning of 2023 and was successfully recertified.

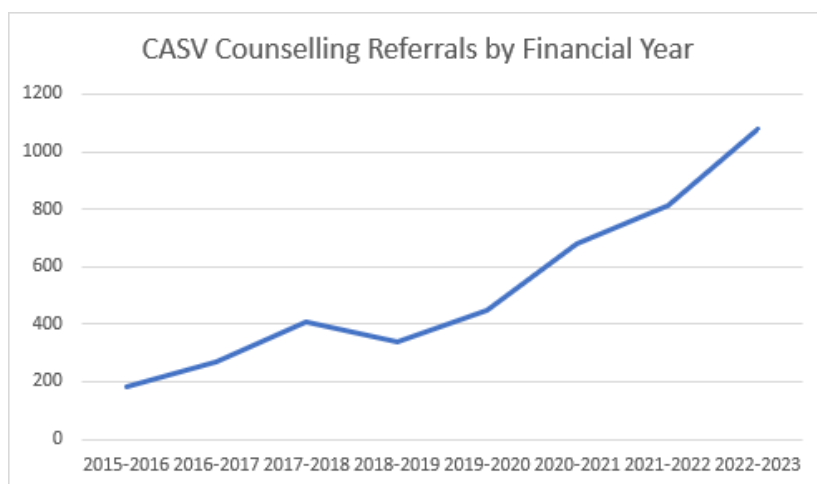




Healing Tea Towels 2022

The Hon. Shannon Fentiman, Attorney General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and family violence launched the Healing Tea Towels on 18 October 2022. The Healing Tea Towel project focused on bringing women survivors together to share their healing journey via the medium of drawing.

In the group sessions, the women were invited to draw and share their drawings to be part of a collaborative collage. This collage was then printed onto cotton tea towels, a special keepsake for survivors as a powerful reminder of the collective healing. Tea towels were chosen as the medium to be printed on for this project as it is an everyday item that we use. The Healing Tea Towel captures the overall strength of women and girls to live beyond the violence and trauma they have had to endure.



SASV My Voice, My Story, My Healing Journaling Morning Tea



Year in review.....

Sharing a few photos of CASV events and graphs of client and funding statistics at CASV



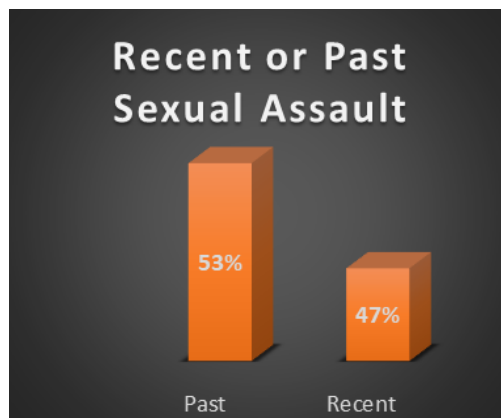
End of year craft workshop



CASV staff at International Women's Day (IWD) event



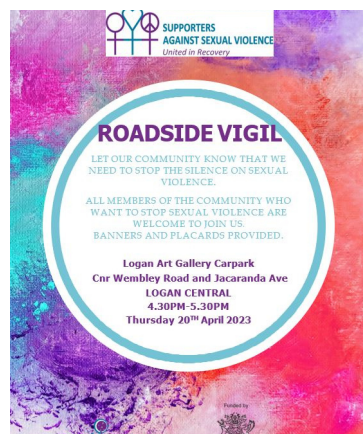
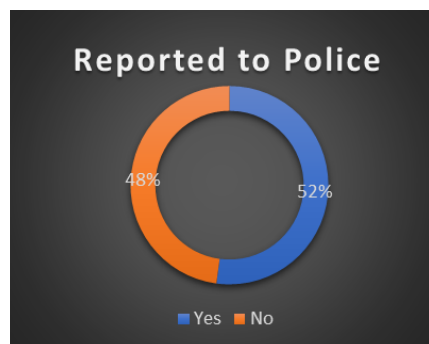
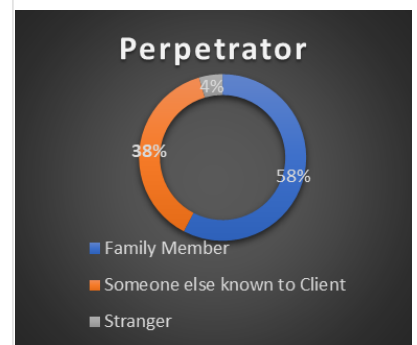
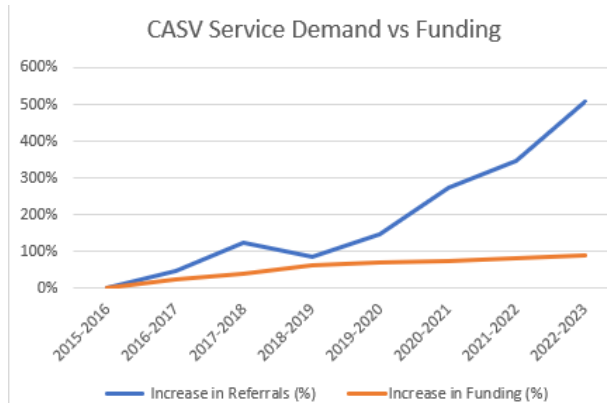
Survivors art work



CASV student Counsellors



SASV members speaking at QSAN Help Hope Change Launch



Roadside vigil

Special thanks to CASV Management Committee for their commitment and support in 2022-2023



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👍 facebook.com/casvinc



CASV team 2022-2023



Welcoming, Respecting, Celebrating



Funded by



The Centre Against Sexual Violence (CASV) Inc. humbly acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community.
We pay sincere respect to our Elders past, present and emerging.

The Centre Against Sexual Violence would like to thank the Department of Justice and Attorney General and the Department of Social Services for funded support in 2022-2023