

Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc Annual Report 1 July 2006 - 30 June 2007

Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc. plays a pivotal role in offering specialist services to victim/survivors and education and awareness to the broader community.

"To the staff at the Centre, on behalf of the rest of the Management Committee, I thank each and every one of you for the diligence, energy and creativity that you brought to your work and the persistence of belief that through hope a positive difference can be made. We greatly encourage you in your ongoing work. Thanks also to the efforts of the volunteer management committee who have supported and steered the agency work during the year."

Mitchell Clark
President

"This year will be remembered for all the courageous women who access the service for counselling and for the exciting new initiatives in the area of sexual violence prevention, particularly the Inspire magazine and the SHE Manual. Together the staff and committee worked hard to create the social change needed to end sexual violence. The great thing is that many people joined us on this journey."

Di Macleod
Director

Trends observed

Overall a **10% decrease** in requests for counselling, with referrals from GP's **decreasing by 20%**.

A **40% increase** in requests for violence prevention resources was experienced as well as a **30% increase** in requests for prevention education to male students.

Counselling

A total of **802** individual women engaged in face to face counselling this year.

A total of **4695** individual counselling sessions were conducted comprised of:

3801 spontaneous support sessions via telephone

126 counselling sessions by appointment via telephone

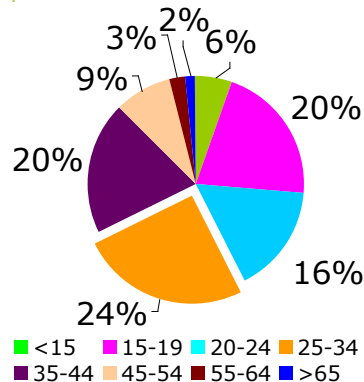
1691 face to face counselling sessions by appointment at the agency

203 face to face counselling sessions were conducted outside of agency at community centres, Palm beach share and care, high schools, hospital, police, court & D.P.P.

Groups were provided to **64** women and **72** young women.

Client Data

Age of survivor at time of presentation to the service



Where survivors live

70% of clients resided on the Gold Coast, **11.5%** rest of Queensland, **14%** interstate, **5%** overseas.

Main Presenting Reason

48% sexually assaulted as an adult

44% sexually assaulted as a child

8% experienced multiple assaults

90% experienced more than one incident of sexual violence.

Cultural/linguistic background

82% English speaking

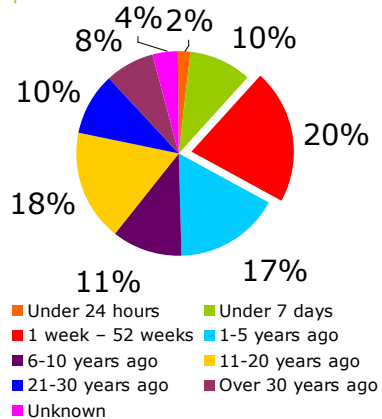
4% Aboriginal / Torres Strait Islander

11% Non-English Speaking Background

Disability

14% of survivors identified as having an intellectual and/or psychiatric and/or physical disability.

Time between assault & presentation



Location Of Presenting Assault

48% own residence

22% another residence

13% public place

3.5% car / boat

3% hotel/motel/licensed venue

2% work

8.5% unknown

Drink Spiking

34 women who engaged in counselling believed their drink had been spiked prior to being sexually assaulted.

Assault Reported to the Police

Yes

30%

No

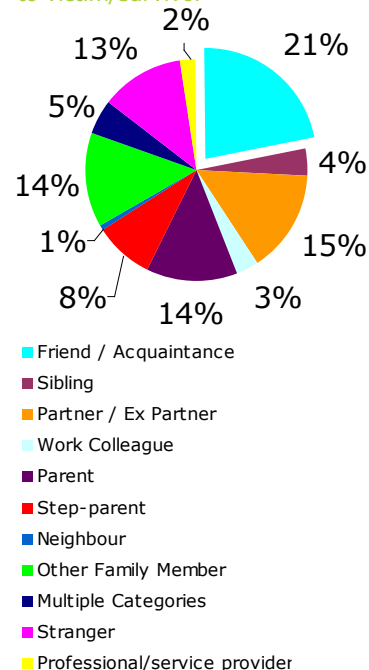
52%

Unknown

18%

Perpetrator Data

Relationship of Perpetrator to victim/survivor



98% of perpetrators of sexual violence identified by victim/survivor were male

Vision Statement

Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc. seeks to address issues of empowerment, equality and safety and upholds the principle that no person deserves to be sexually violated. Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc. will work towards dispelling the social and cultural myths surrounding sexual violence and commits itself to work towards the elimination of sexual violence in society.

Committee Members

Mitchell Clark
President
Donna Justo
Vice President
Betty Taylor
Secretary
Casandra Steer
Treasurer
Helen Post
General Member
Cheryl Mathews
General Member
Angela Driscoll
General Member
Di Macleod
General Member

Staff

Di Macleod
Director
Kellie Wilk
Counselling Manger
Narelle Poole
Administrator
Joyce Westerman
Counsellor/ Advocate
Anne Grace
Counsellor/ Advocate
Liz French
Counsellor/ Advocate
Louise Fawcett
Counsellor/ Advocate
Nora Kamaludin
Counsellor / Advocate
Lisa Pedersen
Counsellor/ Advocate
Jordan Tardall
Admin Assistant & Projects
Josie Tod
Casual Admin Assistant
Marian Anderson
Cleaner
Vani Echin
Trainee
Melissa Jeffery
Student

Education & Training

Community education is designed to develop awareness and understanding of sexual violence and its prevention. This year, **21,460** community members were reached through our community education programs.

In addition **3740 students** were reached through violence prevention education and awareness sessions.

314 professionals were reached through training sessions specifically designed to build capacity for more effective responses to victim/survivors of sexual violence in our community.

Racing to End Rape

This inaugural event launched Sexual Violence Awareness Month at the Gold Coast Turf Club. Over 100 guests attended and **\$3,500** was raised for the agency's violence prevention programs.

Media

The agency appeared in the media on **28** media occasions, locally, nationally and internationally.

Information and Resources

12,090 information request were received by the agency.

16,797 resources were disseminated including magazines, manuals, info cards, stickers, T-shirts, hats, bags, brochures, fact sheets, booklets, bookmarks and magnets.

A silicone wristband and a plastic "credit card" type resource were produced with the message "Stop sexual and domestic violence."

Brochure

The service developed and distributed a new brochure "Rape By An Intimate Partner".

Inspire Magazine



Inspire magazine was produced by staff with the support of a young women's reference group, a design and layout team of young women students from the Commercial Arts Training College and other stakeholders. The Inspire magazine targets young women aged 13 to 18 years, it is the only resource of its kind available in Australia and **13,000** copies have been distributed.

The launch was attended by over **400** young women and Renee Peterson from SEA FM took charge of the proceedings and entertainment.

The magazine mirrors existing young women's magazines however there is a particular focus on self-esteem, body image and healthy relationships. It has been promoted globally through the Women's UN Report Program & Network as an example of best practice in educating and supporting young women.

Strength, Health Empowerment



The SHE manual was developed based on the agency's work with young women. The goal of this manual is to resource other professionals to work effectively with young women in order to promote peaceful, safe and healthy relationships and work towards the elimination of all forms of dating violence.

The objectives of the manual are:
To increase self esteem and healthy body image.

To increase healthy relationship skills.

To identify the underlying causes of violence in our culture.

To identify the indicators of an unhealthy relationship.

To increase awareness of support services available.

Client rights and access Extended hours

To increase access for Gold Coast women, the agency extended opening hours from 9am – 8pm on Thursdays and utilised a range of counselling sites outside of the agency.

Child Risk Management Policy

A new Child Risk Management Policy was implemented which sets out the agency's commitment to the physical and emotional safety of children and young people.

Legal Process

In order to increase access to justice for rape complainants, the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc. successfully submitted for Dept of Justice funding for a special project to be conducted during the 2006/2007 financial year.

The project involved the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc. undertaking five major components

Supporting female rape/sexual assault complainants through the criminal justice system

Liaising and collaborating with key stakeholders within the system

Advocating on behalf of complainants

Providing information to significant others

Developing a legal resource for adult female rape/sexual assault complainants

Partnerships & Collaborations

When we develop partnerships with other individuals and agencies we enhance our collective power and so move closer towards ending sexual violence in our world.

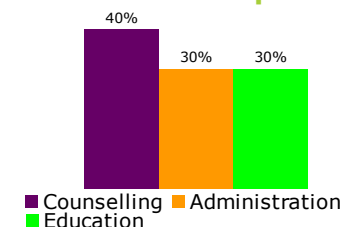
Collaboration and partnerships were maintained with the police, hospital, DPP, the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre and Bjorn Erik Web Solutions.

In addition, a new mutually beneficial strategic partnership was formed between the agency and the Commercial Arts Training College in Surfers Paradise. The college provided the agency with students to assist in the design and layout of key resources and the agency had the opportunity to provide practical work experience and educate students on the issue of sexual violence.

Sponsorship

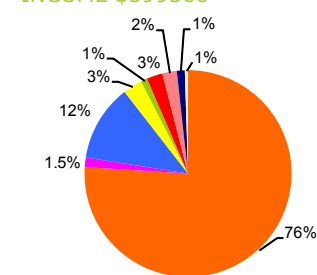
Cash and/or in-kind donations were received through developing/maintaining partnerships with:
Absynthe Bakery
Amcal Chemist Ashmore
Anglers Arms Hotel
Australis Sovereign Hotel
Bev Schutt Designs
Birch Carroll & Coyle
Bjorn Erik Web Solutions
Centrepoint Health Club
Combined Martial Arts Academy
Complete Nails & Beauty
Conrad Jupiters
Face2Face Hair & Nail Studio
Fisherman's Wharf Tavern
Flowers 2 Go
Fresh Skin Management Solutions
Gold Coast Arts Centre
Gold Coast City Councillors
Lovely Crumbs
Nutrimetics
Royal Pines Resort
Sage Restaurant
Salty's Restaurant
SEA FM-Renee Peterson
Spartys Party Shop - Spotlight
Terry White Chemists
Who's Lucy

How time was spent



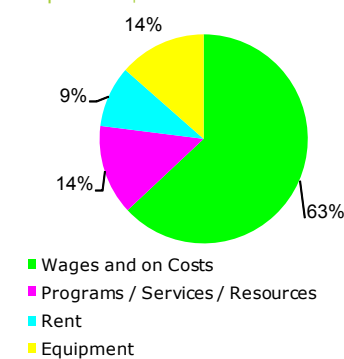
Finances

INCOME \$599566



- QLD Health
- DETIR
- FACSIA
- Gambling
- Dept. of Communities
- JAG
- Self Generated
- Donations
- Interest

Expenses \$561788



Finances were audited by Pitcher Partners and a copy of the full audited report is available upon request from the Treasurer.