



GOLD COAST CENTRE AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Annual Impact Report

2020-2021



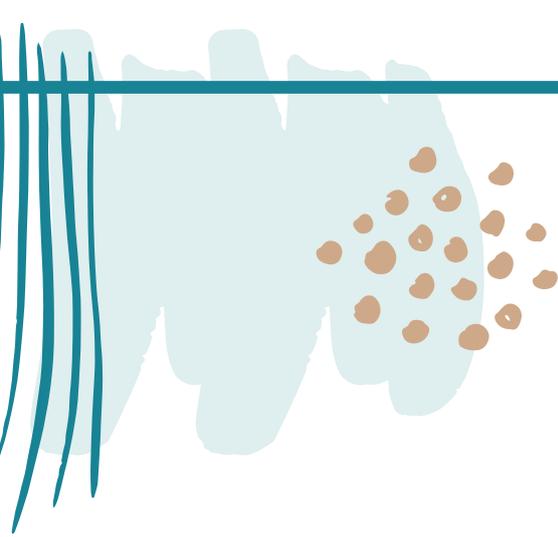


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Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence is on Yugambeh country. In the spirit of respect and humanity, we recognise the Aboriginal peoples of Australia as the traditional owners and custodians of these lands and waters. We pay our respect to them, their cultures and their elders past, present and emerging. We recognise the strength and resilience of First Nations Peoples in fighting for their cultures, communities, and lands.

OUR VISION

Safe communities free from sexual, domestic, and family violence.

OUR MISSION

COUNSELLING

Provide healing-centred support that recognises the many pathways to justice and healing.

ADVOCACY

Provide seamless pathways to justice for survivors and hold offenders to account.

EDUCATION

Empower individuals and communities to recognise and end cycles of violence.

A message from our President



To see GGCASV, Di and all the staff consistently work with the ever changing landscape has been incredibly impressive and one the management committee is grateful for.

It is my absolute honour to present the 2020/2021 President's Report on behalf of the Management committee of the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence.

If we thought 2020 was strange, it's possible that 2021 has been even more strange. To assist GCCASV to navigate a changing environment, members of the Management Committee and staff engaged in two workshops, facilitated by the Australian Centre for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies, on strategic thinking regarding the vision, values and culture of GCCASV. This exercise helped frame the ongoing COVID-19 response and future planning strategies in relation to the team, clients and sponsors.

To see GGCASV, Di and all the staff consistently work with the ever changing landscape has been incredibly impressive and one the management committee is grateful for.

While 2020 saw the influx of emergency funding, 2021 had the opposite effect and GCCASV is facing the difficult task of having to fundraise and source financial support within the community in order to

continue providing the support our clients desperately need.

We have made headway with support from local organisations and businesses to provide ongoing support in many forms and are excited for the future of those relationships as they continue to develop.

In 2022 the management committee will be focused on continuing to provide the excellent service our clients' deserve while ensuring that GCCASV can continue to provide those services by sourcing and raising private funds, while continuing to lobby the State and Federal government for further support.

On behalf of myself and the management committee we ask that you continue to support GCCASV and all the work they do for these women. It is an absolute privilege to serve on the committee, to work with Di and the team and I look forward to the work we will continue to do in the coming year.

Stephanie Murray
President

From the Director



Challenges and changes are always going to be a part of our personal and professional lives, however the most important part is how we deal with these challenges and changes.

As the global COVID-19 pandemic continued, 2020-2021 was a milestone year for the organisation, a year of adaptation and flexibility. I am proud to say that the GCCASV team, guided by the Management Committee, rose to the challenges and changes by focussing on the prioritisation of the health, safety and wellbeing of both our team and of the women using our services.

We continued our services, expanded the team and offered a range of service delivery options. Flexible innovative solutions were devised, making it possible to continue our work and our lives in ways that wouldn't have been possible had the pandemic hit 20 years earlier.

Technology such as Zoom, Teams, and email connected workplaces and home internet made business continuity possible for GCCASV and increased our ability to support clients via video, phone and in person.

This past year sexual violence has dominated the national conversation and whilst the COVID-19 pandemic has both revealed and exacerbated the extent of domestic and sexual violence, it has also raised awareness in the community and resulted in increased support from the state and federal governments.

continued...



From the Director (continued)

At a state level, a review of the experience of women across the criminal justice system was proposed and a Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce announced.



Women's Safety & Justice Taskforce consultation

Sexual Violence was on the agenda and the media, government and community focus drove increased demand for our services in both our sexual violence and domestic and family violence programs.

New resources were allocated and dispersed at a state and federal level. GCCASV received short term funding and this money assisted us to employ four extra part time staff until 30 June 2021. Whilst appreciative of the extra funds which took some of the pressure off an overloaded staff team, we now have to strongly advocate and lobby for this funding to continue. This will enable us to maintain momentum and effectively forward plan our responses.

In addition to specialist funding for sexual and domestic violence, one of the most critical, foundational issues is housing.

There is simply not enough affordable, safe, long term housing options for women and their children escaping violence and we commit to continue lobbying to address this basic human right.

Thank you to all our Management Committee, our staff, our funders the Department of Child Safety, Youth, and Women (CSYW), our supporters and most of all to the incredibly brave women we walk alongside in their healing journey.



GCCASV Management Committee

Thank you all for being part of our journey this past year and for your support. We look forward to continuing to work with you in this upcoming year as we take our new learnings into the next chapter – still striving for a world free from sexual and domestic violence.

Di Macleod
Director

Counselling Manager's Report



A special thank you to all of the women who allowed us to share in their journeys this year and those that have supported the work of GCCASV throughout 2020-2021.

2020-2021 provided a range of challenges and opportunities to the staff of GCCASV as the global COVID-19 pandemic continued.

Additional workers joined the counselling team as a result of short term COVID recovery funding. This included an advocate position for the first time which provided both counsellors and clients with additional assistance to navigate systems and supports. This valuable position enhanced client's access to resources and benefited the women and their families in very tangible and life altering ways but unfortunately funding for this ceased on 30 June 2021.

The enhanced and multidisciplinary staff brought a richness to the team through the cross pollination of practices, ideas, approaches, and theories. This enabled the counsellors to effectively address the impacts of experiences of violence and also the additional complexities arising

from the pandemic. These include increased isolation and a loss of some coping strategies, a housing crisis and a lack of affordable accommodation, and increased financial hardship.

With life increasingly challenging for many, the client newsletter was an important engagement tool offering an opportunity to connect, access self care ideas, and some lighthearted reading.

During the year, staff transitioned back to the office with NBN now in place and a new phone system. Counselling was offered face to face; both within the service as well as outreach appointments; online and via phone.



Staff meeting on Teams during lockdown

continued ...

Counselling Manager's Report (continued)

These varied modalities of engagement have become a part of GCCASV's ongoing operation and ensure access to the agency for all Gold Coast women. Group work recommenced with arts and crafts, macrame, goal setting and self defence.

It is noteworthy that the global pandemic also affected staff on a number of levels including the increasing demand for service, waitlists, working with complex clients with layered needs, and individual responses to the pandemic's impact.

This highlights the importance of regular supervision, access to professional development and both formal and informal peer support.

Some staff also completed or commenced further studies this year and I congratulate them on their hard work and achievements.

I also thank all of the counselling team for their support of each other and their ongoing commitment to professional growth, which continues to strengthen their specialised practice.

Kellie Wilk
Counselling Manager

“

When women lead and teach, they do so from a place of empowerment. They listen, they are empathic, they learn from each other, and that is incredibly powerful and it's a way to motivate and empower change.

-K.Wilk (ABC News 13/3/21)

”

Treasurer's Report

Our Special Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30th June 2021 were once again prepared by R.L. Martin and Associates and are managed in compliance with service agreement and legislative requirements.

The organisational fiscal position remains stable. Programmatic funding is in an uncertain period at the moment with the service not having enough core funding to maintain current staffing levels. The agency is working hard to lobby and fundraise to keep those positions secure.

A summary of the agency Income and Expenditure for the 2020/2021 financial year is as follows:

INCOME	
Government Grants	\$1,093,368
One-off COVID-19	\$50,000
Donations	\$20,828
Self raised funds	\$15,430
Interest	\$3,594
GROSS INCOME	\$1,183,220
EXPENDITURE	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,124,095

The completed audited statements are available on request.

Cassandra Steer
Treasurer



Lady Mayoress Ruth Tate visited GCCASV on 18 December 2020 and presented a cheque for \$10,000 from the Mayoress Charity Foundation Ltd. This was unexpected as there was no Mayoral Ball this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Foundation decided to make a contribution to three nominated charities of which GCCASV was one. We are very grateful for the Lady Mayoress' generosity.



March 2021
We received a cheque for \$10,000 from Varsity Against Violence



December 2020
Share the Dignity 'It's in the bag' campaign donated 20 special bags for Xmas .



December 2020
Barbara Pitt (Hope Island Bridge Group) delivering Christmas gift vouchers.

THANK YOU
ICON INTERNATIONAL
FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATION

March 2021
1000 free masks from Icon International in Burleigh.

GOLD COAST CENTRE
against sexual violence inc.



I am no longer
accepting the things
I cannot change I
am changing the
things I cannot
accept

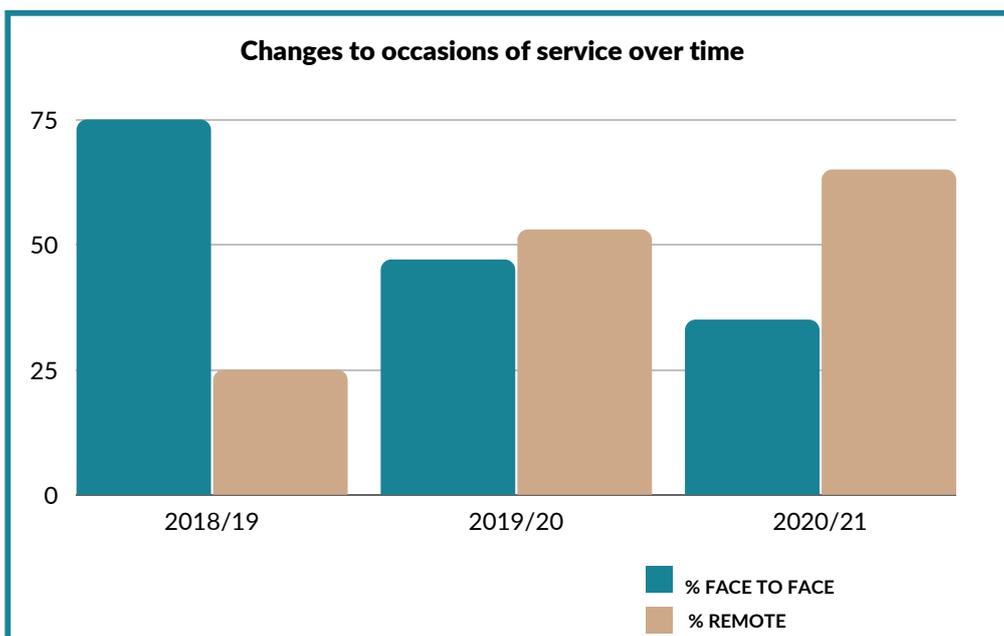
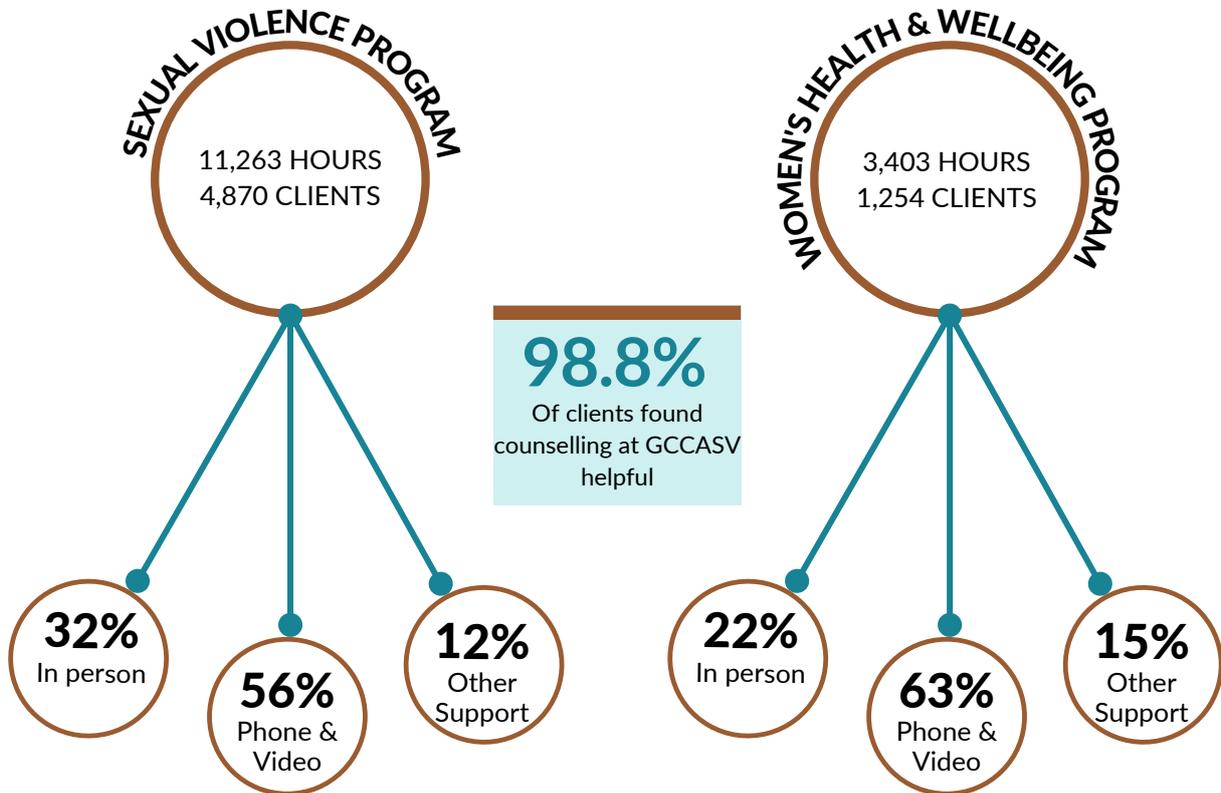
ANGELA DAVIS

COUNSELLING

Provide healing-centred support that recognises the many pathways to justice and healing.

Service snapshot

The committed counselling team continued to provide quality services to women, young women, and older women on the Gold Coast whose lives were affected by sexual, domestic and family violence across the agency's two programs; Sexual Violence and Women's Health and Wellbeing.





Trauma creates
change you DON'T
choose. Healing is
about creating
change you DO
choose.

MICHELLE ROSENTHALL

A wonderful safe space where I have always felt welcome and supported.

I don't think I could ever thank you enough for what you have done for me these past months.

You have pulled me out of the darkest of places...you have given me a voice and courage. Thank you does not feel 'enough' but thank you.

Client Feedback

Without GCCASV I wouldn't be here. My counsellor helped me turn my negative thoughts around and now I actually want to live my life for the first time in years.

The counselling and practical support I received has seriously changed my life. I have my own accommodation, and self care and safety strategies. I'm no longer living in fear and I'm hopeful for the future.

Client Testimonial



I'd like to make a donation and to reiterate my personal gratitude to for the work of the GCCASV and the profound impact the supports I received 25 years ago have had on my life.

I was supported by Counsellors from GC SASS from the weeks after the experience of sexual assault, through the decision making about reporting to police, through all the court processes in another state and to coping with both perpetrators not being convicted through to life afterwards. I had both individual counselling and therapeutic group work. I experienced secondary trauma through the lengthy court process and navigated the breakdown of family relationships, still impacted 25 years later, due to victim blaming. The isolation was profound and the devastation to my life was real and overwhelming. I felt like the person I was prior to this assault died.

But I rebuilt a new person from the pieces of me that were shattered. I am absolutely a survivor but I have integrated this into my identity so that it no longer defines all of me. It is part of my story; the scars remain present but softer now. I still prioritise a sense of safety on a daily basis and respect my need for this. I have been supported by many productive therapeutic relationships where I could process and grow and I do believe my inclination towards help-seeking has been central to my capacity to heal myself.

I am a proud social worker who has many opportunities to support others on their journey through trauma, violence and sexual violence. I am inspired by the impact your counselling team had on my recovery. This intentional use of my lived experience does inform my practice in quiet but significant ways.

Thank you for your work in fighting for women, in fighting against violence against women, at the individual and systemic levels, and for continuing your wonderful service to our community. Your work literally changes lives.

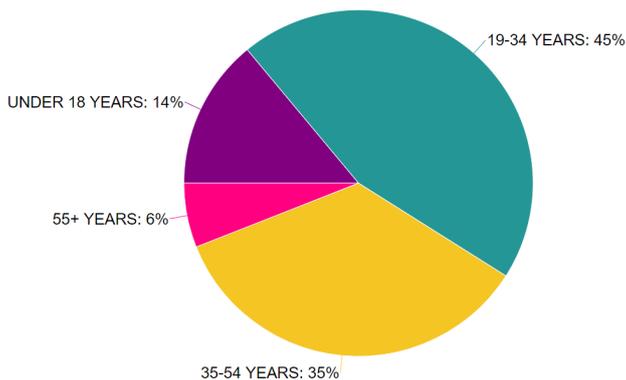
Thank you GCCASV for being the only place of safety and support for me during that time. May you keep going strong- we know the need is there, and will sadly continue to be there.

D.L.

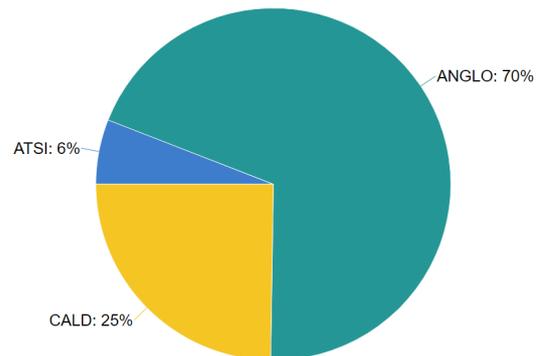
Sexual Violence Program

95% of offenders were male. Of the assaults that had happened in the last 7 days, 63% of women chose to have a forensic medical exam. Approximately 60% of clients had pursued a criminal justice pathway, speaking with police, anonymous reporting, or a formal report. 50% of assaults perpetrated by a stranger involved circumstances of aggravation including strangulation, alcohol and drugs.

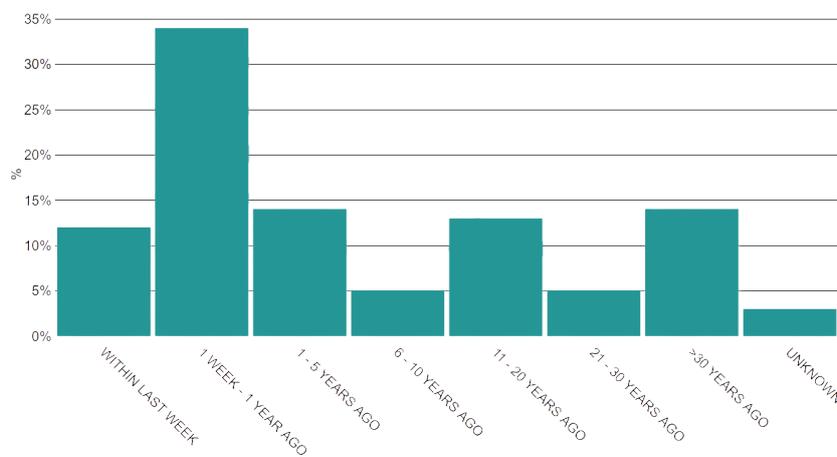
Age of client



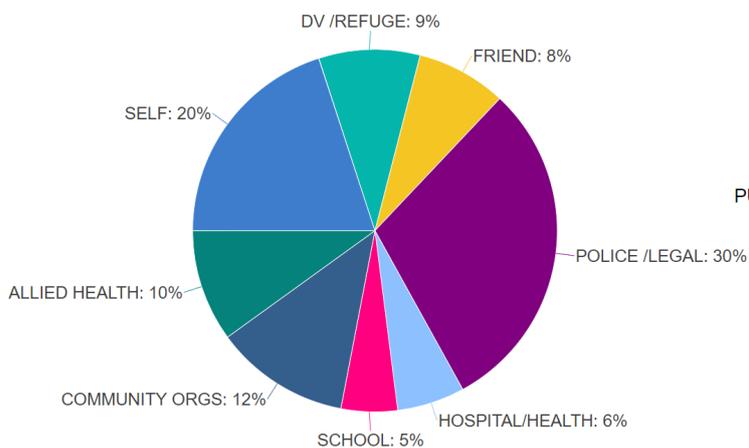
Ethnicity of client



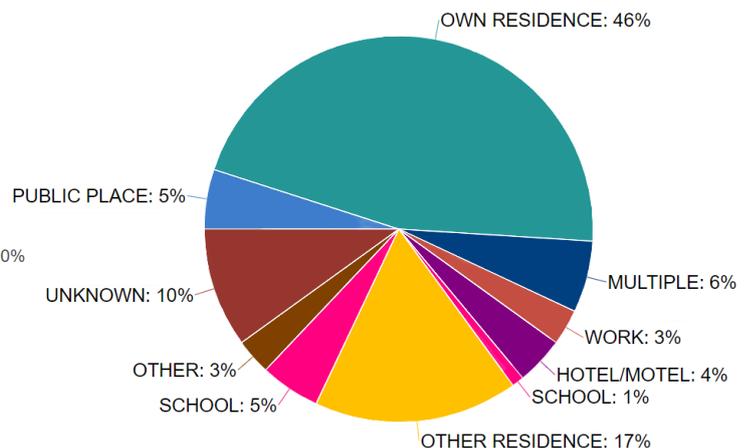
How long ago was the experience of SV?



Referral method



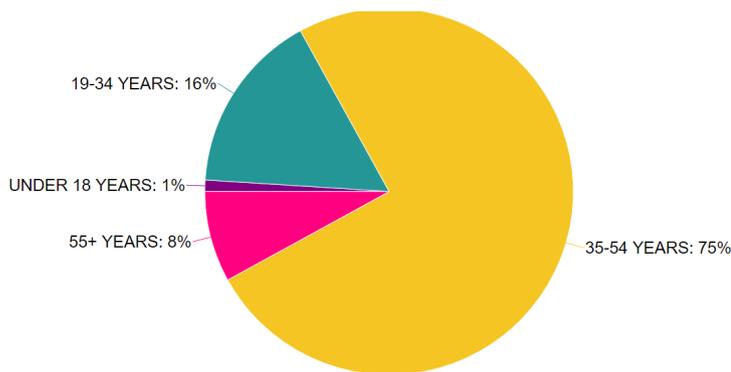
Where did the experience of SV occur?



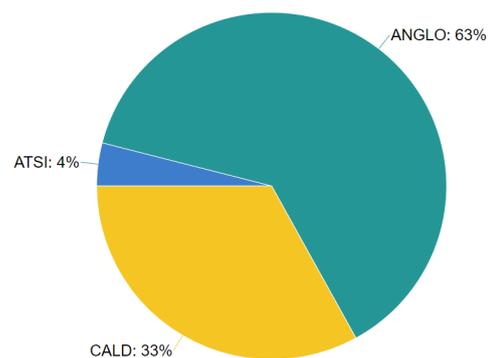
Women's Health & Wellbeing Program

95% of offenders were male. The overwhelming majority (90%) of perpetrators were a current or ex partner. Stalking and strangulation had featured in the experiences of over 73% of clients. 77% of clients had made either an informal or formal report to police and sought a DVO, most showing a course of conduct from the offender over a prolonged time period.

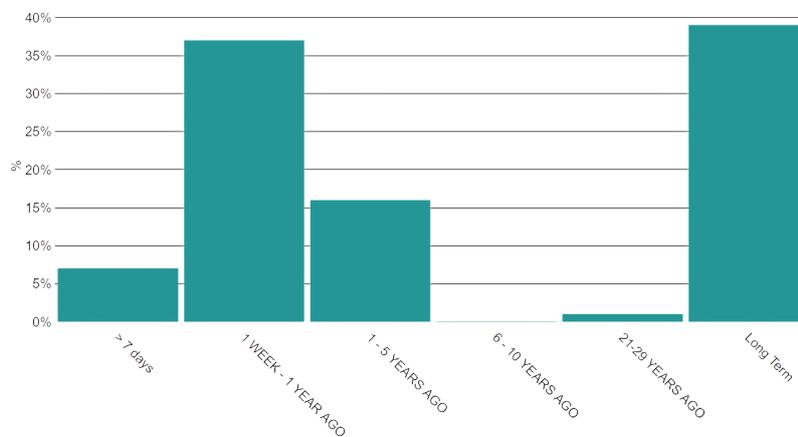
Age of client



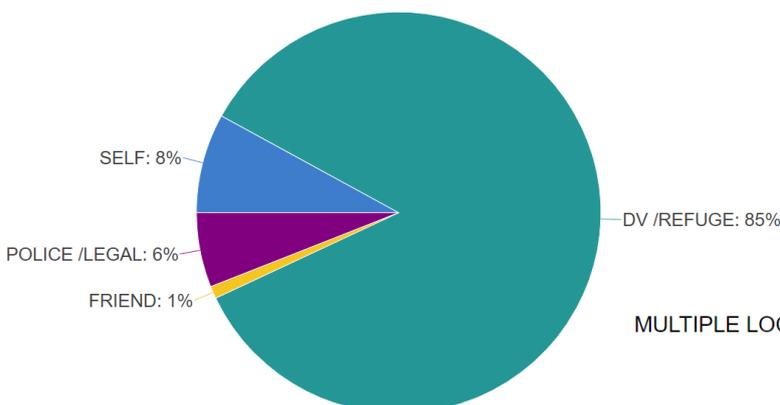
Ethnicity of client



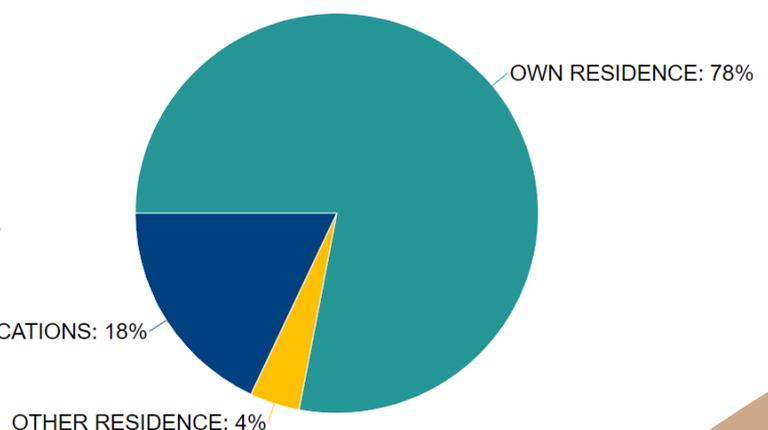
How long ago was the experience of GBV?



Referral method



Where did the experience of GBV occur?



ADVOCACY

Provide seamless pathways to justice for survivors and hold offenders to account.

Individual Advocacy

In addition to our therapeutic work, GCCASV offers trauma-informed, victim-centered individual advocacy which can take many forms.



Structural and Systems Advocacy

Whilst we respond to individuals at a micro level, we must always be cognisant of the macro level – the broader societal context that shapes and reinforces gender inequality and violence against women.

Individual issues and experiences of victim/survivors inform our broader structural and systems advocacy work assisting us to focus on upholding victim rights, identifying service gaps, highlighting barriers, and monitoring the effectiveness of current policy and practice. The focus of GCCASV is always safety as we strive to amplify women’s voices in holding offenders and systems accountable.



In 2020/1 GCCASV has been actively involved in structural advocacy – consulting with victim/survivors and workers, advocating, writing submissions, meeting with policymakers and senior government staff and lobbying politicians to change legislation, policies, processes and practices to better meet the needs of victim/survivors.

In late 2020, Di attended parliament to meet with some of the new shadow ministers including; Ros Bates (Shadow Minister for Medical Research, Shadow Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, and Shadow Minister for Women), Amanda Camm (Shadow Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence), and Tim Nicholls (Shadow Attorney-General and Shadow Minister for Justice). GCCASV was also honoured to have several MPs visit the centre including Attorney General Shannon Fentiman (Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) and Amanda Camm (Shadow Minister for Women, and Shadow Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence).

Systemic change needs to start with appropriately funded sexual violence intervention and prevention services. GCCASV, as part of the Queensland Sexual Violence Network (QSAN), intensified calls this year for the Queensland government to increase investment in sexual violence services. Enhancement of core funding of sexual violence services is urgently needed to both support victims/survivors of sexual violence and to boost prevention work.

Structural and Systems Advocacy



QUEENSLAND ACTION PLAN

The Director continued on the Sexual Violence Prevention Roundtable, focussing on the development of the first Action Plan under the Prevent. Support. Believe Framework to address sexual violence in Queensland.



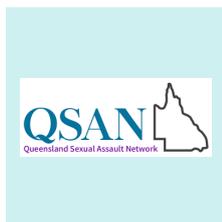
NATIONAL PLAN

GCCASV staff provided input into the consultation process to inform the next National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children.



QUEENSLAND LAW REFORM COMMISSION (QLRC)

In June 2020 the QLRC Report on the review of consent laws was released. Along with many social justice organisations, specialist sexual violence services and victim/survivors, GCCASV was disappointed in the recommendations which appeared “defendant centric” and didn’t address the failings of legislation and the criminal justice system that were actively raised in our submissions.



LOBBYING FOR FURTHER REVIEW

Agencies and individuals joined together in a campaign of community awareness raising; actively lobbying, media including social media, developing position papers and further consultation calling for a broad-based review positioning the experiences of victim/survivors of sexual violence at the centre.



SUBMISSIONS

GCCASV and others forwarded submissions to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee in relation to the *Criminal Code (Consent and Mistake of Fact) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020* recommending a broad “victim centric” review to cover barriers to reporting, the process of reporting to police, and attrition through the criminal justice system through to trial.



WOMEN'S SAFETY & JUSTICE TASKFORCE

In response to wide community support, in March 2021, the Queensland government established the independent Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce to conduct a wide-ranging review on women's experiences across the criminal justice system. Di Macleod was appointed and is proud to be part of this historic review.



CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT

The Queensland state election on 31st October 2020 meant new ministers and shadow ministers were announced and we consulted and briefed all new people in all relevant portfolios to discuss issues of sexual violence and its impact on victim survivors.

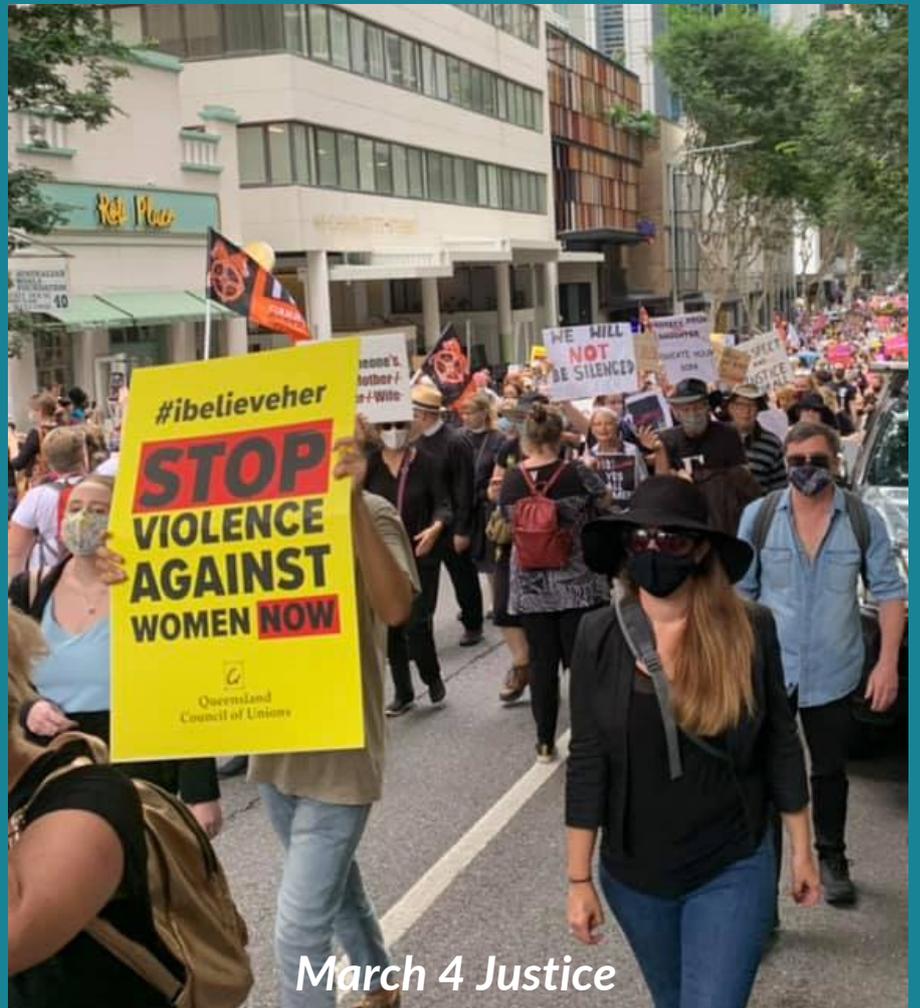
Advocacy & Activism



Red Rose Rally



IWD

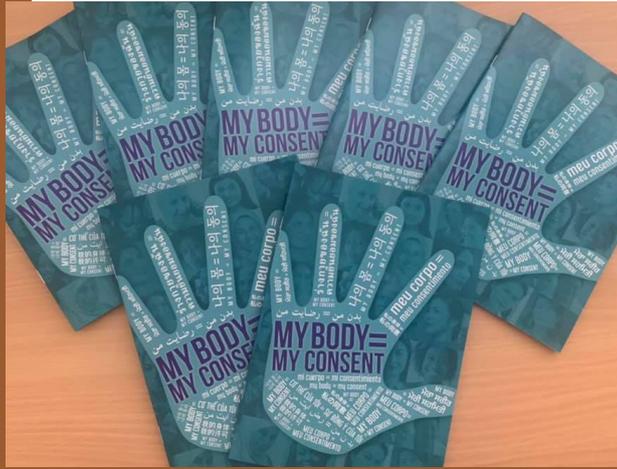


March 4 Justice



Reclaim the Night

Advocacy Partnerships



My Body, My Consent

GCCASV partnered with Multicultural Families Organisation on the My Body, My Consent project. This began with Kerrin and Kellie delivering a workshop supporting CALD women to speak out about what would benefit their communities. Collaborative work on the content resulted in the development of a video, and online and written booklet in ten languages. These great products were launched at an International Women's Day event where Kellie was a presenter.

Listen Up!

GCCASV partnered with WWILD on the Listen Up! project on the safety and rights of women with an intellectual disability. GCCASV engaged in consultation, assisted in recruitment and pre-group interviews and hosted a 2-day workshop on the Gold Coast. During the group women shared thoughts on what services and workers can implement to provide better responses. WWILD will be evaluating the group and developing a podcast for release to share the women's messages and advice.



READY TO LISTEN
PREVENTING SEXUAL ASSAULT IN RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE

#ReadyToListen

GCCASV was invited to join the Advisory Committee for this project aiming to build the skills and capacity of residential aged care service providers to better respond to and prevent the sexual assault. Funded by the Department of Health and led by the Older Person's Advocacy Network, in partnership with Celebrate Ageing and the Older Women's Network (NSW).

Legal Clinic

In a wonderful extension to wrap around services, GCCASV and the Gold Coast Community Legal Centre (GCCLC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the GCCLC to operate a weekly legal clinic onsite at GCCASV. This partnership is to ensure that victims/survivors of sexual and domestic violence are better aware of their rights through the provision of legal advice and information. A six month trial partnership has been agreed and the clinic commenced in June 2021.



EDUCATION

Empower individuals and communities to recognise and end cycles of violence.

Community Education

GCCASV delivers a range of programs in schools and within our community to help educate people of all ages and backgrounds to better understand respectful relationships, sexual and domestic violence and its impacts.



Prevent-ED
Anti-violence Education

Prevent-ED is education for the real world. It provides a range of programs that aim to prevent and interrupt sexual, domestic and family violence in our community.

- Respect-ED** Teaching the skills for healthy and respectful relationships
- Consent-ED** Exploring the importance of consent based interactions
- Equal-ED** Strengthening social norms that are inclusive and equitable
- Support-ED** Equipping service providers to recognise and respond to violence and trauma

We also offer a 60 minute introductory session, Prevent-ED 101 that covers:



There has been an increasing focus in Australia on the importance for relationships and sexuality education. In particular education that addresses real world issues around consent.

Throughout the year, Kerrin and Kellie delivered a number of school sessions, working with hundreds of Year 11 and 12 students in small and classroom size groups across two schools. Sadly, for many students this was the first time they had received sexuality education that explored the role of pleasure and consent in healthy sexual relationships.

In response to an increasing demand for school based education, Kerrin and Kellie have been rebranding our education to PreventED and developing a range of modules available within the new program.

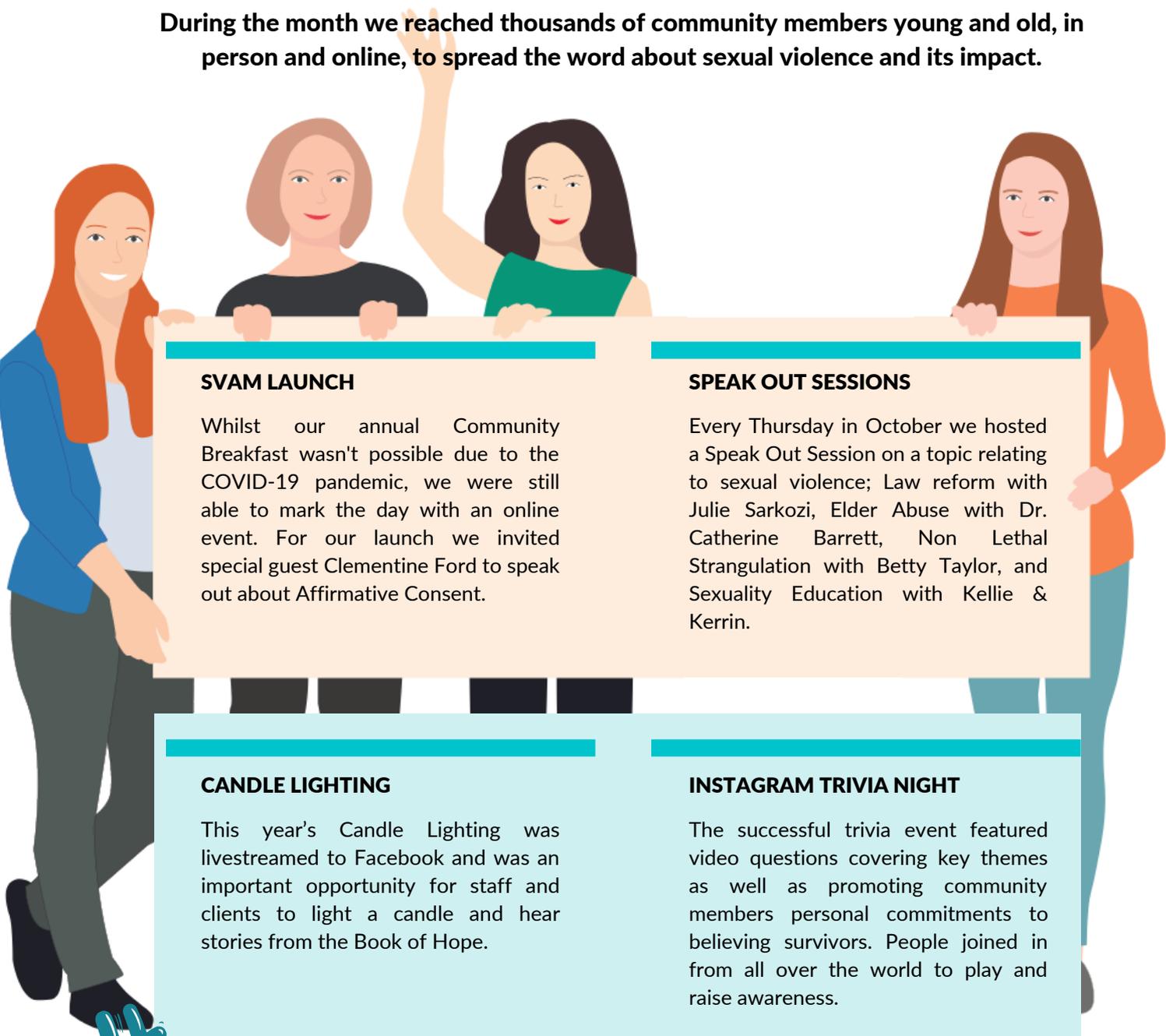
Di and Kerrin, along with other QSAN members, met with representatives from the Department of Education, Brisbane Catholic Education, and Independent Schools in February. This discussion focused on the need for specialist input into the development of consent education and the importance of teacher/staff training to ensure education was trauma-informed and value-free, and staff felt equipped to respond to disclosures.

GCCASV has also hosted a number of education professionals this year, with visits from the School Based Youth Health Nurses and professional development sessions with school based psychologists and guidance counsellors. Sessions focused on the role of 'Start By Believing' in the school space, and strengthening responses to trauma and supporting the parents of young people who have experienced sexual violence.

Sexual Violence Awareness Month

This year our theme for SVAM was “Start By Believing” (SBB). The recent recommendations by the Queensland Law Reform Commission highlighted just how far we have to go in reaching key audiences when talking about affirmative consent and an individual’s rights to safe, mutual, and consensual sexual experiences. This presented an opportunity throughout the month to focus efforts on addressing the mythology that continues to impact the disclosure, reporting, and prosecution of sexual crimes while promoting the positive and pleasurable aspects of healthy sexual relationships.

During the month we reached thousands of community members young and old, in person and online, to spread the word about sexual violence and its impact.



SVAM LAUNCH

Whilst our annual Community Breakfast wasn't possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were still able to mark the day with an online event. For our launch we invited special guest Clementine Ford to speak out about Affirmative Consent.

SPEAK OUT SESSIONS

Every Thursday in October we hosted a Speak Out Session on a topic relating to sexual violence; Law reform with Julie Sarkozi, Elder Abuse with Dr. Catherine Barrett, Non Lethal Strangulation with Betty Taylor, and Sexuality Education with Kellie & Kerrin.

CANDLE LIGHTING

This year's Candle Lighting was livestreamed to Facebook and was an important opportunity for staff and clients to light a candle and hear stories from the Book of Hope.

INSTAGRAM TRIVIA NIGHT

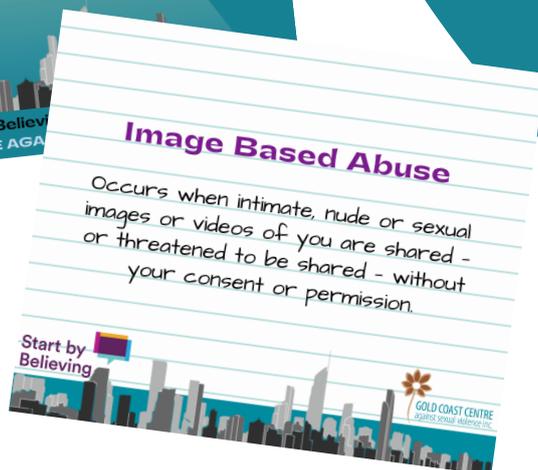
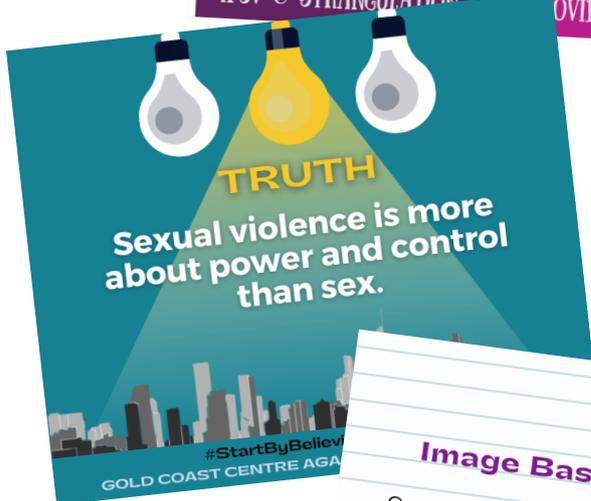
The successful trivia event featured video questions covering key themes as well as promoting community members personal commitments to believing survivors. People joined in from all over the world to play and raise awareness.



#startbybelievingaustralia #affirmativeconsent #svam2020 #wecantconsenttothis #changetheending #mistakeoffact #sexualrights #mythbustingmonday #terminologytuesday #webelievewednesday #speakoutthursday #fridayfact #silentsaturday

October in Queensland is Sexual Violence Awareness Month (SVAM).

The SVAM campaign in Queensland was initiated by our agency in 1996 and gradually spread throughout the state. Every October we organise a wide range of activities designed to raise awareness, educate, and help prevent sexual violence.



In October 2020, GCCASV:

- Hosted our first online community breakfast to launch the month with keynote speaker Clementine Ford
- Developed a social media campaign around the theme of 'Start by Believing' including Terminology Tuesdays and We Believe Wednesdays
- Ran a series of weekly Speak Out Sessions covering Elder Abuse, Covid & Consent, Strangulation, and Law Reform which were viewed by over 1000 people
- Held our annual Candle lighting and survivor speak out online
- Ran an exciting Instagram Trivia night with video questions from a wide range of advocates covering everything from pop culture to GCCASV herstory
- Provided education and training to Chill Out Zone staff, and Schoolies workers and volunteers
- Had a side panel advertisement located on a Surfside Bus featuring the Start By Believing campaign and agency details
- Organised a fundraising raffle
- Hosted an Orange Day morning tea as part of the UNiTE Campaign



Education & Training

GCCASV has a proven track record of designing and delivering specialist sexual and domestic violence training to local, state, national and international organisations to enhance and improve responses.

Our training is founded on both evidence-based practice and practice-based evidence informed by our decades of experience working directly with victim/survivors. The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on training however, with most training being delivered virtually and several bookings being rescheduled into the next financial year due to lockdowns and illness.

- Di was a panelist for Varsity against Violence's virtual coffee conversation in November 2020 to engage the community, educate, and connect.
- Kellie and Kerrin delivered training to 150 School Leaver volunteers in September/October 2020 on the Bystander framework and 'Start By Believing'.
- Di spoke on the panel, and Kerrin assisted with the technology, for the virtual Red Rose Foundation webinar – Coercive Control: A Considered Conversation in December 2020.
- Di spoke at the Varsity Social Business Forum in March 2021 educating about the work of GCCASV.
- Kerrin finalised the new website which went live in March 2021 providing up to date information and resources to services and the community.
- Di and Kerrin developed a module on trauma informed lawyering. In May 2021 the pilot was delivered to Gold Coast Community Legal Centre.
- Di and Kerrin provided training on IPSV in the Investigating Sexual Assault–Corroborating & Understanding Relationship Evidence (ISACURE) course for detectives in March and June 2021.
- Kerrin presented at the Gold Coast District Officer In Charge training day in May 2021 on trauma responses and the importance of 'Start By Believing'.
- Di presented on the relationship between sexual violence and strangulation at the Acquired Brain Injury Forum in May 2021, hosted by Red Rose Foundation.

School Leavers

Schoolies Week 2020 was a very different response from previous years. Given the border closures and ongoing restrictions, the Queensland Government made the decision to offer a School Leaver Support Model in place of the Safer Schoolies Response. Whilst there was a significant number of booking cancellations from young people, key stakeholders agreed that a smaller response was still necessary.

GCCASV decided not to have staff in Surfers Paradise during the response. However, Kellie and Kerrin delivered a number of training sessions to volunteers and support services staff focusing on how to use the Bystander Framework to intervene in situations of harm. Once again 'Start By Believing' was an important aspect of all training sessions.

Start By Believing

Start by Believing (SBB) is a global awareness campaign launched in Chicago in 2011 and brought to Australia by GCCASV in 2019.

SBB is designed to improve responses to survivors of sexual violence one disclosure at a time.

As part of the 'Start by Believing' campaign, GCCASV was asked to provide training at the Police Academy and preliminary discussion and development began in early 2021. This training brought the perspective of victim/survivors to this serious issue and was strengthened by weaving through the QPS perspective, provided by Detective Senior Sergeant Vanessa Wiseman.



Start by Believing is more than just a few words, it's not just a campaign it's a philosophical stance that "flips the script" on the negative messages victims have historically received from professionals and support people.



Extending the commitment to trauma-informed and victim-centric justice responses, GCCASV was invited to present a seminar to Gold Coast District Officers In Charge in May 2021, in addition to contributing to a Domestic Violence Upskill day in June 2021 for all police in the South East Region.

These are all important steps in more broadly spreading the message on the relevance of the "Start By Believing" campaign to the survivor's journey to justice.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted the remaining scheduled dates we are looking forward to continuing this work with QPS.



There are many people to thank for the success of GCCASV. The Management committee who always give so generously of their time, the staff who even under difficult circumstances find time to smile.

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Barbara Geoghegan (resg. 12/20)

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Supporters

We would like to recognise the generosity of supporters who reached out to us through uncertain times. Responding to and preventing sexual and domestic violence requires a community response and we want to thank you for your support.

A special acknowledgement of Bill Wakefield from Combined Martial Arts for his continued voluntary assistance.

Aavago Massage
Aidan Raimondo
Catherine Barrett
Combined Martial Arts
Connected Platforms
Cr William Owen-Jones
Friends with Dignity
Gold Coast City Council
Gold Coast Community Fund
Gold Coast Community Legal Centre
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