

GOLD COAST CENTRE
against sexual violence inc.

2023 IMPACT REPORT



Annual Impact Report 2022-2023

© Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence

www.stopsexualviolence.com



We value respect, cultural and social diversity, and inclusion.



Queensland
Government



Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence is funded by the
Queensland Government's Department of Justice & Attorney General

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Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence is on Kombumerri Country in the Yugambeh Nation. 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.



GOLD COAST CENTRE AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE

A specialist Sexual Violence intervention and prevention agency.

OUR VISION

Safe communities free from Sexual, Domestic, and Family Violence.



OUR MISSION



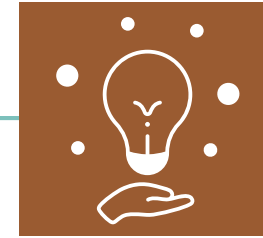
Counselling

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.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Stephanie Murray (President)
Eric Cheshire (Secretary)
Terry Goldsworthy (Secretary, Resigned)
Casandra Steer (Treasurer)

Betty Taylor (General Member)
Lauren Quinn (General Member)
Alicia Suthers (General Member)

MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATION & EDUCATION

Di Macleod (Director)
Kellie Wilk (Counselling Manager)
Kerrin Bradfield (Education Coordinator)
Narelle Poole (Administrator)
Charlene Bilish (Administration Assistant)

Ana Carrigan (External Supervisor)

COUNSELLOR/ADVOCATES

Sexual Violence Program

Brooke M
Jade H
Karen R
Kate L
Maria G
Rana M
Zoe C

Women's Health & Wellbeing Program

Irene W
Sarah S
Sharon K
Toni M (Resigned)



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



It is my absolute honour to present the 2022/2023 President's Report on behalf of the Management Committee of the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence.

In my many years as first a committee member, and thereafter the President of this remarkable organisation, I am never short of amazed and in awe of the work the Centre does and these amazing people do.

While providing crucial services to the community, developing new programs, trainings, support and events, they continue to have to lobby the government for more support and more and more community support by fundraising and corporate sponsorship. You can only imagine the work the Centre would be able to do if the financial support was there to allow them to employ more staff and in turn, reach more people. We are so grateful for our loyal supporters and corporate partners and are looking forward to see these relationships continue to grow over the coming years.

In 2024 the Management Committee will be focused on continuing to support the Centre to provide the excellent service the client's deserve, while ensuring that the Centre 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 the Centre 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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT



This past year was another busy year continuing to respond to the high rates of Sexual and Domestic Violence whilst undertaking significant work that supported the implementation of law reform and policy development, guided by the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce recommendations.

Throughout this period, the GCCASV team, always managed to prioritise safety and wellbeing through adaptation and flexibility, providing timely and ethical information, support, counselling, healing, and access to justice for victim/ survivors of Sexual and Domestic Violence.

Through our education and training programs, we have been changing the practice of responding to Sexual and Domestic Violence, focusing on awareness in the community and building capacity to improve frontline service responses. Through our commitment to the international Start by Believing campaign, we have continued to work towards a community culture of believing survivors whenever they disclose Sexual Violence.

This year the dire economic situation has impacted the whole community with higher cost of living, mortgages, scarcity of rental properties and increasingly high rents. Many of our clients cannot afford food and/or have found themselves homeless or at risk of homelessness.

This has presented a significant challenge to GCCASV in providing counselling to those living in cars and couch surfing without basic human rights of food and shelter. By working with Housing & Homelessness Services and collaborating with our community colleagues Quest Hotel and St John's Crisis Centre, we have often been able to broker some safer housing options.



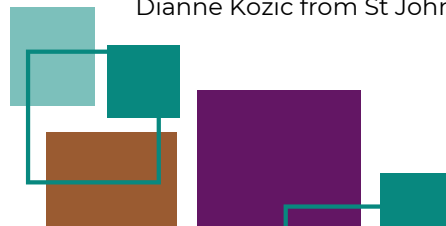
Dianne Kozic from St John's Crisis Centre

To all the organisations with whom we have collaborative partnerships we thank you for assisting us to value-add for our clients. These include James Frizelle Charitable Foundation, Rotary of Griffith Gold Coast, Hearts of Purple, Rotary Burleigh Heads, Red Rose Foundation, Connected Platforms and many others.



Hon. Dr Jeanette Young & the Red Rose Foundation

Working closely with Queensland Police Service, "Project Engage" has continued to be of great value to our clients. Being able to meet with a female police officer in the safety of the GCCASV building has been a game changer in relation to understanding police processes, providing a pathway to reporting and making a statement, case updates and positive communication. Thanks to all the female detectives who participated in the past year we are appreciative of your attendance at our service.



GCCASV has also provided assistance in designing trauma informed, victim centric rooms at police headquarters to provide safer spaces when attending the police station.

Sustained structural advocacy with both State and Federal governments is really important. This year GCCASV has continued to engage with government and other stakeholders to raise systemic issues of concern and to ensure the voices and experiences of victim/survivors of Sexual and Domestic Violence are considered in the formulation of relevant policy and legislation in Queensland.

GCCASV undertook 25 written and oral submissions, in addition to parliamentary inquiry and consultation participation experiences, at a state and federal level. Along with other Sexual Assault services in Queensland we have also been able to leverage our position through our membership of Queensland Sexual Assault Network (QSAN).



Hon. Yvette D'Ath (Attorney General)

A big thank you to our funders the Department of Justice and Attorney General (CSYW). I would like to pay special tribute to Lisa Eggleton our Contract Officer and Michelle Potter, Integrations Manager who are so helpful and supportive. Thank you.

This past year GCCASV was fortunate to receive additional short-term state and federal government funding. These extra funds have taken some of the pressure off an overloaded staff team, struggling to meet demand, but fail to address how GCCASV can maintain that momentum into the future. We will continue to advocate and lobby for a sustained increase in our CORE FUNDING to provide a safe and stable foundation to strategically plan for the future.

To our Management Committee whose support and strategic guidance provides another layer of governance critical to managing the operational components of our service- we really appreciate your combined expertise and the commitment and time you give to GCCASV on a voluntary basis.

To all of our staff team, thank you for your commitment and the job you do day in day out in a really confronting area of violence against women. Whether you work in administration, in education, in training, in support or in counselling you do an amazing job, and your efforts are much appreciated.

I would like to pay a special tribute to Kellie, our Counselling Manager who has managed an expanded counselling team this year and kept everything running smoothly inside the organisation with her ongoing dedication, flexibility & professionalism.

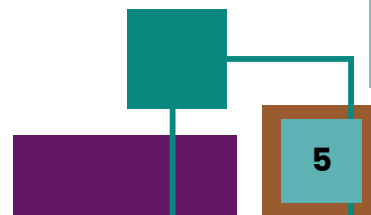


Kellie taking on a wide range of duties

The work of GCCASV is possible not only through government funding and our management and staff team, but because of community support and partnerships that bolster the direct work with our clients. We are very grateful for the generosity of our community and thank our sponsors and donors who contributed in the past year.

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 the upcoming year and in the future.

Di Macleod
Director



FINANCE

Casandra Steer

Treasurer

Our Special Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30th June 2023 were prepared by Allen Audit and Advisory and are managed in compliance with service agreements and legislative requirements. The organisation's financial position remained stable and funding has been secured for all programs for a number of years.

The agency has grown with additional short term funding this year which has meant more time spent on service agreement requirements and reporting obligations this year. A summary of the agency's income and expenditure for the 2022/2023 financial year is as follows:

DONATIONS & GRANTS

- Anonymous- \$24,000
- Connected Platforms - \$1,000
- CSI- \$10,000
- Lady Mayoress Ruth Tate- \$25,000
- Moira and friends- \$800
- Rotary Club of Burleigh Heads (Duck race)- \$5,000
- Rotary Club of Griffith Gold Coast (Book of Hope)- \$5,000
- Zonta Club Paradise Point- \$2,000

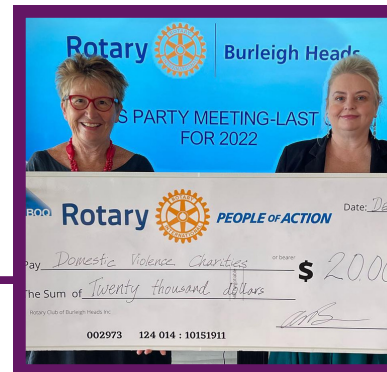


GROSS INCOME:		\$1,740,890.14
GOVERNMENT FUNDING	\$	1,608,217.19
JAMES FRIZELLE GRANT	\$	32,727.27
DONATIONS RECEIVED	\$	82,865.31
EDUCATION & EVENTS	\$	13,288.34
INTEREST	\$	3,792.03
GROSS EXPENDITURE		\$1,817,390.83

Rotary Club of Griffith Gold Coast



Csi Club Southport



Rotary Club of Burleigh Heads



Ros Bates MP Gazebo Donation



Zonta Club of Paradise Point



Hope Island Ladies Bridge Group



Lady Mayoress Ruth Tate



Csi Club Southport

COUNSELLING





“

From the counsellors...

We believe that Hope is an important part of the healing process.

Hope is the belief that counselling will help you think, feel, and behave in a more positive way. This may include learning new skills, feeling better about yourself, setting goals, and making sense of your past.

As Counsellors, our role is to facilitate your Hopes, dreams and aspirations. This is achieved through working together at your own pace, in a non-judgmental, respectful and caring format.

”

COUNSELLING MANAGER'S REPORT



Throughout 2022-2023, the dedicated staff at the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence (GCCASV) consistently demonstrated their commitment to delivering high quality counselling, support, and advocacy to women, young women and older women who had been subjected to Sexual, Domestic and Family Violence. These services continued to be offered through our two programs; Sexual Violence and Women's Health and Wellbeing.

The counsellors utilised a diverse range of strategies and therapies, underpinned by a feminist framework, to effectively respond to the many trauma responses that significantly affect the day-to-day functioning and overall wellbeing of women accessing the Centre.

These responses were often further intensified by the ongoing accommodation crisis on the Gold Coast, as well as prevalent issues of isolation, limited resources, and the financial hardships faced by many women.

More women are seeking timely support, with over 50% of those in the Sexual Violence program connecting with the Centre within a year of being subjected to violence. It is worth noting, that 35% of women in this program disclosed additional experiences of Sexual Violence.

Further data collected from 2022-2023 revealed that 98% of women seeking support from the Women's Health and Wellbeing Program had experienced five or more forms of abuse or aggravation, with some of these clients having endured over 30 years of violence and trauma.

Due to a consistent demand for services, both the Sexual Violence and Women's Health and Wellbeing Programs once again had waiting lists with fluctuating waiting times throughout the year. Staff worked hard to minimise these lists as much as possible, and to generate ways to increase women's access to support and counselling.

GCCASV consistently offered a diverse range of counselling options, including in person, phone, and online video appointments. Increasingly, women have been opting for online platforms or phone sessions, benefiting from the flexibility and accessibility these options provided.

GCCASV also continued to extend its support and services to women through outreach to schools, courts, and police stations when needed.

While individual counselling remained the cornerstone of GCCASV's services, the Centre also recognises the importance and value of group work opportunities. Group sessions provided a supportive environment for women to connect with each other, reduce isolation and share strategies, often while learning new skills and having some fun.



Art from the Women's Health & Wellbeing Event

Group sessions during the last year included movement, creative arts, poster making, nutrition and a Women's Health and Wellbeing event in Domestic Violence Awareness Month. One of the standout sessions was a creative writing workshop led by Anna Mraz, where many women produced inspiring pieces of writing.

Advocating for women as they intersect with other services and systems is another vital task undertaken by staff on a regular basis. During this year, the Centre supported women in their interactions with reporting and legal systems, a range of medical services & practitioners, educational institutions, housing, Domestic Violence services, Centrelink, Child Safety and other services designed to address women's additional needs.

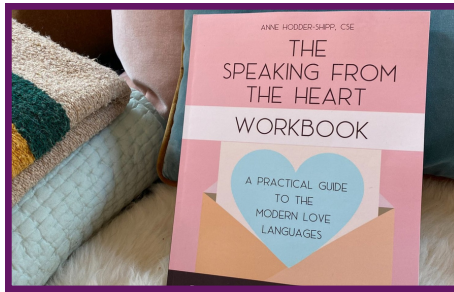
This aligns with the Centre's commitment to engage with other agencies and establish collaborative partnerships, strengthening referral pathways, and ensuring a holistic and comprehensive approach to supporting women in their journey towards safety, justice, and healing.



Meeting with Thriving Multicultural Communities

A significant legislative development during the last year was the introduction of a new reporting requirement, known as Section 229BC.

This legislation emerged from the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse recommendations to improve the reporting of suspected child sexual abuse. In response, GCCASV developed and implemented additional policies and procedures, which ensured compliance while maintaining client agency.



Lunch & Learn on Modern Love Languages

GCCASV staff remain committed to continuous improvement and professional growth. This year, Ana Carrigan was appointed as the external clinical supervisor, providing both individual & group supervision sessions. Supervision sessions that address organisational and administrative issues are provided by myself along with ongoing informal support and debriefing.

Staff also participated in community of practice initiatives and accessed online and in person professional development, with the information learnt often shared with the team in regular 'Lunch and Learn' sessions.



GCCASV Staff

There were a number of staffing changes this year with Sarah, Jade, and Irene joining the team. Rana, a valued member of our counselling team went on maternity leave, and Toni left to explore new opportunities.

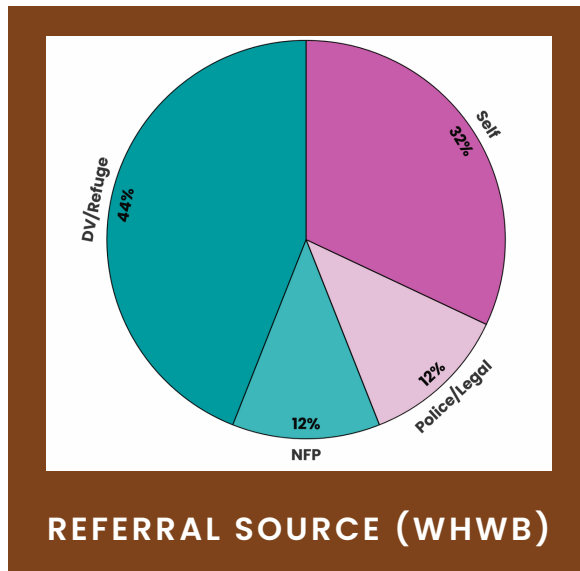
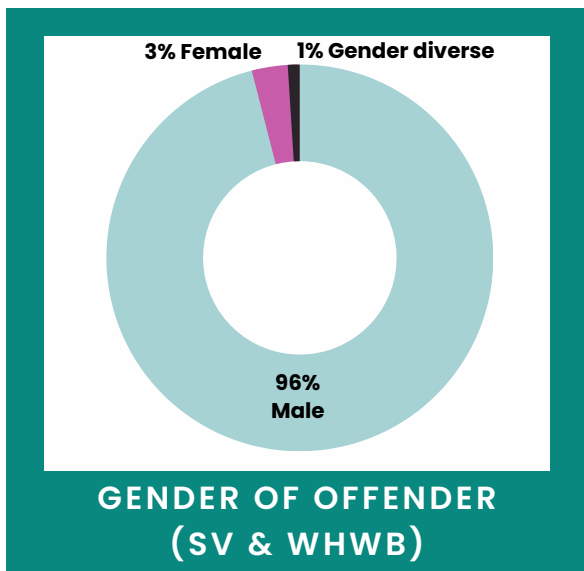
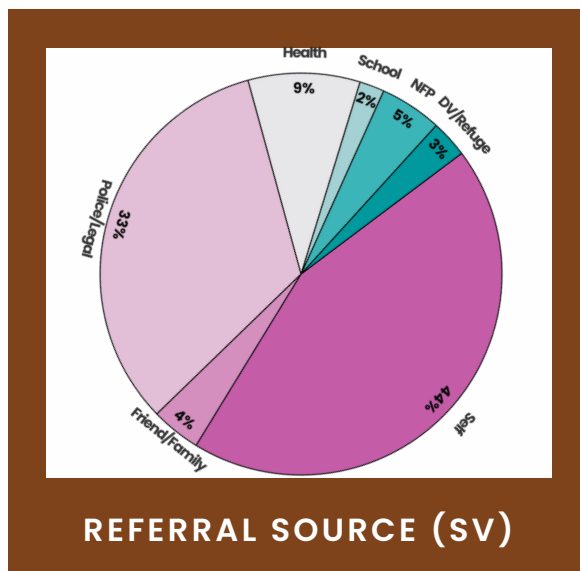
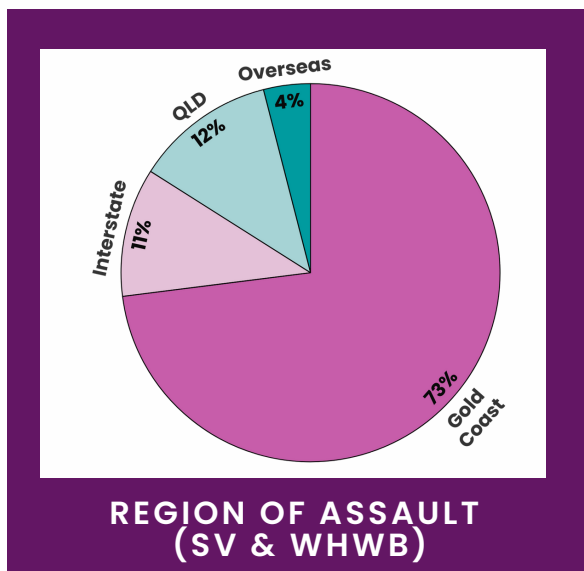
I would like to express my gratitude to the whole GCCASV team and thank them all for the support they provide to me personally. I also commend them on the amazing work they do, with the women who access our Centre and the wider Gold Coast community.

Finally, thank you to the women who allow us to be a small part of their journeys. Their courage inspires us all and highlights the ongoing need for continued support, advocacy, and systemic change within our community.

Kellie Wilk
Counselling & Education Manager

SERVICE OVERVIEW

In 2022-2023, GCCASV provided **10,560** hours of counselling, advocacy and support to **5,968** clients across the agency's two programs; Sexual Violence (SV) and Women's Health & Wellbeing (WHWB). In both programs the majority of service users were victim/survivors who were assaulted on the Gold Coast.



WHWB

5,968
client
interactions

SV

1,416
client
interactions

4,525
client
interactions



24%
In person



55%
Phone



5%
Video



16%
Other
Support

39.5y
Average
Age

70%
Criminal
Justice
Pathway

28%
Other SV/DV
experiences



32%
In person



57%
Phone



3%
Video



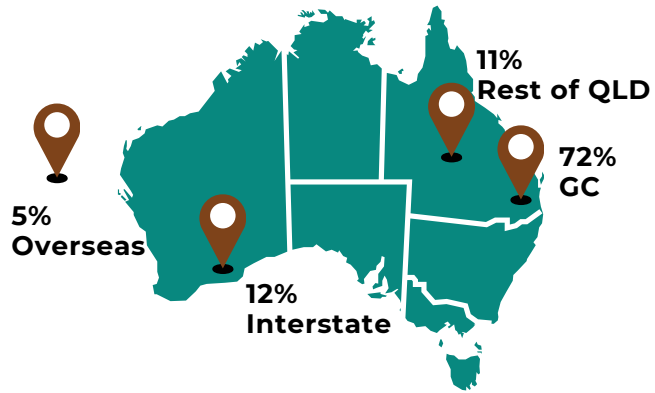
8%
Other
Support

30.3y
Average
Age

70%
Criminal
Justice
Pathway

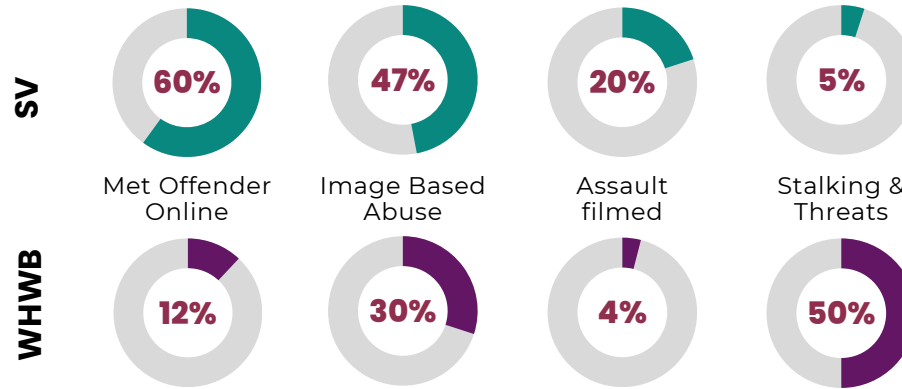
37%
Other SV/DV
experiences

Location of the Sexual or Domestic Violence



Technology

For client's who disclosed technological abuse:



Strangulation

For clients who disclosed being strangled:



Elder Sexual Abuse

Clients aged 55 years + sought counselling and support for a variety of experiences, with 40% subjected to a recent Sexual Assault.



Housing



66%

Brokerage money went towards accommodation related expenses

Relationship to the Offender

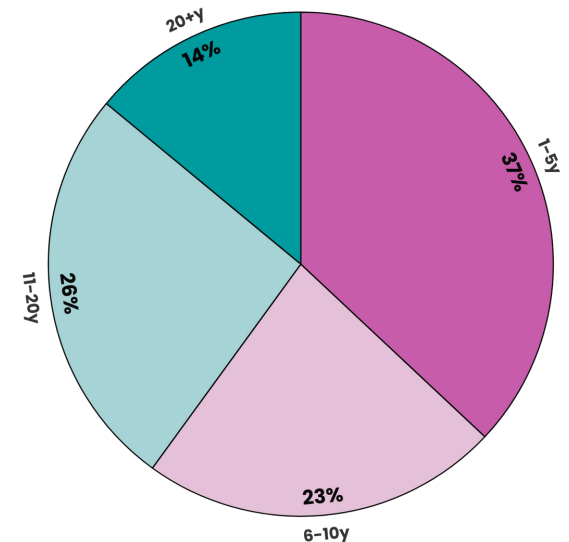
95%

of clients seeking support immediately following a Sexual Assault were assaulted by an acquaintance or friend.

67%

of clients seeking support in relation to a Sexual Assault that happened in the past were assaulted by a partner, parent, or other family member.

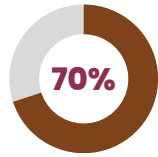
How long has the Domestic Violence lasted?



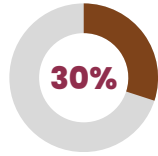
For those clients who had endured 20 years or more of violence, the majority of the violence continued with online stalking, harassment & threats (20%) and through systems abuse (20%).

Pornography

The most common porn related issues for both SV and WHWB clients were:

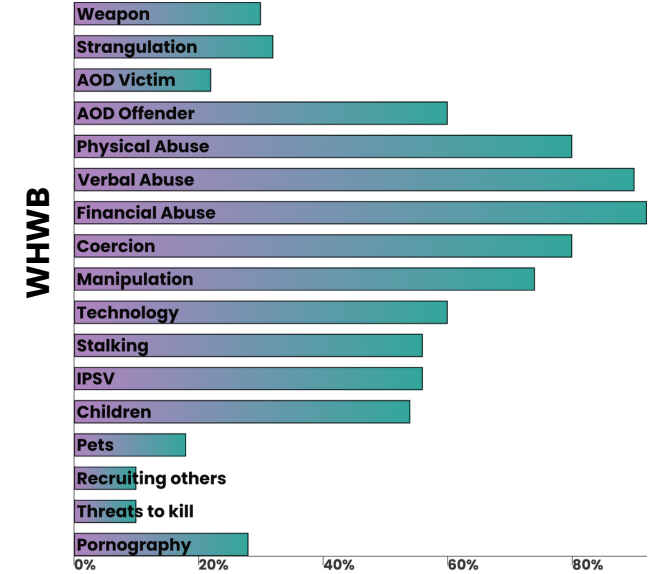
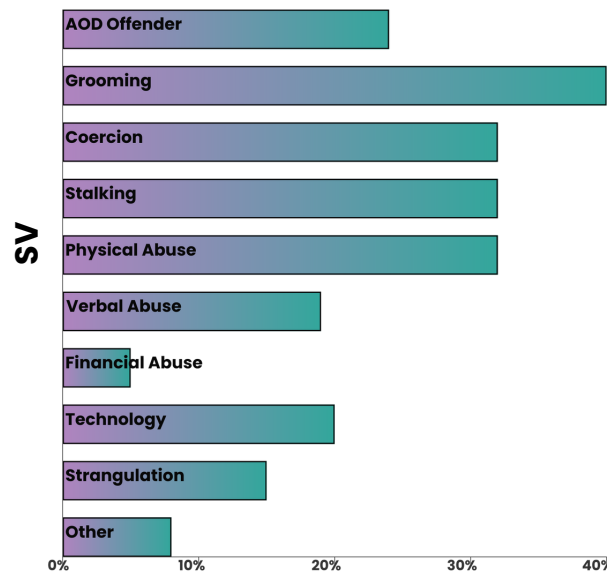


Offenders problematic use of porn



Pornography being used to degrade and/or humiliate

Aggravating Circumstances



The role of alcohol

Offenders were

3x

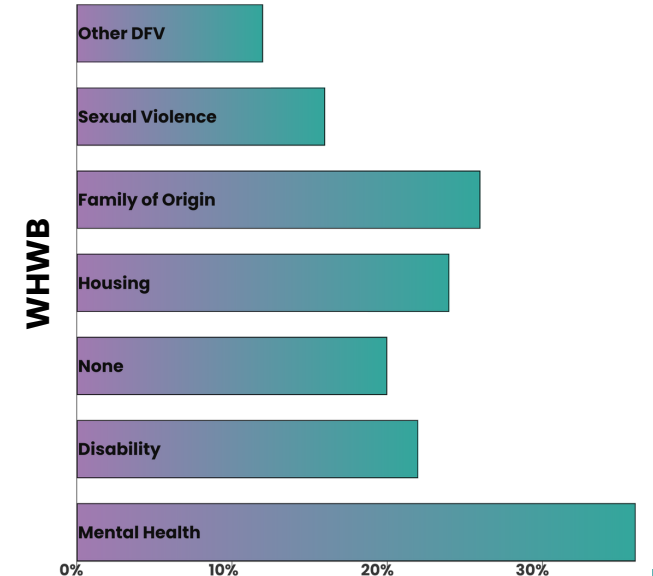
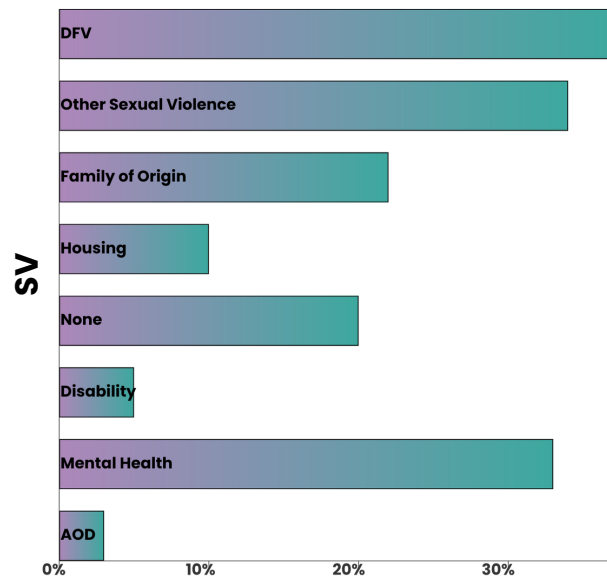
more likely to have consumed alcohol than victims

AND

40%

of Sexual Assaults involving alcohol consumption by the offender also involved physical violence

Additional Complexities





TESTIMONIALS

I just wanted to say thank you and acknowledge the incredible establishment that you have created at Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence -**L**

Thank you to all the staff for caring for my baby, listening to my updates, helping me with practical things like printing, and being so professional. You are all so caring and accommodating, always!
Thank you -**KM**

As soon as I walked in I felt the place has such a positive uplifting feeling to it and compared to other agencies I've been into it's such a wonderful space where I felt very at ease and tranquil - **JC**

My life has changed for the better since being referred to GCCASV. My counsellor is an absolute legend and the love, support and non-judgment is fantastic. Thank you for your amazing staff, they have changed my life and given me wings I never knew I had. Thank you forever for helping me - **TF**

I often think about where I would be in my healing journey if it wasn't for GCCASV. I appreciate you all - **M**

Don't know how I could've made it through the last year & a half without this service. Eternally grateful for all their love & support - **S**

Dear GCCASV,

I have been completely surprised and touched by the space that you have fostered. I initially had reservations about coming to a place with a name that so clearly spoke to the why of my need to attend. I felt ashamed, embarrassed and doubtful that there could be any service that might be able to help....I guess the point is; is that I was/ still am in trauma and have been so traumatised by the process of reaching out for help with protective services, that I felt very doubtful and suspicious that a community service could make any difference. I felt it was safer to suffer on my own, than risk attending any institute.

However, after avoiding coming in for months, I finally spoke to someone on the phone and she spoke to my concerns around confidentiality and provided the assurance I needed that I would be in a safe and confidential space with a counsellor. And from the first moment I arrived at the 'house' with my kids, I felt such a strong energy of warmth and comfort and of dignity. It was not as I feared, but the opposite. The space is infused with dignity everywhere, which I realise now, is what my heart was longing for. My children were welcomed and invited to enjoy whatever snacks they liked, given the opportunity to colour or play games and permitted to sit in such a colourful and safe environment, that it allowed me to relax and focus on myself when my session occurred. For this I am very grateful. There was no stigma. The boys even had a good time while waiting, and they were fussed over at exit, being invited to take any little supplies that might be helpful. They don't know the name of the place or why we were there (specifically) but they have asked about returning again.

And the vibe continues throughout all aspects of the service it seems. From front reception, to the brightly dressed and smiling workers I've passed on the stairs, to the warm and safe room of the counsellor's office, I have been blown away by what you offer. I have had 3 visits and each time, I have walked away with little and big gifts of goodwill, including a safety device, (which meant so much at this time) and more importantly I have walked away with a slightly straighter back, a spring in my step and sense of warmth and hope in my heart- LF

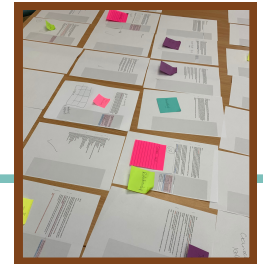
A Book of Hope

Several years ago, a client's feedback gave the GCCASV team a reason to pause and reflect. Whilst we had many resources available to share information on trauma and healing, the client wanted and needed something else- Hope.

This feedback prompted the development of the first edition of the Book of Hope, which was filled with activities and inspiration to empower survivors and remind them that they are more than their trauma.



Rotary members Don McFeat & Marion Jones



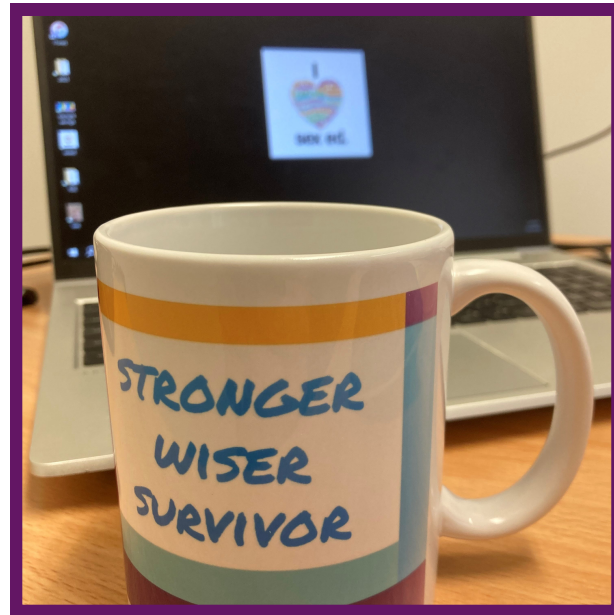
Planning begins

In late 2022, GCCASV was approached by the Rotary Club of Griffith Gold Coast, who expressed their interest to fundraise and support a project. After meeting, the idea of releasing a second edition of the Book of Hope was born.

To make this project a reality, Rotary members worked hard to raise the necessary funds by parking cars, while GCCASV staff conducted client focus groups and counselling consultations to update the content.

Our team is excited to launch the new edition in July 2023, thanks to the generous support of our partners at Rotary Club of Griffith Gold Coast.

EDUCATION



Education & Training



FEBRUARY 2023

Di went to Tasmania with the Red Rose Foundation and presented on Sexual Violence and Strangulation to Tasmanian Government workers

Brave conversations were had on all aspects of Sexual and Domestic Violence at a weekend workshop at the Slacks Creek Mosque, with Di presenting alongside Yasmin Khan from The Bangle Foundation.



ROCKHAMPTON - FEBRUARY 2023

In February, Kellie and Kerrin spent time in Rockhampton delivering training to the wonderful team from Women's Health Information and Referral Service CQ Inc. It was an amazing two days exchanging knowledge and ideas with other professionals who shared a passion for women's wellbeing and rights.

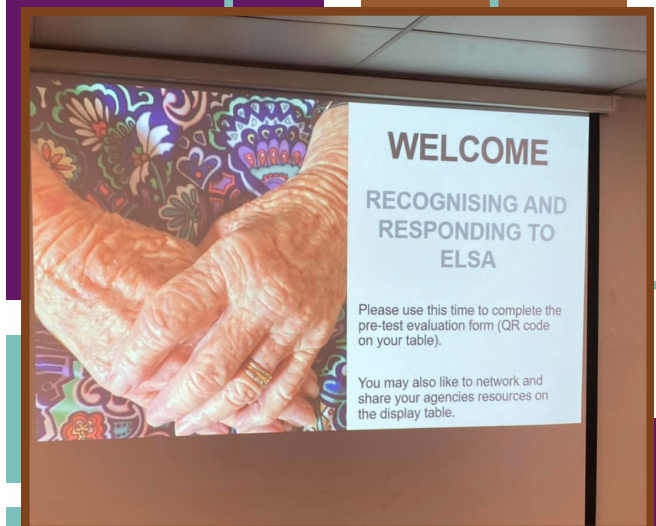
ELSA TRAINING - AUGUST 2022

To acknowledge the hidden and serious nature of Elder Sexual Abuse (ELSA) and to address the identified gap in service delivery for victim/survivors, Di and Kerrin once again delivered the innovative specialised two-day training program "Recognising and Responding to Elder Sexual Abuse". Held at the Park Regis Brisbane in August, the training was well attended by a broad cross-section of professionals including police, Sexual, Domestic and Family Violence workers, social workers, youth workers, community organisation representatives, redress scheme workers, and phone respondents.



MARCH 2023

Kellie and Kerrin provided training to School Based Youth Health Nurses on supporting young people with disclosures and reporting.



HOMELESSNESS FORUM – AUGUST 2022

GCCASV was invited to contribute to a panel at the Lady Musgrave Trust's 14th Annual Forum on Women and Homelessness. Kerrin attended, speaking to the intersection of Sexual Violence and homelessness. This panel was an opportunity to highlight the issues faced by women subjected to Sexual Violence and the additional complexities for older women as the fastest growing cohort of homeless.



SCHOOLIES TRAINING – SEPTEMBER 2022

To increase the reach of our training of Safer Schoolies Response staff and volunteers, Kellie and Kerrin recorded two training videos this year. Focusing on Responding to Sexual Violence in the Schoolies precinct, and Bystander Interventions for interrupting harm, the videos were incorporated into compulsory training modules.

The quality of the videos and content was reflected in them later being incorporated into the school-based Schoolies education sessions.



Safer Schoolies Response training video

Through 2022, Kerrin continued her involvement in the delivery of Intimate Partner Sexual Violence training in the ISACURE course at Queensland Police Academy.

S.A.N.E. NURSES – NOVEMBER 2022

Di was invited to present on Trauma Informed Practice and Environments at the SANE-FNE Community of Practice forum. This forum was delivered using a hybrid in-person and online format to nursing & medical professionals, multidisciplinary healthcare providers, as well as internal and external partners of Queensland Health.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH





Sexual Violence Awareness Month

Our theme for this year – ‘Help, Hope, Change’ – which is closely linked to the Start By Believing campaign, was adopted from the Queensland Sexual Assault Network (QSAN). Sexual Violence Awareness Month served as an excellent opportunity to spark conversations within our community about how we, as individuals, families, organisations, and government, can respond to a disclosure of Sexual Violence.

#startbybelievingaustralia #SVAM2022 #helphopechange

DIGITAL SUPPORTERS KIT

Building on the success of last year’s mail out to agencies and individuals, and with consideration of the environmental impact, we created a Digital Supporters Kit for 2022. The kit was designed to address barriers to promotion and awareness raising throughout the month with easily sharable resources. The kit included postcards, posters, a drop-in newsletter article, and social media cover and feed graphics tailored for either Facebook or Instagram.

30%

**increase in
website visitors**

600%

**increase in social
media visitors**

THEMES

HELP

Promoting the types of support we can offer when someone has experienced trauma.

HOPE

Promoting strategies that survivors use in their journey as beacons of hope.

CHANGE

Promoting actions we can all take to create change in the community and throughout the justice system.

HIGHLIGHTS

This year we were fortunate enough to be able to pursue an in-person events calendar.

OPPORTUNITIES

Whilst there was a huge increase in social media visitors, the audience was relatively homogenous across both platforms and stable compared to last year. Facebook was 92% female, predominately aged 35-55years, and Instagram was 91% female, with a slightly younger demographic 25-34years. This is also reflective of our client base and presents both a challenge and opportunity in engaging cis men of all ages to help raise awareness of Sexual Violence.

START BY BELIEVING COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

The 'Start By Believing Community Breakfast' was held on 5th October at Sharks Function Centre.

We were delighted to have over 200 individuals attend the event, demonstrating their support for our agency. The breakfast featured exceptional speakers who presented on the theme of 'Help, Hope, Change', including Kelly Humphries, Caroline Bellenger, Di Macleod, Kellie Wilk, and MC Narelle Poole.

The event was further enhanced by the live performance of Tayla-Lee Music, whose music centres on promoting women's empowerment and driving social change. Attendees participated generously in the raffle, which included an array of exciting prizes, ranging from pampering packages and gift cards to dining experiences and accommodation vouchers. We express our gratitude to all who contributed to this successful event.



RECLAIM THE NIGHT

An exciting addition to this year's SVAM calendar was the reinvigoration of Reclaim The Night. After a 17 year hiatus, we ran a small test event to see if there was local interest. The support from Queensland Police Service and Gold Coast City Council to use The Porch Stage at Broadwater Parklands was invaluable.

A small but dedicated group of 50 women, children, and supporters showed up in solidarity and to listen to performances by Tayla-Lee Music (singer/songwriter), Georgia Hoareau Music (singer/songwriter), and Anna Avocado (spoken word poet).

The feedback from all who attended was overwhelmingly positive with many clients commenting on how empowering they found the event and the permission to yell and be angry in public. The experience of Reclaim The Night has provided a solid foundation and momentum for next year's event.



ADVOCACY





JAMES FRIZELLE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Getting Where You Need To Go

Safer transport for victim/survivors of Sexual and Domestic and Violence and their children



118

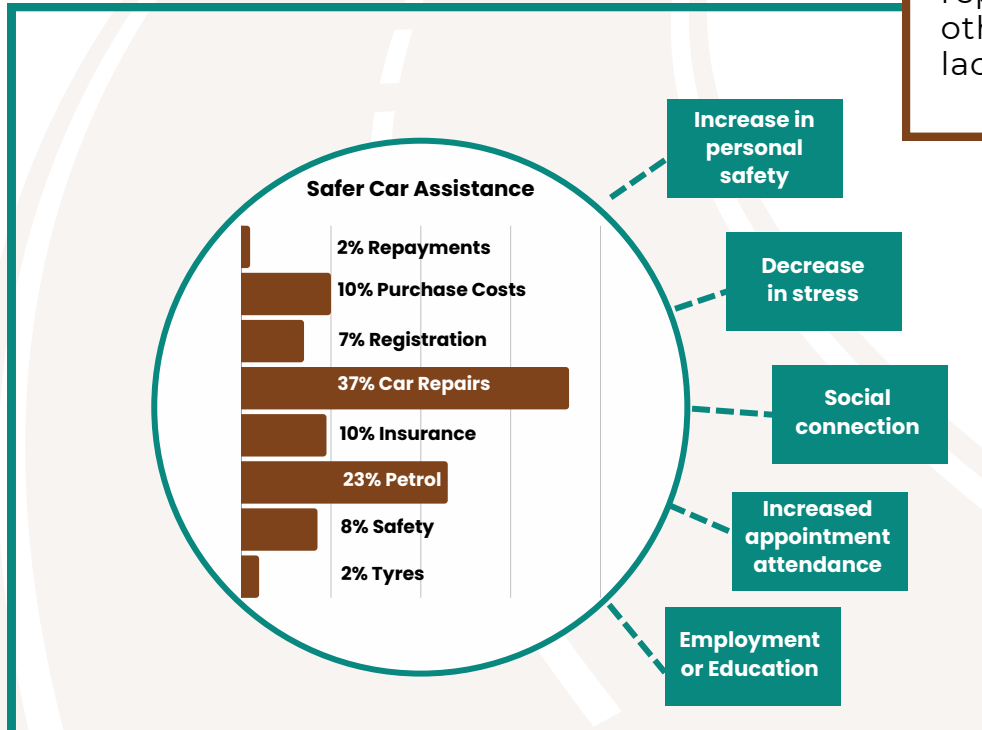
Women have experienced greater safety and decreased stress by accessing the program

181

Children have been positively impacted by purchases and repairs made by mothers accessing the program

This year, the pilot for the "Getting Where You Need To Go" project ended. Due to the success of this pilot, we were able to launch the program with a \$108,000 grant through the James Frizelle Charitable Foundation, to be paid over the next 3 years.

Since the pilot's inception, the number of requests for assistance have remained steady. However, over time the requests received were for higher amounts of aid. The worsening economic situation compelled many women to prioritise paying for increasing daily living expenses over minor car repairs, leading them to take risks by driving unreliable and unsafe cars. These minor repairs eventually led to the need for major repairs. In other instances, some women had reliable cars but lacked funds for petrol.



- WINDSCREENS
- ENGINES
- TYRES
- PURCHASE COSTS
- DEPOSITS
- INSPECTIONS
- INSURANCE
- CAR REPAIRS
- WINDOWS & LOCKS
- DRIVING LESSONS
- ROADSIDE ASSIST
- PETROL
- AIRCONDITIONING
- CHILD CAR SEATS

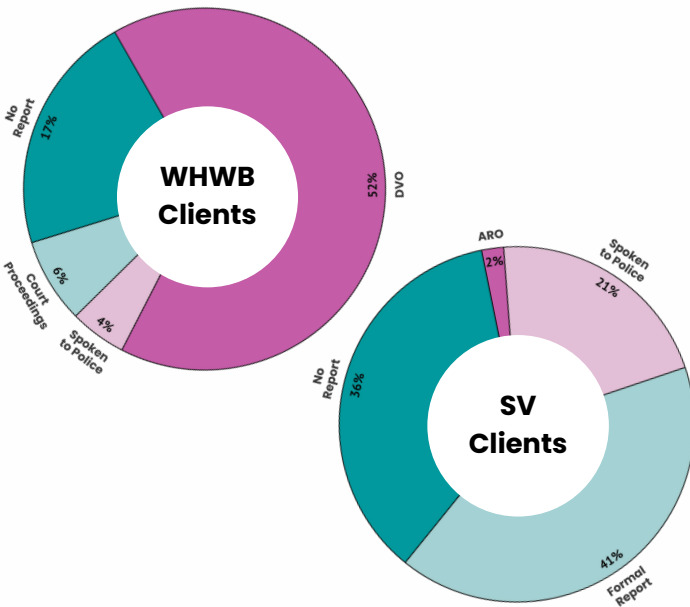
The outcomes and benefits for women have been achieved through big and small items.

Criminal Justice Advocacy

AMPLIFYING SURVIVOR VOICES

It was a busy 12 months for strengthening partnerships and advocating for our clients in the criminal justice system. In 2022 GCCASV staff and clients contributed to the Independent Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service responses to Domestic and Family Violence. This inquiry shone a light on the issues in the system. However, it also highlighted the opportunities to advocate for systems change. GCCASV has since contributed to discussions at the Gold Coast Police Sexual Violence Business Unit Review (BUR), and ongoing consultation in regard to the Sexual Violence Response Strategy (SVRS).

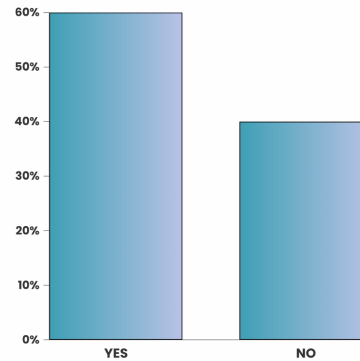
GCCASV client engagement with Criminal Justice



FORENSIC EXAMINATIONS

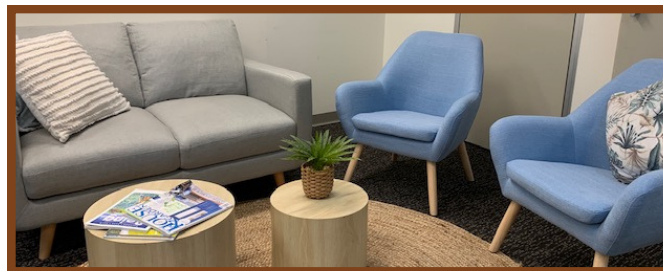
GCCASV made a submission to the DNA Forensic Commission Of Inquiry and provided significant input into the Sexual Violence victim/survivor notification & engagement strategies post inquiry to ensure trauma informed practice was at the core of the response.

Of clients sexually assaulted in the last 7 days, 60% underwent a forensic examination.



TRAUMA INFORMED SPACES

Throughout the year, Di provided consultancy to the South East Region in the implementation of trauma informed interview spaces in the Surfers Paradise HQ. Discussions covered a wide range of environmental considerations from the colour of the furniture to the location of resources.



Interview space at the Surfers Paradise HQ



Project Engage

PROJECT ENGAGE

Project Engage continued to address barriers to justice this year, with 62 clients accessing the program. With appointments ranging from 15 minutes to several hours, we thank the weekly rotation of skilled QPS staff for their commitment to our clients in their journey for justice.



Chief Super. Craig Hanlon

There's nothing domestic about murder

Political Advocacy

GCCASV takes every opportunity to influence public policy, legislation, and budgets by regularly consulting with politicians and government officials to educate from a frontline service perspective and to elevate the voices of victim/survivors.

DISCUSSIONS WITH DAME VERA BAIRD

When Dame Vera Baird, former Victim's Commissioner for England and Wales, visited Australia in November 2022 she spoke at Parliament House, Queensland. Following her address, Members of the Women's Safety & Justice Taskforce including the Director of GCCASV, the Hon Margaret McMurdo and Thelma Schwartz were invited to join her to take part in an expert panel discussion.



Dame Vera Baird, Di Macleod, and Hon. Margaret McMurdo AC

SUBMISSIONS & CONSULTATIONS

- DFV (Combatting Coercive Control) and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022
- Queensland Women's Health Strategy
- Second Action plan under Queensland's Prevent. Support. Believe Framework
- Implementation of the Hear Her Voice reports
- Senate Inquiry into Current and Proposed Sexual Consent Laws
- Legal Affairs and Safety Committee Inquiry to support victims of crime (both written and oral submissions)



GCCASV Staff at the Parliamentary Launch of Help, Hope, Change

QSAN CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

In October 2023 QSAN launched the Help, Hope, Change Sexual Violence Awareness Month social media campaign to prevent Sexual Violence. Staff from GCCASV attended and this event was supported by a range of state and federal politicians as well as Dame Quentin Bryce AD, CVO



Hon. Shannon Fentiman & the Red Rose Foundation Board

THE VOICES OF WOMEN REPORT

The Director of GCCASV is a Director on the Board of the Red Rose Foundation in recognition of the overlap of Strangulation, Sexual and Domestic Violence. Along with the rest of the Board and Minister Shannon Fentiman, she attended the launch of "The voices of women impacted by non-fatal strangulation: the summary report" from Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research.



Hon. Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO



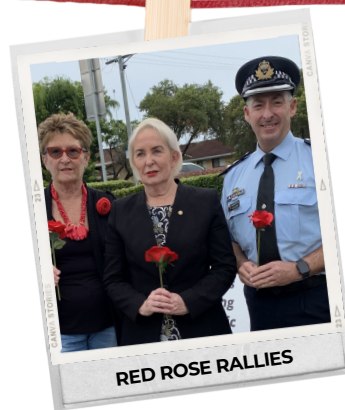
Sen. Larissa Waters MP



#UNITEDFORCHANGE
LUNCHEON



LEADERS OF POSITIVE CHANGE
MFO DINNER



RED ROSE RALLIES



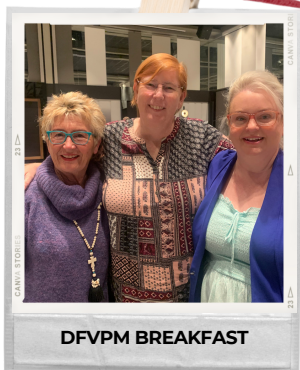
ROTARY CLUB OF GRIFFITH
GOLD COAST- BREAKFAST



ROTARY CLUB OF GRIFFITH
GOLD COAST- BREAKFAST

Community Advocacy

Community advocacy encompasses our work, assisting the general community to be aware of and understand the context and impact of Sexual and Domestic Violence.



DFVPM BREAKFAST



LAUNCH OF COMMON
GROUND GOLD COAST



ROTARY CLUB OF BURLEIGH
HEADS - DUCK RACE



ZONTA CLUB OF PARADISE
POINT #16DAYSOFACTIVISM



DVPC CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

AWARDS & RECOGNITION



Thank you Barbara Geoghegan

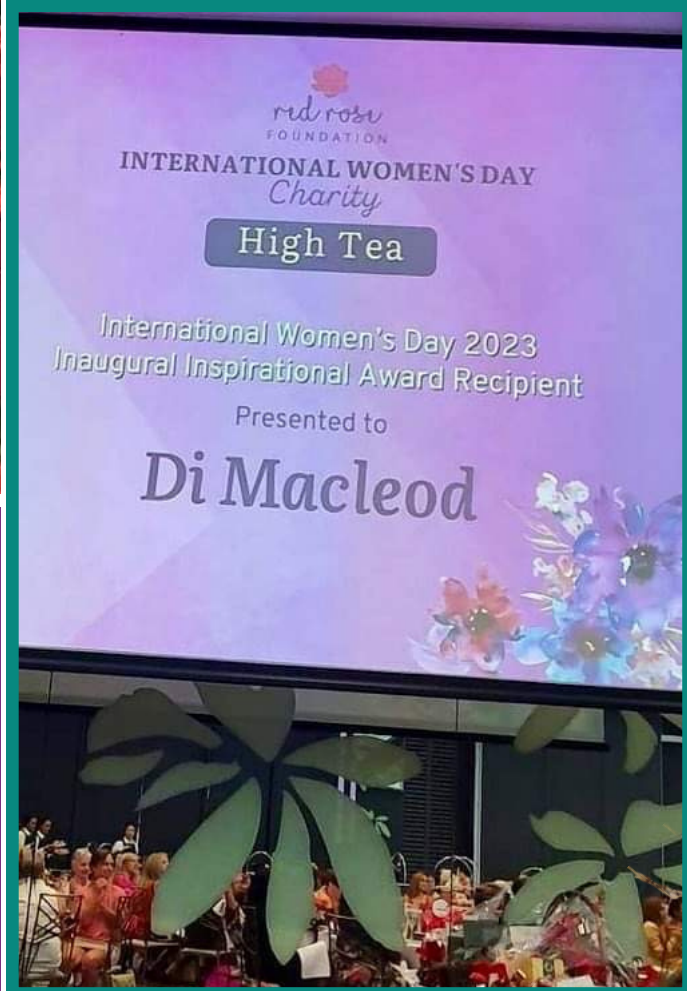


With a wealth of experience in Domestic Violence policy work, advocacy, government advisory, and small business, Barbara has been an invaluable asset to the Management Committee for 13 years.

To acknowledge and celebrate Barbara's contribution and her long term support of GCCASV, she was awarded the first ever Lifetime Membership Award.



As a passionate feminist activist, Barbara brought insight and perspective to the Management Committee. During her time as both a General Member and President, Barbara played a crucial role in several key initiatives. As President, she oversaw the construction of the Scarborough Street premises and the subsequent relocation of services, celebrated the 25th anniversary of the service, and played a key role in securing the successful tender for our expanding Women's Health & Wellbeing Program.



Inspirational Award

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2023

Di Macleod

On International Women's Day, Di's ongoing advocacy and activism was recognised with the Inaugural Inspirational Award presented by Her Excellency The Honourable Dr Jeanette Young.



