



Annual Impact Report 2023-2024

Gold Coast Centre Against
Sexual Violence

Acknowledgments

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 respects 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 acknowledges and pays our deepest respects to the women who have been subjected to sexual, domestic and family violence. We honor those who bravely share their experiences, those who were silenced and disbelieved, and those whom are no longer with us.

Start by Believing is more than a campaign; it is our unwavering commitment to stand with every survivor in their journey toward healing, justice, and empowerment.



Our vision is a community free from sexual, domestic, and family violence. Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence works towards this vision through:

- **COUNSELLING:** Providing healing-centred support that recognises the many pathways to justice and healing.
- **ADVOCACY:** Providing seamless pathways to justice for survivors and hold offenders to account.
- **EDUCATION:** Empowering individuals and communities to recognise and end cycles of violence.



We thank the Queensland Government Department of Justice and Attorney General for their ongoing support and funding.

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Year at a glance

TOTAL NUMBER OF CLIENT INTERACTIONS



11,876



20% increase in the number of clients from 22/23

TOTAL REACH

5-6

Clients per counsellor each day

1,000

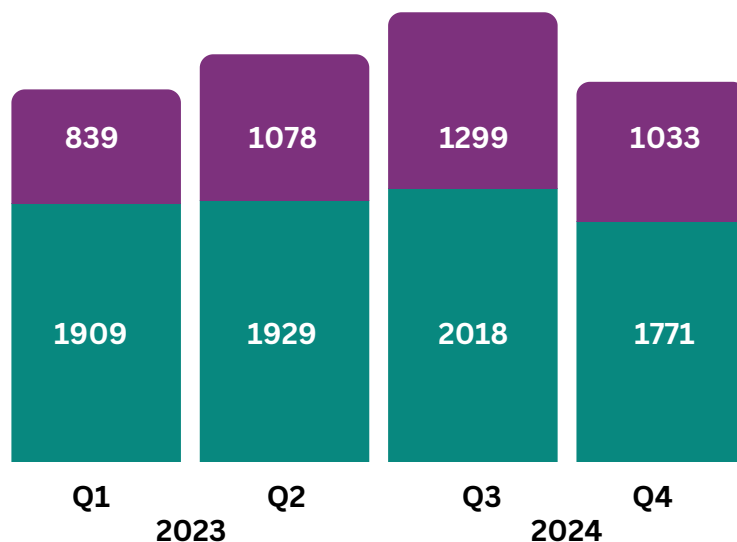
Reached through Community Education

20,000

Reached through social media and the website

CLIENT INTERACTIONS BY PROGRAM SINCE JULY 2023

SV WHWB



Our People

MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATION & EDUCATION

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



COUNSELLOR/ ADVOCATES

Sexual Violence Program

Brooke
Jade (*Contract ended*)
Karen
Kate
Maria
Zoe (*Contract ended*)

Women's Health & Wellbeing

Irene (*Contract ended*)
Sarah
Sharon

Ana Carrigan (External Supervisor)

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Stephanie Murray (President)
Eric Cheshire (Secretary)
Casandra Steer (Treasurer)
Lauren Quinn (General Member)
Alicia Suthers (General Member)
Amanda-Jayne George (General Member)

Barbara Geoghegan (Life Member)





Message from the President

It is my absolute honour to present the 2023/2024 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, Di and the team continue to have to lobby the government at all levels for more support. That leaves the need greater for community support by fundraising and corporate sponsorship.

The committee and the endlessly working team at the forefront 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 growing these relationships over the years to come.

In 2025 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 in any way you can.

It is an absolute privilege to serve on this committee, to work with Di and the team and I look forward to the work we will continue to do in the coming year.

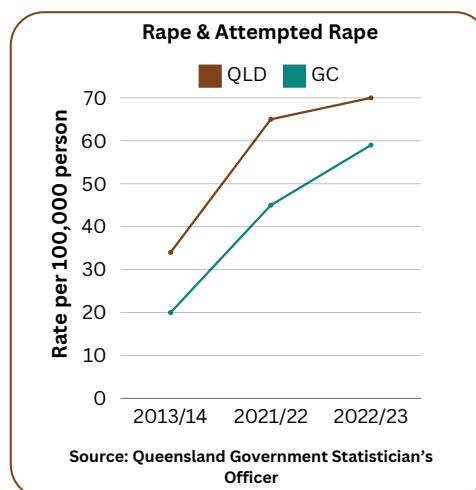
Stephanie Murray
President



Director's Report

Reported crime statistics over the past two decades in Queensland reveal that the most concerning issue is the rise of sexual crimes. Over this period rape/attempted rape increased by a massive 226%!

This in part explains another busy year at the front line, where the demand for our specialist counselling services has continued to grow, reflecting the pervasive nature of sexual and domestic violence in our community. This increase in demand has stretched our resources, underscoring the need for continued support from government, stakeholders and the community.



Whilst providing therapeutic counselling and support to victim/survivors remains a major focus of our work, GCCASV has also built linkages, provided resources, engaged in community education, tailored training for professionals, served on committees, and consulted and collaborated with government and community organisations across Queensland and beyond.

The GCCASV team always prioritises safety and wellbeing by providing timely and ethical information, support, counselling, healing, and access to justice for victim/ survivors of sexual and domestic violence.

Community education and awareness events are delivered year round with a concentration during Domestic Violence Awareness Month in May and Sexual Violence Awareness Month in October with a major highlight being our annual community breakfast.

Through GCCASV training we have been changing the practice of responding to sexual and domestic violence, building capacity to improve the responses of other professionals within the overarching framework of "Start by Believing". Tailored training solutions delivered this year supported a diversity of professionals including community and welfare workers, nurses, doctors, police, legal practitioners, teachers, aged care workers, counsellors, probation and parole workers in their efforts to address sexual violence.

The worsening economic situation has impacted the whole community with higher cost of living, mortgages, scarcity of rental properties and increasingly high rents.

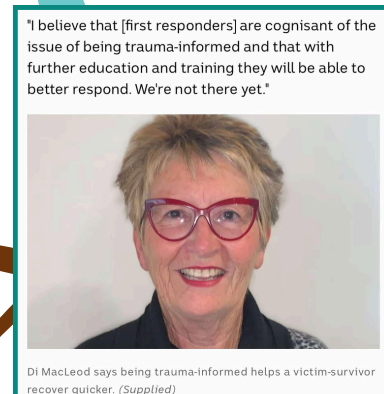
Many of our clients cannot afford food and/or have found themselves homeless or at risk of homelessness, living in cars and couch surfing without basic human rights of food and shelter. By working with homelessness and housing services Macleod Women's Refuge and St Johns Crisis Services and collaborating with our community colleagues, we have been able to broker some safer housing options.

"Project Engage", a partnership with the Queensland Police Service whereby a female police officer attends GCCASV each week to respond to client queries has continued to be of great value. This project has been a game changer in relation to victim/survivor safety, positive communication, understanding police processes, case updates and providing a pathway to reporting and making a statement. A big thanks to all the detectives who participated this past year, we appreciate you.

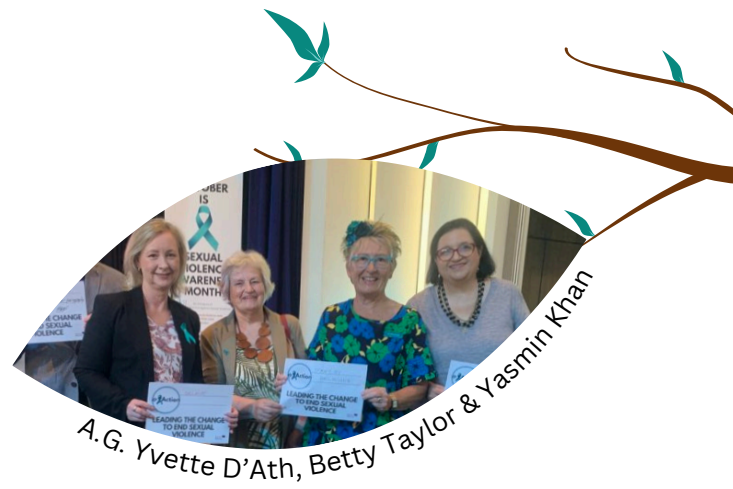


This year, as Director, I served as the Chair of the Red Rose Foundation (RRF) and Vice Chair of the Queensland Sexual Assault Network (QSAN). I was also appointed as a member of new Women's Safety and Justice Reform Implementation Reference Group (IRG) and the Sexual Violence Prevention Roundtable, amplifying victim/survivor voices and drawing on expertise gained through GCCASV to support the Queensland Government's women's safety and justice reform program.

After decades of lobbying with other members of the sector, it was wonderful to bear witness to the passing of new sexual violence legislation addressing affirmative consent, stealthing, coercive control, mistake of fact, disallowing improper questions and introducing jury directions in sexual offence trials. GCCASV welcomes these changes as a move towards a safer Queensland that supports the reality of survivors of sexual violence and holds offenders accountable.



Structural advocacy is an important component of the work we do at GCCASV, strategically lobbying to address the needs of victim/survivors and create systemic change. This year we were involved in multiple consultations with federal and state governments, local politicians, ministers and shadow cabinet, GCCASV also contributed to multiple oral and written submissions.



To our Management Committee your expertise across a range of areas is so valuable and I very much appreciate your support, guidance and input to the governance of GCCASV. I really appreciate your commitment especially when your contribution is on a voluntary level. Thank you.

To all of our staff team whether you are in administration, education, training, counselling or advocacy, I thank you for your commitment and for the work you do day in day out. I acknowledge that this work is difficult and I want you to know that your efforts are much appreciated.

I would like express my gratitude to our core funders the Department of Justice and Attorney General without whom we could not do the work that we do, and make special mention of our wonderful departmental liaison staff Lisa Eggleton and Michelle Potter who are so supportive. The continued lobbying by sexual violence services for additional resources was successful at both a federal and state level this year resulting in funding that will allow us to reduce waitlists.

Being able to provide victim/survivors with value-added additional resources such as petrol and car related expenses, food, toiletries, school fees, rent relief, household goods would not have been possible without the generosity and support of our community. A big thank you to the Gold Coast Mayoress Charity Foundation, James Frizelle Charitable Foundation, CSi, Rotary Griffith Gold Coast, Hearts of Purple, Rotary Burleigh Heads, Red Rose Foundation, Connected Platforms, VBR Lawyers, Christmas Angels, Runaway Bay Lions the wonderful Don McFeat and many others who contribute and choose to remain anonymous.

We remain committed to our vision of safe communities free from sexual and domestic violence. Together, we will continue to advocate for victim/survivors, challenge systemic injustices, and work towards a world where sexual and domestic violence is no longer a reality.

Di Macleod
Director

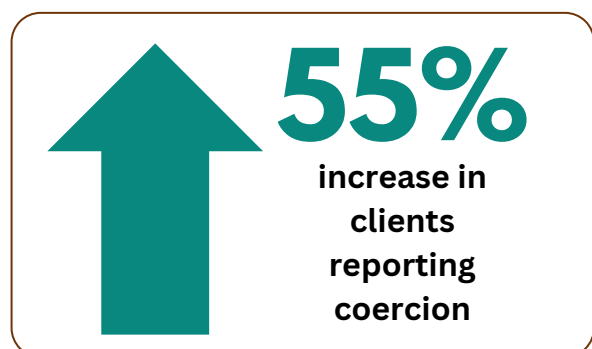


Counselling Manager's Report

During 2023-2024, another year of incredible work was achieved through the passion and commitment of the staff at the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence (GCCASV). With an increased demand for services and waiting lists to manage, staff remained focused on providing specialised counselling, support, and advocacy to women, young women and older women on the Gold Coast who had been subjected to sexual, domestic and family violence. These services were once again offered through our two programs: Sexual Violence and Women's Health and Wellbeing.

The counselling team positively impacted the lives of the many women they worked with during the year through an eclectic range of modalities tailored to the individual and diverse needs of their clients. By building on the strengths and resilience of women, the counsellors provided support to identify goals for counselling and assisted their clients to create a path towards healing and wellbeing. The counselling remained underpinned by a feminist framework with a focus on women's psychological, emotional and physical safety and health.

A holistic, trauma-informed approach was taken to address the complex effects of violence. This included incorporating somatic strategies which was a particular focus in the counselling team's professional development and training this year.



The Centre observed a notable increase this year in women reporting experiences of coercive control, influenced by proposed legislation and media coverage. Additionally, there was a significant rise in women self-reporting mental health struggles, affecting their daily lives and counselling journeys.



While in person appointments at the Centre continued to be the preferred method of engaging in counselling and support, telephone and video appointments were consistently utilised, providing women with greater access, flexibility and convenience. GCCASV also conducted outreach on multiple occasions to courts, police stations, schools and a range of community spaces as needed.

Once again, many women also faced housing crises and unstable accommodation, as well as significant and ongoing financial hardship. This resulted in an increase in the provision of advocacy and support.

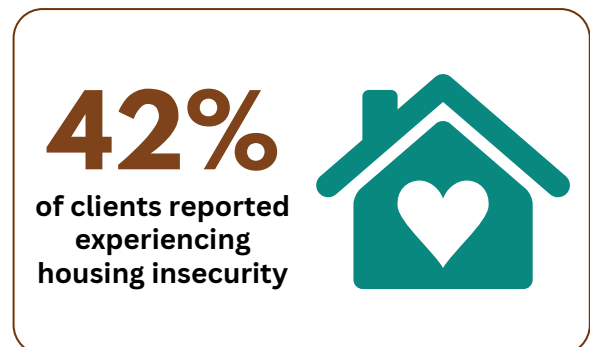
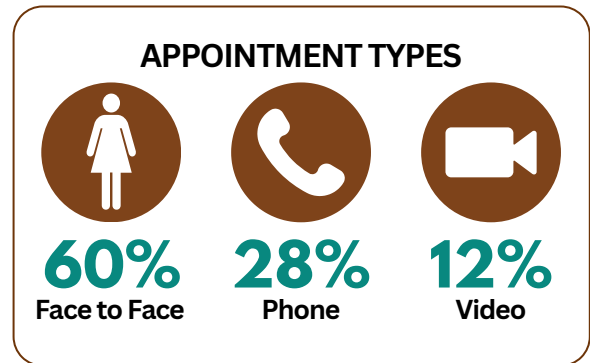
Additional advocacy and support was provided to women on a regular basis to assist in their navigation of a range of services and systems. Advocacy also provided an opportunity to connect women with services, people and processes that could provide additional support and help during their healing journeys.

Throughout the year, the Centre advocated and supported women in their interactions with both the criminal and civil justice processes, including reporting and liaising with police, accessing specific female detectives through Project Engage, women's intersections with the Courts through ODPP prosecutors and Victim Liaison Officers, accessing lawyers, and support to access information and action through a range of civil proceedings.

Other advocacy was undertaken with a range of services that included educational institutes, Domestic Violence services, Department of Child Safety, NDIS services, CentreLink, medical services and practitioners, private psychologists and psychiatrists, and mental health services.



GCCASV also strengthened and expanded its partnership with Hearts of Purple through the implementation of safety strategies, such as supplying women with safety watches and examining technology for monitoring apps and malware.





Mixed Media Textiles Workshop



Shark Cage Group

The Centre maintained its commitment to providing women with access to group work experiences which encouraged social interactions, building connection and communication, and learning new skills. Group sessions conducted in the last year comprised of a mixed media textiles art workshop, creating vision boards, and an Older Women's Group specifically for women aged 50 plus to connect with each and share information, strategies and experiences. A 'Drop In' group also commenced, allowing women to attend the Centre on an ad hoc basis for conversation, connection, support, and time out, with arts and crafts projects available during the session time.

Furthermore, our Counsellors facilitated a Shark Cage group for the first time. This specific group took a human rights approach to assist women to develop and regain a sense of their rights, while also developing the knowledge and tools to manage distress and be more assertive with their boundaries. It included a combination of psychoeducation and interactive activities. The groups were well attended and received positive feedback.

"It (the group) was quite healing, cathartic and beautiful"

"I thought the group was fantastic. It was just what I needed right now. Phenomenal!"

I would like to acknowledge the staff of GCCASV and the amazing work undertaken every day with professionalism, passion and dedication.

Finally, to the women who engage with the Centre, you provide us all with inspiration and a commitment to continue to create change on an individual, community and systemic level, thank you.

Kellie Wilk
Counseling & Education Manager





Treasurer's Report

Our Special Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30th June 2024 were prepared by Allen Audit and Advisory and are managed in compliance with service agreements and legislative requirements. The organisation's financial position remains stable and funding has been secured for all programs for a number of years.

The agency has grown and services have expanded and this has meant more time spent on service agreement requirements and reporting obligations.

A summary of the agency's income and expenditure for the 2023/2024 financial year is as follows.

Cassandra Steer
Treasurer



Grants & Funding Received	\$1,942,390.00
James Frizelle Charitable Foundation	\$32,727.00
Self Funding (including Donations etc)	\$98,919.00
Interest Received	\$7,345.00
Total Revenue	\$2,081,381.00
Total Expenses From Activities	\$2,005,197.00
Total Income For Year Ended 30 June 2024	\$76,184.00



Audited Financial Statements are available for perusal upon request or can be found on the ACNC website.

Successful Funding

Safe & Diverse Multicultural Communities Department Of Justice & Attorney General

GCCASV in partnership with The Bangle Foundation received funding of \$25,000 for 'Project Roshan', a 10-month initiative targeted at Queensland's South Asian community to combat Intimate Partner Sexual Violence (IPSV). This "Culturally Informed Prevention of IPSV" project aims to develop and disseminate trauma-informed, safe, and culturally sensitive resources that promote awareness, encourage healthy relationships, and support primary prevention efforts.



Investing In QLD Women Office For Women

GCCASV received funding of \$10,000 to run a PhotoVoice project for Sexual Violence Awareness Month. PhotoVoice is an evidence-based participatory process, that empowers people to share their experiences through digital storytelling for social change. This project will engage survivors capturing photographs representing their experiences, emotions, and insights under the theme of 'Healing Through The Lens Of Survivors'.



James Frizelle Charitable Foundation

The year was the second year of our 3 year grant under James Frizelle Charitable Foundation. GCCASV was excited to once again deliver the "Getting You Where You Need To Go - safer transport for victim/survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their children" program. This year we were able to satisfy 57 requests for a diverse range of assistance including minor and major car repairs, new tyres and wheel alignments, vehicle registration, drivers licenses, transport, safety items, parking and petrol.

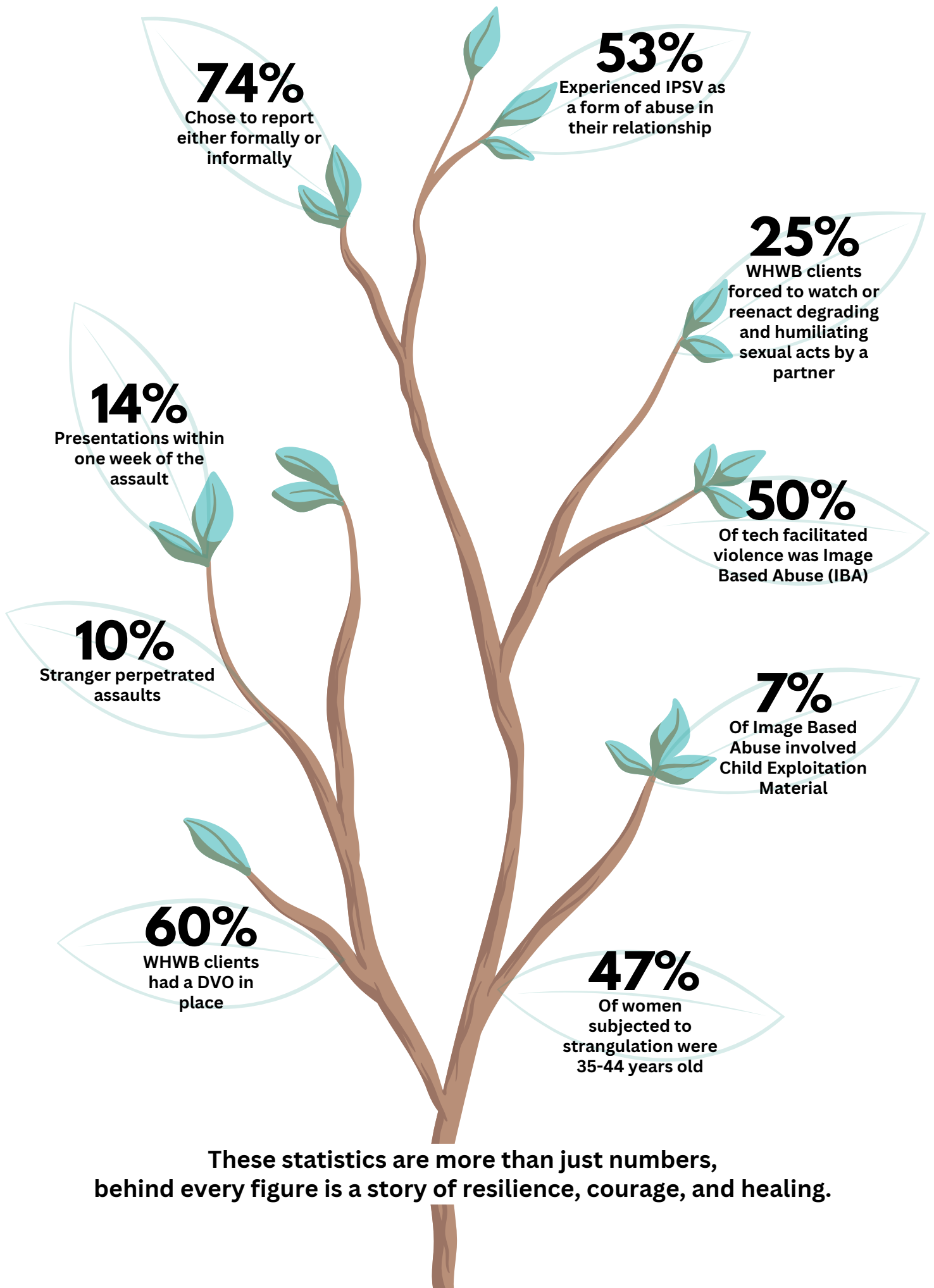
Donations

Donations makes an immediate difference in the lives of survivors. Unrestricted funding allows us to creatively and flexibly meet client needs, whether through tailored support, emergency assistance, or innovative programs. With the generosity of our supporters, we can respond quickly to challenges, ensuring every survivor receives the care and resources they deserve.





COUNSELLING



These statistics are more than just numbers,
behind every figure is a story of resilience, courage, and healing.

Sexual Violence Program

4,708 Clients

Average age: 31 years

Majority assaulted in their own home on the Gold Coast

66% had Adult experiences, 34% had Childhood experiences

Most were self referrals

When Tess* reached out for support, it had been over three years since her sexual assault. She is among the **40%** of clients who waited over a year to seek help. Like **90%** of GCCASV clients, Tess was assaulted by someone she knew, which often exacerbates shame and delays speaking out.

Lina*, a recent migrant, was assaulted by a family member. **24%** of GCCASV clients are from CALD backgrounds, and like Lina **20%** of our CALD clients, were assaulted overseas. Finding a culturally sensitive service, aided Lina's healing and ensured she feel safe and heard.

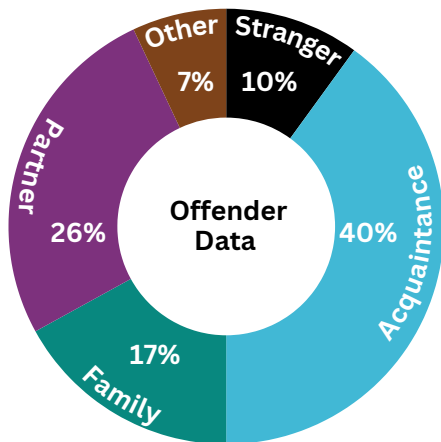
Zara*, a high school student, was assaulted by someone she met online. **20%** of GCCASV clients met the offender online. Seeking help from the Centre, she joined the **21%** of clients under the age of 19 years, **61%** of whom sought help in the first year after their assault. Despite the challenges, Zara is building safety in her life.

Jen*, was assaulted in the workplace, an experience shared by **6%** of GCCASV clients. Her experience also represents the **57%** of clients who have been subjected to multiple incidents of sexual violence throughout their lives.



Sexual Violence Program

Who were the offenders?



All clients seeking support in 2023/24

90% of our clients were assaulted by someone known to them. However the myths about sexual violence often shape survivor responses.

The closer the relationship to the offender the longer it takes for women to speak out.

Survivors assaulted by family members often waited decades to disclose and seek support. This highlights how stigma tied to the victim-offender relationship delays help-seeking.



Clients seeking support after 30years+

Forensic Exam undertaken

YES 75%

NO 25%

Forensic Medical Examination

75% of women seeking counselling within 7 days of being sexually assaulted had undergone a Forensic Medical Examination.



Partner or Ex-Partner



Acquaintance



Stranger

Drink/Drug Spiking

Spiking is often committed by someone known and trusted. 30% of perpetrators were a current or ex-partner, 50% were an acquaintance and only 20% were a stranger to the victim. Spiking happened equally across homes and public spaces .

Women's Health & Wellbeing Program

2,317 Clients



Average age: 39 years

Majority assaulted in their own home on the Gold Coast

All had adult experiences of Intimate Partner Violence

Most were referred by a Domestic Violence service or Refuge

For Emily*, the abuse didn't end when she left the relationship. Through social media, her ex continued to harass and intimidate her—a situation faced by **40%** of our clients. This digital dimension of DV creates new challenges, as survivors navigate both physical and online safety.

Nikki* entered an abusive relationship soon after leaving another. **60%** of clients had multiple domestic violence experiences. The abuse escalated to Intimate Partner Sexual Violence, an experience shared by **53%** of our clients.

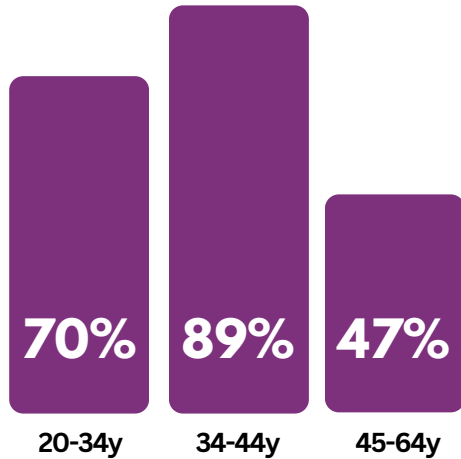
Jasmin* relocated from a rural area after escaping her abusive partner. Initially, she sought help through 1800RESPECT, similar to the **58%** of clients referred by Domestic Violence services. She later decided to speak to the police and seek protection. **73%** of clients had pursued a criminal or civil justice pathway.

Sofie* is in her 40s, and represents the **62%** of clients who have endured over 10 years of domestic violence and coercive control. Alcohol played a significant role in her partner's violence, an experience shared by **38%** of clients who reported that substance use exacerbated the abusive behaviour.



Women's Health & Wellbeing Program

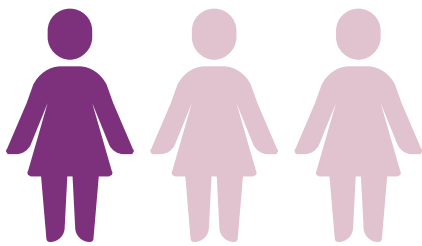
% of women who had a Domestic Violence Order



Domestic Violence Order

For women who had an incident of violence in the last 12 months, older women were the least likely to have a DVO in place. This statistic highlights the unique barriers older women face in safety planning and criminal and civil justice processes.

Housing



Experiencing housing insecurity

One in three women subjected to Domestic Violence experienced housing issues, and 50% of these women were survivors of multiple forms of violence throughout their lives. This highlights the urgent need for crisis and ongoing trauma informed housing options.

Risk Factors For Homicide

The Domestic Violence Death Review Board identified Separation, Strangulation, Stalking and Sexual Violence among factors which significantly increase the risk of domestic homicide. They are known as the Deadly S's.



90% of clients who had been Strangled had also been subjected to Intimate Partner Sexual Violence (IPSV)



80% of clients who had been Strangled and subjected to IPSV had also been Stalked

Testimonials

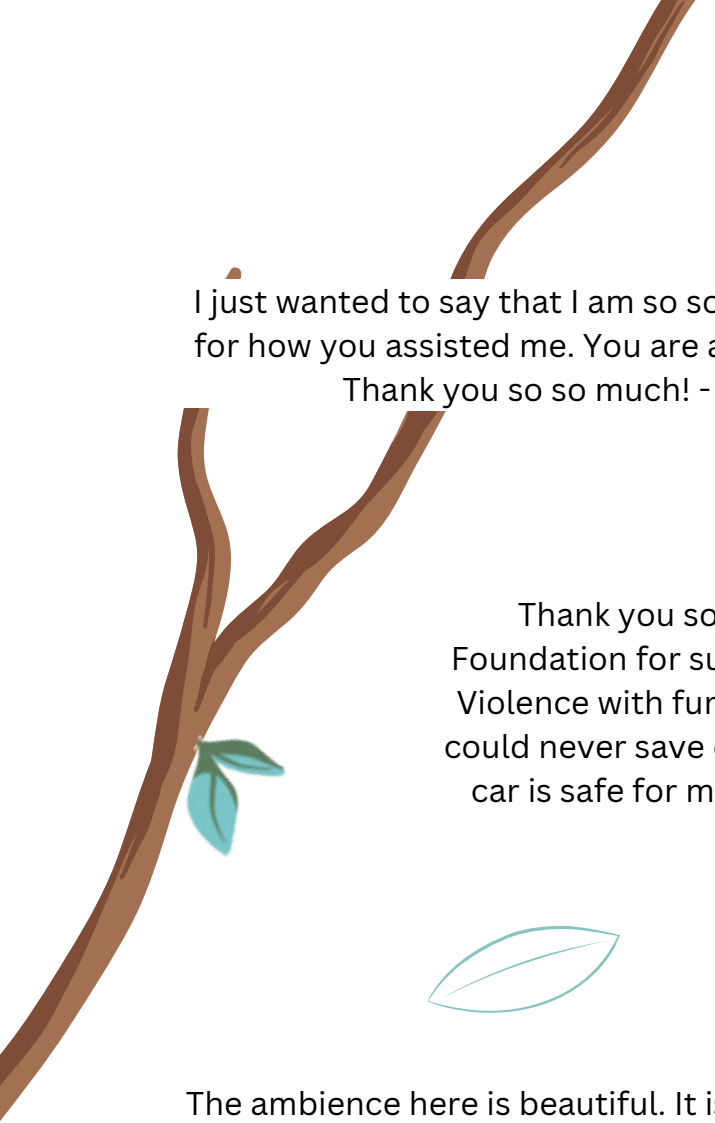


After my first session I left with the experience of being relieved to be able to share my story, be heard and be believed - S

This service saved my life. Karen is wonderful. All the staff are. I don't know why there aren't more services like this. - J

Just wanted to say that I am getting so much out of coming here. My counsellor is caring, listens, is so smart, and explains things I can understand. She makes me feel comfortable and I always leave feeling lighter and like my brain has had a massage. -K


Since I moved, I'm really missing my fortnightly sessions. Sarah really helped me to understand what had been happening to me and gave me points of reference that I had absolutely no idea about before. All I had known was an impending sense of doom and a gut instinct, nothing felt right and I was going under even though I didn't know why. I learnt so much from you and it has been so empowering.
Thank you!!!!!! - C




I just wanted to say that I am so so so grateful
for how you assisted me. You are all amazing.

Thank you so so much! - T


Thank you so much to The James Frizelle Charitable
Foundation for supporting Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual
Violence with funding to help me pay for repairs to my car. I
could never save enough to have these repairs done. Now my
car is safe for me and my three kids. Much appreciated - P



The ambience here is beautiful. It is very relaxing,
nurturing and comfortable. Your therapists are A+,
Kate is amazing, and it is a fabulous service you
provide for women. I am most grateful for it. - G



The Shark Cage course has been incredibly beneficial to me in
various ways. One of the key takeaways has been learning to be
more assertive and setting boundaries, which has helped
reduce the instances where I might be taken advantage of.
Overall, the course has empowered me with valuable tools to
navigate interactions with greater clarity and resilience. Thank
you Brooke and Sharon for all your effort and everything that
you do really its life changing for women. -A





Book Of Hope

On 27th July 2023, the new Book of Hope was launched at an event at the CSI Club Southport. The launch was well-attended, with over 80 individuals present, including survivors, community members, and representatives from health, welfare, justice, and faith organisations.



The Rotary Club of Griffith Gold Coast, fundraised and supported the second edition of the Book of Hope.



Counselling Manager Kellie Wilk emphasised the role of Hope in the healing process.



The launch event was exceptional, creating a strong sense of community and support for a resource focused on Hope and healing. Attendees left with a copy of the book and a commitment to share the transformative power of Hope.



Director Di Macleod reflected on the client feedback that inspired the first edition.



Marion Jones (Rotary) speaking about the partnership and process.



ADVOCACY

Political Advocacy

GCCASV continues to actively shape public policy, legislation, and budget priorities by engaging with government officials and other stakeholders including local politicians and relevant ministers. Through these consultations, we provide critical insights from a frontline perspective, amplify the voices of survivors, and lead the change, working toward a more responsive and effective system for those impacted by sexual and domestic violence.

STRUCTURAL & SYSTEMS ADVOCACY

Structural advocacy has included written and oral submissions in relation to federal and state government processes including:

- Inquiry into Responses to Sexual Violence (ALRC)
- Criminal Justice Legislation (Sexual Violence And Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2024
- Crimes Amendment (Strengthening the Criminal Justice Response to Sexual Violence) Bill 2024
- Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee Inquiry into the Victims' Commissioner and Sexual Violence Review Board Bill 2024
- QSAC submission on Sentencing in Rape and Sexual Assault
- Review Of Human Rights Act Qld
- Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024
- Corrective Services (Promoting Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024
- Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023
- GCCASV Director was appointed to the Women's Safety and Justice Reform Implementation Reference Group and re-appointed to the new Sexual Violence Prevention Roundtable



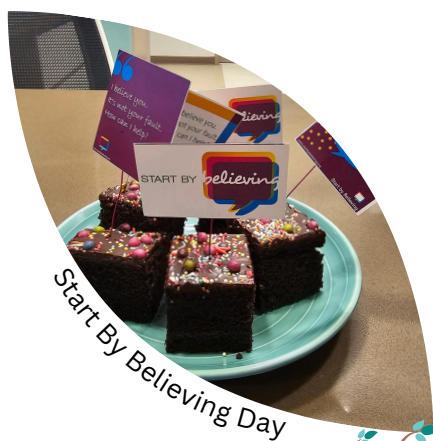
RESEARCH

- Improving legal, policy and practice responses to the intersection of domestic violence perpetration and child sexual abuse offending - Professor Michael Salter, University of NSW
- Listen UP! Learning from victims and survivors about what helps disclosure and responses to child sexual abuse - Associate Professor Lynne McPherson, Centre for Children and Young People & Southern Cross University
- Victims/survivors' perspectives on sex offender reintegration: A mixed methods study - Associate Professor Kelly Richards, Queensland University of Technology
- Building trauma-responsive sexual health and relationship education - Associate Professor Tim Moore, Queensland University of Technology & Institute of Child Protection Studies

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Advocacy is at the heart of our work. We provide a broad network of support to amplify survivors' voices, break down barriers, and ensure equitable responses to sexual violence.

Our team actively participates in awareness events and campaigns, honouring survivors and calling for social change. These ongoing advocacy actions strengthen community partnerships and demonstrate our commitment to building a safer and more responsive environment for survivors.



Start By Believing Day



Di Macleod & Ros Bates MP at a Red Rose Rally



GCCASV staff at a Red Rose Rally



Di & Maria at the NO MORE National Rally



Narelle, Kellie & Char at Simply The Best Fundraiser



Narelle & Di International Women's Day

Criminal Justice Advocacy

GCCASV has a long relationship with the Queensland Police Service, and is continually advocating for survivor centric policies and practices. This year we had a 28% increase in the number of police referrals we received.

Project Engage

117 client appointments were made with the female detective co-locating in our service each Thursday.



Sexual Assault Response Group

4 SARG meetings were attended by Di & Kellie to discuss trends, concerns, and share information and updates with agencies involved in responding to Sexual Violence.



Collaboration

8 meetings with senior police to strengthen the partnership between GCCASV and the QPS, establishing clear communication pathways, providing updates, raising concerns, and clarifying information provided to the public and our clients.

Advocacy

124 hours of phone calls and emails sharing information with QPS under our Memorandum Of Understanding to improve the access to justice for our clients, including complaints on the Charter of Victim Rights.



EDUCATION

Education & Training

Throughout the year, GCCASV provided education and training sessions designed to inform, empower, and build capacity among professionals and community members. These programs are a cornerstone of preventing sexual and domestic violence and improving responses to disclosures.

Our initiatives engaged schools, universities, allied health services, and community organisations, focusing on topics such as consent, healthy relationships, trauma-informed practices, and the law. Additionally, Kellie and Kerrin contributed to discussions on young people's safety through the Safer Schoolies Sexual Assault & Sexual Harassment Action Group (SASH), reinforcing the importance of education in creating safer communities.



IN SERVICE TRAINING

Kellie & Kerrin delivered a session for sector workers, providing valuable insights into programs and referral pathways, enabling workers to better support women.



BOND UNIVERSITY WELLBEING WEEK

Kellie & Kerrin conducted two workshops for university students on sexual violence, alcohol, and technology-facilitated violence.



PROBUS SENIORS EXPO

Charlene & Zoe attended the Probus Seniors Expo, reaching 200 older individuals with information on agency services, help-seeking, elder abuse, and healthy relationships.



MULTICULTURAL WOMEN'S EXPO

Charlene & Kerrin attended the Multicultural Women's Expo run by MFO. This was an opportunity to engage with women from non-english speaking backgrounds, many of whom were new to the Gold Coast.

WELLBEING EXPO

Kellie & Kerrin attended two Wellbeing Expos at Coombabah SHS. They used interactive games to discuss consent, respectful relationships, and sexuality and improve support and referral for young people.



GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

Kerrin conducted two educational sessions for Griffith University students in the Domestic and Family Violence course, focusing on the intersection of domestic violence and sexual violence for future sector workers.

Intersection
PSV and
strangulation

SBYHN

Kellie hosted the School Based Youth Health Nurses at the Centre providing information and training on referral pathways and responding to disclosures.

HIGH RISK HIGH HARM

Di travelled to Mackay with Red Rose Foundation to deliver "High Risk, High Harm" training on Intimate Partner Sexual Violence.

CHILL OUT ZONE

Lisa Appleby, the newly appointed Manager of the Chillout Zone, visited the service to share information and resources, discuss a new referral pathway and future training plans for her staff.

JUDICIARY CONFERENCE

The GCCASV Director was invited by His Honour Chief Judge Brian Devereaux to present at the Inaugural Sexual Violence Judiciary Conference in Brisbane.

SAFER FUTURES SYMPOSIUM

Kerrin & Karen attended the symposium, hosted by True Relationships & Reproductive Health, to showcase GCCASV on an expo table and contribute to the discussion on young people's safety.



Sexual Violence Awareness Month

The theme for SVAM this year was 'Lead The Change To End Sexual Violence' and we called on our community to share the #1Action they would take to lead the change.

Start By Believing Community Breakfast

The breakfast event drew 250 guests in support of the agency. Attorney General Yvette D'Ath, launched the month and discussed the issue of sexual violence in our community and in her own life.

This year's event featured a panel discussion with community leaders Yasmin Khan, Missy Shaw, Act/Supt Ryan Clark, and Dr. Brian Sullivan sharing insights into their individual efforts to Lead The Change.



The event was attended by numerous state and local MPs, senior ranking QPS officers, a wide representation of local government and non-government organisations, survivors, and supporters.

Attendees were encouraged to recognise the power of sharing their #1Action as an effective strategy for prevention, and to show the impact we can have on both individual and community journeys of healing and resilience.



Candle Lighting & Survivor Speak Out

This year's event welcomed 35 clients, supporters, and staff. Clients shared their experiences highlighting the strength of the women involved and the #1Action that made a difference in their lives.

Invited speaker Lesley Synge discussed her healing journey through art and poetry. After the Candle Lighting ceremony, a Sound Bath and meditation by @LauralSoundAlchemy offered grounding and connection.



Counselor Maria honours survivors

Lesley Synge & Di Macleod



Reclaim The Night

Sixty women, children, and supporters gathered for an event featuring performances by Tayla-Lee Music, TINTA, and BurleqFit Academy, along with Zumba led by Chun-Ling.

Following tradition, demands were sent to the government, and a response was received from Attorney General Yvette D'Ath, affirming the government's commitment to funding prevention and implementing recommendations from the Women's Safety & Justice Taskforce.

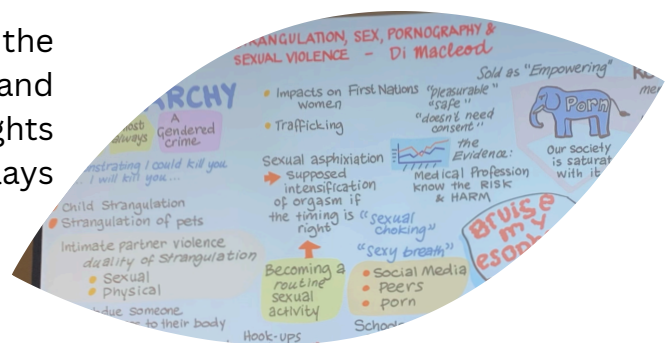




Non-Lethal Strangulation Symposium

In February 2024, GCCASV partnered with the Red Rose Foundation to deliver a transformative two day event to 200 delegates to make a lasting impact on the way we address non-lethal strangulation and partner inflicted brain injury in Australia.

Our Director Di Macleod presented on the intersection of non-lethal strangulation and sexual violence, sharing GCCASV's insights including the role that pornography plays in shifting attitudes and behaviours.



Attendees heard powerful addresses from the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner Micaela Cronin and Attorney General Yvette D'Ath along with presentations from practitioners, researchers, and survivors with lived experience.

The event provided invaluable opportunities to connect with professionals committed to addressing strangulation and trauma-related violence. Attendees left with strengthened networks and practical insights for ongoing advocacy and support.

- 80% of participants rated their knowledge of NLS as excellent after the symposium
- 100% now felt it was important for workers to educate about consent in relation to strangulation.



Call To Action

LEAD THE CHANGE TO END SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Together we can make a difference. Ending sexual and domestic violence requires a united effort. With your support, GCCASV can continue to advocate for survivors, provide life-changing services, and create lasting community change.

Here's how you can join us.



Speak out in your community, workplace, and online to raise awareness about violence prevention and supporting survivors.



Local businesses, educational institutions, and organisations can strengthen our impact through partnerships and shared resources.



Donate, host a fundraiser, or join as a sponsor to help us deliver ongoing, essential services.



Contact: admin@stopsexualviolence.com

Thank You

We would like to publicly recognise our strongest supporters and privately acknowledge those individuals and organisations who do not wish to be named.

This year, the following supporters donated time, services, goods, prizes, gifts, and money to add value to the support we can offer women and their children.



Aavago Massage
Cheryl Spicer
Christmas Angels
Don McFeat
Gold Coast Community Fund
Gold Coast Mayoress Charity Foundation
Hope Island Ladies Bridge Group
Lady Mayoress Fund
Mayoress Ruth Tate
Moss & Stone
Multicultural Families Organisation
Neumann Benevolent Fund
Robyn E
Runaway Bay Lions

Share the Dignity
St. Johns Crisis Service
Tayla-Lee Music
The Hon Rob Molhoek
The Hon Ros Bates
The Hon Ray Stevens
The Hon Meaghan Scanlon
The Hon Sam O'Connor
VBR Lawyers
Wednesday Ladies Bridge Group
(Hope Island)
Zonta Club of Paradise Point