

Justice and Community Safety Directorate

Sexual Assault reform

Updated: Wed, 11 Apr 2012 10:55:30 +1000

Printed: Sat, 23 Mar 2019 20:21:59 +1100

Revision: 10

Sexual assault is defined as any sexual behaviour that makes a person feel uncomfortable, frightened or threatened. It is sexual activity to which a person does not consent. Sexual assault is a crime

The 2004 ACT Government policy framework [Justice, Options and Prevention - working to make the lives of ACT women safe](#) action plan addresses violence and safety issues for women in the ACT. The plan covers all types of violence against women and their children, with particular attention to domestic and family violence and sexual assault.

The plan has three priority outcome areas:

- Protection and justice (a justice system that provides protection, support and advocacy for women).
- Options for women (provision of assistance for women that is appropriate, accessible and responsive).
- Prevention of violence (understanding, acceptance and acknowledgement of the right of women to live their lives free from violence).

To achieve these outcomes emphasis is placed on three key areas:

- Reviewing legislation and legal processes.
- Strengthening services and programs.
- Working with the community.

Extensive research undertaken during 2004, led primarily by the ACT Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the AFP, led to the production of a comprehensive report entitled 'Responding to Sexual Assault - the challenge of change'. The report included numerous wide-ranging recommendations. Since that time the Territory Government has been progressing a range of sexual assault reforms.

These include:

- Legislative reform - including the [Sexual and Violent Offences Legislation Amendment Act 2008](#).
- Training - including hosting the SARP Forum in 2009.
- Interagency collaboration - including developing a Wraparound service model.
- infrastructure upgrades - including remote witness facilities at the courts.

Major stakeholders in these activities include the AFP, the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Victims Support ACT, and ACT Law Courts.

Publications

[Responding to Sexual Assault - the challenge of change](#)

Research and Resources

Australian Institute of Criminology

- [Publications and events](#)
- [Prevention and research programs](#)