

**SOUTH EASTERN CENTRE
AGAINST SEXUAL
ASSUALT**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2003-2004**

Coordinators review

During 2003-2004 SECASA continued to provide a high quality accessible service across the Southern Metropolitan Region. Workers demonstrated their commitment to SECASA's clients by offering an increasing range of specialist services and working with dedication and energy to bring about individual and wider change.

Whilst the services in the Southern Metropolitan Region have continued to operate out of Cranbourne, Dandenong, Frankston, St Kilda, Clayton, East Bentleigh and Carnegie, three workers spent time working in Vietnam. SECASA had an eight month contract with UNICEF Child Protection Branch Hanoi. The three workers were involved in writing training manuals and delivering training to a group of professionals who will provide training throughout Vietnam. The initial contract has been completed with a new contract proposed for the end of 2004.

This has been a wonderful experience for SECASA and has provided staff members with the opportunity to work overseas in an area related to their field of expertise.

A donation from the Pratt Foundation enabled two workers in the Southern Sexual Abuse Counselling Prevention Program to attend the Gail Ryan training program in Denver Colorado on Treatment of Sexually Abusive Youth.

The Statewide Steering Committees to Reduce Sexual Assault and Family Violence have continued to meet throughout 2003-2004. The Family Violence Division of the Magistrates' Court Reference Group and the Victoria Health Violence Against Women Health Burden Project completed their work during the year.

I was honoured to be Community Patron for Victoria Police new recruits in Squads 9 and 10. This improved our, already good, working relationship with the Police.

SECASA commenced a program of providing supervision for the staff of local agencies who work with victims or in complimentary areas. This has enable SECASA's highly experienced staff to expand their skill base in a manner that is not available within the agency.

Staffing has remained relatively stable. One worker has taken a year's leave without pay being replaced by a locum. A worker has returned from maternity leave and one of the Office Managers took a well earned break and had six month's long service leave. In addition, a locum was employed to provide cover whilst workers undertook work in Vietnam.

During all the hard work and challenges the staff has continued to be a source of inspiration. The Office Managers have maintained their sense of balance and humour and contributed to the smooth running of the organization. Everyone at SECASA has continued to create a supportive and pleasant environment within which to work for which I thank them all wholeheartedly.

Service history

The Sexual Assault Centre was originally set up at the Queen Victoria Medical Centre, Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, in 1977. This was the first Centre to provide services to victim/survivors of sexual assault in Melbourne. In 1987 the Centre moved with the Queen Victoria Medical Centre to the new premises of Monash Medical Centre in Clayton.

From 1987 until 1993 the Centre was known as the Monash Sexual Assault Centre and was situated within the Social Work Department at Monash Medical Centre, Clayton. In February 1993 it moved to separate premises adjoining Monash Medical Centre's Moorabbin Campus and changed its name to the South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault (SECASA)

The Honourable Minister for Health, Mrs. Marie Tehan, officially opened the new premises on October 8th, 1993.

Whilst having the administrative centre on the Moorabbin Campus of MMC, the Centre operates out of 5 other permanent locations and provides a visiting service in several others.

Services provided

SECASA provides services within the Southern Metropolitan Region to children and adults, both female and male, who have been sexually assaulted. The Centre also works with non-offending family members, partners, caregivers and support workers.

The Southern Metropolitan Region encompasses the south-east suburbs of Melbourne and covers the Morningside Peninsula, Westernport and the Dandenong, Berwick, Cranbourne and Pakenham growth corridors.

The Southern Sexual Abuse and Counselling Prevention Program is a service for adolescent sex offenders and their families which commenced in 2001 as part of SECASA's preventative work.

The Department of Human Services Protective Services refer their clientele for a range of specialist services including assessment and treatment.

Respect, Protect, Connect and Feeling Safe Together are programs conducted in Secondary and Primary Schools throughout the entire region.

The Angela Taylor Child Protection Unit operates with wider boundaries than the Southern Metropolitan Region providing a service for all children who live south of the Yarra. Children living north of the Yarra attend the Royal Children's Hospital Gatehouse Centre.

There is a joint legal service provided by the Springvale Monash Legal Service and SECASA for clients who live within the region.

SECASA provides an after hours service for victims of family violence to discuss their options with a counsellor.

Finally, professional and community education is provided throughout the region.

Location

SECASA is auspiced by Southern Health. Counselling is provided in a variety of settings. The Centre's administration and some counselling services are based in a house on the grounds of the Moorabbin Campus of Monash Medical Centre in Centre Road, East Bentleigh. Workers also operate in permanent locations in Frankston, Clayton, St Kilda, Dandenong and Cranbourne.

The Frankston service is co-located with a General Practice in the centre of Frankston. Dandenong has five workers located at the Visy Cares Centre. The Cranbourne workers are located at the Cranbourne Integrated Care Centre and the

St Kilda workers at the inner South Community Health Service, the Salvation Army Bridge Project and Access Health in Grey Street.

A worker is provided to attend the Specialist Sex Workers' Court at the Melbourne Magistrate Court once a month.

SECASA is committed to providing an accessible service. The service will continue to locate workers out in the region with Moorabbin serving as an administrative base.

The range of services provided by SECASA encompasses:

- 24 hour crisis counselling and medical care
- Crisis counselling (short-term)
- Supportive counselling (medium term/long term)
- Movement therapy
- After Hours Family Violence Counselling Service
- Sexually aggressive adolescent treatment program
- Medical follow-up
- Groups for adult survivors, children, adolescents and non-offending parents, partners and caregivers
- Psychological assessments for criminal injuries claims
- Legal service for criminal injuries claims
- Legal advocacy
- Reports for courts and tribunals
- Interpreter services
- Secondary consultation
- Community education
- Professional training
- Student supervision
- Research

Mission statement

To reduce, and ultimately eliminate, sexual assault through individual and social change.

Aims

SECASA aims to provide

- A comprehensive service which responds to the needs of those who have been sexually assaulted, including crisis care, counselling, medical care and advocacy
- Information and education to raise community awareness of the nature and incidence of sexual assault
- Awareness and prevention focussed programs

Crisis services

After hours sexual assault

SECASA provides a 24-hour crisis care service from the Crisis Care Unit within the Emergency Department at Monash Medical Centre, Clayton. This service helps victim/survivors during the initial crisis following a recent sexual assault. Counsellors provide support, information and advocacy enabling those using the service to make informed choices in relation to reporting to Police, legal action and medical care.

Follow-up counselling is offered at a convenient site either at East Bentleigh, Clayton, Frankston, Dandenong, St Kilda and Cranbourne as well as a number of locations catering for clients with special needs.

From 1st July 2003 to 30th June 2004 262 people aged seventeen years and over attended the Crisis Care Unit. Under seventeen year olds were seen in The Angela Taylor Crisis Care Unit.

After hours family violence

From 1st February 1999 SECASA was funded to provide an enhanced after hours service for victims of family violence. This service is provided to single women, women with children and same sex couples. Two services cooperate to provide this service SECASA and Hanover South Eastern Crisis Accommodation Service.

SECASA provides the after hours counseling and referral. Hanover South Eastern Crisis Accommodation Service provides motel accommodation for people needing emergency accommodation overnight and assists with a range of support services at 9.00 a.m. the next day.

Follow-up counselling is not provided by SECASA.

From 1st July 2003 to 30th June 2004 26 women and their children attended for after hours assistance.

The Angela Taylor Child Protection Unit

The Angela Taylor Child Protection Unit provides a medical service for all physically and sexually abused children who live south of the Yarra. The other half of the state has a service provided by the Gatehouse Centre at the Royal Children's Hospital. During business hours paediatric forensic medicals are conducted in sessions run by paediatricians and the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine. After hours medicals are provided either by the after-hours Doctors' roster for sexual assault cases or the Emergency Department Paediatric Registrar for physical abuse cases.

A half-time social work position is attached to the Unit providing counselling and coordination of the service. After hours the initial telephone contact is undertaken by the Sexual Assault Crisis Line and the SECASA on-call worker.

The Unit has provided training for post-graduate nursing students, fifth year medical students and each year's intake of paediatric registrars at Monash Medical Centre.

The Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation has continued to support the Unit both financially and in spirit.

From 1st July 2003 to 30th June 2004, 336 children were seen in the Unit.

Counselling

SECASA provides free, medium to long term, confidential counselling to adults/children, male and female victims of both recent and past sexual assault. Counselling and support is also available to non-offending parents, partners, caregivers and support workers. Some home visits are undertaken and residents of the Queen Elizabeth Residential Complex receive a twenty-four hour response to a request for counselling.

Male clients are able to choose either a female or a male counsellor.

From 1st July 2003 to 30th June 2004 there were 6212 counselling sessions. There were 1425 new contacts with the agency. Of the new registrations 1218 were adult females and 271 were females under 18. 197 adult males were seen and 88 under 18.

Group work

In 2003/2004 SECASA facilitated a range of groups. These included

- Dance Therapy Workshops
- Sexuality Workshops
- Women In A Long-Term Relationship With An Offender
- Non offending Parents/Carers Group
- STEP Group children 8 - 12
- Adult Female Survivors of Childhood Sexual Assault
- Adult Male Survivors of Childhood Sexual Assault
- Rural Adult Male Survivors of Childhood Sexual Assault provided in conjunction with Upper Murray CASA

Southern Sexual Abuse Counselling & Prevention Program

The Southern Sexual Abuse Counselling and Prevention Program (SSACPP) was a joint initiative between The Children's Protection Society and SECASA. It commenced operation on June 12, 2001 at the Visy Cares Centre in Dandenong and was officially launched on 26th February 2002 by Tony Barber at the Visy Cares Centre. In March 2004 two workers from the program were sent to Denver, Colorado to train under Gail Ryan on working with juvenile offenders.

This service is available for young people between the ages of 10 - 17 who exhibit sexually abusive behaviours and reside in the Southern Metropolitan Region. The aim of the program is to assist young people to take responsibility for and to cease their sexually abusive behaviours.

Services provided include:

- Individual risk assessment
- Family counselling
- individual counselling
- Group work
- Secondary consultations
- Community and professional education

Linda Watson and Russell. Pratt continue to provide services at the Visy Cares Centre. With the maturing of the program it has become necessary to change from the single strata group program to running a basic group and an advanced group. To facilitate this Fiona Irwin and Sarah McGregor have been co-opted into the program one day a week. Back up for the program is provided by Megan Crosser.

Work in Schools

Secondary Schools Anti Violence Workshops Respect, Protect, Connect

This program is a joint venture between Women's Health in the South East (WHISE) and SECASA. It has been funded for the past seven years by the Department of Human Services. The project provided workshops to schools in the Southern Region with 2882 participants in years 7-12. These workshops were conducted as single sex sessions using peer educators and an adult facilitator.

Some highlights of the year were our work with Hawthorn Secondary College, Haileybury and Scotch Colleges and Noble Park English Language School's Afghani and Sudanese students.

Primary Schools Protective Behaviours Workshops Feeling Safe Together

The Feeling Safe Together program utilizes the successful skills for safety from protective education programs that were in existence in the 1980's, both in Australia and overseas. SECASA has enhanced these with material strategic to the current needs and personal/social difficulties facing Victorian children, their families and teachers today.

The intensive all of school program was conducted in several local schools during the year including Eastbourne Primary School in Rosebud.

A Reflection on the Year

During 2003/4 the service continued to provide workshops in the schools we have worked with for the past seven years. In addition, we have initiated links with several new schools and organizations. The regular workshops have been interspersed with a number of special projects and activities that have made the past twelve months demanding and highly rewarding.

We have run sessions in conjunction with the Bayside Community Health Service, undertaken a five week program at Hawthorn Secondary College and a four week program at Berendale Special School. We have conducted workshops with the Patterson Project Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning and completed a day of homophobia prevention workshops at Taralgon Secondary College.

Prior to working with the recently arrived Afghani and Sudanese students at the Noble Park English Language School the Peer Educators received some training in working with people for whom English is a second language. This was the first time the program had run a session using interpreters.

A small group of social work students from South Korea interested in discussing the way that sexual health education is provided in secondary schools visited the program. We also recruited and trained seven new Peer Educators for our program with the support of a number of SECASA counseling staff. A funding application for our program was made to the Federal Government's Community Grants Scheme to enable a series of workshops to be conducted at Noble Park Secondary College.

The results from the evaluation conducted last year by the Swinburne University Graduate Diploma student, Suzanne Pollard became available with a number of positive outcomes for the boys part of Respect Protect Connect being highlighted.

Finally I should like to thank all of the school staff members, students and, of course, the Respect Protect Connect Peer Educators for contributing to the success of another year.

*Nolan Alles,
Project Worker,
Respect Protect Connect*

Website

The SECASA website went on line in 1999. It was officially launched by the then Minister for Women's Affairs, The Honourable Sherryl Garbutt in 2000. Since this date the website has been continually improved and extended.

In 2003/4 several new features have been added to the site. A Useful Links and a See Also sidebar have been included on each page. A site map has been created and the most used articles have been condensed into PDF information sheets. information has been added to the site for sex workers and male survivors and about clergy abuse.

The site receives approximately 60 000 new visitors per year with 360 000 pages being accessed and 8 400 information sheets being down loaded. The site is most visited during Australian business hours although it has considerable access from overseas. The most popular pages are Home, Search and Survivors Home.

The whole site is accessible as part of the Department of Human Services intranet system for their Child Protection workers.

Education

Professional education

Professional education is an important activity for SECASA. During 2003/2004 the agency maintained its commitment to this activity and provided training and information within the hospital and region.

Regular talks were given to the Emergency Department nurses, residents and paediatric registrars at Monash Medical Centre, Clayton and Emergency Department staff at Frankston and Dandenong Hospitals.

SECASA participated in the Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Units training courses at the Police Academy and provided secondary consultations to a wide range of local agencies.

Information and education were provided at workshops for the following organisations:

- Sacred Heart Mission
- Glen Waverley Primary School Teachers
- RMIT Social Work Students
- Springvale Legal Service
- Frankston General Practitioners
- Windana
- Moorabbin Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Unit and Criminal Investigation Unit
- Albert Park Clinic
- South West CASA
- Queen Elizabeth Centre
- Victoria Police New Recruits Squads 9/10
- Turning Point
- RMIT juvenile justice Students
- St Francis Xavier
- Oz Child Foster Care Workers
- Dandenong Division of General Practice Doctors - 2 days
- Holmesglen TAFE
- Pendap
- Monash University Social Work Students
- DHS Dandenong Child Protection
- Department of Human Services Head Office Protective Staff
- Bentleigh/Bayside Community Health Service
- Australian Catholic University Psychology Students
- The Alfred Emergency Department
- VOTA
- REACH

Community education

Community Information Sessions are run regularly at Moorabbin, Frankston, Cranbourne and Dandenong. Biannual information sessions continue to be conducted for the Frankston, Dandenong, Cheltenham and Box Hill offices of the Department of Human Services and the Frankston, Dandenong, Moorabbin, Blackburn and Knox offices of the Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Units.

The Centre was also involved in Community Safety Week, the Gay Pride March and the Midsumma Festival providing publicity for the service in the gay and lesbian communities.

During 2003/2004 the agency was involved in public education forums and information days for

- Moorabbin-Bentleigh Rotary
- Killester School
- Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Program
- Wellsprings
- HIM Young Men's Health Day - Bayside City Council
- Traralgon Secondary College
- Mentone Girls Expo
- Myuna Family Expo
- Pride March
- Midsumma Carnival
- Mentone Girls College
- Beacon Hill Christian School
- Bentleigh/Bayside Community Health Centre
- WHISE Open Day
- Crime Prevention Month Launch
- Crime Prevention Week Safety Sunday
- Eastbourne Primary School
- Community Participation Forum Southern Region
- Westall Secondary College Young Men's Health Day

Projects

DVD for deaf community

The DVD with information on sexual assault for the deaf community was prepared by Tim O'Leary, ex SECASA, with assistance from signers Tamara Doyle Bales and Ross Onley-Zerkel. The impetus for the DVD came from the Stop Violence Against Deaf Working Groups who were keen to have a visual resource for deaf people who were victims of sexual assault and teachers, workers and care givers working with the deaf.

Postcard - Sex with siblings is against the law

The Sex With Siblings Is Against The Law postcard was developed by Linda Watson with the graphics being produced by Tristan Graham. The postcard was launched by Professor Paul Mullen from the Victorian Institute of Forensic Health. The postcard was aimed at raising the issue of sibling incest.

Vietnam

SECASA had an eight month institutional contract with UNICEF Hanoi, Child Protection Branch to write manuals and provide training on a range of issues including counseling abused children and children in conflict with the law, assisting the College of Invalids and Social Affairs establish a counseling service and running workshops on how to provide supervision to social workers. Three workers, Susan McDougall, Nerrida Mitchell and Linda Watson worked in Vietnam for varying periods of time during the eight months supported on a monthly basis by the Coordinator, Carolyn Worth.

The contract provided workers with experience of working in a different culture and led to alliances being formed with a number of Vietnamese workers and agencies.

Following the completion of the contract a group of Vietnamese officials visited Melbourne, Brisbane and the Gold Coast to look at the organization of agencies involved in working with abused children. The Melbourne study tour was organized by SECASA. The Brisbane/Gold Coast study tour was organized by Kristy Pinter, who, until recently, was a PhD Student based at SECASA running a STEP program.

It is anticipated that the collaboration between UNICEF Hanoi and SECASA will continue in the future.

Springvale Monash Legal Service / SECASA Joint Legal Clinic

This service has now been in operation for seven years. It provides a quality legal service for SECASA clients. The Clinic provides assistance in relation to the following:

- Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal
- Appeals to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal
- Action Against Religious Bodies
- Civil Actions Against Offenders where appropriate
- Family Law and Wills issues related to sexual assault
- Liaison with Medical Practitioners Board
- Assistance with Complaints to the Health Service Commission
- Sexual assault in a therapeutic relationship
- Advocacy/support for complainants required to give evidence in criminal proceedings
- Family violence issues and Intervention Orders arising from sexual assault
- Workplace pressure to provide sexual services
- General advocacy in relation to the above with Housing Authorities, Police, Department of Social Security, Department of Human Services and Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Law Institute

The Clinic maintained this focus when the Bracks amendments to the Criminal Injuries Legislation brought pain and suffering back as a category from 1st January 2001 in relation to compensation for victims of sexual assault.

Meeting representation

- Frankston Paediatrics Meeting
- Dandenong Paediatrics Meeting
- Southern Health Child Maltreatment Meeting
- Westernport Family Violence Network
- Peninsula Counsellors Network
- SECASA/Police Liaison Meeting
- Victorian Centres Against Sexual Assault Forum
- Southern Region Domestic Violence SAAP Forum
- South Eastern Migrant Women's Health Network
- Dandenong and Springvale Youth Network
- Cardinia Shire Youth Services Network
- Dandenong Regional Welfare Group and Springvale Workers' Coalition
- VRAS/CASA Forum Liaison
- Cranbourne and District Community Service Group
- Monash Welfare Group
- Advisory Group Health Services for Abused Children in. Victoria
- Cardinia Shire Services Network
- Glen Eira Youth Services Network
- CWICS - Pakenham
- Peninsula Information Support Group
- North Casey Network
- Southern Victims Assistance Program
- Primary Care Partnerships - Glen Eira, Peninsula, Greater Dandenong
- Women's Health in the South East Management Committee
- Peninsula Indigenous Action Group
- Visy Cares Tenants Meeting
- Facility Users Meeting - Cranbourne Integrated Care Centre
- Victorian Institute of Forensic Services/CASA Forum Liaison Meeting
- Casey Youth Services Network
- Mornington Peninsula Network Against Family Violence
- Vic Safe Committee
- Southern Collective Against Violence and Abuse
- Westempport Counsellors Group
- Statewide Steering Committee To Reduce Family Violence
- Statewide Steering Committee To Reduce Sexual Assault
- Same Sex Attracted Youth Workers Network Rainbow Group
- Rosebud Service Providers
- VAP Reference Group

Funding

Sexual Assault Program	Department of Human Services Community Care Division	\$1 267 303
Family Violence	Department of Human Services Community Care Division	\$23 442
Paediatric Forensic Medical Services	Department of Human Services	\$63 916
Southern Sexual Abuse Counselling and Prevention Program	Department of Human Services ACMH Mental Health - PDSS	\$125 000
IT Hardware	Department of Human Services	\$22 800
		\$1 502 461

Donations

Ladies Auxiliary Moorabbin Monash Medical Centre Moorabbin Campus	\$1 000
Lions Club of Moorabbin	\$500
Lions Club of Clarinda	Trauma Teddies
Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Program	\$50
Bayside Quilters	27 Quilts
The Foundation for Young Australians	\$16 000
Pratt Foundation	\$5 850
Hunt Club Community Fund	\$500
Past and Present Police Women's Association	DVD/Fridge/Digital Camera/Resources
Bentleigh Moorabbin Rotary Club	\$2 750
Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation	Computer/Printer
Needles and Threads St John Ambulance	Calico dolls
Zonta Club Frankston	Care Packs
Mentone Girls Secondary College	\$500
Client	\$100