

**SOUTH EASTERN CENTRE
AGAINST SEXUAL
ASSUALT**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2005-2006**

Manager's review

The past year has been one of many changes for SECASA. A number of these changes have been -the result of developments in the wider service system. The restructuring of the delivery of services for victims of family violence in Victoria following the previous year's budget allocation of \$35.1 million impacted on SECASA. There was an increase in our commitment to the provision of an after hours service for victims of family violence. SECASA also commenced the funded provision of counselling services for child and adult victims of family violence in the Outer South and Peninsula areas of the Southern Metropolitan Region.

In addition, the Statewide Steering Committee to Reduce Sexual Assault's success in the 2006 budget with an allocation of some \$36 million over 4 years has impacted on service delivery with a pilot project for a Multidisciplinary Centre in Frankston being developed entailing co-location of SECASA and Victoria Police.

The Department of Justice's acceptance of the majority of the Victorian Law Reform Commission's recommendations from the 2004 Sexual Offences Law and Procedure Final Report has also been an exciting development. However, whilst having the opportunity to have input into a number of new initiatives and developments, there has been an increased workload with the need to provide representation on Committees and Reference Groups. There have also been a number of submissions required which enabled SECASA to bring their experience to bear on the development of new structures in Victoria but have entailed a considerable amount of work.

Finally the Department of Human Services has two new pieces of legislation, the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 and the Child Well-being and Safety Act 2005 which have implications for SECASA's functioning, and will require the development of new networks. as their provisions are rolled out around the Southern Metropolitan Region. Also, the submission and consultation process leading up to the final Acts was time consuming and thought provoking.

Internally SECASA has undertaken a restructure dividing the service into 3 areas with a Senior Social Worker responsible for each area.

Throughout all these changes and increased workloads SECASA continued to provide a high quality accessible service across the whole 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.

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, 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 6 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 Mornington 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.

A statewide program Sexual Assault and intellectual Disability (SAID) commenced in early 2005 offering a service for 12 18 year olds with sexually abusive behaviours and an intellectual disability.

The Department of Human Services Child Protection refer their clientèle 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. This service celebrated its 10th anniversary in October 2005.

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, Berwick, 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 and Berwick workers are located at the City of Casey Cranbourne and Berwick Family Resource Centres and the St Kilda workers at the Salvation Army Bridge Project and Access Health in Grey Street.

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

SECASA is committed to providing a community based 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) for victim/survivors of sexual assault and family violence
- Supportive counselling (medium term/long term) for victim/survivors of sexual assault and family violence Movement therapy After Hours Family Violence Counselling Service
- Sexually aggressive adolescent treatment program for the general population and also for young people with a cognitive impairment
- Medical follow-up
- Groups for adult survivors, children, adolescents and non-offending parents, partners and caregivers
- Legal service for criminal injuries claims Legal advocacy
- Reports for courts and tribunals, Interpreter services
- Secondary consultation Community education
- Professional training Student supervision Research

SECASA in St Kilda

One of SECASA's 5 locations is based in St Kilda. As with all the officer, crisis, short-term longer-term counselling is offered to adults and children impacted by both recent and past sexual assault. The service is co-located with a Salvation Army drug and alcohol program in St Kilda.

SECASA counselor advocates at the. St Kilda office, have developed a flexible and responsive approach to some of the more disadvantaged clientele who are drawn to the area. This is achieved primarily through the networking and collaborative arrangements with local agencies. These 9 -include Access Health, St Kilda Crisis Service, Sacred Heart Women's Service, Inner South Community Health Centre and RhED. SECASA counselors also attend the monthly Magistrate's Court sessions designed specifically for street sex workers.

Workers at St Kilda services, whose clientele are frequently grappling with issues around sexual assault, are provided with the opportunity to consult directly with St Kilda SECASA counselors. Flexible counselling services can be negotiated at locations which are convenient, for the client group.

Mary Mass & Sarah McGregor

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.

Services

Crisis service

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, Berwick or Cranbourne as well as a number of locations catering for clients with special needs.

From 1st July 2005 to 30th June 2006, 347 people aged seventeen years and over attended the Crisis Care Unit. Under 17 year-olds were seen in The Angela Taylor Child Protection 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. Several services cooperate to provide this service SECASA, Hanover South Eastern Crisis Accommodation, Hanover Southern, the Women's Service Alliance and WAYSS. SECASA provides the after hours counselling and referral. Hanover South Eastern Crisis Accommodation Service and Hanover Southern provide motel accommodation for people needing emergency accommodation overnight and assist along with WAYSS with a range of support services at 9.00am the next business day.

Follow-up counselling is provided by SECASA in the Outer South and Peninsula sub regions. In the Inner and Middle South, although SECASA provides a partial after hours service the follow up counselling is provided by a coalition of Inner South Community Health Service, Connections and Family Life.

From 1st July 2005 to 30th June 2006 65 women and their children attended for after hours assistance.

Counselling

SECASA provides free, medium to long-term, confidential counselling to adults/children, male and female victims of both recent and past sexual assault and family violence. 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 2005 to 30th June 2006 there were 7889 counselling sessions. There were 1976 new contacts with the agency. Of the new registrations 1080 were adult females and 426 were females under 18. A total of 161 adult males were seen and 303 under 18.

Telephone counselling and information service

A worker is on Duty from 9.00 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. each weekday to provide telephone counselling, case consultation and an information and referral service for victim/survivors, their partners, close friends, family members and other agencies.

After hours, at weekends and on Public Holidays service is provided by the statewide Sexual Assault Crisis Line.

From 1st July 2005 to 30th June 2006 there were 3571 calls dealt with by the Duty Workers. There were also 674 secondary consultations with regional agencies, professionals and the Department of Human Services.

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 new full-time Child At Risk social work position is attached to the Unit providing counselling and coordination of the service. This position is a new position which operates across The Angela Taylor Child Protection Unit, the Emergency Department and the paediatric wards. After hours the initial telephone contact is undertaken by the Sexual Assault Crisis Line Against Sexual Assault and the SECASA on-call worker.

The Unit has provided training for postgraduate 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 2005 to 30th June 2006 272 children were seen in the Unit.

Southern Sexual Abuse Counselling and 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. A further two workers were sent to Denver in October 2005.

This service is available for young people between the ages of 10-18 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
- Groupwork
- Secondary consultations
- Community and professional education

During the year RMIT University marketing students assisted the program with changing the logo and brochure.

The Pratt Foundation generously provided funding to enable two workers, from the Southern Sexual Abuse Counselling and Prevention Program to attend training in Denver, Colorado. Robyn Breheny and Sarah McGregor attended Gait Ryan's six day training course in October 2005. The course was entitled "Treatment of sexually abusive youth. A goal oriented approach". Gait Ryan is highly recognised in the field and has over twenty years, of experience. She currently holds the position of Director of the Kempe Centre for Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect and has recently retired from a faculty- appointment in the, Department of Paediatrics, university of Colorado.

The training course was held from Monday October 20 Saturday 29th at The Kempe Children's Centre, Denver Colorado. Thirteen participants attended the course, mainly from within the United States.' Sarah McGregor and Robyn Breheny were the only two participants who were present from Australia.

Participants attending the course were required to complete a pre test exam based on the literature prior, to the coursework being undertaken. This was held on the Monday 20 October. Both Sarah McGregor and Robyn Breheny achieved successful results in this exam. Final exams were held at the completion of the course, which was based on the information provided through the course. All participants who successfully completed the course were awarded a certificate of achievement. Both Sarah McGregor and Robyn Breheny successfully completed the course and were 1 awarded certificates of achievement.

There-were a wide variety of topics covered through the course which provided a useful knowledge base for anyone working in this highly specialized field.

SAID program

The Sexual Abuse and Intellectual Disability (SAID) program commenced in September 2005. The service was initiated to address a service gap for young people with a cognitive impairment exhibiting sexually abusive behaviours. SAID is a statewide program that has its base at East Benthleigh.

SAID program up and running

In September 2005, SECASA initiated the Sexual Abuse: Intellectual Disability (SAID) program. This program caters for adolescents between, 12 and 18 years with an ID or Borderline IQ who exhibit sexually abusive behaviour. Two workers, Russell Pratt (full time) and Gael, Wallace, (part time) staff the program. Essentially run as a group-format program, the SAID program began group work in November 2005, and currently has two groups - a 'youngies' group for ages 12-14 and an 'older' group for ages 15-18. Both are now at maximum capacity of seven clients in each. A further 'older' group is commencing in term, four, 2006, which is being co-facilitated by Mr. John Bergman. The program also has the capacity for a further 'younger' group to be added in term 12007. SAID also sees clients on an individual 'as needs' basis as well as offering parents counselling sessions and, information.,

The past ten months have been extremely busy. In addition to running groups forty weeks of year, SAID workers undertook initial training with Statewide Forensic, who generously allowed us to not only sit in on their groups, but to utilise their STOP manual and program, and also provided intensive supervision during the early days of the program. John Bergman has provided ongoing clinical supervision, and has spent many further hours with us, helping us to improve and develop our own work. This has been necessary and will continue to be so given that we would seem to be 'the only specific provider of services to this particular client group in the State (if anyone knows of another program can they let us know?). In April, the program was presented via a poster display at the 21 st National Adolescent Perpetrator Network Conference in Atlanta Georgia. Feedback was positive.

SAID has been fortunate to have been successful with a number of funding applications in this financial year. In late 2005, the Foundation, for Young Australians provided \$10,000, and the Helen McPherson, Smith Trust was very generous in providing \$21,600 in May this year.. Both of these grants have been put into program and group development. We are extremely grateful -for this support.

The new financial year continues to provide challenges in the form of a busy training, and group program. Referrals are healthy and new assessment protocols are being put into practice. Thanks to Carolyn for her support, to Gael Wallace for her hard work and to Ma Mass for stepping in to provide her services during Russell and Gael's absences. Thank you also to all workers at SECASA for their support of the program during busy duty periods.

Russell Pratt

Group work

In 2005/2006 SECASA facilitated a range of groups. These included

- Dance Therapy Workshops
- Sexuality Workshops
- Mosaic Group Arts Access Partnership
- Non offending Parents/Carers Group
- Adult Female Survivors of Childhood Sexual Assault
- Young Women's Group
- Adult Male Survivors of Childhood Sexual Assault
- Women's Circus
- Parents Group

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 10 years by the Department of Human Services. This program provides interactive workshops in secondary schools principally in the Southern Region to participants in years 7-10. These workshops are conducted as single-sex sessions using young adult peer educators. The broad aims are to reduce violence, promote consent and *mutuality in relationships, and to affirm positive and respectful ways for young people to relate to others and themselves.

The program provided 7766 students in 54 schools with a service during the year.

Respect Protect Connect was the recipient of an Australian Violence and Crime Prevention Award presented at State Parliament by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services The Honourable Tim Holding.

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.

A Reflection on the Year

During 2005-06, the RPC program continued to expand, evolve and generally- go from strength to strength. An estimated 7766 students, at 54 schools participated in our workshops throughout the year a highest yearly total in the projects history and more than double -our 'targeted amount. A new edition of the boy's project ma nual has finally been published, drawing on the, past 5 years of experience's and evolution in 1 style andcontent. In addition, we have been involved in a wide variety of interesting projects, making this past financial year a d. demanding but rewarding one.

In late 2005 we organised a 3-week school transition program as part of. the "Pines Leading the Way Safety Starts in the Home" project. This, was aimed 1 at easing the transition from primary school to high school and addressing bullying and violence issues amongst grade 6s and year 7s from 3 schools in the P fries area of North Frankston. Another project initiated by. RPC was a Health Day at Eumemmering Secondary College (Gleneagles Campus) in Endeavour Hills. This was part of the Week- Without Violence and sponsored by the Office -of Multicultural Affair, and featured RPC workshops, showbags and a motivational speaker.

RPC has worked in partnership with a number, of other, agencies this year. We ran a number of young man's groups in conjunction with City of Kingston Youth Services, and participated in a number of Safe Party Open Days run by the City of Casey. In addition, we further developed links. With some otherwise running a se x-u- al harassrment workshop With. West CASA in Kealba, and presenting at a train-the-trainer session at CASA House, for, teachers and police officers working with sexual assault issues in schools. We, also delivered, presentations' at the National Protective Behaviours Conference, and the Whole-School Sexuality Education Project.

Our project continues to work !h a wide variety of schools and with a target audience that reflects Melbourne's diversity; Aside from the state, private and Catholic schools we have always worked with, we have presented at a Seventh Day Adventist school and a Coptic Orthodox school, as well as initiating a program at Minaret Islamic College. We have worked with intellectually disabled students in three schools (Ashwood, Naranga and Berendale), and with a group of students at Glen Eira College from a Sudanese refugee background.

Finally I would like to thank to say a-big thank you to all the peer educators, school staff members and students for contributing to the success of the Respect Protect Connect for another year.

*Christopher Mitchell
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. This past year has been a busy one for the website. Currently the site is attracting 11 000 unique visitors per month with each visitor viewing 6 to 7 pages. Whilst most visitors are from Australia and the United States, we have had visitors to the website from around the world including from Europe, Mexico, India, South Africa, Philippines, Malaysia, Trinidad and Tobago. Monday and Friday are the most visited days while Tuesday and Thursday are the least visited days. The site is being accessed around the clock with a large peak around 4.00 pm and a smaller peak at 1.00 am. The PDF information sheets have proved to be very popular with 650 sheets being downloaded each month.

A survey of website users found that the website was easy to navigate and 80% of respondents found the information they were looking for. 57% of respondents indicated that the SECASA website was their major source of information about sexual assault.

The website has provided us with a unique opportunity to gather information that would otherwise be unobtainable. A survey is currently being run to gather unofficial statistics about the incidence of sexual assault 32 people have responded so far, reporting 73 episodes of sexual assault. The results have confirmed the anecdotal evidence that most assaults are perpetrated by a friend or family member and are not reported. The survey also found that most people do not receive counselling for the assault. Surveys have also been run to gather information about drink spiking and victim impact statements.

New sections have been created to provide support for the various programs run by SECASA (Offenders programs, Respect protect connect, Feeling safe together). Work is currently under way to update the look of the website and to improve access to information for schools and school aged children.

Professional education

Professional education is an important activity for SECASA. During 2005-2006 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, the Detective Training courses and provided secondary consultations to a wide range of local agencies.

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

- Victoria Police Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Course
- AASW Building Blocks to Safe Sexual Assault Counselling
- AASW forming a Foundation for Working with Clients Who Have Been Sexually Assaulted
- Monash University Social Work Students
- Residential Care Workers
- Foster Care Workers
- Department of Human Services Child Protection Staff
- Families First Volunteers
- Psychiatric Nurses
- Working with Children workshop
- Larmeniere School Teachers
- Club 80 Staff
- City of Stonnington Private Schools Forum
- Shira Hadasha Synagogue
- Wallara Staff
- Peninsula Youth and Family Services
- Upper Murray CASA
- Swinburne University Post Graduate Certificate in Pre and Post Natal Care
- Victoria Police Detective Training
- Oz Child
- Holmesglen TAFE
- Kingston Youth Service
- Division of General Practice

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, Melbourne 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 2005-2006 the agency was involved in public education forums and information days for:

- Moorabbin-Bentleigh Rotary
- Kingston Youth Services
- Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Program
- Wellsprings
- HIM Young Men's Health Day - Bayside City Council
- Hampton Secondary College
- Mentone Girls College
- Strathcona Secondary College
- Pride March
- Midsumma Carnival
- Sacred Heart Male Students
- Safe Party workshops
- Crime Prevention Month Launch
- Same Sex Attracted Youth - Monash University
- Cranbourne Secondary College
- Mentone Secondary College
- RMIT Marketing Students
- Child Protection Week

Projects

DVD For Deaf Community

The DVD was prepared by Tim O'Leary with assistance from signers Tamara Doyle Bates and Ross Onley Zerkel and Julia Payne, Southern Health Audio visual Department. The DVD has been distributed free of charge to agencies who work with the deaf.

In May 2006 the DVD was awarded an Australian Crime & Violence Prevention Award Certificate of Merit.

Australian Association for Social Workers Special Interest Group

The Sexual Assault Special Interest Group started meeting in June 2005. The group's major achievement has been the creation of a calendar giving information for professionals and the general public about the availability of training for working with victims of sexual assault and groups for victim/survivors. This Calendar has been produced 3 times since June 2005. It will continue to be produced every 6 months.

It is distributed with the DVIRC Training Calendar and the AASW Newsletter to approximately 3,700 organisations.

Mike Lew Visit to Victoria

SECASA is bringing Mike Lew, the author of "Victims No Longer", to Victoria in March 2007 to run an residential workshop for male survivors of sexual assault and a training day for professionals who work with victim/survivors of sexual assault.

It is anticipated that around 200 people will benefit from his expertise and knowledge.

Sex on Premises Venues Joint Project

The Sex on Premises Venues (SOPVS) project is a joint venture between Victoria Police Gay and Lesbian Liaison Coordination Office, Victorian Aids Council and SECASA.

Following a number of violent assaults in the SOPVS Victoria Police convened a reference group to look at how to increase reporting rates in the gay community. The Victorian Aids Council was also interested in the project due to an increase in the rate of HIV infection and Sexually Transmitted infections notifications. It was decided to provide training in the 15 SOPVS in Victoria to familiarize them with the range of services available if an assault occurred and to develop specific materials appropriate for this type of venue.

International Contact with SECASA

SECASA hosted Gavindi Turuva from the National Council of Women Fiji and showcased various programs attached to the agency.

The Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences consulted with SECASA about possible joint projects for future development.

SECASA Medical Service

Amanda Cula provides a weekly medical service for one session for victim/survivors of sexual assault. The service provides medical check ups for women not wishing to report to the Police and follow up on medical tests for women who have had a forensic medical. Ms Cula was subpoenaed for the first time in 2006 in relation to a medical she had conducted. Frankston Multi-disciplinary Centre

The SECASA Frankston Sexual Assault and Family Violence service will move in late 2006 to new premises on Nepean Highway. Here 8 sworn police members, 3 unsworn members and 7 SECASA counselors will pilot a statewide scheme for the co-location of CASAs and Victoria Police.

The Frankston site will also have a Crisis Care Unit lessening the travel time for recent assault victims from Mornington Peninsula and Frankston.

Southern Sexual Abuse Counselling and Prevention Program Evaluation

SSACPP is 5 years old. An evaluation has commenced in conjunction with Swinburne University, Clinical and Forensic Psychology Research Unit, Brain Sciences Institute to look at the effectiveness of the program. The results will be used to guide service planning for the next 5 years. The student undertaking the evaluation is Chantelle Crossland.

Respect Protect Connect Evaluation

RPC is 10 years old and an evaluation has been commenced to celebrate the 10th Anniversary. The evaluation involves the use of pre and post test questionnaires to measure qualitatively the impact that the delivery of the program has made on individual student's knowledge, attitudes, behaviour and skills. It is anticipated this evaluation will be completed by the end of 2006. Lara Fergus is the Project Worker.

Conferences

April 2006 National Adolescent Perpetrator Network 21st Conference, Denver Colorado. Poster Presentation. **SAID: An Australian Community Based Treatment Program for Intellectually Disabled Adolescent Exhibiting Sexually Abusive Behaviours** - Russell Pratt.

November 2005 Victorian Offender Treatment Association (VOTA) 3rd National Conference, Melbourne. **Conference Organiser and Closing Remarks** - Russell Pratt.

November 2005 Flowers in the Desert: clinical Legal Education, Ethical Awareness and Community Service Sand, Sharks and Laboratory Rats - Carolyn Worth.

December 2005 Broadening Perspectives. Bringing the Community into Risk Management VOTA 3d National Conference. The Fourth Wave. Offender Treatment Programs or the Unintended Consequences of Service Development - Carolyn Worth

Springvale Monash Legal Service/SECASA joint legal service

This service has now been in operation for ten 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 1 st January 2001 in relation to compensation for victims of sexual assault.

In October 2005 the Clinic celebrated its 10 Anniversary with a party which was attended by the past and present clinical supervisors volunteers, students and SECASA staff as well as Springvale Legal Staff and Monash Law Faculty members including the Dean of Law.

Springvale Monash / SECASA joint clinical legal service

By Meghan Butterfield

As most would know, the Joint Clinical legal Service is a marriage between the Springvale-Monash Legal Service and the, South Eastern Centre Against, Sexual Assault (SECASA),, We are a specialist clinic, which acts exclusively for victims of sexual abuse and their families, who are referred to us by the counsellors at SECASA. We operate out of the Springvale-Monash Legal Service on Monday nights.

The clinic turned 10 this year!!! The Clinic Was started, as the brain -child of Carolyn Worth, head of SECASA and Adrian Evans, of the Monash Law School in 1995. When the clinic was, started, it operated out of the SECASA building in East Bentleigh (next to the Monash Medical Centre, Moorabbin Campus) and was staffed by four final year Monash Law students as volunteers. I am happy to say that I was one of the four students who first volunteered with the clinic, having completed Professional Practice the year before.

When the clinic commenced, Advanced Professional Practice was not offered as a subject and hence, the clinic relied on volunteers alone. The first supervisor was Jo Kerr who, at the time was a junior solicitor working at North Melbourne Legal Service (she now works for Victoria Legal Aid).

In. 1998, the clinic was moved to the Springvale-Monash Legal Service (SMLS) building in Springvale, and was incorporated into the Advanced Profession Practice course. In celebration of the Clinic's tenth birthday, some bottles of bubbly, were cracked open and a soiree was held at SMLS in October 2005. The night was a wonderful success, being attended by approximately 50 people including past and present volunteers and students of the clinic, most of the clinic's past supervisors, many counsellors from SECASA, members of the Law Faculty who have been involved in the clinic and various members of the Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Unit (SOCA Unit) of the Police Force with whom the clinic has worked closely over its ten year life. A couple of the clinics favourite barristers came along too. It was just wonderful to see some of the old faces and a terrific reflection on the clinic that so many of the old contributors turned up to join in the celebrations. Ari Frieberg, Adrian Evans and Carolyn Worth all spoke most favourably about the contribution made by the service to the Monash student community and to the clients for whom the clinic acts.

Meeting presentation

- Frankston Paediatrics Meeting
- Dandenong Paediatrics Meeting
- Bayside Youth Network
- Cardinia Shire Youth Services Network
- Casey Youth Services Network
- Southern Health Child Maltreatment Meeting
- Westernport Family Violence Network
- Cranbourne Integrated Services
- Cunningham Dax Committee
- Dandenong Regional Welfare Group and Springvale Workers Coalition
- Peninsula Counsellors Network
- SECASA/Police Liaison Meeting
- Victorian Centres Against Sexual Assault Forum
- Dandenong Youth Network
- Southern Region Domestic Violence SAAP Forum
- South Eastern Migrant Women's Health Network
- Early Interventions Response Pathways SSCRSA Sub Committee
- ECASA Advisory Committee
- Glen Eira Youth Services Network
- Inner South Family Violence Network
- ISEPICH PCP Executive Advisory Group
- Health Services for Abused Children in Victoria
- Jewish Taskforce
- Joint Legal Clinic Steering Committee
- Peninsula Information Support Group
- Kingston Bayside Youth Network
- Melbourne Magistrate's Court
- Primary Care Partnerships Glen Eira, Peninsula, Greater Dandenong
- Women's Health in the South East Management Committee
- Peninsula Indigenous Action Group
- Peninsula Child Advocacy Group
- Peninsula Counsellors Network
- Rosebud Service Providers
- Visy Cares Tenants Meeting
- Victorian Institute of Forensic Services/CASA Forum Liaison Meeting
- Mornington Peninsula Network Against Family Violence
- Vic Safe Committee
- Victoria Police SOCA Units Frankston, Dandenong, Moorabin, Knox, Box Hill
- Southern Collective Against Violence and Abuse
- Westernport Counsellors Group
- Statewide Steering Committee To Reduce Family Violence
- Statewide Steering Committee To Reduce Sexual Assault
- Same Sex Attracted Youth Workers Network Rainbow Group
- Offender Programs Managers
- Victorian Offender Treatment Association
- Take 2 Regional Advisory Group
- Violence Against Women. Community Attitudes Project. Vic Health
- DHS Vulnerable Children Advisory Committee
- Family Violence Death Review Committee