

**SOUTH EASTERN CENTRE
AGAINST SEXUAL
ASSUALT**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2007-2008**

Manager's review

I am going to start with a thank you to all the workers at SECASA. Each year they respond to the challenges of service provision, explore new ways of interacting with clients and make SECASA a wonderful place to work. This is my 17th year at the Centre. A number of workers have been at the agency for the same period of time, and in a couple of cases even longer, which gives SECASA a deep reservoir of knowledge and experience.

SECASA's success is due to its inspirational workers and the depth of knowledge that they have in relation to sexual assault and family violence, their commitment to assisting traumatized people and their willingness to look at alternate ways of helping people when the tried and tested ways do not always give us the results for which we are looking. In addition, a special thank you is needed for the administrative workers without whom we would not be able to see clients or function on a day to day basis.

SECASA celebrated its 30th birthday in November with an exhibition of clients' art called **Art from the Heart**. It is astounding to compare the Centre's origins at the Queen Victoria Hospital, with one psychiatric social worker providing unpaid after hours counselling in the Emergency Department, and the present situation. Today SECASA has thirty-five workers and covers the whole of the Southern Metropolitan Region with offices in seven locations.

This year has seen the consolidation of a number of the programs, in addition to the core work of the agency with victims. Feeling Safe Together, the primary school program developed by SECASA, has been incorporated into an Advanced Safety Program by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD). SECASA employed a consultant to help us develop lesson plans for preps through to Grade 6 which were handed over to DEECD during the year.

The website, which is in its 10th year, has embraced the new web based technologies under the wonderful guidance of our web team. SECASA now has a Myspace site, a small website for the Next G telephones and is looking at being involved in Yahoo Answers. These developments have become essential as young people move away from traditional methods of communication into the new technologies.

A number of other changes have commenced, aimed at positioning SECASA for the next decade. A Management Consultant has been working with the Senior Practitioner Group looking at strengthening the middle management level in the agency. The Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health is running a pilot project about responding to clients with PTSD. SECASA has moved away from the Social Work Department to line management sitting with the Allied Health Director and increased involvement in Southern Health Allied Health.

All three sub regions and the AWARE program have continued to be involved in local and program specific committees representing SECASA in a variety of forums. SECASA is represented on the CASA Forum, the adolescent sex offender program peak body CEASE and a number of statewide committees. Our direct service provides data for our input into these bodies.

During all the hard work and challenges the staff has continued to be a source of inspiration. They have coped with the service broadening its focus and the requirements for them to broaden their practice in response. 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 experienced sexual assault and family and domestic violence. The Centre also works with non-offending family members, partners, caregivers and support workers and children and young people with problematic sexual behaviours and sexually abusive behaviours.

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

The AWARE program provides services for 4-18 year olds. Services for children with problematic sexual behaviour are provided in the counselling victim service. Young people with sexually abusive behaviours are seen in the AWARE program. AWARE provides assessment and treatment for mainstream young people and young people with cognitive impairment.

Respect, Protect, Connect and Feeling Safe Together are programs conducted in Secondary and Primary Schools throughout the entire region. Respect, Protect, Connect celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2006.

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. Medicals examinations are conducted by the Victorian Forensic Paediatric Medical Service.

For the past 14 years Springvale Monash Legal Service and SECASA have run a joint legal service for clients who live within the region.

SECASA provides a 24 hour service for victims of family violence to discuss their options with a counselor at the Crisis Care Unit. A counselling service is also provided across the region for those exposed to family and domestic violence.

The website continues after ten years to provide a wide range of information accessible twenty-four hours a day. There is also a Myspace site which provides information for young people in a format they currently find more acceptable than traditional information sharing systems.

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

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
- counselling for children under 10 with problematic sexual behaviour
- Movement therapy
- After Hours Family Violence Counselling Service
- Treatment programs for mainstream young people with sexually abusive behaviours and for young people with cognitive impairment with sexually abusive behaviours
- 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
- Supervision for workers in community agencies
- Research

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. Six workers are housed in the hospital Annexe. Workers also operate in permanent locations in Frankston, Clayton, Berwick, St Kilda, Dandenong and Cranbourne.

The Frankston service has seven staff co-located in the Peninsula Sexual Assault Centre with Victoria Police. Dandenong has five workers located at the Visy Cares Centre. The Cranbourne and Berwick workers are located at the City of Casey's Cranbourne and Berwick Family Resource Centres and the St Kilda workers at the Salvation Army Bridge Project. The AWARE program has six workers based at East Bentleigh and Dandenong.

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.

SECASA in Frankston

This year has found SECASA Frankston settling into the Peninsula Sexual Assault Centre (PenSAC) pilot program with Victoria Police. The SECASA team have demonstrated enthusiasm, commitment and a genuine willingness to find ways to work together to provide a quality service for our clients.

It has been a very active year at Frankston. The counseling team - Chrissie, Gael, Gwendoline and myself - have farewelled Shanthani, Sally, Sue and Emma and have warmly welcomed Tegan and Peter to the team. The mix of five females and one male counseling staff has allowed us to be flexible and better equipped to meet the needs of our clients. A significant number of our families are referred by DHS and WAYSS and we have developed strong working relationships with welfare agencies and community groups to enhance the service we provide.

Intensive liaison has occurred this year between SECASA and Peninsula Health Psychiatry, which has resulted in increased secondary consultation, tailored referral pathways to meet local need, professional education and cross-training. We would like to thank Lorraine Andrieu, Hanna Jewel, Geoff Hubbard and Fiona Reed.

Gwendoline, Susan, Peter and Max (East Bentleigh) have facilitated support and information groups for female and male survivors of sexual assault. Chrissie and Gwendoline conducted a sexuality information and support group for adult female sexual assault survivors. Tegan facilitated a series of support and information get-togethers for women who have experienced domestic and family violence. Tegan and Susan conducted a young women's workshop day.

Creative Arts therapist Anne Riggs, with SECASA staff, has conducted a Mosaic Group in 2007 and a Clay Group in 2008 for female survivors of sexual assault. The participants have reported these groups to be powerful, uplifting experiences in their lives, with the results of the mosaic group work photographed and made into a beautiful calendar.

The SECASA team at Frankston have been actively involved throughout the year in a range of professional and community development forums, and are well situated on a number of committees and meetings aimed to improve the quality and accessibility of services for all people living with the Frankston and Mornington Peninsula region. I am very proud of the team in Frankston, and look forward to our work together in the coming year.

Finally, the staff would like to thank the Manager, Carolyn Worth for her support and the 30th birthday celebration and dinner which they all enjoyed.

Susan McDougall

Senior Social Worker

SECASA in Cranbourne

The Cranbourne office has seen a number of changes over the past year. For a time there was only one counsellor after the other counsellor left to have a baby. Cranbourne has finally come on line. This was a long drawn out process due to the difficulties of co-ordinating City of Casey and Southern Health staff.

The Cranbourne counsellors have facilitated a yoga class for clients with sexual assault issues. This group was run from the City of Casey Littlecroft Office. SECASA employed a highly qualified yoga instructor to facilitate a group of 16 women with childhood sexual assault backgrounds. SECASA counselors were at hand to ensure the well being of the participants. This group was part of the alternative therapy approaches being explored by SECASA for clients experiencing difficulties with talk therapy.

Robyn Breheny

SECASA in St Kilda

The St Kilda Outreach Service continues to offer sexual assault counseling to adults and children impacted by both recent and past sexual assault. The clientele is diverse reflecting the population in the area. This includes some of the most marginalized members of our community - drug users, homeless, those with mental health issues, sex workers as well as young professionals and students. The majority of those accessing SECASA tend to be adult females although there has been a steady increase of men presenting for counselling support.

SECASA staff work collaboratively with numerous other agencies such as Access Health, Sacred Heart Women's Service, Winja Ulupna and RhED offering a flexible and responsive service to engage disadvantaged clients. The counselors participate in regional family violence and mental health network groups as well as supporting the monthly Street Workers' Magistrate Court. This service is co-located with the Salvation Army Bridge program and provides a comfortable and accessible venue for clients.

There has been a change of staff amongst the St Kilda Counsellors as Sarah has taken maternity leave until late 2008 and Mary Martin has been seconded from East Bentleigh to join Mary Mass. Max Clarke has also returned to work at East Bentleigh full time.

Mary Mass, Sarah McGregor, Mary Martin, Max Clarke

Mission statement

To reduce, and ultimately eliminate, sexual assault and family violence 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 or suffered family violence, including crisis care, counselling, medical care and advocacy
- Information and education to raise community awareness of the nature and incidence of sexual assault and family violence
- Awareness and prevention focussed programs

Services

Crisis service

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 and a 24 hour crisis care response at PenSAC in Frankston. These services help 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 2007 to 30th June 2008 280 people aged eighteen years and over attended the Crisis Care Unit. Under 18 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. Several services cooperate to provide this service SECASA, WAYSS, WAYSS Domestic Violence Outreach Service and the Salvation Army Crisis Service. SECASA provides the after hours counselling, referral and accommodation in the MediHotel or local motels. WAYSS also funds accommodation for people needing emergency accommodation overnight along with the Salvation Army providing a range of support services at 9.00 a.m. the next business day.

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

From 1st July 2007 to 30th June 2008 46 women and their children attended for after hours assistance and 36 were supported over the telephone.

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 the Victorian Forensic Paediatric Medical Service. After hours medicals are provided by an after-hours Doctors' roster for sexual assault cases or the Emergency Department Paediatric Registrar for physical abuse cases.

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 2007 to 30th June 2008 there were 9863 counselling sessions. There were 2008 new contacts with the agency. Of the new registrations 1236 were adult females and 367 were females under 18. A total of 178 adult males were seen and 227 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 2007 to 30th June 2008 there were 2962 calls dealt with by the Duty Workers. There were also 405 secondary consultations with regional agencies, professionals and the Department of Human Services.

AWARE

SECASA provides services for children and youth with problematic sexual behaviours (PSB) and sexually abusive behaviours (SAB) from the age of 4 through to 18 in the AWARE program. The under 10's service are seen by the victim counselors. Ten to 18 year olds are seen by clinicians who work with youth with sexually abusive behaviours.

In late 2007, AWARE received funding distributed as a result of the Therapeutic Treatment Orders Legislation (TTO) to provide a service for youth up to the age of under-15 with SABs and PSBs. AWARE also continued to provide services to youth between 15 and 18 years under a separate funding stream.

SECASA's various response to the issues of sexually abusive (SAB) and problematic sexual behaviours (PSB) were combined into the SECASA AWARE program. We continue to be busy with a consistent stream of referrals that put us well above our funded targets for the year.

As a result of increased funding, the AWARE team grew. Richard James joined us full time in September and Shanthani Ponnusamy made the shift from Frankston SECASA to AWARE in November 2007. The team now comprises Russell, Gael (.5), Linda, Shanthani, Richard and John (Bergman: 0.4 EFT).

Ongoing Development

The development of the program continues with John Bergman employed to create a new clinical program for both group and individual work, and to provide clinical supervision. John has written over 80 individual lesson plans for our four current group programs. John's work is based on the current understandings of trauma, brain development and attachment, and incorporates the Ayland & West (2006) "Good Way Model". The AWARE Program continues to receive interest at an international level in regards to this exciting ongoing development.

Training

AWARE staff remained busy over the past year both providing and receiving training. Linda and Sarah McGregor (victim counselor) provided training to MMC CAMHS in March. Linda also provided training in *Feeling Safe Together* sessions for SECASA, Richard gave a lecture for RMIT Applied Psychology Justice Studies students in May and Shanthani and Russell presented an Internet Pornography seminar for VOTA in June. Russell provided training to residential staff on two occasions at Chadstone. In regards to training received, in November 2007 Russell, John, Linda, Gael and Richard attended two days of training by Lesley Ayland and Bill West on the "Good Way Model". Shanthani attended EMDR training over two days in May 2008 as well as training run by ACF on Challenging Childhoods. Linda, and Shanthani attended John Briere and Linda and Gael attended Bessel van der Kolk training days.

Therapeutic Treatment Orders (TTO)

SECASA, in conjunction with the Gatehouse Centre was awarded the tender for TTO training and supervision for the state. This involved training all workers across Victorian programs in assessment and treatment of youth engaging in SAB and PSBs under the TTO legislative umbrella. As well, a twelve month supervision program, network development and state-wide forum were presented. Russell developed the training program in conjunction with Helen Kambouridis and Vicki Quinton from Gatehouse Centre. Russell and Linda were involved in this training which comprised a state-wide forum, 12 days training (2 X 5 day programs, 1 X 2 day country program) and a monthly supervision day (12 days) which is currently running.

Community

Russell has continued on with his involvement with the Foundation for Young Australians as a member of the Youth Run Organisations Sustainability Grants Committee. Russell is also the current Chairperson of the Victorian Offender Treatment Association (VOTA), as well as being on the conference committee for VOTA 2007. John was also a member of VOTA 2007 Committee.

Conferences

Gael, Richard, John, Linda and Russell attended VOTA 2007 in Melbourne. Gael presented with Katrina and John and Russell presented. Russell opened the conference.

John and Russell presented at the National Adolescent Perpetrator Network Conference in Portland Oregon USA (May 2008). Russell attended the National Organisation for the Treatment of Abusers (NOTA) in Edinburgh, Scotland in September 2007, and the Working with Female Offenders Conference in Prato, Italy in September 2007.

Grants

We wish to acknowledge and thank the Helen McPherson Smith Trust for their generosity (\$21,600 in May 2006). This grant enabled us to develop and run innovative group programs over the period May 2006 - May 2008.

Finally, as manager of the AWARE program, I want to thank all staff for their support and hard work. I am particularly mindful of their efforts whilst I was away for two months over May and June this year, and am grateful for them pitching in to provide cover. I'm sure all SECASA staff would understand the effort required to provide four two-hour groups per week as well as parent groups and individual sessions on a year round basis. Doing so whilst working in a developing program can be dynamic, difficult, frustrating and fast paced - you have all done exceptionally well!

Additionally, thank you to SECASA clinical and administrative staff for supporting the changes throughout the year. Also Carolyn, thank you for supporting and promoting AWARE across the state and further afield. I look forward to us continuing on this interesting journey.

Russell Pratt
Manager & Senior Clinician
AWARE

John Bergman

John Bergman is the Clinical Supervisor and Program Developer for the AWARE program. He works in New Zealand, Bulgaria, Roumania, Australia, England and the USA when he is not at SECASA. He is a registered Master dramatherapist who has worked for 27 years in criminal justice. Mr Bergman has received awards for his work from many organizations including the American Correctional Association, the National Association of Drama Therapists and has contributed chapters to a number of books on juvenile and adult sex offending work.

Mr. Bergman splits his work between staff development, training treatment staff in the use of drama therapy in sex offender and violence offender treatment, drama therapy based ethics training for commissioners and administrators, training correction officers and working as a drama therapist with violent and sexual offenders. With AWARE

Mr Bergman provides staff supervision and is looking at new ways of working with sexually reactive adolescent boys using techniques such as biofeedback.

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.

SECASA Website annual report 2007 2008

The statistics for the website show that 165,419 unique visitors used the site over the last 12 months (2006/7 104,301). This shows an increase of 61118 visitors. Pdf information sheet downloads for 07/08 were 26,666 (206/07 8,027). This is an increase of 18,639. The PDF section had a major overhaul to make finding topics easier, the site redesign included a new, stand alone signpost to the PDF section and in general, there is the uptake of iphone technology and our presence on myspace (young people embrace downloadable information) all of which factors have made the site easier to access.

Annual totals	Unique Visitors	Number of visits	Pages downloaded	PDF downloads
2004-2005	98796	138069	52286	559
2005-2006	133454	185024	876432	7466
2006-2007	104301	141900	688218	8027
2007-2008	165419	208533	690051	26666

The SECASA site ranked highly on Google and is heavily linked by other websites. The survey feature of the website is also well used. Current surveys being conducted are;

- Community attitudes about sexual assault
- Victim impact survey (re posted after a request by Department of Justice Victims Support Agency)
- Why don't people report sexual assault?
- Male sexual assault survey
- Online survey for youth

There are also evaluation forms for consumers of SECASA services.

The 12 month research project into youth and sexual assault information delivery via emergent technology has concluded with the findings that young people find health information differently than adults. This has prompted the launch of a new project to take sexual assault information to young people using a multi-pronged approach. One of SECASA's new initiatives has been creating a SECASA page on Myspace. Feedback from youth has been positive with some of our friends setting up their own anti child abuse pages to encourage other young people to break the silence. We place compact versions of critical information in bulletins then provide a longer version in our blogs. Both have proved very popular.

This project has proved of great interest to the other CASAs and in conjunction with the twenty-four hour Sexual Assault Crisis Line, work is currently underway to develop the youth project further. Both SECASA and SACL workers have been invited to join the health contribution team at Somazone (Australian drug foundation) youth website.

Group work

In 2007/2008 SECASA facilitated a range of groups. These included;

- Sexuality Workshops - Reclaiming Your Sexuality - Berwick and Dandenong
- Mosaic
- Clay - Frankston and East Bentleigh
- Non offending Parents/Carers
- Adult Female Survivors of Childhood Sexual Assault - Overcoming and Growing - Frankston
- Young Women's Workshop in Conjunction with Visy Cares Centre
- Young Women's Workshop - Frankston
- Adult Male Survivors of Childhood Sexual Assault - East Bentleigh
- Coffee Group for Female Survivors of Domestic and Family Violence
- Victims No Longer - Male Survivors Weekend - Mike Lew
- Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy for Survivors of Sexual Assault - Dandenong
- Yoga
- Men's Development Group - Frankston

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 12 years by the Department of Human Services. This program provides interactive workshops in secondary schools principally in the Southern Region to participants in years 7-12. 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.

This year, the Respect Protect Connect team presented educational workshops to approximately 9668 people, which is the highest total of any financial year since the program's inception. Almost all of these were secondary school students, but we undertook a number of interesting projects with other groups as well.

These included:

- A workshop with intellectually disabled adults at St Vincent de Paul's Ozanam Enterprises, talking about healthy and respectful relationships.
- Working in conjunction with the AFL to present a workshop to young indigenous players in the state leagues, on healthy relationships and consent.
- Assisting in a living skills program for young Sudanese men who had recently arrived in Australia.
- Presenting at the Partnerships in Prevention Forum, run by the Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre.
- Delivering information sessions to Welfare and Community Development students at Chisholm TAFE and Australian Catholic University.

Christopher Mitchell remains the coordinator of the young men's program, while Helena Bishop has taken over as the young women's program coordinator at WHISE.

Chris Mitchell

Young Men's Program Coordinator

RESPECT PROTECT CONNECT

East Bentleigh 3165

9928 8741

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.

Feeling Safe Together was delivered to the whole of school at Brighton Beach Primary School and Berwick Primary School during 2007 -2008 school year.

This program has become the basis for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's manuals for an Advanced Safety Program. This Advanced Safety Program is to be rolled out across the State in 2009. SECASA along with Mary Lancaster from Word Design Interactive Pty Ltd has written lesson plans for all grades from Prep to Grade 6. Susan McDougall who developed the initial Feeling Safe Together program has been deeply involved with this development.

Professional education

Professional education is an important activity for SECASA. During 2007-2008 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, Obstetric and Gynaecology 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:-

- Victorian Aids Council Sex on Premises Venues Managers and Volunteers
- Oakleigh Centre
- Monash University Social Work Students
- Out The Door
- Greater Dandenong Community Health Service
- Casey-Cardinia Community Health Service
- HMAS Cerberus
- Casey Hospital Psychiatric Inpatient Unit Staff
- Independent Third Party - Office of Public Advocate
- AASW Workshop A - Forming a Foundation for Working With Clients Who Have Been Sexually Assaulted
- AASW Workshop B - Building Blocks to Safe Sexual Assault Counselling
- Victoria Police Detective Training
- Victoria Police Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Course
- Department of Human Services - School Nurses
- Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health
- Family Planning Victoria
- Junction Clinic
- Department of Human Services - Adolescent Placement Team
- Integrated Family Violence Reform Inner South Partnership
- Adass Israel School
- Sexual Assault Crisis Line
- Moorabbin SOCAU
- West CASA
- Inner South Community Health Service
- RMIT - Applied Psychology in the Justice Context Students
- Moorabbin Lions Club
- Holmesglen TAFE - Welfare Students
- Frankston CAMHS
- Southern Health Mental Health Graduate Program
- Victorian School Nurses
- Monash CAMHS
- St Joseph's Primary School Crib Point Teachers
- AASW Working with Children Who Have Experienced Sexual Assault Trauma
- Anglicare Service Providers
- Peninsula Health Psychiatry New Graduates
- Peninsula Psychiatric Staff
- CASA Forum Counsellor/Advocate Forum
- Seaford Primary School Teachers

Community education

Community Information Sessions are run regularly at East Bentleigh, 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 2007/2008 the agency was involved in public education forums and information days for;

- Bayside Quilters
- Joy FM
- African Post Natal Group
- Monash Student Association
- Monash University Student Orientation
- Carnival - Midsumma
- Pride March
- Kingston Youth Services Health and Wellbeing Expo
- Kind to Mind Mental Health Expo - City of Kingston
- Berwick Secondary College - Annual Wellbeing Day
- Brighton Primary School Wellbeing Expo
- Karingal Park Secondary College Health Day
- Southern Health Paediatric Nurses
- Salvation Army - Positive Lifestyle Centre
- Monash University Host Scheme
- Family Day Care Dandenong
- Bayside City Council Youth Services
- Peninsula Youth and Family Services
- Stonnington Youth Services
- Chisholm Institute of TAFE
- Country Women's Association - Monbulk

Special projects

Calendar

A calendar was created to celebrate SECASA's 30th Anniversary. The pictures in the calendar were predominantly of mosaic works made during two projects set up to research the contribution art can make to well being. Also included in the calendar were artworks created outside the two projects - the mosaic couch on the cover and the two paintings that were the basis for the service posters.

Northern Territory project

SECASA was involved with the project team coordinated by the Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC), Darwin Mobile Outreach Service. This entailed visiting the remote communities of Borroloola, Kalkarinji and Darguragu to explore the type of service that could be established to address the issue of child sexual assault. It's anticipated that this project will continue next year and be expanded.

Mike Lew visit

Mike Lew ran a **Victims No Longer** residential workshop in Maldon for the second year running in March 2008. The workshop was well attended and successful leading to requests for it to be an annual event. In addition Mike ran a Clergy Abuse Workshop together with Thom Harrigan which was attended by a wide range of people.

Management consultant

SECASA has engaged a Management Consultant to conduct four workshops aimed at strengthening the management team. The primary task of the project has been to enable the team to explore and clarify the management roles that are needed for SECASA to operate effectively and creatively.

Bayside Quilters

The Bayside Quilters have again donated a large number of wonderful quilts to SECASA.

This year this generous donation has been sponsored by Bendigo Bank. For a number of years the members of this organization have made 'Quilts from the Heart' for SECASA clients. This year they excelled themselves and made sixty-four quilts. SECASA was also given one special quilt to hang in the SECASA East Bentleigh premises.

Art therapy groups

Anne Riggs is a visual artist currently undertaking at PhD with the Victoria University. Her association with SECASA began in 2005 when she worked with participants and counsellors in Berwick to make a number of mosaics.

Her project 'The Creative Space. Art in the Shadow of Trauma, Grief and Loss' examines what the arts and artist can contribute to well-being following trauma, in particular, sexual abuse. The project involved creating art in the community with people with this experience, and also Anne creating a body of her own work for exhibition in 2009.

Anne has worked closely with SECASA to run four arts projects for women who have experienced sexual abuse. The purpose of the first phase, two mosaic projects, was to look at what being creative can provide to participants' well being; the second phase, involving many of the same women, focussed particularly on grief and loss. This art group was working predominantly with clay and plaster.

SECASA supported the projects through the provision of space for the art workshops, and importantly, counsellors to attend each session and provide counsel where required. The 2008 SECASA Anniversary Calendar showcased much of the mosaic work; and the 2009 Calendar will showcase the Grief and Loss artwork.

The response of the women to creating - particularly being able to express deep feelings of loss - has been extremely positive. Anne's PhD is due for completion in 2009.

Monthly support group

SECASA regularly offers 8 week support groups to victims of childhood or adult sexual assault. In May 2008 at the end of an eight week support group clients requested an ongoing support group. It was decided to trial an ongoing group once per month. This group has proven viable and is continuing with regular attendance from 5-7 women.

Springvale Monash Legal Service/SECASA joint legal service

This service has now been in operation for fourteen 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.

It continues to provide an amazing service to SECASA's clients. Meghan Butterworth the Clinic Supervisor went on five months' leave towards the end of the financial year and has been ably replaced by Michelle Gage.

Meeting representation

- Bayside Youth Network
- Cardinia Shire Youth Services Network
- Casey Youth Services Network
- CEASE
- Cranbourne District Community Services Group
- Cunningham Dax Committee
- Dandenong Youth Network
- SECASA/Police Liaison Meeting
- Victorian Centres Against Sexual Assault Forum
- South Eastern Migrant Women's Health Network
- ECASA Advisory Committee
- Family Violence Media Awards Committee
- Family Violence Statewide Advisory Committee
- Forensic Nurse Advisory Committee
- Foundation for Young Australians
- Frankston-Peninsula PCP
- Frankston Police Youth Assist Program
- Inner South Family Violence Network
- ISEPICH - PCP Executive
- Jewish Taskforce Against Family Violence
- Joint Legal Clinic Steering Committee
- Kingston Bayside Youth Network
- Mornington Peninsula Domestic Violence Network
- Outer South Integrated Family Violence Partnership (Chair)
- Outer South Integrated Family Violence Reform Executive (Joint Chair)
- PCP Casey
- Primary Care Partnerships - Peninsula, Greater Dandenong
- Peninsula Indigenous Action Group
- Peninsula Child Advocacy Group
- Peninsula Counsellors Network
- Rosebud Service Providers
- Specialist Street Workers Magistrate's Court
- Statewide Advisory Committee to Prevent Family Violence
- Statewide Advisory Committee to Prevent Sexual Assault
- Therapeutic Treatment Orders Training Development
- Visy Cares Tenants Meeting
- Vic Safe Committee
- Victoria Police SOCA Units - Frankston, Dandenong, Moorabbin, Knox, Box Hill
- Southern Collective Against Violence and Abuse
- Westernport Counsellors Group
- Same Sex Attracted Youth Workers Network - Rainbow Group
- Victorian Offender Treatment Association
- WHISE/SECASA Reference Group - Respect Protect Connect
- Sexual Assault - Women and Cognitive Impairment Reference Group
- Victorian Offender Treatment Association
- Womens Mental Health Network
- Women with Disabilities Family Violence Reference Group