

Guidelines for responding to disclosures of sexual assault



UniSQ

A resource for employees and students in responding to a person who discloses they have been sexually assaulted.

Responding to and supporting someone who has been sexually assaulted can be complex.

It is important to remain compassionate, respectful, and supportive, and ensure they are able to access relevant resources.

Step 1:

Listen and be supportive

- Ask if the person is safe right now. If they are not safe, ask them to call **000**.
- Ask the person if they want a friend/family member/trusted employee to be with them right now.
- Ask the person if they are comfortable with you (consider gender, cultural safety, etc).
- Ask before you touch, even if you are trying to offer comfort.
- Avoid “why” questions, which can leave people feeling blamed or judged.
- Use supportive statements such as “It took a lot of courage to tell me about this” or “I’m sorry this happened, I am here to listen or help anyway I can”.

Sexual assault is any unwanted contact within or outside a relationship and happens to people of all ages, genders, and sexualities.

Step 2:

Encourage connection to services

- Do not assume that the person wishes to make a formal report to UniSQ or Police.
- Encourage them to talk to trusted family and friends for support.
- Encourage them to connect with a support service.
- If the person experienced the assault very recently encourage the person to contact UniSQ Student Wellbeing for advice on medical care and forensic examination.

Step 3:

Reporting Options

There are two options to report a sexual assault to the Qld Police:

- An official police report, that will be investigated or an Alternative Reporting Option, that will be reviewed by the police but NOT investigated. Read more about how these options and to report on line: www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/adultassault/report/.
- Should the person wish to report a sexual assault to UniSQ they can do so via **Share a Concern**; an anonymous, confidential reporting option, where anyone can access support, information and advice about their own or someone else’s experience.
- Employees may also contact People Portfolio directly by email at rehabilitationandsupport@usq.edu.au.

Share a Concern



Step 4:

Resources and Services

If the person wishes to access support services:

1800 Respect. Ph: **1800 737 732**.

Toowoomba region: Toowoomba Sexual Assault Support Service (SASS) Ph: **4616 6950**.

Springfield/Ipswich region: Service Against Sexual Violence (SASV) Ph: **07 3816 3000**.

UniSQ Student Wellbeing: **07 4631 2372** and via **Share a Concern**.

Step 5:

Safety Planning

Talk with UniSQ Student Wellbeing or Staff Rehabilitation and Support around making a safety plan.

If the incident occurred off-campus + needing physical assistance: Call **000** – Ask for Police.

For on-campus incidents: Call **07 4631 2222**.

Install Safezone – a free app that connects employees and students with Campus Security and emergency services during a first aid or emergency situation. Log in with your UniSQ email and password.

Contact details for referral

1800 RESPECT

1800 737 732

Or chat online 24/7

Interpreting and National Relay Service available

Toowoomba Sexual Assault Support Service (SASS)

Kobi House, Toowoomba Hospital

During business hours

07 4616 6950

After hours

07 4616 6000

Free and confidential support about medical and reporting options for recent sexual assault.

Service Against Sexual Violence (SASV)

An initiative of DVAC, Ipswich

07 3816 3000

9am – 5pm, Weekdays

Free and confidential medical, counselling and legal support for recent victims of sexual assault.

Support available at UniSQ

UniSQ Student Wellbeing

07 4631 2372

student.success@usq.edu.au

Support and free and confidential counselling support.

Safer Communities

safercommunities@usq.edu.au

An initiative of the Student Wellbeing team to support students who have experienced unwanted or inappropriate behaviours or experiences, with a focus on sexual assault/harassment.

UniSQ Campus Security

Toowoomba | 07 4631 2871

security@usq.edu.au

Springfield | 07 3470 4444

usqsecspringfield@usq.edu.au

Ipswich | 07 3812 6060

ipswichsecurityoffice@usq.edu.au

*The emergency security number for all campuses is **07 4631 2222**.*

People Portfolio

07 4631 2663

people.partnerships@usq.edu.au

Employee Assistance Program

1800 808 374

24/7 SMS counselling by texting

0439 449 876

For Manager Support

1800 505 015

<https://assureprograms.com.au/>

A free, confidential and voluntary counselling service for all UniSQ staff.

*Interpreters
available*

FOR ALL EMERGENCIES, CALL 000 (TRIPLE ZERO)