



Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc.

What is "Sexual Violence"?

Sexual violence involves sexual acts of power and control over a person to make them feel uncomfortable, intimidated or unsafe. Women are often the target of sexual violence. Sexual violence is when there is sexual activity and it happens without "consent".

What is "Consent"?

Consent means that a person "agrees" to the sexual act freely and voluntarily. This is called "informed consent". If a person does not have the capacity to agree, they cannot give informed consent. Sexual violence happens when you do not consent to a sexual act.

A person cannot give informed consent if they do not have the capacity to do so, for example, if they are:

- Under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Unconscious or asleep
- Being forced
- Being threatened or intimidated
- Afraid of being harmed or killed
- Afraid of future harassment if they resist
- Outnumbered
- Suffering from an impairment of mind where they are not able to give consent

A child cannot give consent. The legal age for consent in Queensland is 16 years. If you are under 16 years, you cannot give consent.

Sexual violence includes:

- Forced sex (rape or where a person makes you feel scared to say no to sex)
- Attempted forced sex
- Indecent assault (when someone touches you in a sexual way for example if they touch your breasts without consent or forces you to kiss them)
- Indecent exposure (for example when someone shows you their penis, breasts or vagina, or masturbates in front of you)
- Sexual harassment (when someone makes sexual or inappropriate comments about you)
- Sexual exploitation or "sexting" (for example when someone sends sexual text messages or sexual pictures or comments about you online)
- Removing a condom before or during sex without your consent
- Stalking
- Any sexual act or sexual behaviour against a child

What to do if you experience sexual violence

- If you are in **immediate danger or need immediate help**, call "000" and ask for police
- Go to a place where you feel safe
- Seek medical treatment from a hospital or a health service provider as soon as possible
- Seek confidential counselling from "1800RESPECT" on 1800 737 732 (24 hour line)
- Talk to a family member, friend, counsellor, or youth worker

Support Services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women in North Queensland

- **1800RESPECT** for urgent assistance (24 hour line)
 - ◇ Phone: 1800 737 732
- Call **The Women's Centre** for free counselling and assistance for sexual violence
 - ◇ Phone: (07) 4775 7555
- Call **TAHS** for free medical help, counselling, and support
 - ◇ Phone (07) 4759 4000
- Call the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services, NQ Inc.**
 - ◇ Free call: 1800 082 600
 - ◇ Phone: (07) 4721 6007
- **Palm Island Community Company (PICC)** on Palm Island including Palm Island Women 's Service
 - ◇ Phone: (07) 4791 4010
- **NQ Domestic Violence Resource Service** (if the sexual violence was also an act of domestic violence)
 - ◇ Phone: (07) 4721 2888
- **Townsville General Hospital**
 - ◇ Phone: (07) 4433 1111
- **QPS Sexual Assault Response Team** (Emergency Department — 24 hour line)
 - ◇ Phone: (07) 4433 1111
- **Qld Police Service** (Townsville)
 - ◇ Phone: (07) 4759 9777



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FREECALL 1800 082 600 or (07) 4721 6007

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