

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SERVICES AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE (NASASV)

ABN: 74 128 757 692

Philosophy of NASASV

The National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence works to further the shared aims of services for victim survivors of sexual violence, with the ultimate goal of eliminating sexual violence in the community.

The Association understands that:

1. Sexual violence is an abuse of power which is most often in the main committed by men against women and children, and less often, other men.
2. Sexual violence is both a consequence of, and reinforcement of, power disparities between individuals and in society. Attitudes, beliefs, laws and social structures which allow or support the power of one group over another, or which allow or support violence, contribute to the problem of sexual violence in society. NASASV is committed to addressing inequalities in society based on gender, race, culture, age, ability, religion, sexuality and class, which perpetuate sexual violence.
3. Sexual violence includes a range of violent behaviours. It can include unwanted touching, sexual harassment and intimidation, coerced sexual activity, sexual assault and rape and can include other physical violence and threat to life.
4. Sexual violence can have a range of impacts on the individual and society. These can include emotional, economic, social, psychological, legal, health, political and spiritual consequences. The impacts can be compounded by factors such as gender, race, culture, age, religion, ability, sexuality and class.
5. Empowerment of service users is essential to address the impact of sexual violence. Services can work towards the empowerment of service users by:
 - ensuring that service user views are sought and used to direct the Service;
 - promoting the rights of victims survivors by the provision of information, options and choices; and
 - ensuring that the victim survivor controls decision-making about the service delivered to them at all times.
6. Services against sexual violence are committed to the principles of access and equity and therefore aim to reflect the diversity of the communities they serve.
7. Sexual violence is a crime against the individual and society. All sectors of the community, including government, should work towards the elimination of sexual violence.

PURPOSE

The National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence is composed of workers and services against sexual violence who provide services for victim/survivors of sexual violence. NASASV believes that the structures, systems and attitudes in society are both a consequence of and reinforce gendered and other power disparities. This results in the perpetuation of sexual violence which is primarily perpetrated by men against women and children. Therefore, the role of the Association is to challenge and attempt to change those attitudes, systems and structures that negatively impact on survivors of sexual violence, furthering the shared aims of its members and their service users, with the ultimate goal of eliminating sexual violence in the community.

ROLE

1. To co-ordinate the sharing of information, skills and resources between services and state networks on all aspects of service provision and co-ordination. To assist governments in developing policies for building safer communities.
2. To lobby and negotiate with Commonwealth, State and Territory governments, government departments and other relevant organisations on issues of common concern to sexual assault service providers and those who are affected by sexual violence.
3. To promote an understanding of sexual violence in the context of gender and power relations.
4. To promote equity of access to services for all survivors of sexual violence, recognising that women and children are the most predominant survivors of such violence, paying particular attention to those most marginalised on the basis of their race, culture, gender, disability, age, language, sexual orientation and geographic location.
5. To promote community awareness of sexual violence and its personal and social consequences at a state, national and international level and to support and facilitate the community education and community development role of services at a local level.
6. To undertake research relating to service provision for survivors of sexual violence.
7. To provide information on training developments and resources to services and to promote high quality training and skills development for workers through liaison with relevant national and state training bodies and participation in the development of accredited training.
8. To monitor the range and diversity of service models and promote, through the development of best practice models, the best possible services for survivors.
9. To organise and facilitate national meetings, conferences and seminars.
10. To undertake any other activities necessary to fulfil the purpose of the organisation.

MEMBERSHIP

Service membership of NASASV is open to all State and Territory Sexual Assault Services and Rape Crisis Centres where the primary purpose of that service is to provide services to survivors of sexual violence and who are linked into State and Territory networks of such services. Individual membership is also available to individual workers in any Sexual Assault services and Rape Crisis Centres (as above).

Associate membership is available to those services and individuals who provide related services to victim/survivors of sexual violence but who are not part of the direct network of service provision. Associate members shall receive information and any relevant documents but are not entitled to a vote at a General meeting of the Association.