



## What to do about sexual abuse or sexual assault that has happened in the past

- Ring SARC between 8.30 am and 11.00 pm daily and talk to a counsellor.
- SARC counsellors help people talk about sexual assault or abuse and help people move forward in their life.
- SARC is in a building where it is safe and comfortable.
- SARC counsellors visit different centres in Perth.

### At SARC, people have a right to:

- confidentiality – no yarning
- be treated with respect and dignity
- information which will help people make decisions
- counselling and medical treatment if this is what is wanted
- help with accessing assistance from other agencies
- the support of a speaker of their own language where possible
- the support of an Aboriginal person.

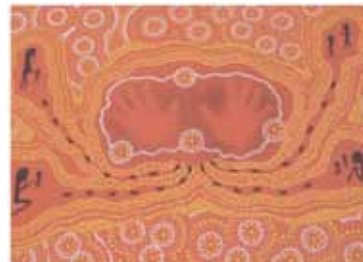
**24-Hour Crisis Line**  
(08) 9340 1828

**Freecall**  
1800 199 888

**Business Hours**  
8:30 am–5:00 pm (Mon-Fri)  
Phone: (08) 9340 1820  
Fax: (08) 9381 5426  
Address: PO Box 842  
SUBIACO WA 6904

For more information go to the website:  
[www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au/services/sarc/](http://www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au/services/sarc/)

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.



“HOPE” by: Debra Nannup

The painting shows the individual’s path towards the hands. They are reaching out for help and support to deal with the pain and suffering caused through sexual abuse. They HOPE and pray that the hurting will stop.

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# If you don't agree, it's not okay



HP 2788 JUL '11

## **Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC)**

SARC is a free 24-hour service for Aboriginal people aged 13 years and over, who have experienced any unwanted sexual contact or behaviour either recently or in the past.

### **What is sexual assault?**

Sexual assault is often called “rape”. It can involve different sexual acts. Sexual assault is against the law. It is done without the person’s permission. The law calls this “consent”.

The most important things about sex are:

- both people have to agree to it
- both people have to have a free choice
- one person can’t force the other person
- people can’t be tricked into it
- people can’t be threatened into it
- if a person is drunk or affected by drugs, another person can’t take advantage of them.

### **What to do after a recent sexual assault?**

- Ring the SARC 24-Hour Crisis Line and ask for help.
- Make a time to see a SARC doctor for a medical check-up.
- If the person is badly injured they will have to go to a hospital. A SARC doctor and counsellor will meet them there.

### **How can SARC help?**

- SARC doctors can help to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.
- SARC doctors can look for evidence if people have reported to the police.
- If people are uncertain about reporting, SARC doctors can take evidence and keep it for three months. This gives people time to decide if they want to make a report.
- SARC is not part of the police. SARC will help people report to the police if people make that choice.

### **What is sexual abuse?**

Sexual abuse is commonly known as “being molested”.

Using children and young people for sex is against the law. It can have a big affect on their lives and they can be damaged in their spirit.

It might have happened in the past or is happening now, and has been for a while.

If you know someone this has happened to, they can ring the SARC 24-Hour Crisis Line.

SARC will make sure there is no yarning and the person is protected.

\* The use of the term “Aboriginal” within this document refers to Australians of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.