



# Implementing the use of SARC kits on remote mine sites

The Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC) has developed kits for use in collecting **time-sensitive forensic evidence** from a person who alleges a recent sexual assault. These kits have been designed specifically for use in the **mining industry** with a focus on providing a trauma informed response and a reliable process for preventing loss of important forensic evidence.

## The three kits that have been developed are:

**1. First Response Pack for mining (FRP)**, used with anyone who discloses a sexual assault on-site.

**2. Early Evidence Kit (EEK)**, used in the first few days after a sexual assault to collect time-sensitive evidence.

**3. Forensic Toxicology Kit (Tox Kit)**, used if drug or alcohol use is relevant to the alleged incident.

**Implementation of these kits will require preparation by companies and individual sites. This document provides an outline of the steps recommended to establish the use of SARC kits on site.**

## Recommended steps:

### 1. Policy

All sites should have a comprehensive policy addressing the response to disclosures of sexual assault.

### 2. Procedure

Written procedures for responding to sexual assault on site are recommended for:

- Supply and storage of SARC kits on site
- Use of SARC kits
- Transport of kits off site once collected
- Confidentiality - protecting a patient's confidentiality, as much as practical, is an essential step in an appropriate trauma informed response
- Reporting obligations to both police and WorkSafe
- Prevention and response to vicarious trauma

### 3. Training

Training is available via two eLearnings developed by SARC. It is recommended that undertaking training in SARC kits is voluntary and that medics be given the choice of responding to sexual assault on site, even after completing the eLearning.

► **Part A:** Intended for use by all personnel working in the mining industry. Provides an overview of sexual assault and gendered violence. Approximate completion time 30-60 mins.

► **Part B:** Training on the use of the First Response Packs, Early Evidence Kit and Forensic Toxicology Kit. For use only by medics who intend to respond to a disclosure of sexual assault on site. Approximate completion time 2-3 hours.

#### 4. Where to obtain kits

All kits are to be ordered directly through Sanax Medical & First Aid Supplies.

#### 5. Use of SARC kits

It is recommended to have:

- Private space for patient with access to a phone or mobile
- Secure fridge
- Small cool boxes and freezer packs

#### 6. Transport of kits off site

If police **are** involved, they will collect the kit(s) from medic on site.

If police **are not** involved, EEKs and Toxicology Kits must be transported to PathWest Specimen Reception at QEII Medical Centre, arriving within 48 hours of collection. During transport, kits must be stored in a cool box with freezer packs and can not be left unattended.

SARC kits must be transported off site for storage in Perth if police are not involved.

► **Option one (recommended):** Fly kits off site and hand deliver to PathWest Specimen Collection at QEII (located in PP block). Kits must be carried as hand luggage and can not be left unattended.

► **Option two:** Kits can be taken to a designated rural PathWest collection point and handed directly to PathWest staff. This must be pre-arranged with PathWest and confirmed on the day of delivery as opening hours vary.

**Kits must be transported by trained staff eg: medic or site supervisor, as chain of custody procedures must be followed. Transport via courier or truck is not appropriate.**

#### 7. Reporting to DEMIRS

Questions regarding reporting should be directed to DEMIRS.

#### 8. Debrief and support of medics is strongly recommended

**SARC are unable to take enquiries regarding implementation of SARC kits.**

**The Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC)** is a free 24-hour emergency service providing medical and counselling services for people who have experienced a recent (within 14 days) sexual assault. Counselling for any sexual assault/abuse experienced recently or in the past is also available to people of all genders aged 13 years and above.

Call SARC on (08) 6458 1828 or Freecall 1800 199 888. Search online for these services to find out more.

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request.