

How to report a sexual assault or harassment incident

If you feel able to report the incident to the WA Police they can be contacted on 131 444 or visit <https://www.police.wa.gov.au/Your-Safety/Sexual-assault>

If you use the Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC) services they can help you decide if you want to make a Police report and support you through the process.

If you wish to make a formal report of the incident to the College, email Support MIT supportmit@murdochinstitute.wa.edu.au Remember – the sexual harassment or assault you have experienced was not your fault and MIT staff will never judge you, as you are a victim of someone else's actions.

If you need to talk to someone urgently you can call the following numbers:

- SARC - 1800 199 888 / 08 6458 1828
- National Sexual Assault and Domestic Family Violence Counselling Service - 1800 737 732
- Lifeline - 13 11 14
- Beyond Blue - 1300 22 4636

Sexual Assault

What is sexual assault? Sexual assault is any sexual contact such as touching a person or any involuntary sexual contact with a person who has not explicitly consented to the acts, or who has been threatened, coerced, or forced to engage in the contact against his or her will. This includes attempted rape, rape, touching, groping, kissing, sexual abuse, or torture in a sexual manner. Submission because of fear is not consent.

Sexual assault is an act of power and control. Sexual assault is not an expression of love, passion or sexual desire, and it is not the victim's fault. Sexual activity without consent equals assault. Once consent is given, it can be withdrawn at any point. Consent is a clear yes with actions and words, and the absence of "no" is not consent. Consent must be given without coercion or force, with the knowledge of what is happenings. Someone under the influence of alcohol or drugs to the extent that they cannot make decisions cannot give consent. Intoxication can increase the risk of sexual assault; only a sober person is capable of giving consent or understanding when clear consent is given or not given. In all situations, be aware of your surroundings and the people you are with, and leave a situation if it is making you uncomfortable.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is a type of discrimination that can interfere with a person's education, make them feel unsafe and stop them from reaching their full potential in life. Sexual harassment can include:

- asking for sex in exchange for something, like offering to improve a test score
- repeatedly asking for dates, and not taking "no" for an answer
- demanding hugs
- making unnecessary physical contact, including unwanted touching
- using rude or insulting language or making comments that stereotype girls, women, boys and men
- calling people unkind names that relate to their sex
- making sex-related comments about a person's physical appearance or actions
- saying or doing something because you think a person does not fit sex-role stereotypes

- posting or sharing pornography, sexual pictures, cartoons, graffiti or other sexual images (including online)
- making sexual jokes
- bragging about sexual ability
- bullying based on sex or gender
- spreading sexual rumours or gossip (including online)
- Sometimes when a person experiences these things, they don't realise it is sexual harassment, or don't realise the impact it is having on them. Students might back off from school work or school activities, skip or drop classes, or drop out of school completely.

If you are being sexually harassed, you might find yourself feeling:

- isolated and alone
- embarrassed or ashamed
- depressed, anxious and uncertain about yourself or your future
- angry
- unsafe at school or in your community.

Some people who are sexually harassed also lose their appetite, get stomach aches and find it hard to concentrate. In some cases, students have reported using drugs or drinking to cope. In extreme cases, they might think about or even try suicide.

All adults who are in contact with students must make sure schools are safe, secure environments for students, and are free from sexual harassment.

Sexually harassing or bullying someone because of their sexual orientation or gender is not acceptable. It is against the law.

As a student, you have the right to an education where you are not sexually harassed. This includes school activities such as sports, arts and cultural activities, field trips and tutoring.

Sexual harassment, and harassment because of sexual orientation, can also occur as part of school rituals, like initiations.

What is homophobic and gender-based bullying?

At all levels of school, sexual harassment can be used to bully people because of their gender, sexuality or sexual orientation. It can include name-calling, jokes, and isolating a person because they do not fit what other people want them to be. It is different from other

kinds of bullying because the harassment focuses on a person's sexuality, sexual characteristics, sexual reputation, or gender and sexual stereotypes.

Homophobic bullying can affect anyone. In many cases, targets are people who:

- say they are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender
- are thought by others to be gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender
- don't conform to male and female stereotypes
- have same-sex parents or caregivers
- have friends that are, or are thought to be, gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender
- Anti-gay and homophobic comments and behaviour are discrimination, even if the target does not identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT). Some cases of homophobic bullying are considered hate crimes.