

MALLEE SEXUAL ASSAULT UNIT  
MALLEE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

---

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016



## CONTENTS

VISION.....	3
MISSION.....	3
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	3
PRESIDENT'S REPORT.....	4
C.E.O. REPORT.....	5
MALLEE FAMILY VIOLENCE EXECUTIVE (MFVE) REPORT.....	7
RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT PANEL (RAMP) REPORT.....	9
FAMILY VIOLENCE LEGAL UNIT REPORT.....	10
SERVICES – MALLEE SEXUAL ASSAULT UNIT (MSAU).....	12
SEXUALLY ABUSIVE BEHAVIOURS TREATMENT SERVICES (SABTS).....	13
SERVICES - MALLEE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES.....	14
SERVICE AREA.....	15
OUTREACH SERVICES.....	15
WHERE WE ARE.....	16
PROGRAMS.....	17
PERSONAL SAFETY PROGRAM (PSP).....	17
SAFETY HINTS FOR ADOLESCENT RELATIONSHIPS PROGRAM (SHARP).....	17
SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM.....	17
SEA CHANGE PROGRAM.....	18
SPECIAL NEEDS AWARENESS PROGRAM (SNAP).....	18
MALLEE SEXUAL ASSAULT UNIT (MSAU) STATISTICS.....	19
NEW CLIENTS 2015/2016.....	19
CLIENTS WHO RECEIVED A SERVICE 2015/2016.....	19
CASE TYPES.....	19
MSAU - CLIENTS BY AGE GROUP.....	19
CASE TYPES - MILDURA.....	20
CASE TYPES - SWAN HILL.....	20
MALLEE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES (MDVS) - STATISTICS.....	21
NEW CLIENTS 2015/2016.....	21
CLIENTS WHO RECEIVED A SERVICE 2015/2016.....	21
CASE TYPES.....	21
MDVS - CLIENTS BY AGE GROUP.....	22
CASE TYPES - MILDURA.....	22
CASE TYPES - SWAN HILL.....	22
FINANCIAL AUDITED REPORT.....	23
BALANCE SHEET.....	24
CASH FLOW STATEMENT.....	25
INCOME STATEMENT.....	26



## VISION

To reduce the prevalence and impact of sexual assault and domestic violence in the Mallee through partnerships which raise community awareness and undertake preventative and early intervention strategies and provide specialist and coordinated care valued by survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence, meeting safety needs, and facilitating their empowerment, dignity and reintegration into communities of choice.

## MISSION

To be recognised as the national leader in the prevention of sexual assault and family violence and the provider of services of excellence to Victims / Survivors of crime.

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Mallee Sexual Assault Unit / Mallee Domestic Violence Services aim to provide direct services to victims/survivors of sexual assault and victims of family violence in the context of their family and other support systems.

Services include crisis care responses, counselling, casework, advocacy, referral and group work. Other work undertaken includes the development and participation in a range of educational and training strategies for relevant practitioners and communities of interest.

- To provide timely and appropriate responses to recent and past victim/survivors of sexual assault;
- To provide education, training and consultation to relevant individuals and services to facilitate meeting the broader needs and concerns of victims/survivors of sexual assault and family violence; and
- To develop and participate in broad community education strategies that work towards the prevention and early identification of sexual assault and family violence.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On behalf of the Committee of Management, it is my great pleasure to present the Annual Report for the year 2015-2016.

Mallee Sexual Assault Unit Inc. Mallee Domestic Violence Services is highly regarded across the sector and community.

The Committee of Management acknowledges the exceptional level of commitment by staff in providing high quality services to victims / survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence, 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Their commitment to best practice ensures the high quality of services for our clients.

### Governance

The organisation has adopted an all inclusive Strategic Plan to drive the vision and mission of the organisation throughout the next five years.

The organisation incorporated a planning for effectiveness approach to articulate the organisation's mission and purpose and developed an action plan for the execution of our determined aims and objectives.

### Some of the key objectives include:

- Continual sourcing of additional resources in order to address the ever increasing demand for client services.
- The provision of many professional training and community education programs across North West Victoria and the border communities of New South Wales.
- Community awareness programs for the diverse multi cultural communities of the Mallee Region.
- The organisation in conjunction with partners have worked diligently to raise awareness and advocate for a National Intervention Order Scheme to assist victims of family violence, particularly those residing in cross-border regions such as the Mallee.

The Committee of Management also acknowledges our CEO Joanne Sheehan-Paterson for her enduring enthusiasm and drive. Her vision has ensured Mallee Sexual Assault Unit Inc. Mallee Domestic Violence Services remains at the forefront of innovative practice and is a role model for other services.

I also acknowledge my fellow Committee of Management members who volunteer their time and expertise in their respective fields, my sincere gratitude for your efforts and support.

The Committee of Management would also like to acknowledge and extend thanks to the Department of Health and Human Services and Far West Area Health Services NSW, and the Department of Family and Community Services NSW for their continued funding and support. I also acknowledge our sincere gratitude to other organisations and individuals across the Mallee and border communities of NSW who contribute and support the services.

The Committee of Management and staff wish to acknowledge partners of the Multi Disciplinary Centre: Victoria Police, Child Protection, Sunraysia Community Health Services and the Murray Mallee Community Legal Centre.

It is an enduring privilege to be involved with an organisation that provides critical care and support to people who have been traumatised by the crisis of sexual assault and family violence.

**Lisa-Maree Stevens**

**President**

**Committee of Management**

## COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEMBERS

Danielle Dougherty  
Simone Heald  
Dennis McLaughlan  
Dr. Ravi Ravoori

Lisa-Maree Stevens (President)  
Lorraine Thiele  
Bill Panagiotaros  
Paul Avery



## C.E.O. REPORT

Mallee Sexual Assault Unit and Mallee Domestic Violence Services provide essential and vital services to the communities of the Northern and Southern Mallee regions and the border communities of New South Wales and South Australia.

Mallee Sexual Assault Unit continues to provide specialist 24 hour crisis care services, counselling, advocacy, support and therapeutic treatment services for children under 15 years with problem sexualised behaviours, and sexually abusive behaviours.

Outreach counselling clinics were conducted throughout the region, including Robinvale, Swan Hill, Ouyen, Dareton, Wentworth, Balranald, Kerang, Sea Lake, Wycheproof, Manangatang, Donald, Birchip, Charlton, Nyah, Lake Boga and the Mallee Track districts.

Mallee Domestic Violence Services responded to the needs of people who had experienced or witnessed domestic/family violence throughout the Mallee regions and the border communities of New South Wales and South Australia.

Services provided include counselling, crisis care, emergency and transitional accommodation, support, advocacy, group programs and preventative education programs.

Throughout 2015-2016 the organisation delivered prevention and education programs about sexual assault and family violence in many schools throughout the region.

Many group programs were conducted during 2015-2016, including the SeaChange Program for women and adolescents.

Mallee Sexual Assault Unit in conjunction with Victoria Police and Child Protection Victoria operates a specialist Multi Disciplinary Centre (MDC). This centre is a 24 hour sexual assault centre where persons who have experienced sexual assault receive a comprehensive response to their needs by Police, Sexual Assault counsellors, Forensic Medical practitioners and Child Protection practitioners. This facilitates a collaborative, timely intervention in situations where sexual assault or child abuse have been identified.

The Multi Disciplinary Centre has specialist police investigative facilities, forensic medical suite and specialist sexual assault support services, which provide best practice quality care for victims of crime.

The Mallee Sexual Assault Unit is proud of the collaborative working partnership with the MDC Unit, Victoria Police and Child Protection Services in Mildura.

During 2015-2016 Sunraysia Community Health Services and the Murray Mallee Community Legal Centre have joined the Multi Disciplinary Centre (MDC) These additional services have provided a Community Health Nurse Specialist and Specialist Family Violence Legal Services for clients of the MDC. The MDC has received a national award in recognition of the high level of service to victims of sexual assault and child abuse.

During 2015-2016 the organisation has worked collaboratively with many community service organisations, Victoria and New South Wales Departments and government bodies.

The organisation has participated in state-wide and national reference groups and many research projects. Mallee Sexual Assault Unit fully supports the important work of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

We have provided counselling and advocacy for victims/survivors of childhood sexual abuse, provided support and assistance to victims writing submissions, and assistance to victims appearing before the Royal Commission.

Mallee Domestic Violence Services continues to work with the Victorian Integrated Family Violence Strategy. This approach ensures improved integrated services throughout the state and has increased the capacity to meet service demands.

The Strategy seeks to reduce the levels of re-victimisation and re-offending by providing people who have experienced family violence with the support they need, combining justice responses with human services approaches and programs to change the behaviour of those who use violence.



The C.E.O. of the organisation is the Chair of the Mallee Family Violence Executive (MFVE). Our vision is “for women and children to live free from violence in Victoria”. The MFVE engages in early intervention and prevention strategies to prevent future demand for violence related services.

In March 2016 the 227 Recommendations were released by the First Royal Commission into Family Violence in Victoria. The organisation in collaboration with the Mallee Family Violence Executive and the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Premier and Cabinet will diligently work on the implementation of the recommendations.

During 2015 the C.E.O. was appointed to the Chair of the National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence (NASASV). The NASASV works to further the shared aims of services for those who have experienced sexual violence, with the ultimate goal of eliminating sexual violence in the community.

The organisation is officially accredited by the Quality Innovation Performance (QIP) and the Department of Health and Human Services Standards.

I would like to sincerely thank the Committee of Management for their loyal service, strategic direction and support during the past year.

I wish to thank all staff for their dedication, commitment and compassion and for all of their accomplishments achieved during the past year, including SOCAT, MDC Child Protection Team, Forensic Physicians, Forensic Nurse Examiner, MDC Nurse and Murray Mallee Legal Centre team.

It is a privilege to work alongside committed professionals so that we can in partnership assist people who have experienced sexual assault, child abuse and family violence.

**Joanne Sheehan-Paterson**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Mallee Sexual Assault Unit Inc.**  
**Mallee Domestic Violence Services**





## MALLEE FAMILY VIOLENCE EXECUTIVE (MFVE) REPORT

We would like to acknowledge the work of Sonja Mock who finished in this position in May 2016 and welcome Norm Tink and Metaxia Tsoukatos as Mallee Family Violence Executive Coordinators having commenced in the new positions in June and July 2016.

The last twelve months has been an exciting time for the Mallee Family Violence Executive; we have seen strong and committed representation and leadership as we prepare and position ourselves for the unprecedented and enormous change that is likely to roll out across the family violence sector in the coming years.

The Royal Commission into Family Violence report was tabled in Parliament in March 2016 and all 227 recommendations have been accepted by the Victorian government – improving the foundations of the current system, seizing opportunities to transform the way that we respond to family violence and building the structures that will guide and oversee a long term reform agenda that deals with all aspects of family violence. Hence there are exciting times ahead as we develop the existing and build new systems and services that puts women and children at the centre of the reforms and makes perpetrators more accountable for their behaviour.

Highlights over the last twelve months and current projects of the Mallee Family Violence Executive include:

**Mallee Conference** – thanks to a grant from the Department of Justice and Regulation we are currently working to host two Family Violence forums in Mildura and Swan Hill in early 2017. A small committee has been working on securing guest speakers and developing a program for the forums. In Mildura the focus will be community and in the Southern Mallee the focus will be service providers.

**Bringing training to the Mallee** - we have worked with DVRCV to bring the Common Risk Assessment Training sessions to the Mallee. Preliminary and Specialist Training has been secured for both Mildura and Swan Hill, supporting an additional 100 staff to be trained in foundational family violence training.

In addition thanks to additional resources from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) we have been able to deliver an increased number of Identifying Family Violence sessions to a variety of work places across the Mallee. This training is open to workers who are not directly involved in specialist family violence service provision, but who may work with women and children who are experiencing family violence. The aim is to train 370 people in this approach. It is very rewarding to be able to support, encourage and give people the tools to feel more comfortable asking questions about family violence.

### Network development and participation:

**Robinvale** – we are working through the existing Robinvale Early Years Network to promote discussions about local family violence issues and how as a sector we can improve service responses.

**Southern Mallee** - we have engaged with the Southern Mallee Primary Care Partnership Violence Prevention Working Group and together we have been working on family violence prevention, capacity building and service coordination and promotion.

Both committees have strong leadership and active and committed membership who are keen to support the work of the Mallee Family Violence Strategic Plan.

**Mildura** - we are actively involved in the Hands Up Mallee Collective Impact work particularly in the space of community conversations. The common agenda is currently being determined and if Family Violence is to become an area of concern the Mildura Network which is currently being developed will become an Action Team of Hands Up Mallee. Since the completion of The Loddon Mallee Action Plan for the primary prevention of violence against women the Mildura network has been in recess.

The Loddon Mallee Action Plan for the primary prevention of violence against women 2016 – 2019 was released in March 2016 by Women's Health Loddon Mallee. The Mallee Family Violence Executive has adopted the plan as its prevention strategy recognizing that in order to create change the whole community needs to work together in a coordinated and collaborative way. We have representation on the Stewardship Group which has been established to lead, govern and monitor the Action Plan.

The Mallee Family Violence Executive has hosted a number of visits from Ministers and key government officials:

The Mallee Family Violence Executive prepared and submitted a submission paper on the Gender Equity Consultation. In July 2016 we were fortunate to have a consultation forum in the Mallee giving us an opportunity to contribute





to the Gender Equality Strategy for Victoria. The strategy will guide actions and priorities, and work alongside the community towards a common goal of equal social, civic and economic participation for women in society. Advancing gender equality increases women's safety, security, health and wellbeing by encouraging a society based on respect and equality. The Minister Fiona Richardson, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence attended the Mildura session and she was particularly keen to hear about innovative ideas and activities that are occurring in rural communities. There was excellent attendance and participation on the day with a cross section of representation from employment, education, farming communities, sporting groups, council and service providers.

Following on from the consultation the Minister visited the Mallee Sexual Assault and Mallee Domestic Violence Service and met with members of the Executive, partner agencies and members of the Multidisciplinary Centre. This gave us a direct opportunity to speak with the Minister about some of the local initiatives e.g. Hands Up Mallee, Women's Safety Package and some of the challenges such as National Protection Orders, ensuring adequate service delivery across the whole of the Mallee.

We have recently hosted a visit from Sharon Knight, Parliamentary Secretary for Human Services and member for Wendouree, who visited the Multi-Disciplinary Centre (MDC) on the 5th September 2016, she was particularly interested in exploring local thoughts around the linkages between Family Violence and Sexual Assault. Members of the MFVE attended along with staff from SOCIT, DHHS child protection and local connections, MSAU – MDVS, Murray Mallee Community Legal Service and MDC Nurse.

It is great to see all of our partner agencies come together for these opportunities. The feedback that we have consistently been receiving from parliamentarians and government officials who come to visit the service is that they can sense the strong partnerships that are in existence and that they can see that family violence is seen as everyone's business and that we are all working together to try and improve the lives of those who are experiencing family violence.

Recently Brigid Sunderland, Executive Director, Social Policy, Family Violence and Service Delivery Reform at the Department of Premier and Cabinet visited the service and met with the Executive Coordinators, RAMP Coordinator and Victoria Police. Brigid is responsible for the implementation of the Support and Safety Hubs and multiagency risk management. We are currently working with the Department of Premier and Cabinet to facilitate a meeting to discuss the Support and Safety Hubs with the broader service systems.

On the 13th September one of four regional community conversations was held in the Mallee. Between 60 - 80 people participated in the opportunity to contribute to creating a shared vision for a future family violence system. Our thoughts and ideas will assist in the creation of The Victorian Family Violence Action Plan which will be delivered in November 2016. It will outline an ambitious vision for family violence reform over the next ten years, including short term actions and outcomes to achieve and implement this vision.

In this time of major reform we are regularly being consulted about the changes that are happening. We recently facilitated meetings of the Executive and of direct care staff enabling people to have some input into the consultation around the current privacy and information sharing provisions and the proposed new legislation around information sharing specific to family violence risk assessment.

New to these positions we have been oriented and supported by the Statewide Regional Integration Coordinators who meet on a quarterly basis and who have recently undertaken some work on reviewing what the Royal Commission said about the positions and the Regional Integration Committees. A discussion paper has been prepared to support conversations with government departments about the future role of the committees and coordinators.

The next twelve months will see lots more opportunities to lead the implementation of the Royal Commission recommendations, statewide priorities and Family Violence Actions plans in the regions. We are ready for the challenge knowing that we are all contributing to an enhanced system that provides improved responses for women, children and perpetrators.

**Metaxia Tsoukatos**

**Norm Tink**



## RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT PANEL (RAMP) REPORT

The Mallee RAMP was established in March/ April 2015 and has continued to forge robust relationships for the betterment of outcomes for all persons affected by family violence, well into 2016 and beyond.

The RAMP is co-chaired by Joanne Sheehan-Paterson, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MSAU-MDVS, and Bill Panagiotaros, Senior Sergeant of Victoria Police. The RAMP is supported by a RAMP Coordinator, Tiana Hackett of MSAU-MDVS. In addition, senior leadership/management from the following services forms the core membership of the Mallee RAMP:

- Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Child Protection (CP)
- DHHS Office of Housing (OoH)
- Victoria Police Family Violence Advisor
- Department of Justice and Regulations
- Sunraysia Community Health Services (SCHS) Mens' Behavior Change (MBC)
- SCHS Alcohol and Drug Services
- Mental Health Service
- Mallee Accommodation and Support Program (MASP) Child First.

For almost one year, the RAMP has met regularly on a monthly basis to ensure continued engagement of its core membership. These meetings have enabled the RAMP membership to build rapport with one another, and to learn specifics of each other's core business. This all contributes significantly to the success of risk assessment and risk management of all clientele presented to RAMP.

Numerous training opportunities have been facilitated and largely provided to staff of core membership services initially, followed by any other services whom might be invited to attend RAMP as an associate member in the future.

For most of 2015 and early 2016, the Privacy Commissioner, with the support of DHHS, Victoria Police, Domestic Violence Victoria and other family violence services worked diligently towards a workable solution for RAMPs to access and share information in the context of significant family violence. As a result, amendments and/ or exemptions to certain pieces of legislation in relation to confidentiality, consent and privacy have been enacted. These key pieces of legislative change ultimately underpin the success of RAMPs accessing pertinent information that ultimately could save people's lives.

The Mallee RAMP convened its first formal meeting on Monday 20th June. As there had been much work undertaken across the Mallee in the lead up to RAMP commencing, many services were well-versed in what constituted a RAMP referral (ie. family violence victims at risk of both imminent and significant harm), as a result, the RAMP received 13 referrals for its first meeting. Of these, seven were tabled for discussion, with consent from all but one client. It is important to note that the six referrals not tabled for RAMP, were not tabled due to other measures implemented that reduced both imminent and significant risk of serious harm, immediately.

Further training will be rolled out across the Mallee region for more associates, towards the end of 2016 and beginning of 2017.

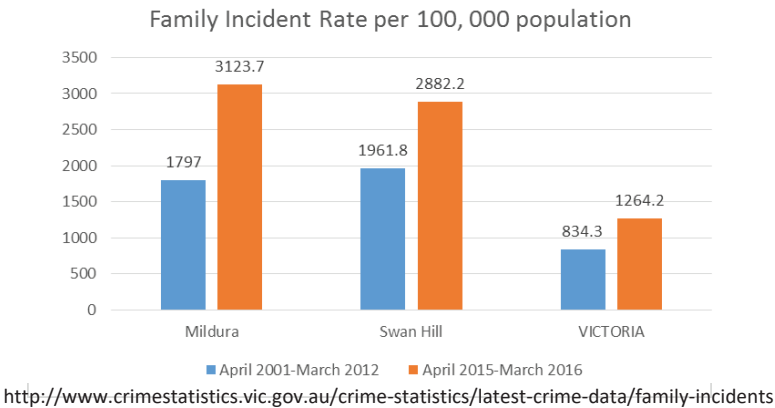
The Mallee RAMP Chairs and Coordinator thank the RAMP core members, their staff and all RAMP associates, for their continued dedication, commitment and effort to ensuring the success of RAMP



FAMILY VIOLENCE LEGAL UNIT REPORT

Women’s Safety Package - Chosen provider!

The Murray Mallee Community Legal Service (MMCLS) gained funding from the Federal Government’s Women’s Safety Package (WSP) as announced late 2015 due to the high rates of family violence in our catchment area. The following graph compares the growth rate of family violence incidents reported to Victoria Police between 2012-2016 and in particular higher rates in Mildura and Swan Hill compared to the rest of the state average per 100 000 population.



MMCLS Director, Lisa-Maree Stevens, saw this funding as an opportunity to act on an identified need to place a legal service within the Mallee Sexual Assault Unit- Mallee Domestic Violence Service (MSAU-MDVS). The WSP funding resulted in the establishment of the Family Violence Legal Unit (FVLU) and as of June 2016 became fully staffed with two solicitors and one social worker operating in both the Mildura and Swan Hill MSAU-MDVS sites providing ‘timely on the ground legal assistance’ to women who are victims of family violence.

Up to June 30, 2016 the service supported 18 women with their legal needs. The data in the following graph, although limited at this time, lists a range of other needs the clients were also experiencing in terms of legal issues;



Community Legal Education and meetings with key stakeholders. It also identified opportunities for early intervention and partnering in working towards the provision of a holistic service to the community.

MSAU-MDVS staff have commented that the availability of a solicitor has increased legal referrals for clients. This has made it easier for clients to gain legal advice and preventing issues from escalating as well as accessing legal safety options. Two examples of FVLU support include firstly, where multiple services involved consulted with the client and each other and allowed her to build trust and feel confident to gain an IVO four months after initially accessing services. The second example resulted in a client having extensive fines (over \$15,000) attributed to her by her partner removed following support from the FVLU solicitor in court.

The co-location, collaboration and flexible service options are aligned with the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence recommendations released in March 2016. The project will continue to develop these opportunities in working towards a community free from family violence.

**Janet Bonython**

**Project Coordinator – Family Violence Legal Unit**



## **SERVICES - MALLEE SEXUAL ASSAULT UNIT (MSAU)**

The Mallee Sexual Assault Unit is part of a multi disciplinary centre which provides 24 hour assistance to victims of sexual assault.

The 24 hour Sexual Assault Centre includes a specially trained police unit, the Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCAT), the Mallee Sexual Assault Unit (MSAU) and the Child Protection Team (DHHS).

The SOCAT is staffed by detectives whose specific role is to investigate sex offences and child abuse and provide support to victims.

The Child Protection Team is staffed by specialised practitioners whose specific role is to investigate allegations of physical and/or sexual abuse against children. These investigations may be conducted jointly with SOCAT.

### **OTHER SERVICES INCLUDE**

- 24 Hour crisis care/forensic medical services.
- Information regarding medical and legal rights.
- Counselling and support for victims and significant others.
- Advocacy and referrals to other agencies.
- Interpreter services where necessary.
- Therapeutic treatment services for problem sexualised behaviours.
- Safe accommodation if required.
- Ongoing support throughout the legal process.
- Community / school education programs.
- Support groups.
- Education and training for professional and community groups.
- Outreach clinics within the Northern/Southern Mallee region and the border communities of New South Wales.





## SEXUALLY ABUSIVE BEHAVIOURS TREATMENT SERVICES (SABTS)

SABTS provides counselling and support for children and young people up to the age of 15 who display problem or sexually abusive behaviours. Mallee Sexual Assault Unit Inc. conducts thorough assessments with children and young people. Our model accommodates the developmental needs of the child or young person, including those with learning and language difficulties, developmental delays and varying levels of intellectual ability.

Involvement of the family in treatment is essential in producing the best outcome for the child or young person. To support a child or young person's efforts to change their behaviours, the parents or carers need to understand the sexual abusive behaviour cycle, and the emotional states and circumstances that enable the behaviour to occur, including family dynamics that might trigger the cycle.

Parents and carers need to be aware of and support the new positive coping strategies developed for the child or young person to interrupt the cycle, and they need to support the child or young person to maintain and implement those strategies. Family work is particularly important when a child or young person is unable to remain in the family home due to the sexually abusive behaviours. Where this occurs, family reunification is a high-priority treatment goal.

When all the children involved are under 10, the behaviour is referred to as 'sexualised behaviour' or 'problem sexual behaviours' rather than 'sexually abusive behaviour'. Children under 10 are deemed by Victorian law to be unable to consent to any form of sexual activity. In addition, children under 10 cannot be held criminally responsible for their behaviour.

The SABTS program significantly reduces the likelihood of the behaviours continuing. Sexually abusive behaviours in a child or young person are not an indicator of paedophilia, and do not mean that the child or young person will go on to sexually offend as an adult.



## SERVICES - MALLEE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

**The Mallee Domestic Violence Services offer a range of services, including the following:**

- 24 Hour Crisis Refuge accommodation.
- Medium Security accommodation.
- Transitional accommodation.
- Counselling services.
- Advocacy and referral to other relevant services.
- Court support.
- Information and education about the effects of domestic violence.
- Assistance and support to re-establish the victim in the community.
- Outreach services.
- Specialist support for children who are victims or who have witnessed domestic violence.

Violence against women is widely recognised as a global problem. It is one of the least visible, but most common forms of violence, and one of the most insidious violations of human rights. It has serious impacts on the health and wellbeing of those affected, and exacts significant economic costs on communities and nations.

### **The impacts of family violence are profound.**

- In 2015-2016 there was 1 family violence related death per week in Australia.
- For both women and children, family violence has extensive and often long term physical, psychological and emotional consequences. It creates homelessness, disrupts children's schooling and leads to social economic isolation for women.

Family Violence is the abuse of power over another person. It mostly affects women and children, however the victims can also be men.

Mallee Domestic Violence Services provides a confidential and client directed service to victims / survivors of family violence, assisting them to make informed choices regarding their situation.

We provide a 24 hour crisis response across the Mallee and border communities of New South Wales and South Australia.

### **Facts**

- Domestic Violence is a crime.
- There are no excuses for domestic violence.
- Domestic Violence occurs across all cultures and social groups.
- The victim / survivor of domestic violence are never to blame.
- While alcohol and drug abuse is often a contributing factor, it is not an excuse for the violent behaviour.
- Witnessing domestic violence can have long term and damaging emotional effects on children.



## SERVICE AREA



### Outreach Services:

- Balranald
- Birchip
- Charlton
- Dareton
- Donald
- Kerang
- Lake Boga
- Mallee Track districts
- Manangatang
- Nyah
- Ouyen
- Robinvale
- Sea Lake
- Swan Hill
- Wentworth
- Wycheproof



WHERE WE ARE



**Mildura Office:** 144-146 Lime Avenue, Mildura, Vic 3500



**Swan Hill Office:** 14-18 McCallum Street, Swan Hill, Vic 3585





## PROGRAMS

### PERSONAL SAFETY PROGRAM (PSP)

The Personal Safety Program (P.S.P) is aimed at Primary School age children.

#### Objectives of this program:

- Teaches children “we all have a right to feel safe.”
- Raises awareness, teaches strategies and coping skills that can be applied to various difficult situations.

Mallee Sexual Assault Unit and Mallee Domestic Violence Service staff delivers this program in a number of sessions delivered at schools.

### SAFETY HINTS FOR ADOLESCENT RELATIONSHIPS PROGRAM (SHARP)

**SHARP** is a program designed by MSAU, targeting young people in Years 8 and 9. It explores and discusses issues that confront young people in both their personal and school lives.

The aim of the program is to give students legal and relevant information around relationships, the main objectives are addressing sexual assault issues and violence.

The program is facilitated by a female counselor from MSAU and a male officer from Victoria Police. The presenters will share information about their agencies and background. It is delivered in a school setting. Students are encouraged to actively participate by asking questions or seek clarification of any issues.

#### Issues discussed include:

- Definitions of rape and sexual assault.
- Why children under 10 years of age cannot be charged with a crime.
- What is the legal age of consent and the legal implications of having under age sex.
- Stalking.
- The penalties and consequences of being charged with a sex crime.

### SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

The School Holiday Program is open to all children accessing the services and for children of adults receiving a service from Mallee Sexual Assault Unit.

The program runs Monday to Friday through the school holidays and consists of indoor craft, games and activities, as well as occasional excursions to external activities such as cinema, bowling, mini golf. The program also incorporates educational activities such as healthy eating, safety, dental health.

During the period 2015-2016, 146 children attended the program.





PROGRAMS

SEA CHANGE PROGRAM

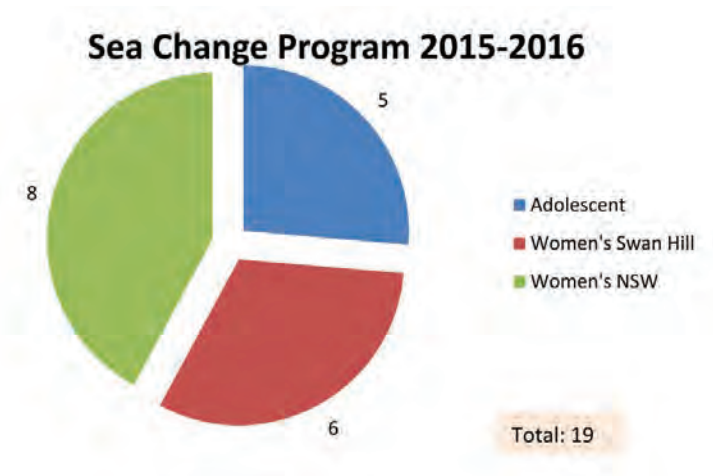
The Sea Change Program aims to assist participants to become more assertive, increase their self-esteem and self-confidence, while enabling them to become more effective in interpersonal relationships and taking control of their lives.

The course is designed to provide an educational and motivational learning environment, encouraging group participation, while allowing individuals to explore new concepts and skills.

Objectives of the course are:

- To develop concepts of self-esteem, self- acceptance and self-reliance.
- To assist participants to be aware of their feelings and how to appropriately express them.
- To present concepts of positive self talk, turning negative thinking around to assist participants to change irrational thoughts.
- To help participants understand how skills in communication relate to building self-esteem and assertiveness.

SPECIAL NEEDS AWARENESS PROGRAM (SNAP)



The Special Needs Awareness Program is a resource for use with people with an intellectual disability of any age.

Sexual abuse is ultimately an abuse of power.

People with an intellectual disability are vulnerable to sexual abuse because of their trust in and dependency on adults and their lack of information regarding the dangers of abuse. Parents/carers are not able to supervise people with an intellectual disability 24 hours a day. Well intentioned parents/carers caution their children about stranger dangers, yet are often at a loss when it comes to protecting them from people they know and trust.

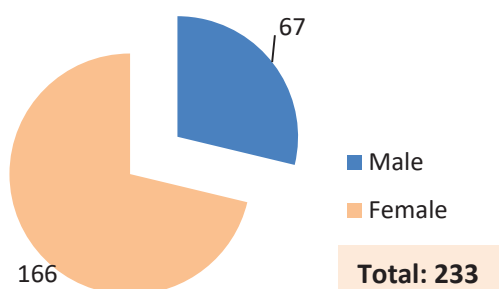
Protective Behaviours Philosophy

- We all own our bodies and minds. Everyone has the right to set their own boundaries and decide **who, when** and **where** their bodies are touched.
- Everyone has the right to say NO to any unwanted or unsafe touching.
- Everyone has the right to be informed of potential dangers including abuse and taught protective measures to ensure their personal safety.
- Sexual abuse is never the fault of the victim.

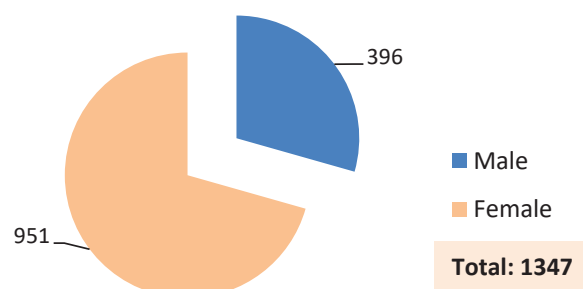


## MALLEE SEXUAL ASSAULT UNIT (MSAU) STATISTICS

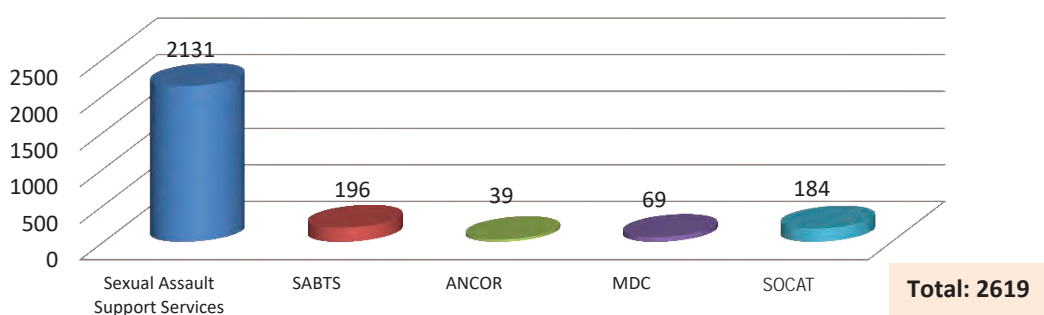
## New Registrations 2015-2016



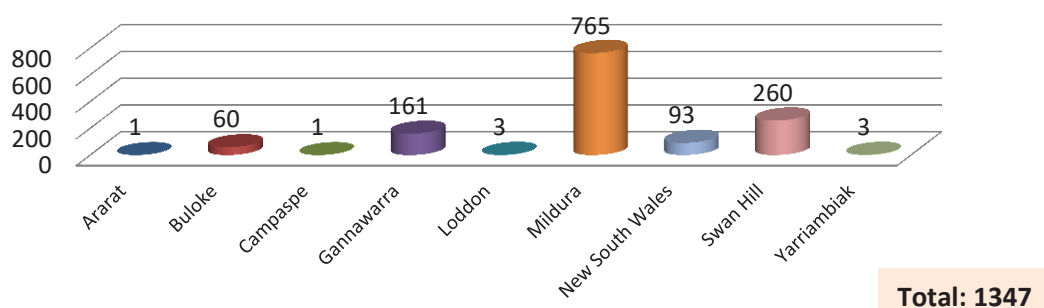
## Clients who received a service 2015/16



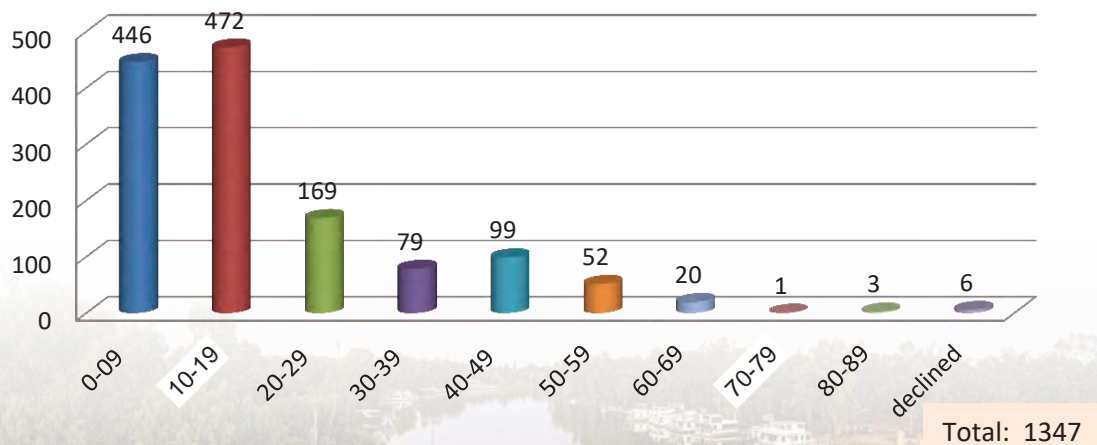
## Case Types 2015-2016



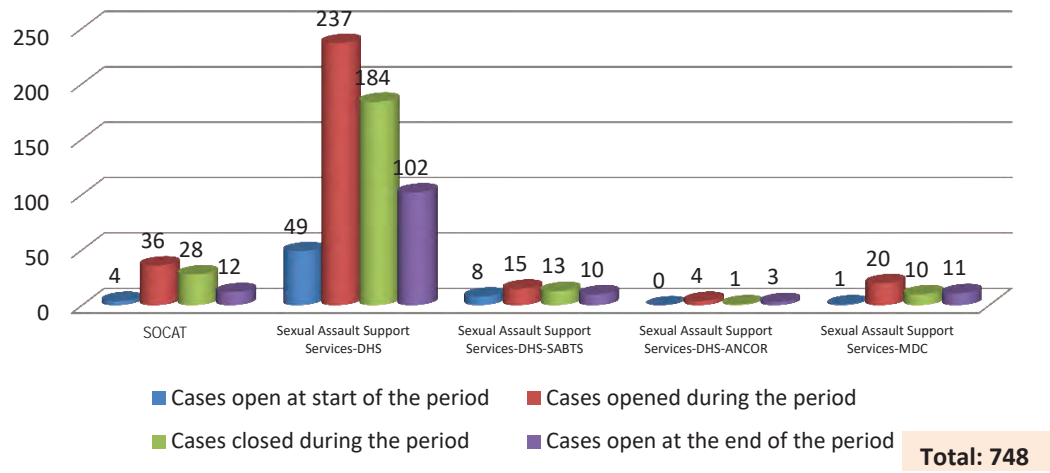
## Clients by Local Government Area 2015-2016



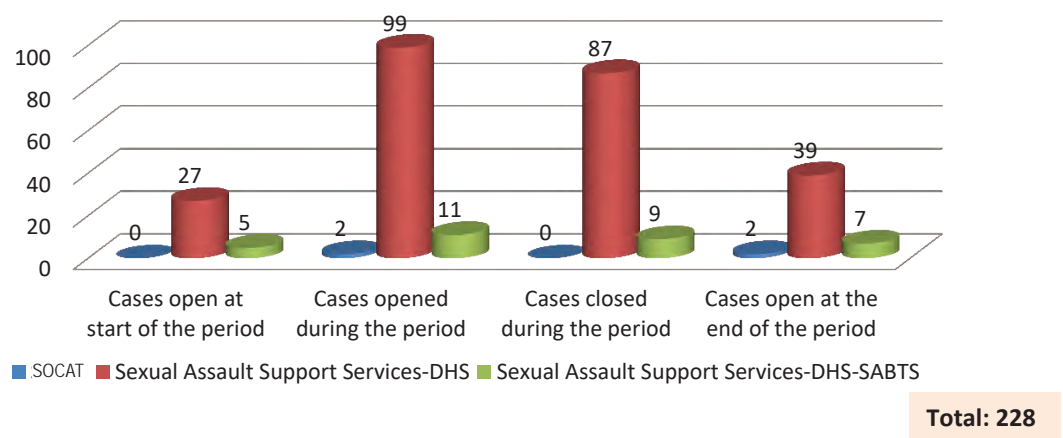
## Clients by Age Groups 2015-2016



Case Types - Northern Mallee 2015-2016

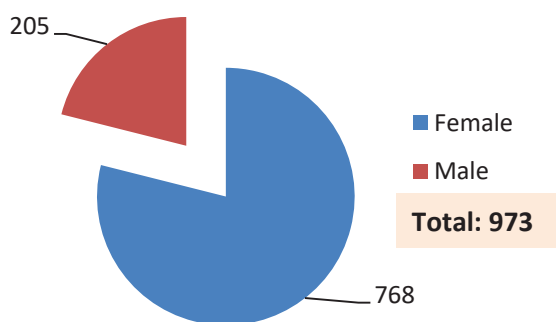


Case Types - Southern Mallee 2015-2016

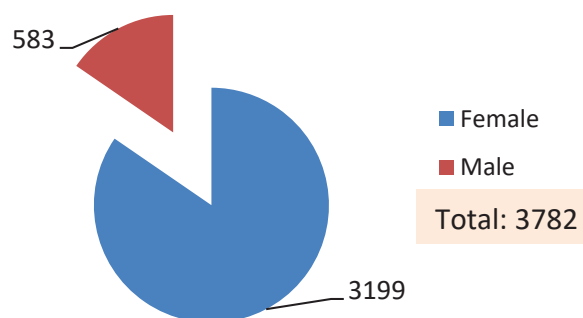


## MALLEE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES (MDVS) - STATISTICS

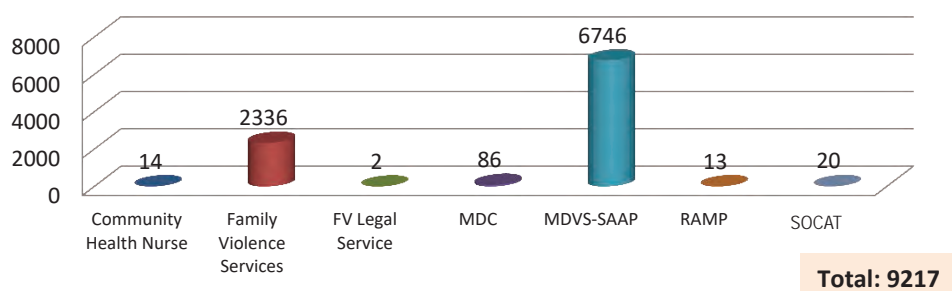
New Registrations 2015-2016



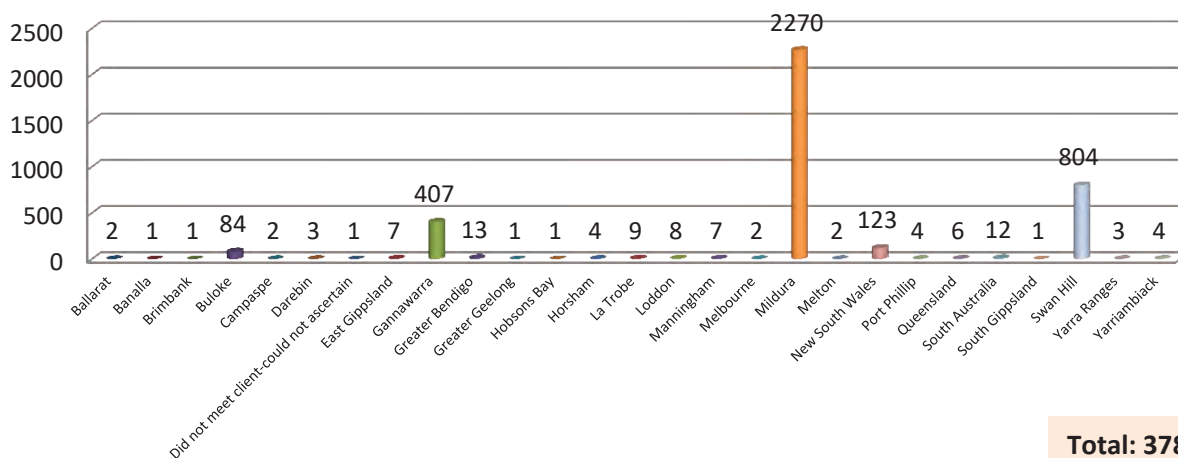
Clients who received a service 2015/16



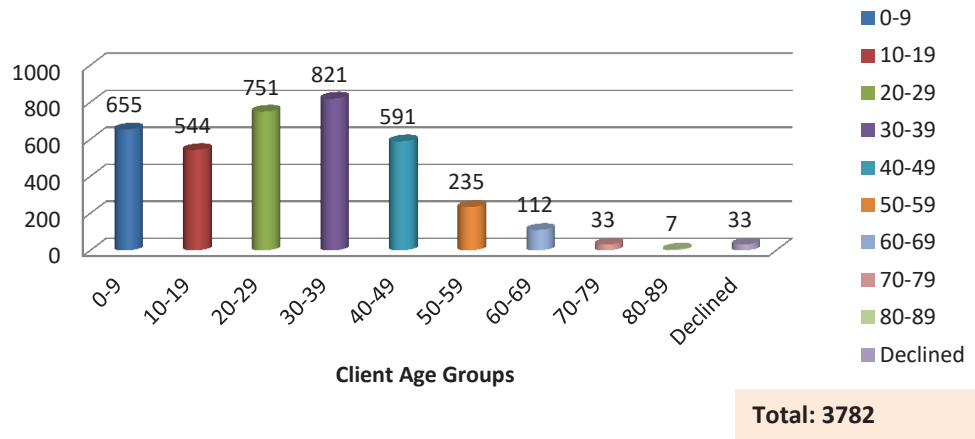
Case Types 2015-2016



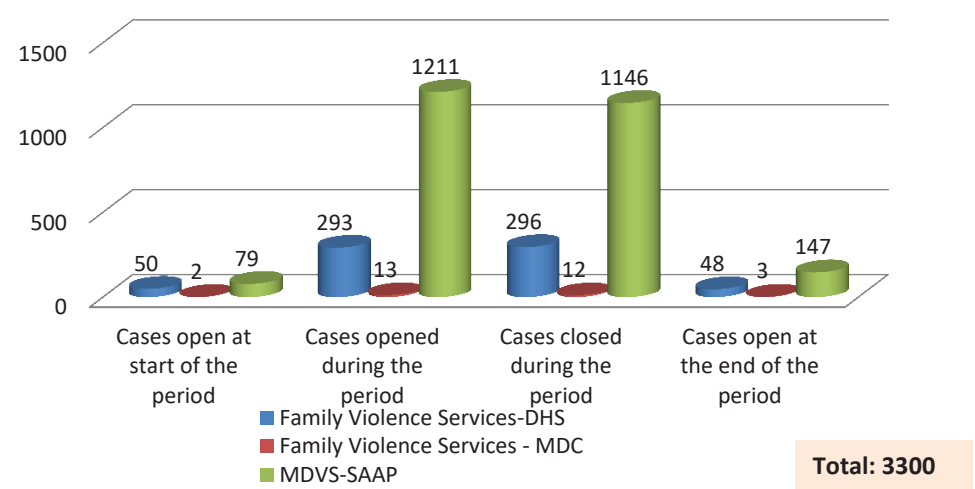
Clients by Local Government Area 2015-2016



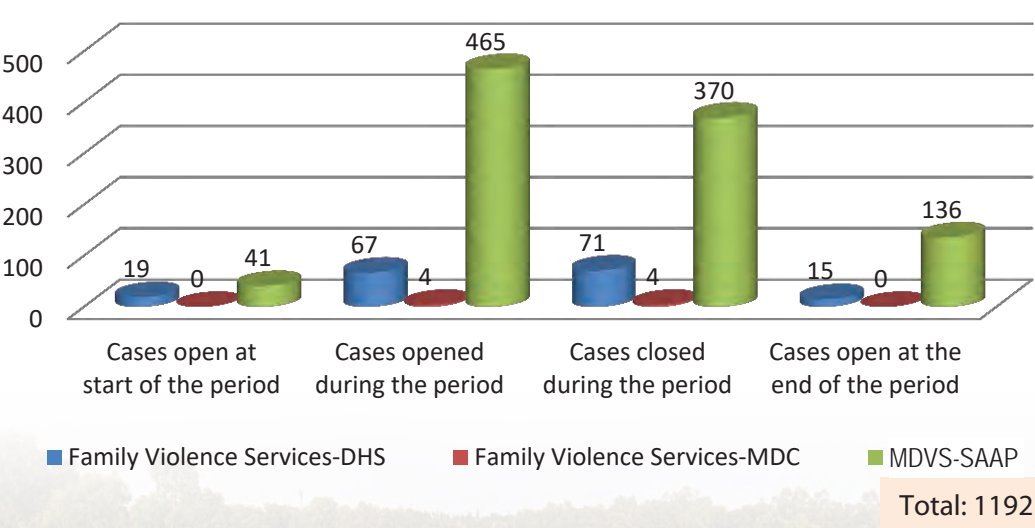
MDVS Clients by Age Groups 2015-2016



Case Types - Northern Mallee Clients 2015-2016



Case Types - Southern Mallee Clients 2015-2016





## FINANCIAL AUDITED REPORT

personal advice you can count on



### INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MALLEE SEXUAL ASSAULT UNIT INCORPORATED

#### Scope

We have audited the financial report of the Mallee Sexual Assault Unit Incorporated for the period ended 30 June 2016. The Committee is responsible for the financial report and we have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it, to the members.

The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)*. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1.

#### Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the financial position of Mallee Sexual Assault Unit Incorporated as at 30 June 2016 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

**One2one Accountants & Business Advisers**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rob Court', written over a light blue horizontal line.

**Rob Court**  
20<sup>th</sup> October, 2016

[www.one2oneadvisers.com.au](http://www.one2oneadvisers.com.au)

E: [admin@one2oneadvisers.com.au](mailto:admin@one2oneadvisers.com.au)

T: (03) 5021 3355 F: (03) 5021 3131 ABN: 32 148 192 287

Mildura Business Centre 148-150 Pine Avenue Mildura Vic. 3500

POSTAL: P.O. Box 3199 Mildura Vic. 3502

# MALLEE SEXUAL ASSAULT UNIT INCORPORATED

## BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	2,639,616	1,646,412
Trade and other receivables	5	12,747	42
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<u>2,652,363</u>	<u>1,646,454</u>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property, plant & equipment	6	1,433,021	1,435,166
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<u>1,433,021</u>	<u>1,435,166</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u>4,085,384</u>	<u>3,081,620</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	7	1,254,650	184,486
Short term provisions	8	357,605	512,239
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<u>1,612,255</u>	<u>696,725</u>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Long term provisions	8	27,906	48,578
Borrowings	9	769	885
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<u>28,675</u>	<u>49,463</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u>1,640,930</u>	<u>746,188</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>2,444,454</u>	<u>2,335,432</u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained earnings	10	2,444,454	2,335,432
<b>Total Equity</b>		<u>2,444,454</u>	<u>2,335,432</u>

## FINANCIAL AUDITED REPORT

### MALLEE SEXUAL ASSAULT UNIT INCORPORATED

#### CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>Cash Flows From Operating Activities</b>			
Operating grants receipts		3,242,205	2,498,728
Payments to suppliers and employees		(2,319,285)	(2,010,559)
Interest received		17,026	19,378
Other income		131,061	97,209
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	15a	<u>1,071,007</u>	<u>604,756</u>
<b>Cash Flows From Investing Activities</b>			
Purchase of property, plant & equipment		(122,142)	(120,229)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant & equipment		44,455	60,136
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities</b>		<u>(77,687)</u>	<u>(60,093)</u>
<b>Cash Flows From Financing Activities</b>			
Proceeds of borrowings		-	-
Repayment of borrowings		(116)	(74)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>		<u>(116)</u>	<u>(74)</u>
<b>Net increase in cash held</b>		<u>993,204</u>	<u>544,589</u>
<b>Cash at beginning of year</b>		1,646,412	1,101,823
<b>Cash at end of year</b>	15b	<u>2,639,616</u>	<u>1,646,412</u>





## MALLEE SEXUAL ASSAULT UNIT INCORPORATED

### INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
Revenue	2	2,361,153	2,575,302
Employee benefits expense		(1,577,345)	(1,878,927)
Administration & operating expenses		(593,155)	(492,547)
Depreciation & amortisation expenses		(81,565)	(97,086)
Interest expense		(66)	(71)
<b>Profit before income tax expense</b>		<u>109,022</u>	<u>106,671</u>
<b>Income tax expense</b>		-	-
<b>Profit from operations</b>		<u>109,022</u>	<u>106,671</u>







[www.msau-mdvs.org.au](http://www.msau-mdvs.org.au)

### **Mildura**

Suite 1, 144-146 Lime Avenue, Mildura, Victoria 3500  
PO Box 1373, Mildura, Victoria 3502  
Ph: (03) 5025 5400 Fax: (03) 5025 5432  
Email: [info@msau-mdvs.org.au](mailto:info@msau-mdvs.org.au)

### **Swan Hill**

14-18 McCallum Street, Swan Hill, Victoria 3585  
PO Box 1641, Swan Hill, VIC 3585  
Ph: (03) 5033 1786 Fax: (03) 5032 4511  
Email: [info@msau-mdvs.org.au](mailto:info@msau-mdvs.org.au)