Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment (SASH)

Sexual assault, sexual harassment and other forms of sexual misconduct are NOT tolerated at the University of Adelaide College.

As a student of the College you have the right to feel safe and secure at all times. We believe that unwanted sexual attention including harassment, stalking and assault can prevent a student from taking part in activities and involvement in the life of the School.

It does not matter if the incident was recent, or in the past, on campus or off campus, we are here to support our students when they report incidents of sexual assault or sexual harassment. There are internal (i.e. within the College) and external reporting options available. On this page, you will find some suggestions and resources to assist, as well as emergency contacts if you find yourself in difficult situations.

How to report a sexual assault or harassment incident

If you are in an emergency now call 000.

If you feel able to report the incident to the SA Police they can be contacted on 131 444 or by the following:

**SA Police Sexual Crime Investigations**
Ph: 08 8172 5555 (business hours only)
See all SAPOL contact information here: [https://www.police.sa.gov.au/contact-us/key-contacts](https://www.police.sa.gov.au/contact-us/key-contacts)

If you use the services of Yarrow Place ([yarrowplace.sa.gov.au](http://yarrowplace.sa.gov.au)) 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 report of the incident to the College, you can:

- email College Student Services [collegeservices@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:collegeservices@adelaide.edu.au)
- see Student Services staff at the College
- see the School Counsellor [studentsupportadelaide.simplybook.me/v2/](https://studentsupportadelaide.simplybook.me/v2/)

Remember – the sexual harassment or assault you have experienced was not your fault and College 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:

- Yarrow Place Rape & Sexual Assault Service – 1800 817 421 (Free call) or (08) 8226 8787 (after hours emergency)
- National Sexual Assault and Domestic Family Violence Counselling Service - 1800 737 732
- Lifeline - 13 11 14
- Beyond Blue - 1300 22 4636
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 their 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 happening. 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 or gender-based bullying?
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. In many cases, targets are people who:
- say they are, or are thought 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.

Confidentiality & Privacy
The personal information about you and any other person mentioned in your report will be held, stored, used and disclosed by the College solely for the following purposes and in the following ways:
- to keep a record of your report;
- to enable us to contact you to acknowledge your report and to provide information and possible referrals to support services;
- where appropriate, to enable us to commence a misconduct assessment and investigation under a College procedure;
- where appropriate and necessary, to report to the authorities (e.g. Police);
- to enable us to understand and respond to the risk of sexual misconduct at the College.

Information collected from reports will also be used in internal reports to assist the College to identify areas or activities of risk and find ways to reduce the incidence of sexual misconduct at the College. This information does not identify individuals and does not include personal information.

The College handles personal information in accordance with its Privacy Policy, which is available currently at: https://college.adelaide.edu.au/legal/