

## **Dance party to say ‘no’ to sexual violence**

Family Planning Queensland (FPQ) Cairns Sexual Assault Service and Cairns Police are calling the young people of Cairns to say “YES” to safety and respect in relationships, by attending the *Reclaim the Night Halloween Dance Party* to mark Sexual Violence Awareness Month.

Clare Oppy, Coordinator of the FPQ Cairns Sexual Assault Service said, “One in five Queensland women have experienced sexual violence, with Far North Queensland reporting the highest rate of sexual assaults in the state. This means it is highly likely someone in your circle of friends is a survivor of this crime.”

Ms Oppy said, “We wanted to involve young people in a highly visible and positive way. We need to support a culture that says sexual assault is completely unacceptable. No-one should ever be forced to have sex.”

The Cairns Sexual Assault Service has also been working closely with Cairns Police to support women who file a report. “There is a widespread fear among many survivors of sexual assault that no-one will believe them. This is especially true in situations where alcohol was involved, as the victim’s recollection of events may be hazy”, Ms Oppy said.

Ms Oppy said that people need to remember that if someone is intoxicated, they are legally unable to give consent.

The all-ages dance party will be held in Fogarty Park on the 31<sup>st</sup> October with Moondust Dance Productions, face painting and trick-or-treating from 5 - 7pm, followed by DJ ANG at 7 – 9pm.

**ENDS**

**For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact:  
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