




# CAIRNS CRIME BULLETIN




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## Sexual Violence Awareness Month

**OCTOBER 1 – 31  
2009**



### October is Sexual Violence Awareness Month

**Background**  
Sexual Violence Awareness Week was an initiative of the Gold Coast Sexual Assault Support Service, which began in 1996. By 1998 it had become Sexual Violence Awareness Month (SVAM) and had spread throughout Queensland, co-ordinated by Sexual Assault Services in various regions. In 2002, the Premier, the Hon Peter Beattie, formally proclaimed the month of October Sexual Violence Awareness Month in Queensland. Various politicians as well as the Police, local councils, universities, schools, and other health and welfare agencies support the initiative.

**Overall Goal**  
• To work towards the elimination of Sexual Violence and Abuse in our communities.

**Objectives**  
• To increase community awareness of the context, nature and extent of Sexual Assault and Childhood Sexual Abuse.  
• To impart strategies aimed at maximising safety and minimising risks.  
• To increase awareness of support services and printed resources available.  
• Distribution of posters, brochures and self help material.  
• To increase intersectoral and interagency co-operation  
• To challenge attitudes, values and behaviour in relation to Sexual Violence and Abuse.

**Target Group**  
Our community of men, women and children.

**Commencement & Duration**  
The Sexual Violence Awareness Campaign is conducted over the entire month of October each year.

**Location**  
Queensland wide.

**Interagency Partners & Their Role**  
Cairns Sexual Assault Service, Queensland Police (Cairns and Far North Regions), Queensland Health (Cairns Base Hospital Emergency Department), Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (Cairns Region). The role of these partners is to work collectively to provide optimal response, client support, create community awareness, participate in or host relevant activities, and work on identified specific projects throughout the month to increase understanding and foster intersectoral co-operation.

**Benefits / Outcomes**  
• Increased Community awareness of the context, nature and extent of Sexual Violence including Childhood Sexual Abuse.  
• Increased awareness of support services and resources available.  
• Inappropriate attitudes, values and behaviour in relation to Sexual Violence and Childhood Sexual Abuse are challenged and incidence reduced.

**Cairns Sexual Assault Service 4031 3590**