



REPORTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

YOUR CHOICE, YOUR VOICE

Sexual violence is frightening, and it is a crime. If any type of sexual violence has happened to you, you might not want to report it to the police or tell anyone about it. You might feel that no one can help, or no one will believe you. If you are new to Australia, on a temporary visa or you don't have safe people around you then you also might not know how to make a report or you might be afraid of making a report.

It is normal to feel scared and worried, but you are not alone. There are people who want to help and making a report can connect you to this support.

Making a report is a choice that you can make. The reporting process gives you the power to say what happened to you in your own words and helps make sure that the sexual violence doesn't happen to others.

WHY SHOULD I MAKE A REPORT?

Some people find a lot of relief in reporting what happened to them to the police and seeking justice through the legal system. Other people want to make sure there is a punishment for the person who harmed them.

If you are an adult and you know a child who is experiencing sexual abuse, your report might be the only chance they have to get help.

Reporting sexual violence can also put a process in place to protect you from further harm if you know who harmed you. For example, the police can issue an **Apprehended Violence Order (AVO)** on your behalf to stop the person who harmed you from contacting you and being near you.

You can stay anonymous to make your report.

You can stop anytime you want.

You don't have to give any information you don't want to.

HOW DO I MAKE A REPORT?

If you are in immediate danger, call emergency services on 000.

1. Get support if you want it

Before you make a report, you might want to talk to someone about what happened to you. If you have a trusted friend or family member you can ask them to listen. You can also get advice from an expert such as the **NSW Sexual Violence Helpline (call 1800 424 017)**.

2. Prepare your information

Prepare as much information about the assault as you can, such as the date, time, location, and any information you have about the person who harmed you. This person might be a stranger or it can be someone you know, and even your husband, wife or parent.

Document any injuries you have, and any other information related to the assault.

3. Report sexual violence to the police

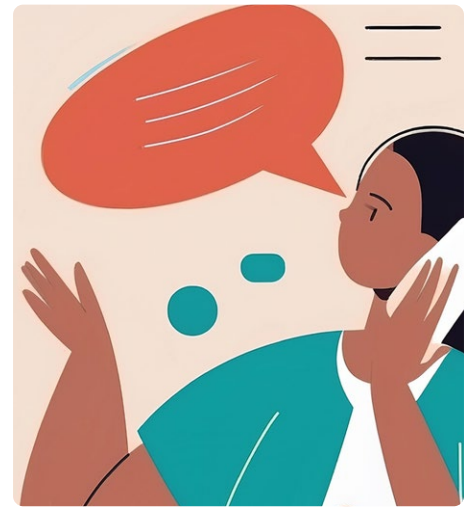
There are no time limits for reporting a sexual assault. Even if the sexual violence happened in the past, you can still report it now.

You can make a sexual violence report at a police station. [SEARCH HERE](#)

to find your local police station. Once you have made a report, you can also request for the police to start an investigation.

If you want to tell the police but you don't want to speak to anyone you can let the police know what happened to you through the **Sexual Assault Reporting Option**. This is not an official report and may not be investigated but it creates a record of what happened and gives the police information on sexual violence that can help them in their police work.

Making an official report to the police or talking to the police is not something you have to do. It is completely your choice. Reporting the abuse is your decision and only you can decide what is best for you. You don't have to continue all the way through the legal process and you can choose to withdraw from the process at any stage.



1. Use Interpreters and/or Translators if Needed

You have the right to have an interpreter if you want one. The police can arrange a free interpreting service to provide interpreting for you. The **Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National)** can be contacted on **131 450**.

2. Request to speak to a police officer you feel comfortable with

When reporting at a police station, you can ask to speak with a male or female police officer. Many police stations also have multicultural liaison officers (someone who understands your language and community) and/or Gay and Lesbian (LGBTIQA+) liaison officers that you can request to speak to. The police will do their best to match you with a police officer that you feel comfortable with.

3. Report sexual abuse of a child

If you know that a child is being sexually abused you should contact the police but you should also make a report to NSW child protection services on the number **132 111**.

WHAT IF THE SEXUAL VIOLENCE HAPPENED IN ANOTHER COUNTRY?

If you experienced sexual violence in another country and you are now living in Australia, contact the local police here to talk about what happened to you and get advice about what can be done. If possible, you should report this to the police in the country that the sexual violence happened, as well.