



**Barwon CASA  
Counselling  
Services**

## **What is the Crisis Care Unit? 2014**

**Crisis Care Units (CCU) are located at public hospitals and are affiliated with Centres Against Sexual Assault (CASA) or located at a CASA. The CCU provides a safe and private space 24 x 7 for people who have recently experienced rape or sexual assault. The CCU provides access to medical and forensic services, CASA counsellor crisis support and information and police Sexual Offences & Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT) information and support. People who have recently experienced rape or sexual assault can ring the Sexual Assault Crisis Line: 1800 806 292 after business hours, weekends and public holidays or go directly to the nearest Police Station and be taken to the CCU or go directly to the Emergency Department of the hospital.**

### **Sexual Assault Crisis Line:**

If you have experienced rape or sexual assault within the past 72 hours you can ring the Sexual Assault Crisis Line (SACL) and speak to a counsellor who will provide information about immediate support for you. The SACL counsellor will ask you if you would like to speak to a CASA counsellor and arrange for the counsellor to meet you at the CCU. The SACL counsellor will ask you if you would like to speak to the police and arrange for a SOCT officer to meet you at the CCU.

### **Police Station**

You can go, or be taken to the police station and speak to a uniformed police officer who will arrange for a SOCIT officer to speak with you. SOCIT officers are detectives who work specifically with people who report rape or sexual assault. The SOCIT officer will ask you if you would like to talk to a CASA counsellor and will take you to meet the counsellor at the CCU.

### **Emergency Department:**

You can go, or be taken to the emergency department of the hospital. Triage will assess if you require medical treatment before asking if you would like to speak to a CASA counsellor. Triage will arrange for a counsellor to meet you in the CCU.

### **CASA Counsellor**

The CASA counsellor will meet you at the CCU and provide you with information about legal, medical, forensic and support options. The CASA counsellor will support you in making decisions and choices for yourself. If you haven't already spoken to the police and you would like to speak to a SOCIT officer, the CASA counsellor will arrange for a SOCIT officer to meet you in the CCU. The CASA counsellor will keep you informed about what is happening and ensure you are aware of your rights and options. If you decide to have a forensic medical examination for the purpose of collecting forensic specimens to be used in the court process and you are required to surrender your clothes the CASA counsellor will provide you with a full set of new clothes and an ensuite to shower and change. Before you leave the CCU the CASA counsellor will ask if you would like CASA to contact you the next business day to arrange counselling for you and for your family or friends.

### **SOCIT:**

Barwon CASA

Barwon: (03) 5222 4310 Wimmera: (03) 5381 1211

Sexual Assault Crisis Line 24x7: 1800 806 292

The SOCIT officer will investigate your complaint and collect evidence to support your complaint in court, if you decide to go to court. The SOCIT officer will ask you if you would like to make a statement of complaint or a statement of no further action and arrange a time to take your statement, usually the next day.

**Forensic Medical Officer:**

A forensic medical officer is a doctor who has undertaken specialist training undertaken specialist training provided by the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine to qualify to conduct forensic medical examinations, collect and record forensic specimens and samples, prepare a report and be examined in the court. If you would like to speak to a forensic medical officer about having a forensic medical examination the CASA counsellor will arrange with SOCIT for a forensic medical officer to meet you at the CCU. The forensic medical officer will explain the procedure and the purpose of it to you and obtain your consent prior to commencing the forensic medical examination.

**Support person**

You can a family member or friend present at the CCU to support you and you can have a support person with you if you have a forensic medical examination. The CASA counsellor will ask if you would like her to be present during the forensic medical examination.

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