

# **casac inc**



**ABN: 40 822 527 783**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

### **2011**

***CASAC Inc is a  
NSW non-funded peak body for community based non-  
government sexual assault counselling services.***

***Our members are FaCS funded services who support  
children, young people and adults who have  
experienced child sexual abuse and their families.***

***CASAC Inc members support reconciliation and acknowledge that we are  
on Aboriginal land.***

## **CASAC Inc. Vision Statement**

*CASAC Inc. is committed to working for a just and safe world where children and young people have the opportunity to reach their full potential whilst their differences are respected and their integrity is maintained.*

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***The History of CASAC***

In 1985, the NSW Child Sexual Assault Task Force recommended that community based services be established for sexual assault victims and their families.

The Incest Services Network (I.S.N) was established in 1986 by women from Western Women's Action Against Incest, Wollongong Women Against Incest, Central Women's Health Centre, Liverpool Women's Health Centre, Canberra Incest Centre, and Dympna House. The network was established after these groups had lodged submissions with various departments for funding incest counselling services in their areas.

At the time, the terms and conditions and funding agreements were unclear and through informal networks it was discovered that each group was being given different information. Consequently, the network was formalised and the first meeting was held in early 1986. The "Incest Services Network" was named at that meeting, and as a cohesive, united group was more effectively able to deal with and communicate with the bureaucracy and the system.

Additionally, the network recognised the isolation of working in sexual assault, coupled with small one or two worker services that exist in regional areas throughout the state, thus it saw the importance of using ISN to network and find support.

### ***The Name Change***

The network held the name of ISN until 1994 when it was decided that ISN was not truly indicative or readily recognised and was often confused with 'incest support network'. After much consideration and deliberation the name Child and Adolescent Sexual Assault Counsellors (CASAC) was chosen.

### ***When do we meet?***

The Management Committee (elected annually at the AGM) meets monthly at various services in Sydney. A statewide meeting is scheduled annually in September and is in addition to the conference.

An annual conference is organised each year by the management committee to provide members with the opportunity to meet face to face, participate in training, obtain support and advocate for issues relating to their clients.

## **CASAC Inc. STATEMENT of AIMS**

CASAC Inc member services aim to:

1. Provide children and young persons who have experienced sexual assault, and their non-offending family members/caregivers with a professional, comprehensive service which consists of counselling, information and support; groups; court preparation and support for witnesses; community education; advocacy and referral to other service providers, when and if necessary.
2. Offer a confidential service except in circumstances where legal requirements prevent this.
3. Provide information and feedback to Child Protection local interest groups by providing representation on various Committees and Interagencies thus contributing to the child protection debate;

***As a peak body, CASAC Inc aims to:***

1. Provide a forum that will discuss issues relevant to us as a professional body. Work effectively with the child protection system, promote information sharing; and liaise with other agencies to ensure that needs of children and young people who have experienced sexual assault are addressed through the facilitation of appropriate resources and local networks;
2. Identify and address worker training needs through skills sharing and/or setting up of training programs;
3. Offer peer support for each other to reduce isolation, and provide consultation and an arena for internal education and training;
4. Provide a structure of Regional & Statewide meetings and an Annual General Meeting to raise issues relevant to needs of children and young people, and decide on manageable programs;
5. Identify gaps in service provision and inform the relevant government departments / agencies of these; and lobby to improve access to and the increase of services;
6. Inform through feedback relevant funding bodies of a statewide picture of Child and Adolescent Sexual Assault Services.

## **CASAC SERVICES**

Individual service reports are not included in the CASAC Inc annual report and we encourage members to share information on their activities throughout the year. It is important to state that the Annual Report aims to focus on the activities and achievements of CASAC Inc as a peak, rather than report on individual services funded by Family & Community Services.

We believe this holds us accountable and helps clarify the work we do in representing each of the member services by highlighting what we have achieved separate to the direct service delivery we each do every day.

## ***CHAIRPERSON REPORT***

It may sound like a cliché, but it has been a busy year for CASAC Inc. This year we experienced a change of government in NSW and therefore new directions, a new political climate and significant changes in systems and not only in name (DoCS now known as FaCS- Family & Community Services). Funding reform for non-government community services continued and saw the system move to an Early Intervention and Placement Prevention model (EIPP) at which working with high risk families and children already harmed seem to not be consistent within this model. We worked alongside other services to demonstrate that this model did not adequately reflect the work casac services did and so we were considered 'preserved'. We waited until the end of 2011 to get our turn to be 'reviewed' and at the writing of this annual report, consultants are working out where CASAC's fit in the child protection system. We are eagerly awaiting the end result and recognise the information and feedback regularly provided to us by FaCS during this process.

Again in 2011, we organised an annual conference and a Statewide event that invited interested professionals to attend, assisting in raising awareness of the issue of Child Sexual Assault during child protection week. These events once again demonstrate the power of working together and what can be achieved, especially considering we are an organisation which receives no government funding and relies purely on the funds from members.

However, it has not been all positive. This year, CASAC Inc. was again extremely disheartened by the closure of another CASAC service, the Armidale and District Child Sexual Assault Counselling Service. Unfortunately, the auspicing agency, the Armidale and Women's Inc management Committee decided to transition to a generalist family support model, a decision which was also supported by the regional FaCS office. It demonstrates the immense power and also the challenges of local management committees in the NGO sector which can control and have a significant impact on the service delivery system. I would like to acknowledge the dedication, passion and commitment of Suzanne Rosevear

who filled the role of counsellor in the service for over 16 years and who fought hard and advocated for the service until its closure in July 2011.

We also said farewell to Catharina Webb at the end of 2011, who left Rosebank on a secondment to ECAV, and subsequently has resigned from her role at Rosebank. She played a significant role on the CASAC Management Committee and was a consistent contact for CASAC and represented services on various government interagencies focusing on issues relating to child sexual assault. I believe she will continue to be a passionate supporter of casac services in the future commitment to CASAC's has been an integral part of the work we have achieved this year and so would like to acknowledge the effort and skill she has contributed as I do not believe we could have achieved what we have without her input. CASAC Inc is reliant on the goodwill of the agencies who auspice each of our members and on the professionals who take time from their busy schedules to be a part of the Management Committee and so recognise their support.

Once again, I am excited and proud of the work and energy the counsellors demonstrate in doing their jobs, but also in the role they play in their communities. I am pleased that CASAC Inc is being used by members to represent and advocate issues important to them and the client group and thank you for all the enthusiasm, efforts and support of CASAC.

*Biljana Milosevic- Chair CASAC Inc*

***Management Committee Members  
January - December 2011***

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
<b>Chairperson</b>	Biljana Milosevic	Jannawi Family Centre
<b>Secretary</b>	Helene Panaretos	West St Centre
<b>Treasurer</b>	Catharina Webb	Rosebank CSA Service
<b>Ordinary Member</b>	Amanda Boyd	Rosemount
<b>Ordinary Member</b>	Deb Seldon	Bankstown Women's Health Centre
<b>Ordinary Member</b>	Sally Curtis	CatholicCare

## **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Management Committee (MC) met monthly throughout 2011. In that time,

- An annual planning meeting was held in early 2011
- A Statewide meeting was organised and held at Sancta Sophia College, Sydney University during National Child Protection Week in September 2011
- Organised and ran the 2011 CASAC Inc conference held at the Camden Valley Inn, Camden, NSW
- Continued to represent CASAC's at the various sexual assault interagencies throughout the year
- Advocated the importance of CASAC services to Family & Community Services
- Advocated the specialist service delivery model and role of CASAC's in the FaCS funding review and participated in briefings
- Strongly advocated against the closure of the Armidale child sexual assault service by raising concerns with the Minister of Community Services.
- Supported counsellors and auspicing agencies throughout the funding review and transition, as some services made the decision to transition to the EIPP funding model.
- Begun the redevelopment of the CASAC website by contracting a web designer.
- Attended a national forum held in Melbourne of professionals working with children with problematic sexual behavior.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Members of the CASAC Management Committee represent CASAC services and clients at a variety of meetings throughout the year. Individuals attend as representatives of the CASAC network rather than their own service, and strive to be assertive in making sure that the experience of smaller community organisations is not lost amongst the government departments and larger, more powerful NGOs. By representing grass roots services, we have direct contact with children, families and individuals who have experienced child sexual abuse. This presents us with a unique opportunity to offer direct information about the realities of the experiences of our services and clients, to give feedback about the impact of certain policies, procedures and processes, and to raise concerns with appropriate professionals.

If counsellors have an issue that would like CASAC to raise, or information that should be shared at any meetings, please contact the person listed. If unsure which meeting would be the most appropriate one for the issue, please don't hesitate to call any member of the Management Committee. It may not always be clear which is the most effective forum, and issues are often referred between meetings for coordinated follow up.

Following is a list of the meetings we attend.

*SARC (Sexual Assault Review Committee)  
CASAC Rep: Catharina Webb, Rosebank  
In 2012- Biljana Milosevic, Jannawi*

This meeting is chaired by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), and aims to hear and resolve issues of concern that arise in relation to the interaction between a victim of sexual assault and the legal system. Any problematic experiences with the criminal justice system are recorded across the state and followed up during the meeting. If casacs raise concerns, it is not necessary to provide the name of a client, but some detail is necessary, for example to location of the court, the particular police station etc, so that it can be determined whether it may be a local or statewide issue, and which response would be most appropriate. Recommendations are made regarding legislative changes required and members include the Witness Assistance Scheme, Police, JIRT, FaCS and Women's Legal Resource Centre. Catharina was a consistent attendee at this meeting for the previous years and following her secondment, Biljana will be attending as the CASAC representative in 2012. These meetings are held every three months.

***New Street Advisory Committee***

***CASAC Rep: Catharina Webb, Rosebank***

This meeting is chaired by the NSW Ministry of Health, and receives updated information on the operation of New Street and issues that may affect it, from staffing to changes in legislation in relation to the treatment of adolescents who sexually abuse others.

***Pre- Trial Diversionary Program (Cedar Cottage) Board***

***CASAC Rep: Catharina Webb, Rosebank***

Like the New Street Meeting, this is also chaired by NSW Ministry of Health, and follows the New Street Meeting. The PTDP aim is to work with adult familial offenders, with a focus on the safety, needs and viewpoint of the victims. These meetings are held every three months.

***Victims of Crime Interagency***

***CASAC Rep: Catharina Webb***

***In 2012- Amanda Boyd, Rosemount***

This meeting is chaired by the Victims' Services section of the Attorney General & Justice Department. There are a number of representatives from different victim's support groups, including victims of homicide, and issues such as the Charter of Victim's Rights and the Victim's Compensation Scheme are highlighted at this meeting.

***Sex Crimes & Joint Investigation Response (JIR) Squad Advisory Council***

***CASAC Rep: Biljana Milosevic***

This meeting is held once every three months at Police Headquarters in Parramatta. It is chaired by NSW Police and reports on the Squad's investigation activities. It's also a forum to report on the Police Child Wellbeing Unit, Adult sexual assault matters and JRU and JIR processes. It provides an opportunity for services to raise issues and ask questions relating to these activities. A significant achievement in 2011 was the development of SARO- Alternative Reporting of Sexual Assault via the NSW Police website. This allows victims of sexual assault to report without having to progress to a formal criminal investigation, however provides important intelligence for police in these matters. Its scheduled launch on White Ribbon Day 2011 was postponed until January 2012.

## **CASAC STATEWIDE FORUM**

On Thursday 8th September, 2011 (during NAPCAN's Child Protection Week) CASAC Inc held its Annual Statewide forum at the Sancta Sophia College, on the grounds of Sydney University. It was a free event with over 50 professionals attending.

Our speakers included Eric Hudson, a private practitioner who spoke about the issues for men who are survivors of child sexual assault.

Jenny Howell, also in private practice, spoke about the particular needs of young people with sexually abusive and offending behaviours and Biljana Milosevic from Jannawi Family Centre presented on the connection between domestic violence and child sexual assault.

The forum attendance was open to any professional with an interest in child and adolescent sexual abuse issues, along with CASAC counsellors of course. A broad range of people attended and evaluations were generally positive.

The second day concluded with a meeting of CASAC members only to update on the situation with the CSGP funding transition - this was a very hot topic at the time, and it was wonderful to share the information we had and to reassure each other. Mike Sheargold from NSW FaMS chaired the day to provide information on RBA and the funding review process.

## **ADVOCACY**

This year saw CASAC continue in the role of advocating on behalf of member services. This occurred in relation to the closure of the Armidale child sexual assault service as we made many phone calls, supported the counsellor in her role of finishing with clients and wrote letters to the funding office in regards to our concerns. We were also in contact with Community Services regarding the funding review for preserved services in which external consultants were contracted in December 2011. We also discussed concerns with member services about the process.

## **LOVE BiTES**

LOVE BiTES is a relationship violence prevention program and includes a one-day workshop that is usually run in a school-setting with students 14-16 years of age.

A group of service providers who have been trained in the program team up with teachers to run the workshop. The program is delivered in an interactive manner with workers engaging the young people through activities in every session. The workshop ends with a creative afternoon session to consolidate the material learnt during the day. Respectful relationships between males and females are consistently modelled in LOVE BiTES.

A great example of interagency collaboration is that of the Love Bites Program running in the LGA of Marrickville. The CASAC service at Rosemount Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services are the lead agency for Love BiTes in the Inner West Sydney area and have worked collaboratively with other services to deliver training to other professionals in the package, provide feedback about content in the new package and have held a number of sessions at local high schools.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

CASAC Inc reports calendar yearly (Jan - Dec) not per financial year (July - June). This report will outline the financial report for Jan- Dec 2011

Carolyn Hua, Centre Administrator at Jannawi Family Centre continues to provide CASAC Inc with bookkeeping services.

CASAC Inc. does not receive any recurrent funding except for membership fees paid each financial year.

### *CASAC END OF FINANCIAL YEAR 31/12/2011*

1. The year ended with a deficit of \$2669, this is due to the following reasons:
  - There was a decrease in Bank Interest received due to drop in the interest rate from 3.15% in 2010 to 2% in 2011.
  - Increase in costs associated with holding the CASAC Conference associated primarily with printing & stationary, and travel claims for regional members to attend. The actual costs associated with the conference fee however has been stable.
2. The account earned \$606.44 in interest this year which provides CASAC Inc with additional funds.
3. The Statewide was held as a free event after receiving provisioned funds of \$2177.35 from a local child protection committee auspiced by Jannawi Family Centre for a Child Protection Week event.
4. The current balance of the CASAC Inc account is \$16,742.91

*Carolyn Hua*  
*Bookeeper*

**Balance Sheet**

**As of December 2011**

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Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash On Hand		
Uniting Financial At Call Inv	\$20,450.44	
Total Cash On Hand	<u>\$20,450.44</u>	
Total Current Assets		<u>\$20,450.44</u>
Total Assets		<u>\$20,450.44</u>
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Prov - Love Bites	\$3,707.53	
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$3,707.53</u>	
Total Liabilities		<u>\$3,707.53</u>
Net Assets		<u>\$16,742.91</u>
Equity		
Retained Earnings	\$19,967.73	
Current Year Earnings	-\$2,669.13	
Historical Balancing	<u>-\$555.69</u>	
Total Equity		<u>\$16,742.91</u>

**Profit & Loss Statement**

**January 2011 through December 2011**

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Income		
Other Income	\$2,177.35	
Funds Brought forward	\$4,145.30	
Conference Registration	\$8,792.00	
Interest received	\$606.44	
Total Income		<u>\$15,721.09</u>
Cost of Sales		
Gross Profit		<u>\$15,721.09</u>
Expenses		
Consultations	\$222.72	
Venue	\$9,224.55	
Workshops Facilitator	\$300.00	
Travel	\$1,910.48	
Printing & Stationaries	\$271.36	
Catering	\$2,706.67	
Accounts Administration	\$1.91	
Sundry	\$45.00	
Provisions		
Provision - Love Bites	\$3,707.53	
Total Expenses		<u>\$18,390.22</u>
Operating Profit		<u>-\$2,669.13</u>
Other Income		
Other Expenses		
Net Surplus / (Deficit)		<u>-\$2,669.13</u>

**Job Profit & Loss Statement**

**January 2011 through December 2011**

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<b>01 Centre Generated Funds</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Interest received	\$606.44	\$606.44
Total Income	\$606.44	\$606.44
<b>Expense</b>		
Consultations	\$222.72	\$222.72
Catering	\$52.27	\$52.27
Sundry	\$45.00	\$45.00
Total Expense	\$319.99	\$319.99
Net Profit (Loss)	\$286.45	\$286.45
<b>02 Love Bites</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Funds Brought forward	\$4,145.30	\$4,145.30
Total Income	\$4,145.30	\$4,145.30
<b>Expense</b>		
Workshops Facilitator	\$300.00	\$300.00
Catering	\$137.77	\$137.77
Provision - Love Bites	\$3,707.53	\$3,707.53
Total Expense	\$4,145.30	\$4,145.30
Net Profit (Loss)	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>03 CASAC Conference</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Other Income	\$2,177.35	\$2,177.35
Conference Registration	\$8,792.00	\$8,792.00
Total Income	\$10,969.35	\$10,969.35
<b>Expense</b>		
Venue	\$9,224.55	\$9,224.55
Travel	\$1,910.48	\$1,910.48
Printing & Stationaries	\$271.36	\$271.36
Catering	\$2,516.63	\$2,516.63
Accounts Administration	\$1.91	\$1.91
Total Expense	\$13,924.93	\$13,924.93
Net Profit (Loss)	-\$2,955.58	-\$2,955.58