

## WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT?

**Sexual Assault is a serious crime.**

It includes any action in which someone is forced, tricked or threatened into sexual acts. It is when one person abuses their power to make another person do something they don't want to do. Most assaults are committed by someone known to the victim such as a family member, close family friend or someone the victim meets in a social situation or goes out on a date with.

It covers a range of actions and can include:

- *Exhibitionism* which is showing people their genitals (usually in public) to try and get a reaction. This is also known as 'flashing'
- *Indecent Assault* which is touching someone on their genitals without their consent and when they don't want to be touched OR making someone touch genitals when they don't want to
- *Sexual assault* which is making someone give oral sex or giving someone oral sex when there is no consent, having vaginal and/or anal intercourse without consent.

### **Consent:**

Consent means to give permission to another person to do something to your body. If you do not want something to happen, you are scared or worried or have been tricked or forced, then this is not consent. The law in NSW says that if you are under 16 years of age- you cannot give consent.

*Child sexual assault* means any of the above things that involves children aged under 16 years.

*Aggravated sexual assault* is when the person who is abusing another person has a job or a relationship where they should protect the victim but hurt them instead or use violence and/or weapons to hurt the other person and sexually assault them.

*Sexual harassment* means someone says stuff and makes comments about sex that makes you feel uncomfortable. It might include saying things about how you look, how you dress, asking about your personal/sex life, making suggestions about the sexual things you could do with them or what they can do to you or straight out asking you to have sex with them when you believe that you have been clear that you don't want to.

An assault may happen once or may keep happening many times.

Nothing is so bad that it can't be talked about. **CASAC Inc member services believe that the abuser is totally to blame for the sexual assault.**