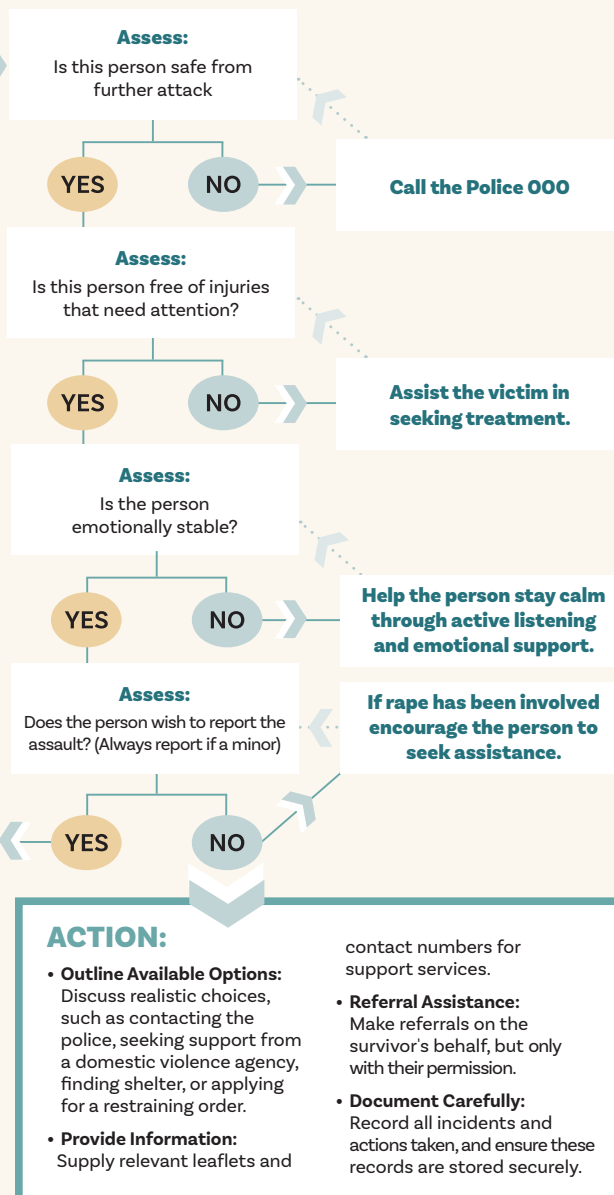


RESPECT

- Believe the victim.
- Do not ask for proof of violence.
- Assure the victim it is not their fault.
- Re-assure that confidentiality will be maintained but explain its boundaries.

USE THIS DECISION TREE TO GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE INITIAL PROCESS.

With each **NO** resolve the situation and then return to the last **YES** to proceed.



HELP

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

- **Immediate Needs First:** Ensure the person is safe from the perpetrator and treat any physical injuries.
- **Hospital Escort:** Accompany them to the hospital if medical attention is needed.

EMOTIONAL:

Assess the person's emotional state. Listen empathically. Use PIES: paraphrasing, "I" statements, emotional labelling, and summarising, like this:

Paraphrasing is simply repeating a thought back to the person in your own words.

"I" statements are subjective responses, such as, "I'm so angry at the person who did this to you. I want to help you in any way I can."

Emotional labelling involves identifying something for what it is. If the person says, "I feel so ugly and stupid," you can say, "It's normal to feel badly when someone violates your dignity."

Summarising is also repeating back, but generally after the person has told the entire story.

Assure the person that the sexual assault was not their fault and that they can, and will, feel better in time.

LEGAL:

Share the survivor's legal options. If the survivor is a minor, mandatory reporting laws apply, and authorities must be informed. If the survivor is over 18, reporting the assault is their choice. Ask if they want to report the assault. If they choose to do so, they will need to work with local police, legal services, and forensic specialists. It is crucial to preserve evidence immediately. Advise the survivor to avoid showering, bathing, or even urinating if possible, and not to clean the area, change clothes, or comb their hair before evidence is collected.

In Australia, survivors of sexual assault can undergo a forensic medical examination without having to immediately report the incident to the police. Evidence collected during this examination can be securely stored for a period (often up to three months), giving the survivor time to decide whether they wish to pursue a formal report. This service is available through specialised Sexual Assault Services in each state and territory.

Access to free medical and counselling services varies by state but is generally provided when an assault is reported. While reporting can help empower survivors, it does not always lead to the prosecution of the perpetrator. For example, statistics from the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that a significant number of sexual assault cases do not progress to a conviction. The process of reporting should always be approached with care and respect for the survivor's wishes.

If a survivor is unsure about reporting, reassure them that they have options and time to decide. Some may choose not to report due to concerns about retaliation, social or cultural stigma, financial dependency, or other fears. Always respect the survivor's decision and never pressure them to report. Explain they can still have a forensic examination and delay reporting if that feels safer for them. Encourage them to access support services and consider seeking help from local Sexual Assault Services or specialised healthcare providers.

PSYCHOLOGICAL:

Depending on the person's support network, natural resilience, and other factors, long-term psychological support may be necessary. Reassure the survivor that seeking help is not a sign of weakness. Encourage them to access free counselling services available through state-funded programs and specialised support organisations.

NEW SOUTH WALES (NSW):

- NSW Health's Sexual Assault Services offer medical and forensic examinations without requiring immediate police involvement. Evidence collected can be stored securely, allowing survivors time to decide on reporting. [NSW Health](#)

VICTORIA:

- The Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine provides forensic medical examinations, with evidence stored securely if the survivor chooses to delay reporting to the police. This approach ensures that evidence is preserved while respecting the survivor's autonomy. Examinations can take place as Crisis Centres. [Sexual Assault Crisis Line](#)

QUEENSLAND:

- Queensland Health's policy allows for forensic medical examinations without immediate police involvement. Evidence is collected and stored, giving survivors the option to report the assault at a later time. [Queensland Health](#)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA:

- Yarrow Place Rape and Sexual Assault Service offers a "just-in-case" forensic medical examination. Evidence is collected and stored securely for 12 months, providing survivors with time to decide on reporting. [WCHN](#)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA:

- The Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC) provides forensic examinations without immediate police involvement. Evidence is stored securely, allowing survivors to decide on reporting at a later stage. [WNHs Health](#)

TASMANIA:

- The Sexual Assault Support Service (SASS) offers forensic medical examinations with the option to delay reporting to the police. Evidence is preserved, giving survivors time to make an informed decision. [SASS](#)

NORTHERN TERRITORY:

- The Sexual Assault Referral Centre provides forensic examinations without requiring immediate police involvement. Evidence is stored securely, allowing survivors to decide on reporting when they are ready. [SARC](#)

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY (ACT):

- The Canberra Rape Crisis Centre offers forensic medical examinations with the option to delay reporting to the police. Evidence is collected and stored securely, providing survivors with time to decide. [CRCC](#)

It's important to note that while these services are available, the specific procedures and timeframes for evidence storage may vary between regions. Survivors are encouraged to contact their local Sexual Assault Service or healthcare provider to understand the options and support available in their area.

ARE THERE CHILDREN INVOLVED?

IF CHILDREN ARE INVOLVED, YOU ARE MANDATED TO REPORT THIS TO

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY (ACT):

Child and Youth Protection Services

Phone: 1300 556 729

After Hours Crisis Service: 1300 556 729

Email: childprotection@act.gov.au

[More Information](#)

NEW SOUTH WALES (NSW):

Department of Communities and Justice

Child Protection Helpline: 13 21 11 (24/7)

[More Information](#)

NORTHERN TERRITORY (NT):

Territory Families

Child Abuse Hotline: 1800 700 250

[More Information](#)

QUEENSLAND (QLD):

Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

Regional Intake Services: [Contact Details](#)

After Hours: 1800 177 135

SOUTH AUSTRALIA (SA):

Department for Child Protection

Child Abuse Report Line (CARL): 13 14 78 (24/7)

[More Information](#)

TASMANIA (TAS):

Child Safety Service

Advice and Referral Line: 1800 000 123

[More Information](#)

VICTORIA (VIC):

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

Child Protection Contacts: [Contact Details](#)

After Hours Child Protection

Emergency Service: 13 12 78

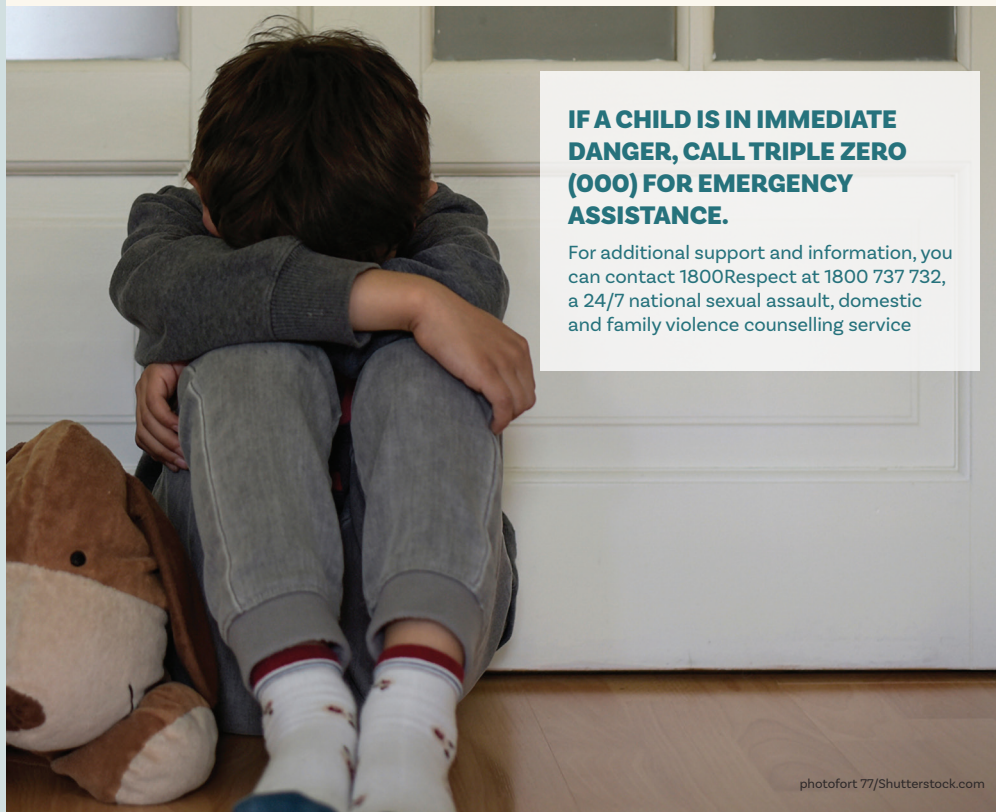
WESTERN AUSTRALIA (WA):

Department of Communities, Child Protection

and Family Support

Central Intake Team: 1800 273 889

[More Information](#)



IF A CHILD IS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER, CALL TRIPLE ZERO (000) FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.

For additional support and information, you can contact 1800Respect at 1800 737 732, a 24/7 national sexual assault, domestic and family violence counselling service

In Australia, each state and territory offer government-funded programs providing free counselling and support services for individuals affected by sexual or domestic abuse. Below is a summary of these services:

NATIONAL SERVICES:

- **1800RESPECT:** A 24/7 national counselling, information, and support service for those impacted by sexual assault, domestic, or family violence. Contact them at 1800 737 732 or visit **1800RESPECT**.

1800RESPECT

- **Full Stop Australia:** Provides trauma counselling and support for individuals affected by sexual, domestic, or family violence. Reach them at 1800 385 578 or visit **Full Stop Australia**.

Full Stop

STATE AND TERRITORY SERVICES:

NEW SOUTH WALES (NSW):

- **NSW Health Sexual Assault Services:** Offers free counselling and medical services to sexual assault survivors. More information is available on the NSW Health website.

VICTORIA:

- **Sexual Assault Crisis Line (SACL):** Provides after-hours telephone counselling and support. Call 1800 806 292 or visit **SACL**.
- **Centres Against Sexual Assault (CASA):** Offers counselling and support services across Victoria. Find your local **CASA** at [CASA Forum](#).

QUEENSLAND:

- **DVConnect:** Provides crisis support and counselling for those affected by domestic and family violence. Contact them at 1800 811 811 or visit **DVConnect**.
- **Sexual Assault Helpline:** Offers telephone support and counselling. Call 1800 010 120 or visit Sexual Assault Helpline.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA:

- **Yarrow Place:** Provides services for people aged 16 and over who have been sexually assaulted. Contact them at (08) 8226 8777 or visit Yarrow Place.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA:

- **Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC):** Offers counselling and medical services. Call (08) 6458 1828 or visit SARC.

TASMANIA:

- **Sexual Assault Support Service (SASS):** Provides counselling and support services. Contact them at (03) 6231 0044 or visit **SASS**.

NORTHERN TERRITORY:

- **Ruby Gaea:** Offers counselling and support for survivors of sexual assault. Call (08) 8945 0155 or visit **Ruby Gaea**.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY (ACT):

- **Canberra Rape Crisis Centre:** Provides counselling and support services. Contact them at (02) 6247 2525 or visit **CRCC**.

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