# Submission on sexual assault and sexual harassment at university

The Australian Human Rights Commission is calling for submissions relating to individuals’ experiences of sexual assault and sexual harassment at university. This is part of a major project being undertaken by the Commission which is looking at the prevalence, nature and reporting of sexual assault and sexual harassment at Australian universities.

This submissions process is separate, but related to the National university student survey of sexual assault and sexual harassment being conducted by the Commission. If you have responded to that survey, you are still free to make a submission here. If you have not received an invitation to participate in the survey but would like to have your say, you can do so by making a submission.

Any individual or group can make a submission. This includes parents, university staff and former students. You do not have to be a currently enrolled student to make a submission. Any question in the submission form that does not apply to you, can be left blank.

If you decide to make a submission but find that either during or after completing the submission, that relaying the experience(s) of sexual assault and/or harassment is causing you distress a list of support and counselling services is provided on the last page of this submission form.

For further information about the submissions process please read the [FAQs about submissions](https://www.humanrights.gov.au/faqs-about-sexual-assault-and-harassment-submissions).

**Please send your completed submission form to** [universitiesproject@humanrights.gov.au](mailto:universitiesproject@humanrights.gov.au)**. You can also send the submission form by post to:**

Australian Human Rights Commission  
GPO Box 5218  
Sydney NSW 2001  
Australia

# Submission on sexual assault and sexual harassment at university

***Please note: responding to these questions is optional. If there are questions you feel do not apply to you or which you do not feel comfortable answering or cannot answer, please feel free to leave the response blank.***

# Part A: Demographic information

# How old are you?

## At which Australian University are you currently enrolled?

Australian Catholic University

Bond University

Central Queensland University

Charles Darwin University

Charles Sturt University

Curtin University of Technology

Deakin University

Edith Cowan University

Federation University Australia

Flinders University

Griffith University

James Cook University

La Trobe University

Macquarie University

Monash University

Murdoch University

Queensland University of Technology

RMIT University

Southern Cross University

Swinburne University of Technology

The Australian National University

The University of Adelaide

The University of Melbourne

The University of New England

The University of New South Wales

The University of Newcastle

The University of Notre Dame Australia

The University of Queensland

The University of Western Australia

University of Canberra

University of South Australia

University of Southern Queensland

University of Sydney

University of Tasmania

University of Technology Sydney

University of the Sunshine Coast

University of Wollongong

Victoria University

Western Sydney University

Other – please specify

## Are you currently enrolled as an undergraduate or postgraduate student? If you have concurrent enrolments, please select the highest level.

Undergraduate

Postgraduate

Not a currently enrolled student

## Are you enrolled as a domestic or international student?

Domestic

International

Not a currently enrolled student

## Is this your first year at university?

Yes

No

Not a currently enrolled student

## Do you currently undertake your university studies:

On campus

Wholly off campus

Mainly on campus with some off campus

Mainly off campus with some on campus

Mostly online

I am currently on professional placement

Other – please specify \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## Which of the following best describes your living arrangements during semester/session?

Residential college University accommodation such as a residential hall or college

Private accommodation

Other – please specify: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## Do you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?

Yes

No

## Do you have a disability?

Yes

No

## What is your gender?

Male

Female

Other please specify: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## Which of the following best describes the way you think of your sexual orientation?

Straight/Heterosexual

Gay or lesbian

Bisexual

Questioning

Other please specify: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Part B: Your experiences

This section asks you about whether you have experienced sexual assault or sexual harassment at university, and if you have, asks you to tell us more about your experience(s).

This could include incidents which occurred in locations such as: your university campus, at a university social event, at a residential college, on placement as part of your studies or on public transport to or from university.

Sexual assault and sexual harassment can include a range of behaviours such as:

* Sexual intercourse without consent
* Unwelcome touching, hugging, cornering or kissing
* Inappropriate staring or leering that made you feel intimidated
* Sexual gestures, indecent exposure or inappropriate display of the body
* Sexually suggestive comments or jokes that made you feel offended
* Sexually explicit pictures, posters or gifts that made you feel offended
* Repeated or inappropriate invitations to go out on dates
* Intrusive questions about your private life or physical appearance that made you feel offended or uncomfortable
* Sexually explicit emails or SMS messages
* Inappropriate physical contact
* Repeated or inappropriate advances on email, social networking websites or internet chat rooms by another student or someone employed by the University
* Inappropriate images or film of you distributed on some form of social media without your consent
* Requests or pressure for sex or other sexual acts
* Any other unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature.

## B1 Have you experienced sexual assault or sexual harassment at university? If you have, please tell us more about your experience(s). For example, what happened, when did the incident(s) occur, where did the incident(s) occur and who was involved?

**B2** **If you have experienced sexual harassment or sexual assault at university, please tell us more about what happened after your experience(s). For example:**

* + Did you report the incident(s) to your university, residential college, police or someone else? If so, were you satisfied with the response?
  + Did you get access to support after you reported?
  + Were you provided with information about what actions you could take in relation to the incident?

# Part C: Your views and recommendations for change

This section asks you about your views on sexual assault and sexual harassment, and what you think universities should do to reduce the prevalence of these incidents. You may wish to respond to the following questions:

## What action do you think should be taken to reduce sexual assault and sexual harassment at university?

## Do you think there are specific factors that contribute to the prevalence of these incidents at university?

## What do you think needs to change?

# Part D: Contact Details

We will only use your name and email address in case we need to contact you about your submission. We will not publish this information or provide it to anyone.

**Name *(will not be published)*:**

**Email *(will not be published)*:**

# Support services

Making a submission about an experience of sexual assault and/or harassment can be distressing. If you decide to make a submission but find that either during or after completing the submission, that relaying the experience(s) of sexual assault and/or harassment is causing you distress, you can access counselling support through:

* 1800RESPECT (24/7 national sexual assault and domestic and family violence counselling service);
* Your university’s on-campus counselling service;
* Local sexual assault service/rape crisis centre.

A list of these services is available here: [www.humanrights.gov.au/list-sexual-assault-services](https://www.humanrights.gov.au/list-sexual-assault-services).

If you want any further information concerning this project or if you have any problems which may be related to your involvement in the project, you can contact the Commission by email: [universitiesproject@humanrights.gov.au](mailto:universitiesproject@humanrights.gov.au) or phone: [(02) 9284 9600](tel:0292849600).

If you would like more information about sexual harassment, or you would like to make a complaint of sexual harassment to the Australian Human Rights Commission, you can contact the National Information Service:

**Phone:** [1300 656 419](tel:1300656419) or [02 9284 9888](tel:0292849888)  
**Email:** [infoservice@humanrights.gov.au](mailto:infoservice@humanrights.gov.au)  
**Fax:** 02 9284 9611  
**Online**: [Enquiry form](https://www.humanrights.gov.au/node/7824)  
**TTY:** 1800 620 241 (toll free)  
**National Relay Service:**1300 555 727 (Speak and Listen) or [www.relayservice.gov.au](http://www.relayservice.gov.au/)  
**Translating and Interpreting Service:** 131 450 or [www.tisnational.gov.au](http://www.tisnational.gov.au/)

You can also make a complaint online at [www.humanrights.gov.au/complaints/make-complaint](https://www.humanrights.gov.au/complaints/make-complaint).