

# MEDICAL OPTIONS AND HELP AFTER A RECENT SEXUAL ASSAULT



This is an Easy Read information sheet made by WWILD Sexual Violence Prevention Association Inc.



You can ask a worker or someone you trust to help read this information.

Not bold

Some words are in **bold blue** writing.

**Bold blue**

We will explain what these words mean.

Links are underlined in [bright blue.](#)

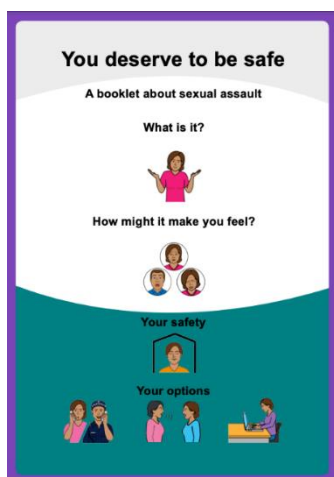


Sexual assault is a crime.



If it has happened to you, it is not your fault.

This information sheet is about medical options and care after a **recent sexual assault**.



You can click the following link to learn more about sexual assault in:

[\*You deserve to be Safe: A booklet about sexual assault.\*](#)



If you have been sexually assaulted, it is your right:



- To talk to police.



- To not talk to police.



- To get support.



- To get medical care.



- To be treated with respect.



- To be safe.

- To change your mind at any time.

## Your medical options after a recent sexual assault



For this information sheet, a **recent sexual assault** is an assault that has just happened or happened up to seven days ago.



You can **report** to police.



You can choose **not to report** to police.



You can get medical help from your local hospital.



You can get medical help from your doctor.



You can get a **forensic medical examination** at the hospital (see page 10).



You can get a **forensic medical examination** and **not** report to police.



You can get medical care and not do a **forensic medical examination**.



If you do not want to go to the hospital or your doctor, you can get emergency contraception from a pharmacy.

Emergency contraception is sometimes called the **morning after pill**.



You have the right to make these choices, even if:

- You have a **Guardian** appointed by QCAT.
- You have signed an **Enduring Power of Attorney** document.



- Someone in your life wants to make the choice for you.

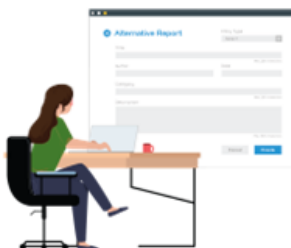
For more information on reporting to police, you can see our Easy Read information sheets about:



- **Calling Policelink After Sexual Assault**



- **Online reporting for sexual assault**



- **Alternative reporting for Sexual Assault**



- **Making a Statement to Police and 93a Interviews**

## Getting help at the hospital.



Queensland hospitals can help you after a recent sexual assault.



They can help you with:

- Deciding what you want to do.



- Reporting to police.



- Getting medical care for any injuries.



- Doing a **forensic medical examination.**



- Providing emotional support





- Referring you to sexual assault services for more support.

**DVCQCONNECT**  
*Be heard. Be safe.*

For more information about help at your local hospital, call the **Sexual Assault Helpline** on 1800 010 120.

## About the Forensic Medical Examination.



A **forensic medical examination** is done to collect **evidence** from your body after a sexual assault.



**Evidence** is information that shows that a crime has happened.



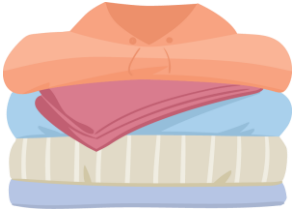
This **evidence** might be used later in court.



A **forensic medical examination** is done by a specially trained nurse or doctor.



This only happens if you agree to it.



If the nurse or doctor asks for your clothes as **evidence**, the hospital can provide new clothes.

You can get your clothes back later.



**Evidence** might also be written notes about any injuries you have.



The **evidence** will be carefully stored by the nurse or doctor



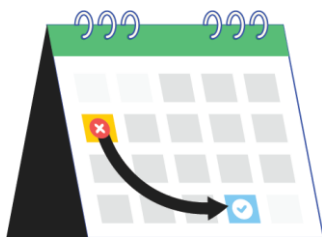
It will be tested at a special lab if you decide to report to police.



You can have a **forensic medical examination** even if do not want to report to police.



This is also called **Forensic Medical Examination – Collect and Store.**



This used to be called a **just-in-case medical examination**, this is done **just-in-case** you decide to report to police later.



You can have a support person with you during the examination.



This might be a hospital social worker or another person you trust.



The hospital can provide you with more support after the **Forensic Medical Examination.**



After the **forensic medical examination**, if you want to report to police:



- The hospital can help you contact police to make a **Sexual Assault Report**



- The police can come to the hospital to take a **statement**.

## About medical care after recent sexual assault



It is important to get medical care after a **recent sexual assault**.

But remember, this is still your choice.

You can get this care from:



- The emergency unit at hospital



- Your doctor

You might need medical care for the following reasons:



- To check for any injuries from the assault



- To treat any injuries from the assault.



- To treat sexually transmitted infections.



- To be given emergency contraception.

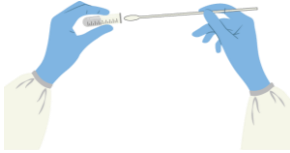




- To get prenatal support if you become pregnant and want to keep the pregnancy.

## Getting medical care might

### involve:



Mouth swabs or genital swabs.



Blood tests or urine tests.



Taking medication or getting a  
needle.

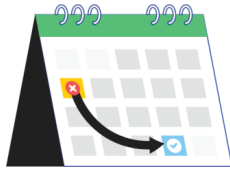


You can get support from someone  
you trust when you get medical  
care.



You can say no if you do not want  
to do these things.

## Options for sexual assault that is not recent.



You can get support after a sexual assault even if it is not recent.



You can report to police.



You can access counselling.



You can access support for pregnancy and parenting.



You can access support to stop a pregnancy.



You can apply to **Victims Assistance Queensland** for financial assistance as a victim of crime.



You can get support from **VictimConnect** to fill out the application forms.

See the following page for information on getting support.

## How to get support



You can call these numbers for help.

**1800RESPECT**

To speak to someone about sexual assault or domestic violence you can call:

**1800 Respect** on **1800 737 732**

Or

**DVCQCONNECT**  
*Be heard. Be safe.*

**Sexual Assault Helpline** on **1800 010 120** from 7.30am till 11:30pm.

To get support as a victim of crime you can call:

**VICTIM & CONNECT**

**VictimConnect** on **1300 318 940**,  
or visit [www.victimconnect.org.au](http://www.victimconnect.org.au)



## **WWILD Sexual Violence**

**Prevention** provides support to people with intellectual disability who are victims of crime.

You can call **WWILD** on **07 3262 9877**.



**Children by Choice** can provide support to people for all pregnancy options, including counselling and information.

You can call them on **1800 177 725**

For Legal help you can call:



**Women's Legal Service** on **1800 957 957**

Or



**Legal Aid** on **1300 651 188**



**Remember if you are in danger  
call **000**.**

**If you have been sexually assaulted it is not your fault. You  
have a right to be safe and to get support.**