



About ARAS

The Aged Rights Advocacy Service (ARAS) is a free, confidential and statewide service, which has been supporting older people since 1990.

Your privacy

ARAS values confidentiality and respects your right to privacy. If you believe we have breached your privacy you can lodge a complaint by writing to the ARAS Operations Manager and/or contacting the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, Tel 1300 363 992.

Your feedback

ARAS is committed to continually improving the quality of its service. If you are unhappy with any aspect of our service, we encourage you to raise the issue with us.

In the first instance, your complaint will be handled by our Operations Manager. Alternatively, you can have it reviewed by external agencies such as Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN), Tel 1800 700 600 or the Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner, Tel 1800 232 007.

Visit our website to read our Consumer Compliments, Comments and Complaints Policy and Privacy Policy.

aras
Aged Rights
Advocacy Service

Contact us

Office hours Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm
175 Fullarton Road
Dulwich SA 5065

By appointment only at our outlets

9/46-52 Ocean Street
Victor Harbor SA 5211
(access from Coral Street)

2/1 First Street
Nuriootpa SA 5355

21 Denny Street
Berri SA 5243

Tel (08) 8232 5377
Aged Care Advocacy Line
1800 700 600 (toll free)
Fax (08) 8232 1794

aras@agedrights.asn.au
www.sa.agedrights.asn.au

TTY 13 36 77
SSR 1300 555 727

Translating and Interpreting Service
13 14 50

ARAS is funded by the Australian Government.

ARAS is the South Australian member of the Commonwealth funded Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN).

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Sexual Assault
it is *not* your fault!



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What is sexual assault?

Sexual assault is when a person is forced or tricked into sexual acts or activity against their will or without their consent.

It can also be referred to as sexual abuse or someone being 'sexually demanding'.

Sexual assault can be perpetrated by intimate partners, family members, service providers or residents in residential aged care services and can include kissing, touching, masturbation, penetration, sexually explicit images and language, online scams, or may take other forms.

Talking about sexual assault

Older people who experience sexual assault may feel embarrassed, ashamed or believe it is their fault. This happens particularly when sexual assault occurs with someone in a relationship of trust. It is a traumatic event from which they may never recover.

ARAS wants you to know that we are ready to listen to you and assist you.

Your rights

All older people have the right to be free from sexual assault. You have a right:

- to be treated with dignity and respect
- to be and feel safe
- to be heard and believed
- to access support services and
- to be given information about your safety.

How can ARAS assist?

ARAS can provide information about the choices you have and the support services available.

If the sexual assault occurred in a residential aged care home or if the alleged abuser was a home care provider, it is important that you talk to the manager of the organisation.

ARAS Advocates can discuss strategies with you that will help to keep you safe or speak on your behalf, if required.

Your provider is expected to put measures in place to ensure you are supported and safe. Your residential aged care provider is responsible for making a report to the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC) under

the Serious Incident Report Scheme (SIRS).

If you decide to make a police report as well as a report to the ACQSC, we can be by your side. When you do this: you do not need to be alone.

Other services you can contact

- Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, 1800 951 822
- Adult Safeguarding Unit, 1800 372 310
- South Australia Police, 131 444. In case of an emergency, dial 000
- Domestic Violence Crisis Line, 1800 800 098
- Yarrow Place Rape & Sexual Assault Service, 1800 817 421. (08) 8226 8787 (after hours and emergency)
- Women's Legal Service, free legal advice, referrals and representation for women in South Australia, (08) 8221 5553 or 1800 816 349, TTY: 1800 670 864
- 1800RESPECT 1800 737 732