



# THE HUNTING GROUND AUSTRALIA PROJECT

ACTION TOOLKIT – JUNE 2017

goodpitch<sup>2</sup>  
AUSTRALIA

*The topic of sexual violence can trigger traumatic memories for survivors. Survivors have the right to talk about their experiences on their own terms. If you sense that a survivor needs additional support, contact the national hotlines:*

## **1800 RESPECT**

Free and confidential 24/7 National Sexual Assault, Domestic and Family Violence Counselling Service.

Call **1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732)** and ask to speak to a trauma counsellor.

[www.1800respect.org.au](http://www.1800respect.org.au)

*For a comprehensive list of local services in your State or Territory, please visit:*

[www.1800respect.org.au/service-support/](http://www.1800respect.org.au/service-support/)

## **LIFELINE – CRISIS SUPPORT**

24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services.

**13 11 44**

[www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)

## **MENSLINE**

Free and confidential 24/7 professional telephone and online support and information service for Australian men.

**1300 789 978**

[www.mensline.org.au](http://www.mensline.org.au)

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Emergency Services: **000**

Police Assistance (non-emergency): **131 444**

*If you are a survivor and would like to reach out to other university students and supporters:*

## **END RAPE ON CAMPUS (EROC) AUSTRALIA**

EROC Australia works to end sexual violence at universities and residential colleges through direct support for survivors and their communities; prevention through education; and policy reform at the campus, state, and federal levels.

[www.endrapeoncampusau.org/about/](http://www.endrapeoncampusau.org/about/)

*If you want to make a complaint in relation to an incident:*

## **AUSTRALIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (AHRC)**

The AHRC can investigate complaints regarding sexual harassment and discrimination at universities, and attempts to resolve complaints through conciliation.

[www.humanrights.gov.au/complaint-information](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/complaint-information)

## **STATE & TERRITORY ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BODIES**

Sexual harassment complaints can also be made to local state/territory anti-discriminatory bodies.

[www.ag.gov.au/RightsAndProtections/HumanRights/Pages/Australias-Anti-Discrimination-Law.aspx](http://www.ag.gov.au/RightsAndProtections/HumanRights/Pages/Australias-Anti-Discrimination-Law.aspx)

## **OMBUDSMAN'S OFFICES**

Where a survivor believes that a university has acted unfairly or otherwise mismanaged a sexual violence case, they may be able to make complaints to an Ombudsman office. Complaints about public universities and higher education providers can be made to the relevant state/territory Ombudsman.

[www.ombudsman.gov.au/about/related-sites#state-ombudsman](http://www.ombudsman.gov.au/about/related-sites#state-ombudsman)

International students can make complaints regarding private higher education providers to the Overseas Students Ombudsman.

[www.ombudsman.gov.au/making-a-complaint/overseas-students](http://www.ombudsman.gov.au/making-a-complaint/overseas-students)

## **TERTIARY EDUCATION QUALITY AND STANDARDS AGENCY (TEQSA)**

TEQSA is Australia's independent national regulator of the higher education sector. There may be circumstances in which a survivor, university womens officer or other student representative can make a complaint about their university to TEQSA, who monitors higher education providers' compliance with the *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011* and a set of quality standards, known as the Threshold Standards.

[www.teqsa.gov.au/complaints](http://www.teqsa.gov.au/complaints)

## FACTS FROM THE FILM: THE UNITED STATES

- 6 to 20 percent of women who enroll in college are sexually assaulted while in college.<sup>1</sup>
- 88 percent of women raped on campus do not report.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2012, 45 percent of colleges reported zero sexual assaults.<sup>3</sup>
- Only 2 to 8 percent of sexual assault claims are found to be false.<sup>4</sup>
- Less than 8 percent of men in college commit more than 90 percent of sexual assaults.<sup>5</sup>
- 95 percent of college presidents say their institutions handle sexual assault “appropriately.”<sup>6</sup>

In an effort to dismiss the crisis of campus sexual assault, some deniers have attacked the findings in the film and some of the victims in it. For further information about the facts of *The Hunting Ground* see <http://thehuntinggroundfilm.com/the-facts/>



### What is Title IX?

Activists in the film used Title IX to argue that their universities' failures to acknowledge and respond to sexual violence created a hostile learning environment for female students. Title IX is a US civil rights law that prohibits gender-based discrimination in education. It requires any US university receiving federal funds to:

- write and widely distribute a policy and grievance procedure for sexual assault
- appoint a Title IX coordinator to oversee all complaints
- respond promptly and effectively to complaints
- perform adequate, reliable and impartial investigations of complaints

1. Fisher, Cullen, Turner (2000); Krebs, Lindquist, Warner, Fisher, Martin (2007); Princeton Sexual Experiences Survey (2008); University of Oregon Sexual Violence and Institutional Betrayal Survey (2014); MIT Community Attitudes on Sexual Assault (2014)  
 2. Kilpatrick, Resnick, Ruggiero, Conoscenti, McCauley (2007)  
 3. Washington Post (2014)  
 4. Percentage of sexual assault claims found to be false: 8% Grace, Lloyd, & Smith (1992); 3% Kelly, Lovett, & Regan (2005); 2% Heenan & Murray (2006); 7% Lonsway & Archambault (2008); 5% Spohn, White, & Tellis (2014)  
 5. David Lisak Ph D and Paul M Miller (2002)  
 6. 2014 Gallup poll



# THE HUNTING GROUND AUSTRALIA PROJECT

*The Hunting Ground* is a critically acclaimed US feature-length documentary chronicling the personal stories of students who have reported sexual assault on campuses, and the failure of a number of American universities to respond effectively and appropriately to these reports.

*The Hunting Ground* was brought to Australia by Madman Entertainment and was one of six documentary films selected for the 2015 philanthropic Good Pitch<sup>2</sup> Australia initiative held at the Sydney Opera House on 16 September 2015. Good Pitch brings together filmmakers with foundations, not-for-profits, campaigners, philanthropists, policy-makers, brands, educators, broadcasters and media to forge powerful alliances around ground breaking films that will have a significant impact in relation to issues of social importance – and benefit the partners, the development of the films and society as a whole.

From the outset, the objective of The Hunting Ground Australia Project has been to involve the whole sector – both staff and students – in a collaborative, comprehensive and unified campaign, around the prevalence of, and responses to, sexual violence on Australian universities.

The campaign involves a number of streams including:

- an ongoing campus screening program of *The Hunting Ground*, supported by panel discussions and audience Q&A – see <http://www.thehuntinggroundaustralia.com.au/participating-universities/>
- an independent national survey, undertaken in late 2016, by the Australian Human Rights Commission with seed funding from The Hunting Ground Australia Project and support from Universities Australia. Survey results will be released by the Commission on 1 August 2017 – see <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/sex-discrimination/projects/university-sexual-assault-and-sexual-harassment-project>
- the development of a best practice policies and procedures framework, through the Strengthening Australian Universities' Responses to Sexual Assault and Harassment project, by the Australian Human Rights Centre at UNSW, led by Professor Andrea Durbach, to be released on 3 August 2017 – see <http://www.ahrcentre.org/topics/strengthening-australian-university-responses-sexual-assault-and-harassment>
- the adaptation of ethics and consent training, including bystander strategies, to the Australian university context. The Sex, Safety & Respect program and training materials have been developed by the Full Stop Foundation, led by Professor Moira Carmody and Karen Willis OAM – see <http://www.fullstopfoundation.org.au/MainMenu/Training/Sex-Safety-Respect>

## THE AUSTRALIAN CONTEXT

The Hunting Ground Australia Project acknowledges that there are significant cultural, financial and structural differences between American and Australian universities and student life.

While American universities often have their own campus police forces, responsibility for investigating reports of sexual violence in Australia primarily lies with State and Territory police forces. Australian universities also have a more limited role to play in collecting incident data and investigating allegations of sexual violence, – there is no Australian equivalent of the Title IX mechanism utilised by student activists in the film.

**Nonetheless, Australian universities have a responsibility to create a safe, secure and nondiscriminatory environment for staff and students.**

### What do we know about sexual violence in Australian universities?

Despite anecdotal evidence, there has to date been no comprehensive, sector-wide independent statistical information about the prevalence of sexual assault, sexual threats and sexual harassment specifically in Australian university environments.<sup>7</sup>

What we do know about Australian society generally is that:

- 1 in 5 women and 1 in 20 men had experienced sexual violence since the age of 15.<sup>8</sup>
- Of these, 75% of women had experienced sexual violence by a known person, most commonly a boyfriend/girlfriend or date.<sup>9</sup>
- Women in the 18 to 24 years age group – accounting for some 59% of students at Australia's higher education institutions — were more likely, compared to all women, to have experienced sexual assault in the 12 months prior to the survey.

As noted above, in August 2016 the Australian Human Rights Commission and Universities Australia launched a national university student survey and open submission process, designed to assess the prevalence of sexual assault and sexual harassment faced by university students. Results will be released by the Commission on 1 August 2017.

7. Two National Union of Students (NUS) Talk About It surveys explored student's experience of sexual violence: Courtney Sloane assisted by Keelia Fitzpatrick, National Union of Students Women's Department, *Talk About It Survey: Results and Recommendations*, 2011, <https://d3n8a8pro7vnm.cloudfront.net/nus/pages/33/attachments/original/1435818157/talk-about-it-survey-results-and-recommendations.pdf?1435818157>; NUS Women's Department, *Talk About It 2015 survey*, released 2 February 2016, [https://d3n8a8pro7vnm.cloudfront.net/nus/pages/144/attachments/original/1454369041/Talk\\_about\\_it\\_Survey\\_Report.pdf?1454369041](https://d3n8a8pro7vnm.cloudfront.net/nus/pages/144/attachments/original/1454369041/Talk_about_it_Survey_Report.pdf?1454369041). While the sample sizes of the surveys were small, and the methodology could be improved; the surveys nonetheless provided some concerning indicators of the experience of Australian women university students. In 2011 the Review into the Treatment of Women at the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) examined the incidence of sexual violence there and found that ADFA was "not alone in facing these challenges. Other tertiary institutions and residential colleges have similar concerns." Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), Report on the Review into the Treatment of Women at the Australian Defence Force Academy: Phase 1 of the Review into the Treatment of Women in the Australian Defence Force (Phase 1 Report), 3 November 2011, p.xxv, [www.defencereview.humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/ADFA\\_2011.pdf](http://www.defencereview.humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/ADFA_2011.pdf)

8. The ABS defines "sexual violence" as including sexual assault and/or sexual threat: Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS), 2012 Personal Safety Survey (PSS), ABS cat. no. 4906.0, Introduction, [www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4906.0Chapter1002012](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4906.0Chapter1002012)

9. *ibid.*

# TIMELINE

2011

NUS *Talk About It* survey.

27 FEB 2015

US premiere of *The Hunting Ground*.

16 SEP 2015

Good Pitch Australia at Sydney Opera House.

SEP-OCT 2015

Initial discussions between THGAP and UA regarding campus screenings.

MAY 2015

Initial research and project design undertaken by THGAP and the AHRCentre.

18 NOV 2015

University staff previews of *The Hunting Ground* commence.

JUN 2015

Sydney Film Festival screens *The Hunting Ground*.

OCT 2015

THGAP commissions the FSF to adapt existing ethics and consent training programs to the Australian university context.

AUG 2015

THGAP commissions the AHRCentre to implement the *Strengthening Australian University Responses to Sexual Assault and Harassment Project*.

OCT 2015

The AHRCentre and the Commission discuss the possible scope and nature of the student survey, then commence discussions with Universities Australia with a view to surveying across all 39 Australian universities.

National Union of Students (NUS), Australian Human Rights Centre (AHRCentre), Australian Human Rights Commission (the Commission), Universities Australia (UA), Full Stop Foundation(FSF).

**2 FEB 2016**

Launch of 2015 NUS  
*Talk About It* survey.

**12 FEB 2016**

Launch of UA's  
Respect. Now.  
Always.

**22 FEB 2016**

Campus screenings of *The Hunting Ground* at Australian universities commence.

**FEB 2016**

Seed funding agreement between THGAP and the Commission for survey finalised.

**FEB 2016**

All 39 universities agree to participate in, and contribute funding to, the national university student survey of sexual assault and sexual harassment to be conducted by the Commission.

**FEB 2016**

The AHRCentre and the Commission establish a working group to assist with drafting the survey instrument.

**4 MAR 2016**

FSF training materials completed.

**23 AUG 2016**

Launch of Commission's *University Sexual Assault and Harassment Project*.

**SEP 2016**

Fair Agenda launches residential colleges survey.

**SEP 2016**

The Commission conducts the national student survey at all 39 universities in three waves, between 21 September 2016 and 9 December 2016.

**APR 2017**

The Caledonia Foundation awarded Philanthropy Australia's 2017 Gender Wise Philanthropy Award for Good Pitch's *The Hunting Ground Australia Project*.

**21 JUN 2017**

*The Hunting Ground* screens on ABC2. THGAP releases its Action Toolkit to empower key audiences, including students, parents, alumni, faculty, advisors and administrators, to take action to combat sexual violence in Australian universities.

**1 AUG 2017**

The Commission releases *Change the Course: National report on sexual assault and sexual harassment at Australian universities*.

**3 AUG 2017**

AHRCentre releases *On Safe Ground: A Good Practice Guide for Australian Universities*

## You've watched the film, now what?

After watching *The Hunting Ground*, you may feel frustrated, disheartened or stunned by the widespread inaction to address sexual violence on U.S. college campuses. Or perhaps you're feeling inspired by the courage of survivors and activists featured in the film. You may be wondering what the situation is in Australia.

Now is the time to channel all those feelings into action.

The Hunting Ground Australia Project has produced this toolkit to empower key audiences – students, parents, alumni, faculty, advisors and administrators – with ways to participate.

Preventing sexual assault and other forms of gendered violence is everyone's responsibility.

*The Hunting Ground* presents an unprecedented opportunity to accelerate change.

We urge you to speak up.

Take action.





## ACT / STUDENTS

Students hold a great deal of power on campus, especially when they come together for a common cause. We encourage you to take an active role in shaping student attitudes and university policies around sexual violence.

**Break the Silence** – Talk with other students about what you’ve learned in *The Hunting Ground*. Use the film as a conversation starter, and keep the discussion going by asking others about their opinions and experiences. Respect people’s privacy by not sharing their experiences with others unless they agree first.

**Know Where to Get Help** – All students have the right to an education free from sexual violence and harassment. Students who know their rights and where to seek help can better advocate for themselves and each other. Your university may have provided you with information about your university’s policies and protocols around sexual violence. Familiarise yourself with this material. If your university has not provided you with this information, seek it out.

**Pay Attention to Campus Culture** – Students are in the strongest position to enact a campus culture of respect. Practice bystander intervention, when it is safe to do so, by speaking out when you hear or see abusive behavior. Use the enclosed student campus environmental scan to assess your university’s policies on sexual violence prevention and response.

**Find Campus Resources** – Many universities have student groups already engaged in anti-violence work, such as rape crisis centers, women’s centers or LGBTQI organisations. Women’s officers and student associations have been particularly active in advocating for better responses on Australian universities. Find these groups and get involved. If existing resources are insufficient, start your own group.

**Use Media & Art** – The film shows how effective media and art can be in drawing attention to the issues. Host a press conference, do interviews on campus radio, write an op-ed for your student newspaper or create an art installation in your student union. You might even make your own short film about campus attitudes towards sexual violence to show at a screening of *The Hunting Ground*.

### What is sexual violence?

A campus-wide understanding of what constitutes sexual violence is critical to addressing the problem. In Australia, legal definitions vary state by state. As a general guideline, the term “sexual violence” broadly describes sexual harassment, unwanted exposing or touching of the body, and sexual assault, which means non-consensual penetration of the vagina, anus or mouth. Many of these assaults occur in a dating relationship. Sexual violence occurs against students of all gender identities and sexual orientations. Women and LGBTQI students experience sexual violence at disproportionately high rates.

### What is consent?

The common factor in various forms of sexual violence is a lack of consent. Consent is a voluntary, active agreement by an adult. No one impaired by drugs, alcohol, sleep or fear can give consent. An absence of the word “no” does not mean consent, nor do non-affirming phrases such as, “we shouldn’t,” “I’m not sure,” or “I don’t really feel like it.” Consent can be revoked anytime during a sexual encounter.

The Full Stop Foundation’s Moira Carmody, Kath Albury and Karen Willis note in relation to sexual consent: “Most often, the issue of consent becomes a focus when things have gone wrong between two people in a sexual encounter or relationship.

“Most issues of consent, however, never reach the courts, even if the actions would constitute a crime under law. This is because many women, in particular, are fearful of court processes and of speaking out about sexual assault. Often both men and women are unclear about what constitutes consent; and, while their experiences may leave them with a range of feelings including distress, disappointment, confusion, and anger, they don’t assume they should report the matter to the authorities. There are many situations where one person just goes along with the other person’s wants and, thus, has unwanted, pressured, unfulfilling, or forced sex. This is a particular problem for women who fear the loss of a relationship or worry about other consequences of actively withdrawing consent. In our terms, this is unethical. It doesn’t meet the criteria of ethical sex. It is important to remember that sexual assault and coerced and pressured sex can occur between same gender and opposite gender partners.”<sup>10</sup>

## ETHICAL CONSENT WALL CHART

### Questions to ask myself in giving and getting consent

C

**Communicate** clearly with the other person before doing anything.

O

**Other person’s needs** are important to consider. I must consider the impact of my wants and actions on the other person.

N

**Negotiate** my own needs clearly, and seek out the other person’s agreement.

S

**Safety** for me and other other person is important. Is what I am considering doing wise for me today, emotionally and physically? Have I thought about safe sex? Do I think I can trust this person? Does anyone know where I am or what I am doing?

E

**Ethical** consent and sex is fun. I care for myself but also consider the other person and treat them with respect before, during, and after sex.

N

**No**, is important to say clearly if I need to. If I hear or observe a ‘No’, I will stop, renegotiate, and ask what is going on.

T

**Talk about** what is happening or what happened and how we felt about it.

Source: Carmody, M; Albury, K; Willis, K (2016), *Sex, Safety & Respect: Educator Training Manual for Australian Universities*, adapted from Baynard, Plante & Moynihan 2005.

10. Carmody, M; Albury, K; Willis, K (2016), *Sex, Safety & Respect: Educator Training Manual for Australian Universities*, Full Stop Foundation, Sydney, and The Hunting Ground Australia Project, p.87.

### What is a bystander?

Bystanders are individuals who witness emergencies, criminal events or situations that could lead to criminal activity. Ethical bystanders are individuals whose behaviours intervene in ways that positively impact the event and its outcome. They take action but are mindful of caring for themselves and the other people involved. Bystander skills are increasingly being recognised as one of the most effective strategies in challenging disrespectful behavior. Self-care and safety for bystanders are the guiding principles in deciding when and how to act.

## STEPS TO SAFE BYSTANDER SKILLS

### Questions to ask before I take action:

- Am I aware there is a problem or risky situation?
- Do I recognise that someone needs help?
- Do I see myself and others as part of the solution?

### Questions to ask during the situation:

- How can I keep myself safe?
- What are my available options?
- Are there others I can call upon for help?
- What are the benefits/costs of taking action?

### Decision to take action:

- When to act
- Resources: people, phone, etc.

## Act

Source: Carmody, M; Albury, K; Willis, K (2016), *Sex, Safety & Respect: Educator Training Manual for Australian Universities*, adapted from Baynard, Plante & Moynihan 2005.



## STUDENT CAMPUS ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

*The Hunting Ground* exposes the failure of a number of American universities to respond effectively and appropriately to sexual violence on campus.

What about your university? Use the following questions as a starting point for thinking about how effective your university is in responding to, and helping end, sexual violence.

Talk through the answers with other students, administrators and faculty members. Use your observations to start a discussion about how your university could better respond to sexual violence on campus.

### Your university's sexual violence policies\*

Does your university's website, student handbook or code of conduct:

- ☐ clearly define stalking, sexual harassment, sexual assault and partner violence
- ☐ make clear the need for affirmative consent to any sexual activity
- ☐ offer a range of reporting options, including anonymous reporting, for sexual violence incidents
- ☐ state the sanctions imposed for students committing sexual violence
- ☐ outline the disciplinary measures for staff committing sexual violence

### Availability of information and resources

Does your university offer information, resources and contact information for support services about sexual violence at the following places:

- ☐ university health and counselling services
- ☐ campus security office
- ☐ faculty
- ☐ women's centre
- ☐ LGBTQI organisation
- ☐ international student services
- ☐ multicultural student centre
- ☐ disability resource centre
- ☐ spiritual/ religious centres
- ☐ residential college
- ☐ other



## Provision of sexual violence prevention education

Does your university offer sexual violence prevention education on campus throughout the year via:

- ☐ on-campus training and events
- ☐ information handouts
- ☐ digital messaging (email, social media etc)
- ☐ signs and posters
- ☐ other \_\_\_\_\_

Does your university offer sexual violence prevention training to university and residential college staff?\*\*

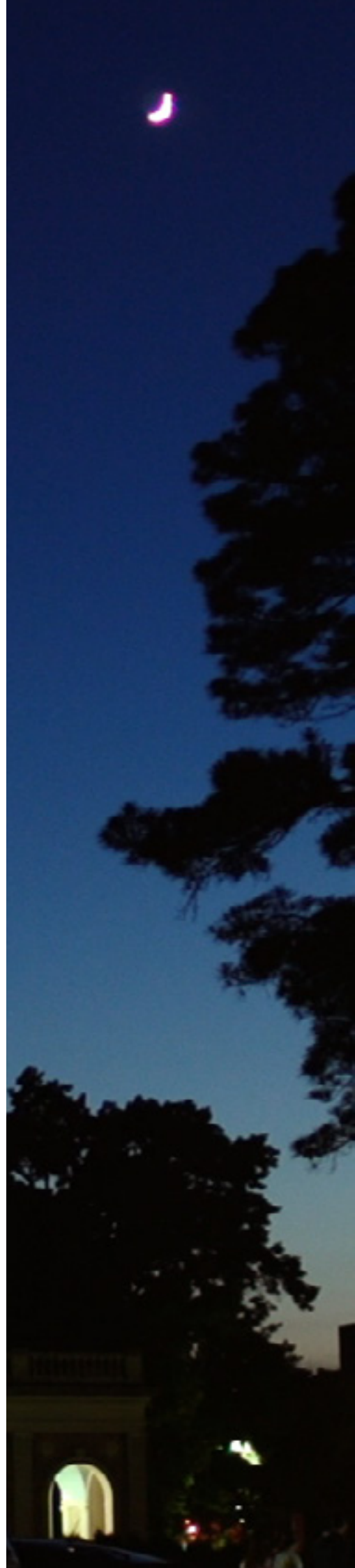
- ☐ yes
- ☐ no

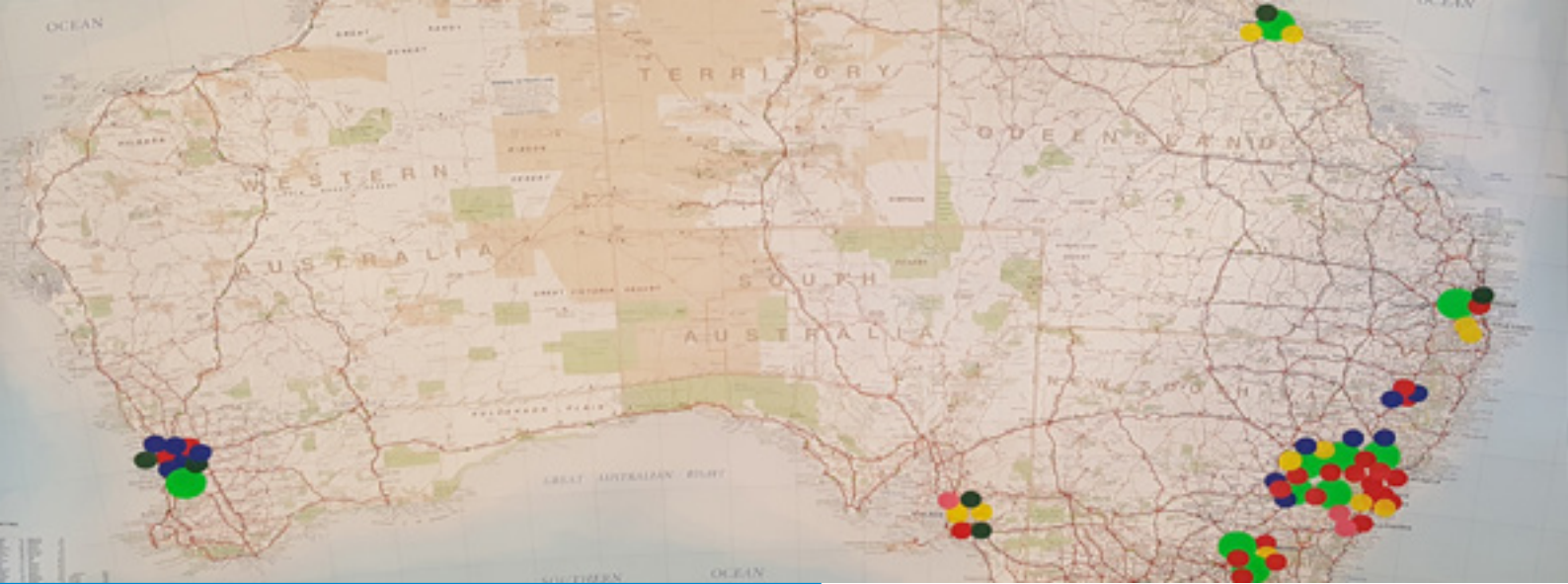
If yes, will that training be provided by a sexual assault service?\*\*

- ☐ yes
- ☐ no

\* Information about Australian university policies has been collated by End Rape on Campus – see <http://www.endrapeoncampusau.org/university-policies/>

\*\* Australian residential colleges have been surveyed about their sexual violence prevention training plans by Fair Agenda – see [http://www.fairagenda.org/residences\\_survey](http://www.fairagenda.org/residences_survey)





## ACT / PARENTS

Parents often play a key role in preparing their children for university. Open a dialogue about healthy relationships and sexual violence with your child and do your part to stay involved throughout your child's time at university. Parents are also a vital constituency who can influence powers and institutions to achieve systemic change in universities and residential colleges.

**Start and Keep a Conversation Going** – Talk to your child about sexual violence before he or she starts university. Be sure to address questions of consent and on-campus resources your child might access should they be needed.

**Do Your Research** – Ask your child's university and residential college about its sexual violence policies and preventative programs during campus tours or parent events. Explore whether the university or residential college has been in the news for mishandling sexual violence. Get information about the university services available to students who experience sexual violence.

**Use Your Sphere of Influence** – Many parents are professionals in the fields of education, healthcare, media or law enforcement. You may even be alumni or donors to your child's university. Whatever your connections, think creatively about how you could use your influence beyond your role as a parent.



## ACT / ALUMNI

Alumni are a major source of income for universities. As an alumnus, you can leverage your unique position to support current students at your former university.

**Stay Involved** – Even though you’ve graduated, you may still attend events, performances or lectures on campus. Use your visits to pay attention to the school environment, and talk to students about current culture, and learn about what student activists are prioritising.

**Be a Mentor** – Many universities and residential colleges have formal mentorship programs. Check your former university’s website, or contact an advisor to find opportunities. If formal mentoring does not exist, volunteer to start a pilot program.

**Ask Questions Before You Write the Cheque** – When requests for fundraising arrive from your former university, ask about opportunities to fund violence prevention efforts on campus, like Full Stop Foundation’s Sex, Safety & Respect program. If you recall your residential college publishing orientation books or materials with sexual, racial or gender slurs and ‘hazing’ rituals, ask if these publications are still produced, and if the material is disrespectful, question it.





## ACT / FACULTY & ADVISORS

Faculty and advisors – including college residential advisors and counselors – are critical links between students and administrators. Be a source of support for survivors.

**Be an Ally** – Empower yourself to be an ally by familiarising yourself with the key policies and procedures survivors may need, for example:

- what constitutes sexual violence
- how to file a report or complaint
- what to do if a student is being stalked
- what constitutes confidentiality
- what are mandated reporting requirements
- how to identify and intervene in victim blaming
- what are the symptoms of post-traumatic stress
- how to assist survivors in obtaining educational adjustments if their study is affected
- how to facilitate housing and class transfers
- what special considerations are needed for international students

**Support Other Faculty & Advisors** – Once you educate yourself, organise trainings for your colleagues to learn how to be allies. Consider creating a group that meets regularly to discuss ways to support students and influence campus culture.

**Teach Respect** – Students learn both academic and life skills in your classrooms. Monitor student interactions and discussions, and intervene if you witness behavior, comments or gestures that make light of sexual violence. Your classroom can become a forum for fostering more informed and respectful dialogue about sexual violence.





## ACT / ADMINISTRATORS

Explicit administrative support from the highest level of the institution is invaluable in the effort to establish a campus culture of respect. Make sure you have the people, policies and resources to be effective.

**Believe Survivors** – *The Hunting Ground* shows an extreme reluctance on the part of administrators of some U.S. universities to believe reports of sexual violence. Ignoring, deflecting and denying accusations erodes the integrity of your university. Change starts with believing survivors.

**Review Your Policies** – Undertake a thorough review of your university's sexual violence policies and procedures, including reporting and decision-making, collaboration with local law enforcement and violence prevention. A model policy and protocol framework from the Strengthening Australian Universities' Responses to Sexual Assault and Harassment project will be available in August 2017.

**Consider Supporting a Sexual Violence Task Force** – A task force can help you develop innovative approaches to ending sexual violence. Meet with student survivors and advocates to hear their views, concerns and ideas. Include them on a task force with representatives from other areas of campus life, such as residential, healthcare, security, legal counsel, spiritual leaders, technology services and sports programs.

**Allocate Resources** – Implementing an effective strategy takes time and money. Make sure your prevention programming and student groups have adequate funding to be successful and sustainable. Make a commitment to ongoing funding of evidence-based trauma-informed sexual violence prevention education. In the end, it is an investment to improve the quality of students' university experiences.

**Collect Accurate Data** – Sexual violence is often underreported. Consider how to improve the collection of sexual violence statistics at your university. Regularly survey students, faculty and advisors, and offer anonymous feedback forms. Remember that an increase in reporting may indicate a successful trend in addressing sexual violence on campus.

### What is victim blaming?

Perpetrators are responsible for sexual violence, not victims. Yet, as we saw in the film, the actions and integrity of survivors often receive intense scrutiny. What were they wearing? Were they drinking? Were they asking for it? Why didn't they say "no"? Why didn't they fight back? These questions misplace responsibility for the crime onto the survivor. A culture of victim blaming significantly discourages reporting.

## DISCUSSION POINTS

1. How did the stories shared in the film relate to your own experiences of university life? Is your administration effective at creating a learning environment free from violence and intimidation? Why or why not?
2. Sexual violence survivors experienced doubt, disbelief or reprimand from U.S. university administrators when they reported their assaults. How did you expect administrators to react to reports of sexual violence?
3. What stereotypes exist about sexual violence perpetrators? What about survivors? How do misconceptions limit the ability to provide survivor support or effective prevention education?
4. What examples of victim blaming did you see in *The Hunting Ground*? Have you witnessed these examples or other forms of victim blaming on your campus or in the media? How does victim blaming perpetuate the problem of sexual violence?
5. How do students in the film hold their universities to account in responding to instances of sexual violence on campus? Which approaches felt most powerful or inspiring to you? Could similar approaches work for Australian universities?
6. *The Hunting Ground* reveals a systemic problem of sexual violence across U.S. college campuses. How might students, parents, alumni, faculty or administrators work together in Australia to improve campus safety?

**every student** has the right  
to an education  
**free from sexual violence**  
and harassment

## RESOURCES & CONTACTS

### National Union of Students (NUS) Women's Department

See in particular 2015 Talk About it Survey

<https://nus.asn.au/en/departments/womens>

### End Rape on Campus (EROC) Australia

<http://www.endrapeoncampusau.org/about/>

### The Line

<http://www.theline.org.au/>

### Full Stop Foundation

<http://www.fullstopfoundation.org.au/>

### 1800 RESPECT

[www.1800respect.org.au](http://www.1800respect.org.au)

For a comprehensive list of local services in your State or Territory, please visit:

<https://www.1800respect.org.au/service-support/>

### Rape & Domestic Violence Services Australia

<http://www.rape-dvservices.org.au/>

### MensLine

[www.mensline.org.au](http://www.mensline.org.au)

Learn more about the film and The Hunting Ground Australia Project:

[!\[\]\(5d954b3e270654ad8ab0d5913161c03c\_img.jpg\) www.thehuntinggroundaustralia.com.au](http://www.thehuntinggroundaustralia.com.au)

[!\[\]\(aff7c69c44a5e015f18c35867ef3f5c3\_img.jpg\) facebook.com/THGAustraliaProject](https://facebook.com/THGAustraliaProject)

Bring *The Hunting Ground* to your school, alma mater, business or organisation:

[!\[\]\(1ed10657a19f9137278430c48fd18626\_img.jpg\) http://www.TheHuntingGroundAustralia.com.au/screenings/](http://www.TheHuntingGroundAustralia.com.au/screenings/)

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