

2015 Revision of Directive Reporting of Alleged sexual assault within an SA Health facility

The SA Health Directive Reporting of Alleged Sexual Assault within a SA Health facility has been revised and renamed.

The revised [policy directive](#) is called Reporting and management of incidents of suspected or alleged sexual assault of an adult, or sexual misconduct by an adult, within SA Health facilities and services.

SA Health has a duty of care and legal obligation to provide health care in a way, and in an environment, that promotes personal safety and minimises risk of sexual assault or sexual misconduct of or by consumers, health staff and visitors. SA Health does not condone sexual assault or sexual misconduct in any form within a SA Health facility or service.

Principal changes to the policy

The revisions more clearly recognise that victims and perpetrators can come from the workforce, consumer / patients or other people. The scope is limited to adults.

The revised policy describes the transition from reporting using the now de-commissioned HealthWatch to using the Notifications Module of Safety Learning System (SLS) to securely store information. Access to this system is limited to delegated senior managers.

The revisions provide additional

- > description of other categories of sexual misconduct such as production of pornographic , sexual harassment and procuring sexual favours
- > description of the roles of staff from those who first become aware of an incident (early response), through to senior managers and executives
- > reference to the importance of consent in such incidents
- > description of the actions required
 - o to support alleged victims
 - o to assist SA Police if required, and to preserve evidence
 - o to provide fair and just processes for alleged perpetrators.

Additional tools have been developed

- > The process of reporting is summarised in the diagram [Reporting requirements](#) that is Appendix 1 of this policy.
- > The [Fact Sheet](#) – Reporting alleged sexual assault or sexual misconduct, provides information for all staff about initial actions if such an incident is suspected or observed.
- > The [Topic Guide](#) – Reporting alleged sexual assault or sexual misconduct, provides information for senior managers who have a role in the management after such incidents.

What is considered to be sexual assault or misconduct?

The categorisation of these incidents has been revised, for clarification.

For the purposes of this policy directive, the term sexual assault includes rape, assault with intent to rape and indecent assault. The victim can be an adult consumer, a staff member or visitor. The offender or perpetrator can be any of these.

Staff members include volunteers, contractors, students. Consumer means patients, clients of SA Health services and residents of residential care services that are operated by SA Health.

Incidents are classified into three categories that reflect the seriousness of the incident, and determine processes and timelines of the required reporting and notification.

Category One must be reported to SA Police within 24 hours. Incidents are defined as:

- > suspected or alleged sexual assault of an adult consumer, by a staff member, another consumer or visitor
- > suspected or alleged sexual assault of a visitor by a staff member or consumer
- > suspected or alleged sexual assault of a staff member by a consumer or visitor
- > suspected or alleged production and/or circulation/distribution of pornographic images of a child (children) or adult consumer or staff member/s by an adult consumer, staff member or visitor, within SA Health facilities.

Category Two must be reported within 2 days. Incidents are defined as:

- > suspected or alleged sexual harassment or sexualised behaviour that is intrusive, offensive, disruptive or otherwise of a concerning nature, that is exhibited by a staff member.

Category Three must be reported within 5 days. Incidents are defined as:

- > suspected or alleged sexual harassment or sexualised behaviour that is intrusive, offensive, disruptive or otherwise of a concerning nature, that is exhibited by a consumer or visitor
- > where a consumer, who lacks the capacity to understand their actions, offers or receives sexual activity in exchange for money or other goods or favours from another consumer. That is, prostitution of a consumer by another consumer, or procurement of sexual favours.

For more information

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