

## What is my role in an AIM3 Assessment as a parent or carer?

**Hearing or finding out that your child has practiced harmful sexual behaviour is very difficult.**

It can cause a range of strong feelings including disbelief, anger, sadness and shock and can make you question your parenting.

This can be even more difficult if the child harmed is a sibling. Parents/carers are often torn between the right emotional response for each child including what to believe, how to protect both children and how to feel about the child who has caused the harm.

SASH workers are aware of how difficult this can be and that is why it is so important to come together and go through the AIM3 Assessment process.

It is important that the workers understand your child and their family as best as they can to prevent further harm and to support and protect your child.

### **Support After Sexual Harm (SASH) Service**

The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne  
50 Flemington Road Parkville  
Victoria 3052 Australia  
Telephone +61 3 9345 6391  
[www.rch.org.au/sash](http://www.rch.org.au/sash)



## SASH Support After Sexual Harm

# Approach for harmful sexual behaviour

**Information  
for parents and carers**

### What is harmful sexual behaviour and how can we help your child?

If a child protection worker or the person you talk to at SASH says that your child has displayed harmful sexual behaviour, this means that there are concerns that your child has hurt or harmed another person sexually and that it might happen again.

If you have agreed for you and your child to work with SASH to address this behaviour, the clinician may ask you both to be involved in an AIM3 Assessment.

This information is to help you understand what this is and what it will mean for your family.

### What is an AIM3 Assessment?

**AIM3 is a model which helps SASH workers find out what will help young people where harmful sexual behaviour has likely occurred.**

The AIM3 model does focus on the sexual behaviour your child has displayed but also helps to understand what is happening in other parts of their life and the life of your family. This helps to work out why the behaviour has happened and to make sure your child gets the right kind of help.

The AIM3 model considers five different areas of your child's life that the worker will explore and gather information about. These are:

- sexual behaviour
- non-sexual behaviour
- their development
- their environment/family life and what skills they have to help manage their feelings
- behaviours (known as self-regulation)

### How is an AIM3 Assessment completed?

**The AIM3 Assessment process starts after you have referred your child to SASH for help and support.**

You and your child will be allocated a worker (or sometimes two workers) who will:

- 1. meet with other professionals** known to the child (e.g. teachers, child protection workers, carers, police)
- 2. meet with your child** on several occasions to get to know them, find out about their daily life, friends, likes and dislikes as well as sexual behaviours
- 3. meet with you** to learn about your child and your thoughts about their behaviour

Once the workers have all the information, they will use what they have found out to assess where the key concerns and opportunities to help are.

The results will be displayed in a graph which the worker will use to help plan the focus of the counselling sessions to ensure your child gets the right support.

The workers will then regularly review progress that has been made in each of the five areas and update the graph to show you any changes or additional steps needed to improve care.