

## Other professional referrals

**LGBTIQ+ young people may face unique barriers when seeking support, such as fear of discrimination or lack of understanding from service providers.**

SASH offers a free secondary consultation service for industry professionals (e.g. child protection workers, teachers, support workers, GPs) working with children and families in situations involving child sexual harm or harmful sexual behaviour as well as education and training to professionals.

Scan the QR code for further information:



## Other resources and services:

**Rainbow Door**  
[www.rainbowdoor.org.au](http://www.rainbowdoor.org.au)

**QLife**  
[www.qlife.org.au](http://www qlife.org.au)

**Lifeline**  
[www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au) or call 131114

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### 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**

**Sexual harm**  
**and LGBTIQ+**  
**young people**



**Information**  
**for professionals**

### Sexual harm

**Sexual harm is a significant issue affecting LGBTIQ+ young people at disproportionately higher rates than their heterosexual and cisgender peers.**

Research indicates that nearly two in five LGBTIQ+ young people have reported being forced to engage in sexual activities against their will<sup>[i]</sup>. This alarming statistic highlights the vulnerability of this group to sexual harm.

The impacts of sexual harm for LGBTIQ+ youth are profound, often leading to severe mental health challenges, including higher rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidality. Many LGBTIQ+ individuals face rejection and abuse from family members, which can further isolate them and make it harder to seek help<sup>[ii]</sup>.

SASH is a free and voluntary paediatric specialist sexual assault service and can provide counselling and support to LGBTIQ+ young people who have experienced sexual harm.

We are based at The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) and provide services at community-based sites in Western Melbourne as well as at the RCH.

### Counselling services provided

- for children and young people aged 0-17 who have experienced sexual harm and their non-offending family members.
- for children and young people aged up to 17 who have engaged in harmful sexual behaviour and their non-offending family members.

<sup>[i]</sup> The Trevor Project. (2024). *Sexual Violence and Mental Health among LGBTQ+ Young People*.

<sup>[ii]</sup> *A groundbreaking campaign is exploding the silence around LGBTIQ family violence* - ABC News

### Sexual assault crisis responses

**SASH also provides face-to-face sexual assault crisis responses for all children, including LGBTIQ+ children and young people who have experienced recent sexual harm or recently disclosed sexual harm and present at the RCH.**

Sexual assault crisis responses are provided at the RCH seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

A SASH Clinician will attend the RCH to provide emotional and psychological support, risk and safety assessment and information and advice to children, young people and their families.

#### To refer for a sexual assault crisis response:

- Business hours: call **03 9345 6391** (Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm)
- After hours: call the Sexual Assault Crisis Line on **03 8345 3494** (Monday-Friday, 5pm-9am, all weekend and public holidays)

### Referral process

SASH can receive self-referrals from LGBTIQ+ young people who are able to provide their own consent, from parents or other legal guardians, and from other professionals who have concerns about a young person's wellbeing.

Scan the QR code for further information about the SASH referral process.

