

Referrals and consultation

To refer for a sexual assault crisis response during business hours (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm), call **03 9345 6391**.

To refer for a sexual assault crisis response outside of business hours (Monday to Friday, 5pm to 9am, weekends and public holidays), call **1800 577 011**.

SASH accepts crisis care response referrals from professionals (police, child protection, hospital staff), parents or carers and is a voluntary service.

Visit SASH

Scan the QR code for further information about SASH



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



SASH
Support After
Sexual Harm

Crisis
support
after sexual
harm

Information
for parents and carers

SASH is a free and voluntary specialist sexual assault service for children, young people and their non-offending family members.

24/7 sexual assault crisis response

As well as counselling, SASH provides a 24/7 sexual assault crisis response at The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH).

The response is for any child who has experienced sexual harm recently or has told someone about sexual harm for the first time (even if it happened a long time ago).

Children can come to the RCH with a trusted parent or carer to access help and support.

What to expect

An experienced SASH sexual assault clinician can come and provide you and your child with support straight away. They will check whether you are both safe, and make sure you get any help that you need, like ongoing counselling.



After the sexual assault experience

We understand coming to a hospital following a traumatic experience such as a sexual assault can be really hard. The SASH Clinician will contact you in the days after you came to the RCH to see how you and your child are going and to follow up on things such as longer-term counselling.

Reactions from you and your child

Following experiences of trauma, such as sexual assault, children and parents/carers can react in many different ways. The best thing a parent can do for their child is to believe them, be supportive and answer any questions as honestly as possible.

Some common feelings you and your child might experience include:

- Anger
- Anxiety
- Guilt
- Sadness
- Shock
- Numbness

All of these feelings are normal and looking after your own wellbeing is important too.

You can talk to the SASH clinician about having your own counselling either through SASH or your local specialist sexual assault service.