

Sexual harassment, sexual violence and sexual assault



1 in 5 women and **1 in 16 men** have experienced some form of **sexual violence** since the age of 15

While men and women both experience sexual violence, the statistics tell us this form of violence is more commonly experienced by girls and women.

Parents and carers may find the following information helpful when talking with their child about sexual harassment, sexual assault or sexual violence.

Sexual harassment includes sexual advances, requests for sexual favours or behaviour of a sexual nature that is unwelcomed and which a reasonable person expects would make the recipient feel offended, humiliated, or intimidated.

Sexual violence refers to any unwanted sexual activity, where consent is not freely and voluntarily given. Sexual violence includes sexual harassment, touching, sexual abuse, sexual assault, rape, forced marriage and sexual exploitation. Many forms of sexual violence are a criminal offence in Queensland.

Sexual assault is any unwanted sexual act that happens without consent. It might be forced on a person by intimidation, physical force or coercion, manipulation or trickery, or occur when a person doesn't have the capacity to consent. It's against the law to have sex or to continue to engage in sexual activity without consent.

Sexual assault includes rape and attempted rape, as well as unwanted sexual touching or groping, or being forced to perform or witness a sexual act. Sexual assault is a criminal offence in Queensland.

A victim of sexual violence or assault is never responsible for being assaulted.

Most Australians recognise that violence against women and girls is a serious issue, but fewer people realise it is attitudes of disrespect that can contribute to this form of violence.

Parents, carers, teachers and other trusted adults can positively shape young people's views on respect. Find useful information about respectful relationships, consent and reporting on the [RRE hub](#).

A number of resources to support parents and carers in discussing respect with their child can be found on the [respect.gov.au](#) website. These include a Respect Checklist, an Excuse Interpreter and a Conversation Guide.

Australian Bureau of Statistics [Personal Safety, Australia, 2021-22 Financial Year](#) (2023 Release)

