



# Important information after sexual assault

## Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC)

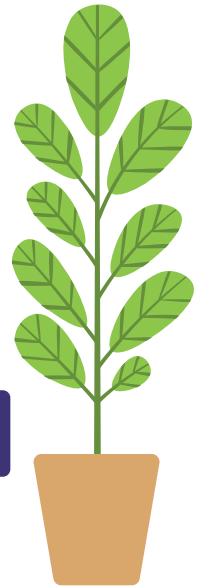
**24 hours a day. 7 days a week. Call us on (08) 6458 1828.**

SARC is a free government service based in Perth that specialises in supporting people aged 13 years and over who have been sexually assaulted. You may have already spoken to a SARC team member.

Doctors at SARC can collect forensic evidence. They can also help with medical care, such as testing for infections and provide emergency contraception. It is best to attend SARC as soon as possible - within 1-3 days is recommended. More information about forensic examination and specimen collection is available on the SARC website (use QR code below).

**It is important to have follow-up sexual health tests at 2 weeks and 3 months after the assault**

- ▶ SARC staff are here to listen and will respect the decisions you make.
- ▶ SARC counsellors are available to support you.



There are resources available on the SARC website for both you and the people who support you.



Scan SARC  
website



Scan SARC  
resources

## Reporting to police

**It is your decision whether or not to make a report to police**

### If police are already involved:

- ▶ The police officer will provide you with an Incident Report Number and their contact details.
- ▶ If you need to ask questions about your case it helps to have the Incident Report Number to track your case.
- ▶ Further information about the police process is available on the WA Police website and SARC website.



Scan WA Police Website

### If police are not involved and:

#### A. You think you want to report

- ▶ If you know you want to report to the police or if you are not sure if a report has been made, call 13 14 44 or attend your local police station.
- ▶ If you are not sure about reporting, you can speak to the police (over the phone or in person) to find out your options. You don't have to give your name if you don't want to.

#### B. You haven't decided about reporting to police

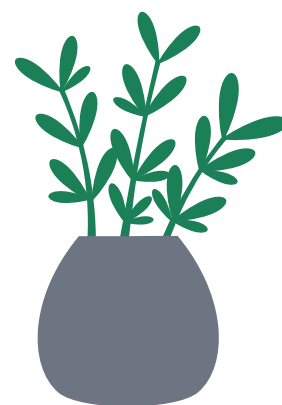
- ▶ It is okay not to know whether you want to report to police. It is a personal choice.
- ▶ SARC doctors can collect evidence and store it for 12 months to give you time to decide about reporting to police.

**There is no timeframe in WA for reporting a sexual assault to the police.**

**However, early reporting allows police to secure evidence, even if you don't want to proceed now.**

## Early Evidence and Forensic Toxicology Kits

- ▶ An Early Evidence Kit, or EEK, enables some types of forensic samples to be collected prior to a full forensic examination.
- ▶ A Forensic Toxicology Kit detects drugs or alcohol that may be in a person's system.
- ▶ These kits allow collection of evidence that may be lost before a complete forensic examination by a doctor or trained nurse can be arranged.
- ▶ Some samples are self-collected and you will be instructed on what to do by the health worker, police officer or medic assisting you.
- ▶ If no police are involved, the health worker or medic will send SARC kits to a PathWest laboratory in Perth to be stored securely.



## Important information about the storage of SARC kits

### 1. Early forensic specimens will be securely stored for 12 months

This allows you time to decide if you want to report to the police.

### 2. The specimens will not be tested unless a report is made to police

### 3. If you have not reported to police within 12 months:

#### If you were 18 years or older when the forensic specimens were collected

- ▶ The specimens will be de-identified and destroyed. You will not be contacted before this happens.

#### If you were under 18 years old when the forensic specimens were collected

- ▶ The EEK will be transferred to WA Police to be stored indefinitely. Testing of the specimens may be undertaken to protect any evidence that may be required at a later time.

### 4. If you decide to report to police, tell them early forensic specimens were collected.

- ▶ The police may then collect the kit/s from PathWest and arrange for the samples to be tested. You will need to give consent for this to happen.



Scan for more  
information on  
SARC kits

Please call SARC on (08) 6458 1828 if you have any questions.

*Remember, you don't have to go through this alone.  
There are people who can support you.  
The SARC website provides information and many resources  
that you may find useful.*



This document can be made available  
in alternative formats on request.

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