



Forensic Training Program

This WA Health training program will address the many issues involved in responding to recent adolescent and adult sexual assault. It will provide the skills and knowledge required for Registered Nurses, Midwives and Doctors working in regional areas to deliver medical care and perform a forensic examination involving the collection of forensic specimens.

Course Information

- The training takes places over 3 full days and is delivered by SARC medical forensic doctors
- e-learning is required to be completed prior to the course
- Doctors, Midwives and Registered Nurses are eligible to enrol
- Following completion of the course, and passing written and practical assessments, participants will be qualified to collect forensic specimens from patients who have been sexually assaulted, as approved by WA legislation, Criminal Investigation Act Amendment 2011. The course also provides an opportunity for doctors to upskill in this area.

Content in this course can be triggering for people affected by sexual trauma.

Availability

SARC aims to deliver at least 1 Forensic Training Program in Perth each year and 2 regional Programs, in consultation with WACHS. Refer to the SARC website for dates.

Expression of Interest (EOI)

Expression of Interest can be submitted as follows

- Doctors, Midwives and Registered Nurses **working for Western Australian Country Health Service (WACHS) - [EOI information \(PDF\)](#)**
WACHS select successful participants; fees may apply if not funded by WACHS
- Doctors, Midwives and Registered Nurses **working outside WACHS - [EOI information \(PDF\)](#)**
Fees apply if self-funded



Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Explain services offered by SARC, the Child Protection Unit, and relevant sexual assault support services in W.A.
- Take a history from a patient who has experienced a recent sexual assault, according to trauma-informed principles
- Explain the necessity and complexity of consent for forensic examinations
- Identify a patient's medical needs following a sexual assault
- Describe routine medical management and follow-up practices
- Explain psychosocial safety considerations
- Perform a sexual assault examination (with guidance from SARC doctors) including:
 - Physical/ general body examination
 - Non-fatal strangulation examination
 - Genital examination
- Explain the forensic specimen collection process including:
 - use of an Early Evidence Kit (EEK)
 - maintaining forensic integrity throughout collection and processing
- Outline the process of working with police and writing a police report.

Participants will be required to complete written and practical assessments.

SARC Education and Training

Email training enquiries and requests to: SARCTraining@health.wa.gov.au

Further information and resources: [SARC Website](#)

The Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC)

- **24-hour crisis** medical, forensic and counselling support following a sexual assault
- **Counselling** for recent and past sexual assault and sexual abuse
- State-wide **education and training**



**24-hour crisis line for
recent sexual assault**

Telephone (08) 6458 1828 or
1800 199 888 (free from landlines only)

Crisis telephone support
8.30am - 11.00pm daily
Telephone (08) 6458 1828