

# BRISSC NEWS

Brisbane Rape and Incest Survivors Support Centre

Issue 2

April 2004

BRISSC is a woman's only space, offering information and support in a safe, friendly and empowering environment, free of charge. The support we provide is based on the belief that you have the right to

- Be listened to, believed and supported
- Be treated with respect, dignity and understanding
- Deal with your life, in your own way and at your own pace
- Choose who and what you tell and when
- Confidentiality and privacy
- Receive practical information including reporting, legal and medical options
- Interpreter support and disability support.

## Important Service Update...

### Renovations and Service Closure



In 2001 BRISSC and the Women's Community Aid Association received funding from the Jupiter's Casino Fund to renovate our downstairs space.

The great news is that these long awaited renovations will start soon and will improve BRISSC services in the long term through:

- Better group work space
- New kids room
- Disability access
- Workplace health and safety compliance

In the short term however BRISSC will be closing for face to face support (at least until the power and sewerage is working again and the noise is bearable!)

We are hoping to continue our telephone support service from another venue please call our support line to be directed to our temporary support line. During the renovations we will be concentrating on internal policy development, strategic and group planning. We apologise for any inconvenience this causes and we will continue to use a waiting list for face to face support interest in the meantime.

**The service will be closed from the 3rd of May to 7th June (although these dates are subject to builder delays.)**

Women's House Library and Internet facilities will also be unavailable during some of this closure period, **please call us if you need more information.**

### Brisbane Rape and Incest Survivors Support Centre

Address: 15 Morrissey Street  
Woolloongabba. 4012

Support: 3391 0004

Admin: 3391 2573

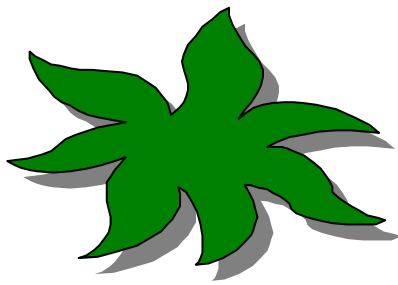
Fax: 3391 4735

Email: [info@brissc.com.au](mailto:info@brissc.com.au)

Website: [www.brissc.com.au](http://www.brissc.com.au)

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# **BRISSC News**

The vision of BRISSC is to work with women towards ending sexual violence. We have had a very busy start to 2004. Here is a quick update of what we've been doing...

- BRISSC has been very active in the media over the past few months. We have spoken to journalists from Triple J, ABC radio and the Courier Mail about the effects of sexual violence on women and the impact of media coverage of the Bulldogs rape allegations.
- We were guests on 96.5 Fm talkback radio talking about sexual violence, and challenging commonly held myths about rape.
- We have been involved in the National Abuse Free Contact Campaign (read the Social Action section for more about this campaign).
- We were the proud beneficiaries of the Eve Ensler's play, the Vagina Monologues and spoke to a full house of 500 people about sexual violence and ways we can work towards preventing it, as a creative global community. BRISSC received over \$5,000 that will assist us in our strategies for prevention.
- We have provided training to workers at Brisbane Domestic Violence Advocacy Service about supporting women who have experienced sexual violence.
- The CRUISE project has enabled survivors of self harm to provide education and training to workers from Royal Brisbane Hospital.
- We held a BRISSC information stall at International Women's Day and the Vagina Monologues.
- We've employed a website worker to further develop and update our website.
- We've networked with key stakeholders to organise a consultation meeting for the development of a National Framework for Sexual Assault Prevention in collaboration with the social researchers Urbis Keys Young and the Office of the Status of Women.
- And we've been doing lots of support work with incredible, courageous women!!

## **What's coming up...**

### **Understanding Incest- Reference group for BRISSC resource update:**

In our last newsletter we called for interest from women who are interested in contributing to the Understanding Incest Resource which is being produced by BRISSC. Thank you to all the women who have expressed an interest so far, we apologise for the delays caused by worker leave and renegotiating our funding agreement with Qld Health. The BRISSC Collective is currently reviewing the resource and clarifying the role of the reference group. Depending on builder progress and renovations, we hope to begin the reference group in June/July and to meet regularly over 2-3 months. If you'd like to find out more about contributing to this resource please call us on 3391 2573.

### **Women's House 30th Year Anniversary**

Did you know that Women's Community Aid Association (which is the incorporated body for the Brisbane Rape and Incest Survivors Support Centre and Women's House Shelta) have been supporting women and providing Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence support services for almost thirty years? We are planning celebrations for our anniversary next year and welcome any ideas and feedback from women who have been part of our herstory. Stay tuned for more details...



**Brisbane Rape and Incest  
Survivors Support Centre**

## What do we mean by Sexual Violence...

Sexual Violence is a term we use at BRISSC to talk about any sexual behaviour or acts imposed on another person that is unwanted, uninvited or unwelcome. There are many different terms for sexual violence as well as separate legal definitions for rape, incest, sexual assault, indecent assault and types of sexual assault against children. We use the term sexual violence to encompass all forms of sexual abuse.

We recognise that many women's experience of violation and sexual abuse do not involve physical violence, however we use the term sexual violence to send a strong social message that sexual assault and abuse are unacceptable behaviours. We believe that forcing or pressuring someone into sex, and taking away their choices, power or control is a form of violence.

At BRISSC we understand that sexual violence occurs along a continuum. Most women have experienced some form of sexual violence throughout their lives, be this sexual harassment, unwanted touch or comments, verbal abuse or experiences of rape, incest, mutilation or ritual abuse. Sexual Violence is a crime. It is used as a weapon in war, in racial violence and in everyday life.

Sexual violence is often about the use of power or force to intimidate and control others. Because sexual violence is overwhelmingly perpetrated by men against women and children, it is a gendered crime, and for this reason BRISSC and Women's House is a women's only space. As women supporting each other, we can expose the myths, break the silence and help dispel feelings of isolation, fear and guilt.

<p><b>We all have the right to feel safe...</b></p>		<p><b><u>You can contact BRISSC on:</u></b> Support : (07) 3391 0004 Admin: (07) 3391 2573 Fax: (07) 3391 4735 Email: <a href="mailto:info@brissc.com.au">info@brissc.com.au</a> Website: <a href="http://www.brissc.com.au">www.brissc.com.au</a></p>	<p><b>Together we can help end sexual violence.</b></p>
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# Social Action Campaigns - opportunities to get involved!!

## National Abuse Free Contact Campaign

This campaign was initiated because of concerns relating to the exposure of children to abuse and domestic violence following separation as a result of unsafe contact arrangements, usually ordered by the family court.

**The campaign aims to make the government listen, and to prioritise the safety of victims of violence.**

Children who have been sexually abused by a parent are currently the only category of rape victim who can be compelled by a court order to have a continuing relationship with the person who has offended against them. If you are interested in being part of this campaign please call Amanda at BRISSC for more info.

## Reclaim the Night (RTN)

Annual Rally, March and Festival. RTN is an annual public demonstration that aims to raise community awareness about sexual violence against women and children. RTN is organized by a voluntary collective which is re formed each year by committed and hardworking women from the community.

The Reclaim the Night Collective meets at Women's house, 15 Morrisey street Wooloongabba from July to October to organise this event. **New women are welcome. Call 3391 2573 for more info.**

## Stop Violence Against Women Global Campaign,

Through this campaign Amnesty International Australia will call on worldwide leaders, organisations and individuals to publicly make the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and protection for all a reality for women.

Amnesty International will demand:

- The abolition of laws and practices around the world which discriminate against women and perpetuate violence.
- Effective laws, policies and programs to stop violence in the family.
- Effective enforcement of laws which criminalise rape and other forms of sexual violence, in wartime and in peace.

The campaign will seek to end discrimination against women everywhere. It will seek the solidarity of men with women in recognition that violence against women affects everyone in our community.

You can find out more by visiting:  
[www.amnesty.org.au](http://www.amnesty.org.au)  
or calling 1300 300 920.



## Upcoming Conferences

### HOME TRUTHS

Stop Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence a national challenge.  
15-17 September 2004  
Sheraton Towers, Southgate, Melbourne  
Contact : Conference Links and Event Management Services, 03 9439 3855.

### Challenge, Change and Cha Cha Cha...

A Conference on Women, Feminism and the Law. Women's Legal Service  
20th Anniversary of challenging and changing the legal system  
27-29 October 2004  
Hilton, Brisbane.  
Contact: (07) 3392 0644

## Interesting Websites

Brisbane Rape and Incest Survivors Support Centre [www.brissc.com.au](http://www.brissc.com.au)  
Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault [www.aifs.gov.au/acssa](http://www.aifs.gov.au/acssa)

## Contacts for Services:

Statewide Sexual Assault Helpline:  
(24 hrs)

**1800 010 120**

Domestic Violence Telephone Service  
(24 hrs)

**1800 811 811**

Lifeline (24 hrs)

**131 114**

Kids Help Line- for people up to  
18yrs (24 hrs)

**1800 551 800**

Parentline

**1300 301 300**

Salvo Care (24 hrs)

**3831 9016**

Sexual Crimes Investigations Unit

**3364 6430**



## WE VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK...

This is only our second newsletter, so we would really like to hear your ideas about it....

Do you find this newsletter helpful? Why/why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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Is there anything you would like us to include or leave out next time? \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you have any ideas or feedback about the services we provide at BRISSC? \_\_\_\_\_

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Please tear off this feedback form and post it in to us

C:/ 15 Morrisey Street Woolloongabba 4012, or phone/ email us with your feedback on  
3391 2573 or [info@brissc.com.au](mailto:info@brissc.com.au)

If your contact details change or you no longer want to be on our mailing list to receive this newsletter please let us know.