



2023 Annual Report on Sexual Misconduct

7 August 2024

Content warning: *This email and the report it refers to contain information about sexual misconduct, which may be distressing. If you would like to speak with someone for support or information, please contact our [Safer Communities Office](#) on +61 8627 6808 or via email on safer-communities.officer@sydney.edu.au, or [1800RESPECT](#) on 1800 737 732.*

Dear students,

Today we released our [2023 Annual Report on Sexual Misconduct \(pdf, 4.2MB\)](#), as part of our ongoing commitment to promote transparency and accountability in our approach to preventing and responding to sexual misconduct in our community.

Everyone has the right to feel safe and we take this opportunity to reaffirm our zero tolerance for any behaviour that is intimidating, abusive, discriminatory, disrespectful or threatening, including any instance of sexual harassment or sexual assault – one case is one too many.

This is our second report, outlining our progress on building a safe and supportive environment for our students, staff and visitors; and providing trauma-informed support to victim-survivors of sexual misconduct during 2023. It also includes statistics on reports of University related and non-University related incidents of sexual misconduct, information on our complaints handling process and the outcomes of complaints.

Our work in 2023

We recognise our responsibility to do everything we can to create a safe environment through prevention and education. In 2023 our initiatives included awareness-raising campaigns, prevention education workshops and tailored training sessions for our students and staff. Many of these were peer co-designed and facilitated, centred around the voices of our University community.

During the year, we significantly increased our efforts to raise awareness of ways members of our University community can [report sexual misconduct](#) and seek support. Acknowledging the vital role we play in addressing the national issue of under-reporting, we focused on ensuring victim-survivors feel supported and secure in reporting their experiences of sexual misconduct. This included redesigning our [Sexual Misconduct Online Reporting Form](#) to make it easier to access, use and navigate, through co-design, consultation and testing with our students and staff.

Key findings

In 2023 we received 246 reports (including both disclosures and complaints) of sexual misconduct, compared with 121 in 2022. Most reports were disclosures and involved non-

University related conduct.

The rise in the number of people making a report can be attributed to several factors, including the full return of students to campus, greater awareness of how to seek support, increased referrals to our Safer Communities Office and improvements in reporting processes.

Of the 246 reports:

- 216 (87.8 percent) were disclosures (reports by people who don't want the University to investigate or take specific action).
- 30 (12.2 percent) were complaints (reports by people who want the University to investigate or take specific action in response to the incident).
- 123 (50 percent) were categorised as conduct that had no connection with the University (other than that the report was made by a member of the University community seeking support).
- 86 (35 percent) were categorised as University related conduct.
- 37 (15 percent) were categorised as unknown due to insufficient information provided.

I thank everyone who made a report for their courage in coming forward. Through sharing their experiences, they have helped us increase our understanding of the prevalence and nature of sexual misconduct experienced by members of our University community, and what we can do better to ensure a safe and respectful environment for all.

Looking ahead

While we have made many improvements in our approaches to preventing and responding to sexual misconduct, we know there is more we need to do to ensure everyone in our community feels safe. Our report outlines our priorities this year to provide a framework of safety and support for victim-survivors that is compassionate and trauma-informed.

In 2024 we are continuing to centre the voices of our community in our work, through co-designed and peer-led model initiatives. This includes further promoting our support services and reporting options, developing a new consent education module for students and expanding the reach of our training. Our initiatives will be reflected in an updated Roadmap to Prevention of Sexual Misconduct, aligned with the [Action Plan Addressing Gender-based Violence in Higher Education](#) and proposed [National Higher Education Code to Prevent Gender-based Violence](#).

Support available

I understand that conversations about sexual misconduct can be confronting and distressing and I encourage you to reach out for support if you need it. There are a range of University-based and external support services available to you, including:

[Safer Communities Office](#)

- Available to students and staff, Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.
- Phone: +61 2 8627 6808 or 1800 SYD HLP (1800 793 457).
- Email: safer-communities.officer@sydney.edu.au.

Mental Wellbeing Support Line

- Available 24/7 for all students.
- Phone: 1300 474 065.
- Text: +61 488 884 429.

NSW Sexual Violence Helpline

- Available 24/7 to everyone.
- Phone: 1800 385 578.

1800RESPECT

- Available 24/7 to everyone.
- Phone: 1800 737 732.

To find out more about our work or to make a report, please visit the [Safer Communities Office page](#) on the current student website. Fostering a culture of safety, respect and support is our highest priority, and we are committed to continuing this critical work in partnership with our University community.

Kind regards,
Mark

Professor Mark Scott
Vice-Chancellor and President

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Phone +61 2 9351 2222 ABN 15 211 513 464 CRICOS Number: 00026A

We recognise and pay respect to the Elders and communities – past, present, and emerging – of the lands that the University of Sydney's campuses stand on. For thousands of years they have shared and exchanged knowledges across innumerable generations for the benefit of all. [Learn more.](#)

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