

2015

Loddon Campaspe



Centre Against Sexual Assault

[ANNUAL REPORT]

LCCASA aims to provide counselling, advocacy and support to victim/survivors of sexual assault, and domestic and family violence. LCCASA also aims to provide primary prevention, education and early intervention programs to work towards the elimination of sexual and family violence and domestic violence.

Philosophy

Loddon Campaspe Centre against Sexual Assault (LCCASA) is committed to ensuring access to equitable, supportive and timely services for female and male clients of all ages who are recent and past victim/survivors of sexual assault to address the individual and often complex impacts they experience.

LCCASA acknowledges that sexual assault arises from a power imbalance, usually between men and women, and men and children. It is a violent act, which occurs regardless of age, class, culture and race. Men's exercise of power over women and children can be reinforced by myths and attitudes held in the home, workplace and the community.

LCCASA is committed to advocating for change by educating and empowering the community to dispel prevailing myths and attitudes that perpetuate violence and power inequities. To work towards a safer community, LCCASA will encourage and promote changes within society to address gender inequities and the abuses of power.

Sexual assault is a violation of human rights and a crime against the individual and society. While acts of sexual assault are always the responsibility of the perpetrator of the assault, it is the responsibility of the whole community to work towards the prevention of sexual violence.

Our Team

Board Members

Jo Reid (<i>Chairperson</i>)	Greg Allan (<i>Community Representative</i>)
Debbie Forbes (<i>Deputy Chairperson</i>)	Solitaire Paul
Cherie Baily (<i>Treasurer</i>)	<i>Resigned 14.7.2015</i>
<i>resigned 22.6.2015</i>	Alistair Lyall (<i>Bendigo Law Association</i>)
Grant Morris (<i>Victoria Police</i>)	<i>Resigned 9.7.2015</i>
Michelle Johnson	
Lindsey Bish	
Bernadette Wright	

Counsellor Advocate Team

Jenna Abbott (<i>Executive Officer</i>)	Meegan (<i>Intake</i>)
Colin Hayes (<i>Children's Team Leader</i>)	Sarah (<i>Student</i>)
Sylvia Andrews (<i>Adult Team Leader</i>)	Tracey
Mena	Holly
Kim	Jan
Simon	Asadeh
Tim	Louise
Janine	

Administration

Rachelle Pearce	Naomi
Aimee	Lisa Horton *(<i>resigned Oct 2015</i>)

Afterhours Service

Lily	Marg
Akosita	Allannah

*denotes resigned in period June 30 2015

Chairperson's Report

The past two years have been a time of change for CASA and when thinking how to describe it I think of growth. We have been building the foundations of entering into a new phase with the move into a Multidisciplinary Centre the MDC. The MDC consists of child protection, Department of Health and Human Services, SOCIT, Victoria Police, Community Health and Loddon Campaspe Centre Against Sexual Assault all working for a common cause in different ways.

We recently had Michael Beaumont Connop resigned his position as Executive Officer. Michael's short and difficult tenure resulted in Board reviewing our practise and processes within the organisation. I would like to thank Michael for his generosity, care and willingness to communicate issues within LCCASA. Change is not without hardship and at times progress appears to be gnarled and tangled but with systematic change and continued efforts from all involved new shoots form and the growth continues.

Our staff has shown to be flexible, supportive and willing to contribute to discussion and adapting to change. Staff adjusted to our new interim structure of Executive officer and team leaders as well as great change within administration, intake and outsourcing supervision. They continued perform their role as well as build a positive team spirit, increased work productivity and promote a client focus ethic within the workplace.

Special thanks needs to go to Lisa in administration for being adaptable, learning and maintaining this area and supporting the required changes. Thanks to Sylvia and Colin for stepping into the new team leader roles to manage the new structure of adult and children services which provides a more efficient and effective model of client service delivery. Thanks and gratitude to Jenna Abbott our interim Executive Officer, she has adapted and executed her role with professionalism, honesty and enthusiasm in pulling the team together and getting on with the job. Without the staff the foundations of growth within the service would not be as strong as they are today.

A huge and heartfelt thankyou needs to go to TL Consult, Tom Pagonis and Liz Kelly who initially became involved with LCCASA on a short term, temporary basis and willingly extended their tenure as we shared the common goal of having a better service that addressed the needs of the clients and embedded a healthy work environment. Our outdated work agreement was review and updated by Sarah Christie from TL Consult in consultation with staff and Board. Sarah took our new EBA to the commission successfully and this was all completed within a very short period of six months, our congratulations go to her. Tom and Liz who have guided Board and staff through some difficult times and assisted in focusing on the future. They not only completed paid

tasks but gave numerous voluntary hours and adjusted and extended their work time to weekends and after hours to fit around my own work. I know without their support, knowledge and efficiency the organisation would not be where it is today, ready to take off and spread new branches to the areas that still need to be addressed to prevent violence within our society.

Collectively we developed our strategic plan which requires LCCASA to maintain a strong and supportive counselling advocacy service to meet the needs of survivors of sexual abuse. As an organisation we need to embrace the current political climate that is finally starting to speak out and address the issues around family violence and sexual abuse. LCCASA need to continue to chip away at the secrecy that surrounds abuse and address the societal embedded views of power and control.

The Age newspaper in September this year published that amongst young people between 16-24 years old, 50% surveyed believe tracking a partner without consent is ok, that 40% of rape occurs because men can't control their urges and that 60% of violence occurs because men can't control their anger. With statistics like these we know we still have a long way to go. Our future work needs to include a more educative role that will challenge these social norms as well as addressing the service delivery gaps within disability, indigenous and CALD. We need to continue to work with other professionals and organisations in educating, reporting and supporting survivors of abuse.

Finally I would like to thank Board members for the opportunity to chair LCCASA for the past two years. This year we have seen the resignation of life member Alistair Llyal and Cherie Bayley our treasure, who is seemingly irreplaceable as we haven't been able to fill this position on Board, I thank them for their time and commitment over the years. Board welcomes new members Megan Aumair, Helen Hicks and Riley Driscoll. During my time as Board chairperson I have learnt heaps, stuffed up a few things along the way, had many laughs and a few tears but The Board have made many positive decisions that have resulted in a healthier, improved, stronger organisation. Each Board member generously gives their time and expertise not for glory or accolades but to bring about change and we have been successful in doing this. I am resigning my position as Board member after nearly 4 years and I wish LCCASA the best for the future and know that I leave it in good hands to flourish.

Jo Reid (Chair)

Executive Officer's Report

This Annual Report of the 2014-2015 year provides reflection on the demands of the service and the wonderful dedicated team responding to those demands. The team I refer to includes the Board of Management, Counsellor Advocates, Administration and Afterhours.

Much has been achieved over the past 12 months with the interim structure in place. Staff and Board have worked together in the development of a Strategic Plan, transition to a multidisciplinary centre, development of an Enterprise Bargaining Agreement and the review and improvement of LCCASA's systems, processes and policies.

We have welcomed a number of new members to our staff to which increases our capacity respond to the increasing demands of the Loddon Campaspe community.

I would like thank The Team Leaders Colin Hayes and Sylvia Andrews for their dedication, hard work and particularly their support of me and their respective teams Asadeh, Holly, Tracey, Jan, Louise Adult team and Mena, Janine, Tim Simon, Kim Children's team.

The counsellor advocates have been ably supported by our Intake worker Meegan Stanley and Administration Lisa, Rachelle, Aimee and Naomi.

LCCASA have continued to provide a client focussed service along with community training and education. We continue to provide outreach to Echuca, Kyabram, Maryborough, Kyneton and Tarrengower Women's Prison. We have seen our numbers increase and our waiting list decrease by improving our service model.

We have settled into the MDC and have found working with our partners SOCIT and DHHS has streamlined our approach for clients. We continue to look for opportunities to strengthen alliances with other service providers and look forward to continued valued relationships with DHHS, Police, Hospitals, Schools, Family Support Services and Clients.

Thanks again to all those who have supported our recent changes and share our vision for the future.

Jenna Abbott
Acting Executive Officer.

Treasurer's Report (prepared by Acting EO)

I am pleased once again to present this financial report on behalf of the Board for the Loddon Campaspe Centre Against Sexual Assault (LCCASA).

I hereby submit a statement in accordance with the Financial Statements and the Audit Report of the Organisation for the year ended 30 June 2015; including:

- Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2015
- Statement of Financial Position as at the 30th June 2015
- Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2015; and
- Statement of Cash Flows

The financial accounts, as presented, have been independently audited by MGR Accountants Bendigo.

The 2015/2014 Financial Statements as attached show that the organisation was left with a surplus of \$115,172 for the financial year. As at the 30th June 2015 the Organisation had total equity of \$888,621. The Financial Statements present the Organisation once again in a stable position.

The Organisation's main sources of revenue are the Victorian Department of Human Services and the Department of Justice. LCCASA also has a contract with the Loddon Campaspe Integrated Family Violence Consortium to provide an after-hours response to families experiencing family violence.

Balance sheet

The equity position has increased from \$773,449 to \$888,621. This has primarily been a result of our final year end surplus. Our Current Asset Ratio at the end of June 2015 was 4.41:1 (2014: 3.40:1).

Surplus / Deficit

This year's financial position ended with a comfortable surplus of \$115,172.

In relation to the Income and Expenditure of LCCASA during the 2014/2015 financial year:

- Actual Income received was \$1,638,841 which was an increase from the previous year's total of \$1,423,915.
- Total Employee expenses were \$1,081,025 which was a decrease from last year's total of \$1,105,501.
- Total Administration expenses increased from \$227,660 to \$424,631.

General Comments

Overall the organisation is in a stable financial position. Again this could not have been achieved without the expertise in achieving realistic budget forecasts and careful monitoring of expenditure against budget. The budget for the next financial year has been finalised. We are expecting stable results with the continued focus from the entire staff group and close monitoring by the Board will ensure the next year is managed with precision.

It is my recommendation that this report for the 2014/2015 financial year be accepted.

Attachments:

- Auditor's Report for the financial period ending 30th June 2015.

Jenna Abbott

Acting Executive Officer

The opening of the multi-disciplinary Centre

The MDC was officially opened on 15th October 2015 by the Minister for Police Wade Noonan and Minister for Families and Children Jenny Mikakos. The opening acknowledged that the MDC operates on Dja Dja Wurrung land and began with a traditional smoking ceremony and welcome to country. The new MDC provides services at a single location for those who have experienced sexual assault. Clients are supported to access services that are provided by Victoria Police, DHHS and LCCASA. LCCASA continues to promote best outcomes for clients by working closely with the co-located and wider services.



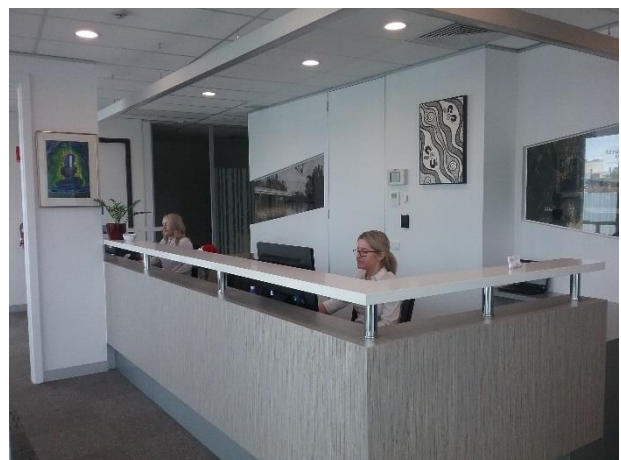
One of the previous buildings



The new MDC building under construction



The MDC building



Reception at the MDC building



Acknowledgments

Loddon Campaspe Centre against Sexual Assault would like to extend our gratitude to all the people who walk through our doors and trust us with the privilege of bearing witness to the healing journey.

LCCASA acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government

