

What is rape?

Our definition of rape is broader than most conventional or legal definitions. We place rape within a continuum of sexual violence that can take many different forms, including sexual harassment, verbal abuse, leering, threats, exposure, being forced to watch pornography, unwanted touching, incest, penetration, mutilation, and ritual abuse.

“ Rape is any form of unwanted sexual behaviour that is imposed on someone ”



CONTACT US

Support line: 07 3391 0004
admin@brissc.org.au
www.brissc.org.au

Service Locations:

Main Office
15 Morrisey St,
Woolloongabba.
QLD, 4102

BSwS
Corner of Old Progress
and Orchard Rd.,
Richlands. (Inala)
QLD, 4077

Northside
5/1180 Sandgate Road
Nundah
QLD, 4012

FACTS ABOUT RAPE



WWW.BRISSC.ORG.AU

Australian women
since the age of
15 had been
sexually assaulted
by a person they
knew.

1 in 6

Women have
experienced sexual
violence (sexual
assault and/or threats)
since the age of 15

*According to the Family, domestic and sexual violence in
Australia, 2018. AIHW and the ABS 2017b.

RAPE IS ABOUT POWER & CONTROL

Rape often involves the use of
power, manipulation or force to
intimidate, humiliate, exploit,
degrade or control another person.
Rape has been used as a weapon in
war, in racial violence and in
everyday life.

Rape diminishes a person's dignity
and their human rights to safety,
choice and consent.

Rape is a crime and the
responsibility always lies with those
who commit it.

MYTHS & REALITIES

Myths are widespread and serve to
silence victims.

Myths often affect victim's family and
their ability to support women and
children's who have been abused.

Women and children abused may not
be believed as they do not fit the
legal criteria for "real rape" or the
stereotype of what a victim looks like.

Perpetrators lie deliberately to
perpetuate the myths that allow rape
to continue.

"Myths serve to legitimize rape. The
reality of victim's trauma is
minimized and denied as these myths
draw the responsibility from the
rapist to the victim"

Rape is more about the
abuse of power than
about sexual attraction
or the desire for sexual
gratification

Rape may also be defined
as a process by which
people feel that they do not
have the right to say no and
have their rights respected

SOME EXAMPLES OF RAPE MAY INCLUDE:

An adult relative using trickery
and bribes to make a child
participate in a sexual activity.

A person manipulating a partner
into having sex in order to 'keep
the peace' or 'show love'

Sex as a 'duty' or an
entitlement.

Any sort of pressure or coercion
to have sex.

Sex expected after buying a
person a drink or dinner.
Sex when the person is
intoxicated.

A general practitioner convincing
a person to undertake an intimate
examination when it is
unnecessary or inappropriate.