Useful websites and phone numbers – support for parents and carers
Parents/carers may feel the need for support or advice if their child tells them of an alleged sexual assault. There are a number of support services you can contact for information and advice:

Victoria Police Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Unit
Phone: 000 or see website below for regional contact numbers

Department of Human Services Child Protection
Phone: 131 278 (after hours child protection emergency service)

Gatehouse Centre, Royal Children's Hospital
Phone: 9345 6391

Centres Against Sexual Assault (Statewide)
Phone: 1800 806 292

Parents Victoria
Phone: 9380 2158 or 1800 032 023 (rural callers only)
http://www.parents.victoria.asn.au/

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
Phone: 1300 767 299 (general enquiries 9am - 5pm)

Children’s Protection Society
Phone: 9450 0900

Australian Childhood Foundation
Phone: 9874 3922

Association for Children with a Disability
Phone: 9818 2000 or 1800 654 013 (rural callers only)
http://www.acd.org.au

Department of Education – International Division
Phone: 9651 3976

Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc.
Phone: 9416 3833
http://www.vaeai.org.au/
What is Sexual Assault?

Sexual assault is defined as any unwanted sexual behaviour that causes humiliation, pain, fear or intimidation. Sexual assault includes rape, assault with intent to rape and indecent assault.

Schools – Duty of Care

Schools have a duty of care to provide support to all students involved in an allegation of student sexual assault when the assault is:

a) disclosed at school; or
b) occurs at school or on school premises; or
c) occurs on the way to or from school; or
d) occurs where a student is otherwise in the school’s care

Schools are required to contact police if they receive a disclosure of an alleged student sexual assault.

If your child is involved in an alleged sexual assault, the Principal will discuss with you the actions taken by the school and supports that are available to your child.

If Your Child Discloses a Sexual Assault, You Should…

• Accept what your child says and give them time to say it. Tell them you believe them
• Let your child tell you in their own words what happened
• Give reassurance that telling somebody was the right thing to do
• Tell your child that they will be supported

Who Do I Contact If My Child is Involved in a Sexual Assault?

Contact the police and ask to speak to someone from the Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Unit.

Contact your child’s school and inform the Principal. The school will ensure that a number of supports are made available to you and your child.

How Can My Child’s School Provide Support?

Schools are able to:

• Assist with making referrals to external support agencies
• Provide support through Student Support Services Officers, who are qualified social workers or psychologists
• Develop a support plan for your child
• Assist your child to identify a support teacher who can help them with any concerns or issues

If parents/carers have any concerns they should contact the school Principal.

Who Can Provide Specialised Counselling and Support?

The Centres Against Sexual Assault are located across the state and provide a range of services including crisis intervention, medical assessments, counselling, support, advocacy and education programs.

If you are told by a community or family member or another student of an allegation of sexual assault which involves your child, police must be contacted.