Creating cultural change: Sex, safety and respect workshops as one response to sexual assault and harassment on campus
Deanna McCall, Jen Elhindi & Michelle Lampis, University of Newcastle

In recent years there has been an increase in awareness and calls to action to reduce sexual assault and harassment on university campuses in Australia. This has stemmed from The Australian Human Rights Commissions report Change The Course: National Report on Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment at Australian Universities (2017). One response from the University of Newcastle was to adopt an evidence based accredited program called Sex, Safety and Respect. This was developed through a specialist violence prevention service the Full Stop Foundation. The University commissioned the Foundation to train around 20 professional and academic staff to deliver a tailored workshop to students.

The workshop seeks to address cultural narratives and behaviours that can contribute to sexual violence. The workshop offers students an interactive and reflective experience that builds on content delivered in the University's compulsory online consent module.

The rollout of the workshop is currently in the early implementation phase and has been supported through engagement with key stakeholders across the University with the aim of creating allies and making this a University-wide approach to effect positive cultural change.

In this paper we provide an overview of the implementation process, challenges and successes encountered. Preliminary feedback from staff and students about their experience of the workshop and our plans for expanding the program's reach are also reviewed.

Learning outcomes
- To highlight the University of Newcastle’s approach to address the issue of sexual assault and harassment across the University
- To provide an overview of the sex, safety and respect framework.
- To discuss challenges and opportunities associated with the roll-out of the workshops
Presenters
Deanna McCall, University of Newcastle

Deanna McCall is a Social Worker working in a clinical capacity as a student Counsellor at the University of Newcastle, whilst enrolled in a Higher Degree by Research at Monash University.

Deanna has recently published four conference papers on challenges that students’ encounter. Deanna’s interest is in developing strategies to assist students to develop their emotional and psychological wellbeing to enable them to fulfil their academic aspirations.

Jen Elhindi, University of Newcastle

Jen has been working in student accommodation at UON since 2012 and has seen significant change in culture and in the needs of students during her tenure. Jen holds a Bachelor’s degree in Teaching/Health and Physical Education (Hons.) from UON, a Graduate Certificate in Adolescent Health and Wellbeing and a Graduate Diploma in Youth Mental Health (both from University of Melbourne) and is currently working towards a Masters in Social Work (Professional Qualifying) through the University of New England.

Jen’s interest fall with supporting and meeting the needs of the diverse residential population and working to ensure that student-voice is integrated into program deliverables.

Michelle Lampis, University of Newcastle

Michelle Lampis is a social worker with over 20 years’ experience working in the mental health, alcohol and other drugs sector. She has worked in a variety of government and community settings across Australia, England and the US. She is passionate about working collaboratively and supporting individuals to reach their full potential.