



Sexual
Assault
Support
Service

Harmful Sexual Behaviour Program

The Sexual Assault Support Service (SASS) Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) Program is a clinical assessment and intervention program aimed at children and young people who are displaying problematic or harmful sexual behaviours.

What is harmful sexual behaviour?

From birth, children move through different stages of sexual development, and sexual behaviours in children and young people can range on a continuum from normal to harmful.

Problematic sexual behaviours may be outside of developmental norms, socially unacceptable and/or harmful to the young person displaying them and/or others. Concerning sexual behaviour also ranges in presentation from physical conduct, sexual language, and a preoccupation with sexual content or inappropriate use of technology.

What age group do we work with?

Children and young people up to and including the age of 17 years are eligible for the program. Referrals and assessments are separated into two groups:

- Children under 12 years
- Adolescents 12 – 17 years

Who do we work with?

- The child or young person directly
- The parents/carers to provide support, safety planning and education
- Schools to provide support, safety planning and training
- Mission Australia to develop a cohesive care plan for the young person and identify any other service needs
- Police and Child Safety Services (if required) to support the young person and create safety
- Other agencies involved in the young person's care

Who can refer?

- Young people themselves
- Parents/carers
- School staff
- Health professionals
- Government departments such as Police, Youth Justice or Child Safety Services
- Courts
- Other agencies actively involved with the young person

Does it cost anything?

The program is free.

Where does the program run?

The program runs across the state, with the main offices being in Hobart and Burnie/Devonport.

**For further information please contact the
HSB Program Coordinator at SASS.**

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