

SH*T GUYS SAY!

How would you intervene if you witnessed sexual violence?

- 1 - What is sexual violence?
- 2 - Why should I speak up?
- 3 - What can I do if my mates are inappropriate?



What is sexual violence?

It is important to know what sexual violence is so that it is able to be recognised and called out.

Sexual violence is a broad term that describes a range of sexual behaviours that make someone feel uncomfortable, frightened, intimidated or threatened. Sexual violence includes behaviours ranging from rape to stalking to circulating explicit images of someone without their consent, pressuring someone into sexual activities they are not comfortable with, making sexual comments to someone that makes them uncomfortable and humiliated.

Unfortunately, there is a culture, especially among men, to downplay and trivialise sexual violence.

Sexual violence is incredibly serious, illegal, and can have long term effects on both survivors and bystanders.

So if you witness sexual violence and you treat it as unimportant, underplay it, treat it lightly, laugh it off, dismiss it, or scoff at it then you are trivialising sexual violence.

This fact sheet explains how you can call out sexual violence if you see it and why it is important.



Why should I speak up?

ABS 2016 recorded 256 sexual assaults reported in Canberra alone!

Women were five times more likely to be assaulted. 81% of women knew the offender.

The recent Australian Human Rights Commission National Report on Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment at Australian Universities (2017) showed that 63% of people who witnessed sexual assault on campus did NOT report it.

The biggest reason for bystanders not intervening was they did not think the issue was serious enough.

If you see sexual violence and don't intervene you may encourage that behaviour. If you call it out, educate, and change the attitudes of your mates, then you can help stop sexual violence!



What can I do if my mates are inappropriate?

Call out the behaviour

-When you're with your friends and they talk flippantly about sexual violence, share intimate images without consent, or talk about taking advantage of/or pressuring women tell them it is inappropriate.

Support someone else when they take a stand

- Re-tweet a mate's post, stand with them, or give them a shout out if they take a stand against sexual violence

Educate yourself

-Educate yourself about how to stand up against sexual violence safely and start the conversation with your mates.

Some great resources are:

www.whattosay.org

www.theline.org.au

www.ourwatch.org.au



whmi
women's centre for health matters