

The impacts of sexual harassment

Anyone can experience sexual harassment, but it is more likely to be experienced by women. Attributes such as age, sexuality, migration status, race, disability and literacy can also increase a person's vulnerability.

Sexual harassment can cause physical and psychological harm to the person it is directed at and to anyone witnessing the behaviour.



Sexual harassment can lead to:



feelings of social isolation or family dislocation



loss of confidence and withdrawal



physical injuries as a result of assault



negative impacts on a person's job or career



stress, depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)



illness as a result of stress

such as cardiovascular disease, musculoskeletal disorders, immune deficiency and gastrointestinal disorders



suicidal thoughts

Persons conducting a business or undertaking have a work health and safety duty to eliminate or minimise the risk of sexual harassment at the workplace, so far as is reasonably practicable.

Further advice and support services

Detailed guidance on how you prevent and respond to sexual harassment can be found at www.swa.gov.au.

If you need help, please contact your [work health and safety regulator](#).

Further information and advice can be obtained from:

- 1800Respect
1800 737 732
- [Sexual assault support services](#)