

Consent & Sexual Safety: Guidelines for Clubs

As an academic community, Curtin students and staff are expected to uphold certain values. It is living by these values – as well as academic achievement – that enables Curtin graduates to contribute to society in a positive way. You can read more about Curtin values [here](#). Clubs and societies, as an integral part of the Curtin community, play a pivotal role in shaping the student experience at Curtin. As such, club office bearers are expected to lead the way in upholding Curtin values and fostering a fun, positive, and safe campus culture.

What is Consent?

Whenever you have sex, you need to make sure that your partner is just as enthusiastic about having sex. In other words, that they give their full consent. It's important that you are 100% sure that the person you're with is happy and willing because non-consensual sexual activity (even kissing and touching) is actually against the law.

Not only is sex without consent a crime, but being pressured or forced into a sexual situation you're not ready for (also known as rape and sexual assault) can do lasting emotional damage. It's not enough to just assume someone wants sex as much as you, you really have to ask. Get more information [here](#).

If you aren't sure how to say 'no' to unwanted sexual contact, check out these [tips](#).

You can also check out [this video](#) which explains it all.

What is Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment?

Sexual assault

- Is any sexual or sexualised act that makes a person feel uncomfortable, intimidated or frightened.
- Is behaviour that a person has not invited or chosen.
- Can be one-off events, or part of a pattern of violence.
- Has a range of effects, including physical, emotional and psychological.

Sexual harassment

- Is any unwanted or unwelcome sexual behaviour, which makes a person feel offended, humiliated or intimidated.
- Is *not* interaction, flirtation or friendship which is mutual or consensual.

Source: <http://campaign.curtin.edu.au/respect-now-always/>

Promoting Consensual Sexual Culture

Curtin Student Guild is committed to ensuring safe, consensual and enjoyable club culture. We have a zero tolerance policy on any form of harassment, violence, or abuse, and it is expected that all Guild-affiliated clubs and societies adopt the same stance. Messages of consent and sexual safety should inform all of your club's promotional choices (i.e. imagery, language) and event management practices.

What to Do If Someone Discloses Sexual Violence

As a club office bearer or committee member, you occupy a position of leadership here at Curtin. As a student leader, it is possible that you may find yourself in a position in which someone (i.e. a club member) discloses or reports an incident of sexual harassment or assault to you. Such incidents fall under the term "sexual violence". It is important that you familiarise yourself with the available support services and the reporting processes in place.

If you receive a disclosure of sexual violence in your capacity as a club organiser, or if reports of sexual violence have been raised with regard to a club event, your first port of call should be Guild's Club Support team - even if you're not entirely sure whether the incident in question qualifies as sexual violence. The most important thing to remember is that you are not alone, nor expected to handle the situation yourself - we are here to help. You can reach us via clubs@guild.curtin.edu.au. The Club Support team will work alongside Student Assist, the support and advocacy service of the Curtin Student Guild, to support and guide you through the process. Student Assist are trained and experienced professionals who are available for all Curtin students, and all cases are completely confidential.

You can find further information about how Curtin handles complaints and reports of this nature [here](#). For more information on official Curtin reporting channels/processes, please refer to this [Quick Guide](#), or read a more detailed overview [here](#).