

The impact of violence as a major health issue is increasingly being recognised. People feel more able now to talk about their experiences of violence and more people are accessing services in relation to this. Most people who seek medical care will seek this care not at a sexual assault service, **but in general practice.**

Yarrow Place has developed a short course to increase doctors' knowledge and skills in providing services to people who have been sexually assaulted. It provides an understanding of the context of sexual violence and the wide range of medical issues, forensic medical examinations and medical involvement in the legal process. **Forensic skills learned will be very useful and relevant to other areas of work GPs are dealing with such as medico-legal report writing, physical assaults and providing evidence in court.**

The next short course is in February, 2009.

The details are:

**When:**

Wed 11th, Thurs 12th (9am—5pm) and Fri 13th (am) February, 2009

**Where:**

Yarrow Place Rape and Sexual Assault Service  
55 King William Rd  
North Adelaide 5006  
(Friday morning-Expert Witness training held in court)

**Cost:**

Free of Charge

For more information, please contact Dr Lyndall Young, Forensic Physician or Christine Robinson on 8226 8777

40 (Category 1) RACGP points have been allocated for the training

## Yarrow Place Services

**A range of counselling and medical services which may be accessed according to individual need:**

- 24 hour crisis response for recent assault which can include counselling and/or medical
- Counselling support for recent victims of rape
- Long term counselling if requested or required
- Support for those close to the survivor of rape and sexual assault is very important for healing. Support persons such as family members, partners and friends are offered a limited number of counselling sessions at Yarrow Place. This provides an opportunity for support people to express their reactions to what happened, to explore coping strategies and to discuss how to support the survivor.
- Specialised medical care and follow-up
- Collection of forensic evidence as requested by those people who have made, or may wish to make, a complaint to police
- Group programs offered throughout the year
- Education, training and consultation for workers
- Community Education to increase knowledge and awareness

## GP Trainee Attachments at Yarrow Place

Yarrow Place offers an attachment to GP Trainees to develop skills in sexual assault medicine. The attachment is for 12 days which can be taken as one day a week for 12 weeks or as a block of 2 weeks. The attachment includes the short course in the provision of medical care and forensic services to people who have been sexually assaulted.

During the attachment you will visit the:

Forensic Science South Australia  
Sex Crimes Investigation Branch of the South  
Australian Police  
Domestic Violence Service  
Respond SA (counseling service for adult survivors of  
child sexual abuse), and  
other associated services, such as a visit to the  
courts to observe legal proceedings.

You will have the opportunity to observe the forensic medical examination of an adult who has been raped, to undertake a 'role play' forensic medical examination on a gynaecological teaching associate and when possible (and with supervision) on a person who has recently been raped.

You will be able to develop skills in the provision of medical care to a person who has been sexually assaulted in both the acute and follow up situations.

You will learn about injury interpretation, medico-legal report writing and forensic photography and giving evidence in court.

The Yarrow Place counselors will speak with you about the counseling process for people who have been raped.

If you are interested in finding out more about this attachment, please contact Dr Lyndall Young at Yarrow Place on 8226 8777 or your General Practice Training Provider.

## About Yarrow Place

Yarrow Place is the lead public health unit responding to adult rape and sexual assault in South Australia. A community service auspiced by the Children, Youth and Women's Health Service, **Yarrow Place** has four main roles:

- Providing services to adults and youth who have been raped or sexually assaulted. Services provided include counselling, medical care, including forensic medical examinations, and group work;
- Resourcing other agencies and workers to provide services. This includes providing training, information and support to workers in a range of occupations and co-working with other services;
- Facilitating coordination and cooperation in policy, planning and service delivery across Government and Non-Government agencies; and
- Working to prevent rape and sexual assault.

## Yarrow Place Training Philosophy

**Yarrow Place** training programs aim to provide individuals with the necessary skills, knowledge and attitudes to undertake work in the area of rape and sexual assault. It is expected that appropriately trained workers will contribute to improving access, equity and quality of service provision to victims/survivors, and as a result reduce the negative health impacts of rape and sexual assault.

**Yarrow Place** training programs focus on victim's rights and are therefore aimed at empowering people who have experienced rape or sexual assault through practices that promote client self-determination. Yarrow Place acknowledges that in many instances, workers already possess the interpersonal and advocacy skills needed to do this, therefore facilitation is based on applying these skills in a rape and sexual assault context. Participants will be involved in exercises and activities that relate to their own work practices and experiences.



## Short Course in the Provision of Medical Care and Forensic Services to Adults who have been Raped or Sexually Assaulted



Level 2 Norwich Centre 55 King William Road North Adelaide SA 5006  
Tel. 8226 8777 / 1800 817 421 Fax. 8226 8778  
After hours and emergency 8226 8787 email: info@yarrowplace.sa.gov.au

[www.yarrowplace.sa.gov.au](http://www.yarrowplace.sa.gov.au)