




UTS Initiatives

Preventing and responding to sexual assault and harassment – what are we doing?

As part of the [Respect. Now. Always.](#) initiative, UTS has been working with staff and students and consulting with external organisations, to improve its ability to:

- Prevent and respond to sexual assault and sexual harassment.
- Create a campus culture of zero tolerance of sexual assault and sexual harassment.

Here is a snapshot of what we already do, what we have started doing, and what we are looking to do as we continue our efforts to safeguard the physical and emotional wellbeing of our students.

Prevention

UTS has a Prevention of Sexual Assault and Harassment Working Group, led by a dedicated Project Officer for the Prevention of Sexual Assault. This working group is looking at key areas such as education and awareness. It reports to the Provost.

In addition, a Concerning Behaviours and Intervention Team (CBAIT) brings together representatives from a range of support units around the university, meeting fortnightly or as needed.

We have been sharing student-focused communications regarding sexual consent. Mandatory student education around consent is under active investigation.



CCTV monitoring of the UTS precinct has been expanded from 12 hours to 24 hours, 7 days a week.

We have refocused our 24-hour security guard engagement on early intervention – to prevent rather than react to incidents.

A security officer patrols the precinct by bicycle from 6pm to 6am, allowing fast response.

The hours of our Security Shuttle Bus service, in place for a decade now, have been expanded by two hours to 2am.

Our security team meets regularly with local and specialist police units.

Representatives from all [ActivateUTS clubs](#) receive training in identifying, preventing, reporting and responding to sexual assault and harassment.

All members of the [UTS Housing Resident Networker](#) program receive Sex and Ethics training.

Our biennial UTS Housing survey has been updated to help us understand the extent of residents' awareness of UTS support services.

Support

We have established an interim 24/7 UTS trauma-informed Sexual Assault Support Line on 1800 531 626

We have updated our online portals with clearer information for staff and students on support and reporting.

Emergency numbers will be included on the reverse of newly issued student and staff cards from 2018.

Our Equity & Diversity Unit provides a [confidential grievance resolution process](#) for students or staff who experience harassment or discrimination.

The Student Services Unit provides [counselling services](#) for students. We have increased the number of counsellors trained in responding to trauma to the equivalent of 11 full-time positions. They now include a social worker with a background in sexual health.

We will trial with Relationships Australia NSW a new way for students to self-select a counsellor through a separate online service that lists UTS counsellors and more than 100 other professionals.

We have introduced an [online portal](#) for those who wish to make a disclosure about sexual harassment or sexual assault but prefer not to do so in person, on campus.

We have established the Respect.Now.Always@uts.edu.au email account for students and staff to provide feedback or ideas or to ask a question.

We plan to provide specialist training for students and non-clinical staff who may receive disclosures of sexual violence so they can not only respond with knowledge and compassion but also manage their own health and wellbeing.

We are using the expertise within our Design Innovation Research Centre to examine other ways to improve the student experience in reporting incidents of sexual assault and harassment and accessing support.

We have a dedicated [web portal](#) for easy access to information on support options within UTS and the external community.