

## “CHANGE THE COURSE” REPORT - *Setting the Scene*

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The Respect. Now. Always Campaign was launched by Universities Australia in February 2016 in partnership with the Australian Human Rights Commission and was deployed across Australia’s 39 universities.

It had three areas of focus being:

- Awareness raising
- Gathering comprehensive national data
- Sharing best practice and resources

With regard to **sexual harassment**, the results of the Survey indicate:

- One in five experienced sexual harassment in a uni setting
- Majority of perpetrators were men
- At risk groups: trans and gender diverse, members of the LGBTIQ community, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and students with a disability

The Survey results for **sexual assault** indicate:

- 1.6% sexually assaulted in a uni setting
- Common settings:
  - Uni or residence social event
  - Grounds
  - Residence or college
- 18% of assaults were perpetrated by a from place of residence
- At risk groups

With respect to **bystanders**, the Survey results indicate:

- 1 in 4 students witnessed sexual harassment, 21% of these students took action
- 1 in 100 students witnessed sexual assault, 37% of these students took action
- Most common reasons for taking no action:
  - Not serious enough
  - Didn’t know what to do
  - Didn’t want to get involved

The Survey results show that, of the students who were sexually harassed or sexually assaulted, there were **very low rates of reporting**:

- 2% of students harassed
- 9% of students assaulted

The Survey results also indicate **very low rates of seeking support**:

- 4% of harassed
- 14% of students assaulted

**10 Point Action Plan**

A copy of Universities Australia's 10 Point Action Plan was distributed with the Forum papers. Of particular note was Recommendation 9 which asks that residential colleges and university residences should commission an independent, expert led review of the factors which contribute to sexual assault and sexual harassment in their settings.

See Dr Renee Hamilton's presentation [here](#)