



## Media Release

10 November 2009

### Teen respect taught by the Women's

A sexual assault prevention program by the Royal Women's Hospital will form a key part of the Federal Government's latest initiative to reduce violence against women and children.

The Women's, *Sexual Assault Prevention Program in Secondary Schools (SAPPSS)*, has been adopted as part the national *Respectful Relationships* program.

SAPPSS was developed by the Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA), which is part of the Women's, in 2002. Since then it has been piloted in 11 secondary schools in Victoria, and the Prime Minister has committed to extend SAPPSS to three Canberra secondary schools.

Dale Fisher, Chief Executive of the Women's, said SAPPSS was a product of the high standards of counselling, community work and research at CASA House.

"As the leaders in this field we have provided the Federal Government with a ready-made plan which will help reduce the growing incidence of sexual assault and violence against women and children," she said.

"The Women's, through CASA House, is looking forward to sharing knowledge and expertise in this area with other secondary schools interstate and the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre in particular, as part of a concentrated effort to reduce the incidence and impacts of sexual assault and violence against our women and children.

"The Federal Government's announcement is further recognition of the important work the Royal Women's Hospital is doing at both a state and a national level as part of our commitment to improving health outcomes for all women and children," she said.

"SAPPSS is unique, and promotes respectful relationships and behaviours as the primary prevention against sexual assault and violence. The program has evolved from a one-off sexual assault education session for students to become a comprehensive violence and sexual assault prevention program that is now imbedded in the school curriculum," Ms Fisher said.

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For more information please call:

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