

Safety initiatives introduced at UWA



Since the 2016 national safety survey, students and staff have worked together to introduce a wide range of initiatives and programs to help ensure UWA is a safe and inclusive place for all those who visit. These include:

- The formation of the [UWA Safer Communities Working Group](#) – a partnership between the University and UWA Student Guild.
- The launch of the UWA Safer Communities Award to recognise staff and students who help create a safe, inclusive and supportive environment.
- Our convention of the WA RNA Network so Western Australian universities can work together to support all students in response to sexual assault and harassment.
- The launch of our [Step Up Bystander Intervention Training](#), with more than 1,500 students and staff trained so far to safely intervene if they see someone in trouble.
- The commission of an independent audit and review of sexual misconduct within the college setting. The majority of recommendations made in the review have since been [endorsed and implemented](#) by all UWA-affiliated colleges and this work is ongoing.
- The provision of an extensive program of events by the [UWA Student Guild Women's Department](#) each year, such as healthy relationship education, self-defence workshops and the award-winning #EndTheViolence week.
- The launch of [The Living Room](#) which provides a welcoming space where someone is always available if students are feeling stressed, upset or just need a chat. No appointment required.
- The implementation of the Ask for Angela initiative at the UWA Tavern.
- The launch of an online system for reporting incidents to make the process easier.
- The launch of a confidential disclosure service to support students in response to incidents of sexual harm with academic adjustments, fast-tracked referrals and advice on reporting options.
- The improvement of information available on how to seek support and report an incident.
- Making external toilets across campus accessible only with a student or staff card after-hours.
- The launch of a security SMS line, so our community can contact UWA Security if they're in a situation where verbal communication is not possible.
- The launch of the SafeZone app with quick tap buttons that connect students, staff and visitors to UWA Security for any safety or security issues on campus.
- Improving lighting across campus to provide lower glare and better visibility after dark.
- The launch of low-barrier consent and healthy relationships outreach activities run by trained Health Promotion Peer Educators on campus and at UWA's residential colleges.
- Strengthening the partnership between the Guild and University health and wellbeing services to streamline and speed up the process of support.

- Increasing the number of Guild club executives that receive training from the Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC).
- Wellbeing Volunteers are now present at all Guild events where alcohol is available.
- UWA and Curtin University have partnered together to introduce an online Respectful Relationships Module with students (expected release April/May 2022).
- Introduction of two online modules for staff which provide information on sexual assault and harassment, and how to respond to a disclosure.
- Updated standalone Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedures published on the UWA Policy website, including clearer processes for disclosure and reporting.

This is in addition to ongoing safety and support services and initiatives that were already in place before the recommendations from the 2016 survey:

- 24/7 security services and our after-hours security escort service where a security officer will walk staff and students to their car, bus stop or accommodation adjacent to the University after dark.
- Mental Health First Aid Training provided free to all students and staff.
- Counselling and support available from UWA Counselling and Psychological Services, Guild Student Assist, Employee Assistance Program and the UWA Medical Centre.
- Incident reporting and remediation.
- Our [Ally program](#) which creates advocates for our LGBTIQ+ community.
- Reducing the Risk of Sexual Trauma training provided by SARC for Guild student leaders and Residential Advisers (RAs).
- Providing staff with training and professional development opportunities on responding to disclosures of sexual violence and supporting students in response to sexual harm.