

Consent & Accountability Policy

For Church of Sluts Events

Our Commitment

At Church of Sluts, we are committed to cultivating spaces that are grounded in consent, respect, and embodied freedom. We acknowledge that harm can occur even in well-intentioned spaces, and we are dedicated to addressing allegations of non-consensual behaviour with care, transparency, and accountability.

Emotional support

We understand that reporting or witnessing a breach of consent can bring up distressing feelings. While we are not mental health professionals and do not provide therapeutic support, we are committed to holding space with care and directing you to appropriate resources.

If you need emotional support, please consider reaching out to:

1800RESPECT

☎ call 1800 737 732, text 0458 737 732 | <https://www.1800respect.org.au>

Full Stop Australia

☎ 1800 385 578 | <https://fullstop.org.au/get-help/our-services>

Lifeline

☎ 13 11 14 | <https://www.lifeline.org.au>

13YARN (ATSI support service)

☎ 13 92 76 | <https://www.13yarn.org.au>

Rainbow Sexual, Domestic and Family Violence Helpline

☎ 1800 497 212 | <https://fullstop.org.au/get-help/our-services/rainbowviolenceandabusesupport>

QLife

☎ 1800 184 527 (3pm-12am)

Charlee - suicide prevention hub made by LGBTIQ+ people

<https://www.charlee.org.au>

Beyond Blue – 24/7 Mental Health Support Line

☎ 1300 22 4636 | www.beyondblue.org.au

Scope

This policy applies to all Church of Sluts events. It covers any allegations of non-consensual behaviour, boundary violations, or breaches of our code of conduct that occur within these spaces.

We also acknowledge that community safety is impacted by what happens outside our events. While we cannot take direct action on incidents that occur outside Church of Sluts spaces, we will review any reports of external behaviour that may impact the wellbeing of our community. In such cases and depending on the nature of the report, we may choose to:

- Open a conversation with the person named in the report,
- Request further information,
- Offer an accountability or education-based pathway,
- Decline participation in future events as a precautionary measure.

Any action taken will be considered carefully, in alignment with our values and based on the information available to us.

1. Reporting a Concern

- Participants can report concerns through our **Confidential Incident Reporting Form**, available online and via QR code at events.
- Reports need to be submitted with identifying information.
- Reports can also be made in person to Wild Velvet or a Consent Angel present at the event who will be clearly identified at each event
- We do **not accept anonymous reports**. While we acknowledge that reporting a consent breach can be vulnerable and challenging, we are unable to act on anonymous submissions due to the limitations they place on investigation and resolution. Investigating incidents is a labour-intensive process that requires substantiated information to ensure fairness and accountability for all involved.

We **cannot take action on information we are unable to verify or substantiate**, and we **do not begin investigations based on rumours**. Reports must come directly from the person impacted, someone advocating on their behalf (with their consent), or a direct witness to the incident.

That said, we are deeply committed to protecting the privacy of individuals who come forward. **Unless we have your explicit consent, your name and identifying details will not be shared during the investigation process.**

We understand the emotional weight that can come with reporting a harm. You are welcome to have a trusted support person or advocate speak on your behalf if you don't have the capacity to engage directly. Our intention is to handle all reports with care, compassion, and integrity.

- To support a thorough response, reports should ideally include:
 - A description of the behaviour or incident;
 - The names (or descriptions) of the people involved;
 - When and where it happened;
 - Any witnesses, if known;
 - Any immediate needs or requests from the person making the report.
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2. Immediate Response & Safety

- When a report is received, we prioritise the **emotional and physical safety** of the impacted party.
 - The person making the report will be offered immediate support, including grounding time, a support person, and physical distance from the other party.
 - Depending on the nature of the concern, the person named in the report may be temporarily asked to leave the space while further steps are taken.
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3. Review & Triage

- Wild Velvet and at least 1 of the Consent Angel at the event or another team member if the report is for events outside of Church of Sluts spaces will review the report.
 - We will assess whether the matter:
 - Falls within our scope to address,
 - Requires immediate action,
 - Might be resolved through restorative or educational means,
 - Requires removal or a longer-term ban from future events.
 - If the person harmed wishes to be involved in the process, their preferences will guide next steps.
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4. Accountability Pathways Possible outcomes may include:

- **Educational interventions** (e.g. consent workshops, reading assignments);
- **Facilitated dialogue** or **restorative process**, where appropriate and consensual for all involved;
- **Written agreements** outlining behavioural expectations for future attendance;
- **Temporary or permanent removal** from events.

Note: We do not facilitate restorative processes without the full, informed consent of the person impacted.

5. Confidentiality & Record-Keeping

- All reports and actions taken are documented and stored securely.
 - Access to records is limited to the Consent Team.
 - Reports are kept confidential unless disclosure is required by law or necessary to protect community safety.
 - In rare circumstances where the report concerns a serious criminal offence, we may be legally obligated to report to relevant authorities. We will always aim to communicate transparently with the person impacted before doing so, unless there is an immediate risk to safety.
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6. Follow-Up & Support

- We will offer check-ins with the person impacted, if they desire, after resolution.
 - Referrals to therapeutic or peer support services will be available upon request.
 - We commit to reviewing our policy and practices regularly to ensure they are trauma-informed, inclusive, and responsive to community feedback.
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Here is the recap of what happens after a report is submitted:

1. **Initial Acknowledgement**
You (or your advocate) will receive a response acknowledging the report within 7 business days. We may ask for further clarification or additional details at this stage.
 2. **Assessment of Report**
The report is reviewed to determine whether it contains enough information to proceed. If the report is vague or lacks detail, we may request more context or examples before continuing.
 3. **Clarification & Consent Around Information Sharing**
We will speak with the reporter (or their advocate) to confirm what details can be shared, and with whom, during the process. No identifying information will be shared without explicit consent.
 4. **Investigation Process**
If appropriate and with consent, we may reach out to others involved to gather more information. This process is handled sensitively and with discretion and we'd always inform you before reaching out to anyone.
 5. **Decision & Response**
Based on the information gathered, a decision will be made about next steps. This could include facilitated conversations, support offered to those impacted, boundaries placed on attendance at future events, or other actions aligned with our accountability framework.
 6. **Follow-Up & Support**
The reporter will be informed of the outcome (within what we are able to disclose) and offered follow-up support or referrals if desired.
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We acknowledge that navigating harm and accountability is complex. We do not claim perfection, but to be in integrity with the values we hold with the willingness to evolve as is required.

With care and respect,
Church of Sluts Team