

**Sexually Abusive Behaviour Treatment Services at  
South Western Centre Against Sexual Assault**

1. It appears that in the case of child sexual abuse the focus on the child and family in defining the client group may be misleading, as the Australian Institute of Fact Studies (2011)<sup>1</sup>, suggests there is a far greater number of child sexual abuse offences perpetrated by adults who are not in a caregiver role.
  
2. The sexual assault services system is under resourced in terms of its provision of preventive programs addressing problem sexual and sexually abusive behaviours of children and young people under 15 years of age. *See Appendix 1.*
  
3. The practise of child protective services closing cases prior to family engagement with the service often has a negative impact on service provision to family and children. This early closing of cases also results in a large amount of service provider hours being wasted as the client continually evades engagement with the service. .

**SUMMARY:**

South Western CASA staff would welcome the opportunity to contribute to the gathering of information for this Inquiry into Protecting Victoria's Vulnerable Children via Public Sittings to take place later in 2011.

**REFERENCE:**

1. Lamont, A., *NCPC Resource Sheet*, Feb 2011, AIFS.

15 April 2011

Submission  
**PROTECTING VICTORIA'S VULNERABLE CHILDREN INQUIRY**

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 South Western Centre Against Sexual Assault**

**1. BACKGROUND:**

The Sexually Abusive Behaviour Treatment Services (SABTS) commenced early 2008 in response to the increasing numbers of children and adolescents presenting with sexually abusive behaviours.

**2. FUNDING:**

South Western CASA was initially funded \$41,531 for targets of five (5) and 430 hours. We currently receive funding of \$49,500.53 for five (5) clients over 430 hours.

**3. CLIENTS:**

As at 31 March 2011

▪ Allocated clients	6
▪ Clients on waiting list	11
▪ Referrals pending	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>

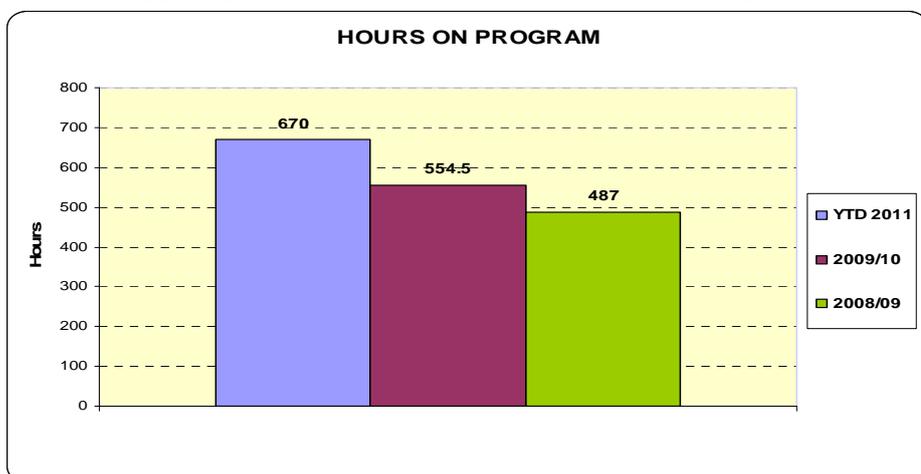
- Time last allocated client waited – 12 months

Orders

▪ Allocated clients	1
▪ Waiting clients	--
▪ Pending clients	2

**4. SABTS HOURS (Contracted Hours = 430):**

▪ 10/11 Financial YTD (1/7/10-25/3/11)	670
▪ 2009/10	554.50
▪ 2008/09	487



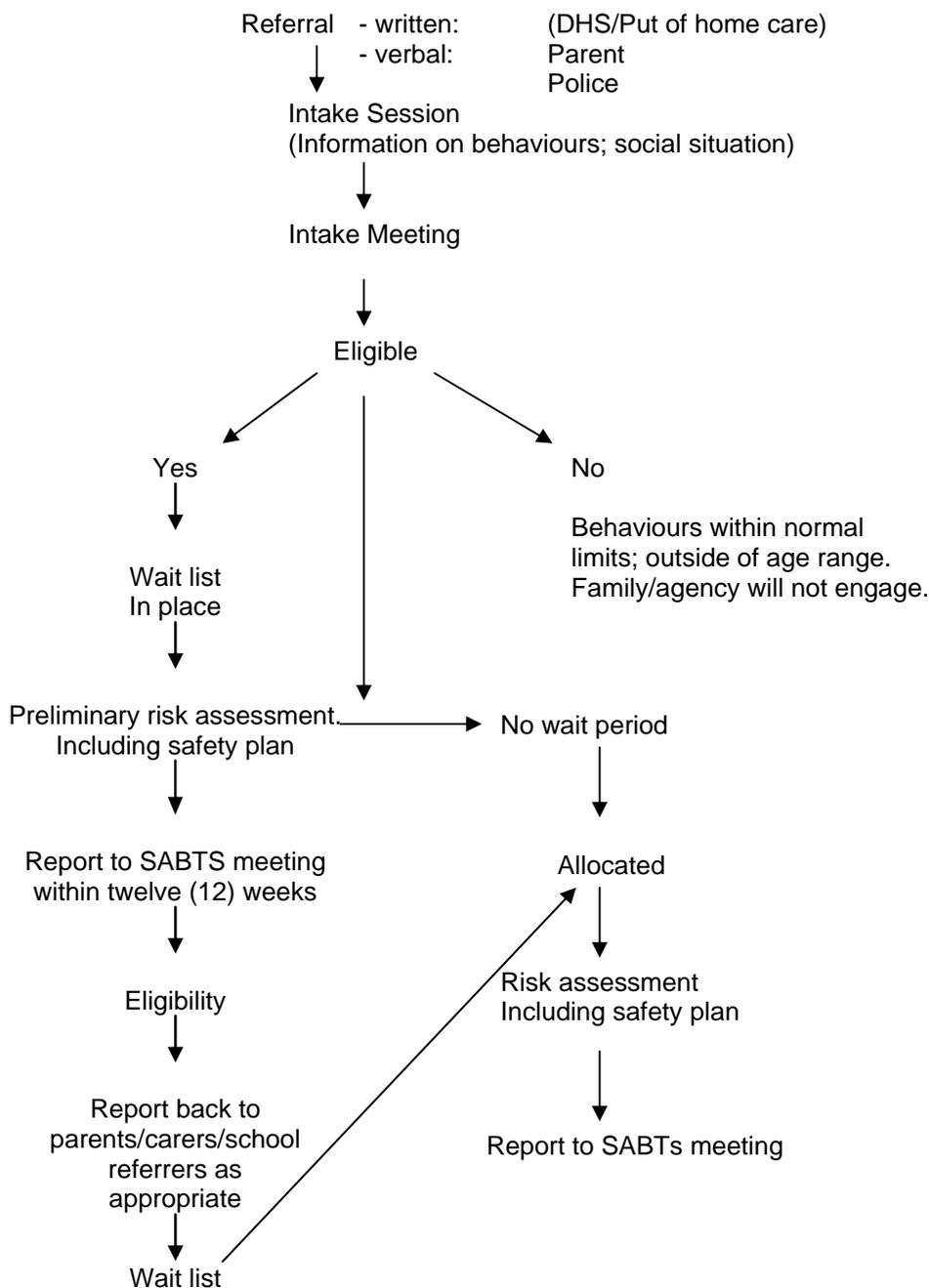
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**5. MODEL:**

Given the nature of the referrals a comprehensive assessment is required. We are currently working to the model outlined below.

**Flowchart re Intake of Children under SABTS Program**



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**6. PRIORITIES:**

Following the Advisory Committee of 28 February 2011, clients presenting to this program at South Western CASA will be prioritised according to -

- Those having to live away from home
- Those engaging in sibling sexual abuse
- Those who the Court has ordered.

These priorities are yet to be incorporated into the Model.

**7. DIFFICULTIES:**

The program has placed a considerable burden on the Centre due to the demands of the clientele, the amount of training undertaken by staff and its under funding (at the current rate each client would get 21.5 hours per year. Compared to 86 hours per service agreement).

Also:

- Spread of clients/SABTS clients can swamp a visiting Service Centre
- Staff vary in the number of children with this presentation they can manage at this time
- Funding for victims is being diverted into this program

**8. SOLUTIONS DISCUSSED:**

- Close the books as we can not give an effective service
- Centralise the service, ask all clients to attend in Warrnambool and offer a service similar to a clinic model
- Continue with waiting times and a decentralised service.