

Sexual misconduct incidents formally reported to Defence in 2016–17

The Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Office's increased client numbers in 2016–17 were not reflected by an increase in sexual misconduct incidents formally reported to Defence in the same period. Numbers of formal reports to Defence have changed little since 2013–14. Defence received 265 reports of sexual misconduct incidents in 2016–17. Formal reporting to Defence for sexual misconduct incidents has fluctuated up and down by 5 per cent or less over the last four years. Table 2 illustrates that the proportions of formal reports made about each type of incident have also been consistent since 2014–15.

Table 2: Sexual misconduct incidents reported to Defence from 2012–13 to 2016–17

Incident type		2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17
Pornography	Number	14	21	12	9	4
	Per cent	7%	8%	5%	4%	2%
Sexual harassment	Number	57	67	88	72	80
	Per cent	29%	26%	34%	29%	30%
Acts of indecency	Number	63	73	63	87	94
	Per cent	33%	28%	24%	35%	36%
Sexual assault	Number	40	74	70	53	59
	Per cent	21%	29%	27%	21%	22%
Aggravated sexual assault	Number	20	22	28	31	28
	Per cent	10%	9%	11%	12%	11%
Total	Number	194	257	261	252	265

Note: Some columns do not total to 100 per cent due to rounding.

The Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Office classifies sexual offences, and defines acts that are non-criminal sexualised behaviours, based on the Model Criminal Code (Model Criminal Code Officers Committee 1996). Formally reported incidents and offences occur in multiple jurisdictions across Australia and overseas. The Model Criminal Code describes those offences in a way that mirrors most Australian criminal legislation.

Sexual harassment—actions including leering, unwelcome touching, suggestive comments, insults of a sexual nature, sexually explicit messages, stalking, and inappropriate advances.

Acts of indecency—sexualised physical touching, flashing, taking or transmitting sexually explicit videos or photographs without consent, upskirting, and voyeurism.

Sexual assault—a penetrative act, or the threat of a penetrative act, without consent.

Aggravated sexual assault—a penetrative act committed without consent, or the threat of a penetrative act committed without consent, with aggravating circumstances such as violence, weapon use, proscribed consent, or committed in company.

Pornography—behaviours such as posting sexually explicit pictures, in hardcopy or in softcopy, using Defence resources or in a Defence workplace.

Model Criminal Code Officers Committee 1996. Model Criminal Code. Chapter 5: Sexual offences against the person—discussion paper. Model Criminal Code Officers Committee of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General: Canberra.