

Annexure "C"



ODPP Sexual Assault Review Committee (SARC)

(Revised – June 2014)

Description and Terms of Reference:

This Committee has been established to assist the ODPP and other agencies to deal with the difficult area of sexual assault prosecutions. The Committee enables agencies, community members, lawyers and Witness Assistance Officers within the DPP to refer any problems associated with the conduct of these prosecutions, whether the matter is one of DPP concern or whether it involves other agencies.

The Committee meets every three months at the ODPP's Head Office at 175 Liverpool Street Sydney. To refer a matter to SARC contact the Assistant Solicitor (Legal) on (02) **REDACTE** and provide a short report, transcript or relevant document detailing some background to the matter. The matter will then be discussed at the next meeting and appropriate action decided on. Lawyers and WAS Officers provide reports on prosecutions to the Senior Legal Policy Officer. These reports enable the Committee to review practices and procedures of the ODPP as well as assessing interagency co-operation.

The Terms of Reference for SARC are as follows:

- (a) to recommend improvements to minimise stress or anxiety for victims of sexual assault and ensure the recognition of their concerns are reflected in the preparation and conduct of Court proceedings;
- (b) to recommend and monitor training for ODPP lawyers;
- (c) to make recommendations and to liaise with other agencies and assist in attaining a more co-ordinated approach to sexual assault prosecutions;
- (d) to monitor investigations/proceedings relating to sexual assault allegations and review individual sexual assault prosecutions;
- (e) To analyse and review case law and legislation relevant to sexual assault prosecutions and recommend reform where applicable.

The Committee comprises representatives from NSW Health and the Education Centre Against Violence; the Pre Trial Diversion of Offenders Program; ODPP Head Office; the Judicial Commission of NSW; Faculty of Law, Sydney University; CASAC; the NSW Police Force; Family and Community Services-Community