



Sex assault expert appointed to panel

THE University of Western Sydney's Associate Professor Moira Carmody, a noted expert and researcher on sexual assault prevention and education, has been appointed to the Australian Government's National Council to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children.

The Council, recently announced by the Minister for the Status of Women, Tanya Plibersek, will assist to develop and implement the Government's 'National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children' - an important initiative which aims to reduce domestic violence and sexual assault.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics reports that around one in three Australian women experience physical violence and almost one in five experience sexual assault over their lifetime.

Associate Professor Carmody, from the UWS Social Justice Social Change Research Centre at Bankstown, is one of 11 Council members from around Australia.

The Council will provide expert advice and direction to the Government to ensure evidence, best practice and innovation underpin the development of the National Plan.

Associate Professor Carmody has been working, researching, teaching and writing on issues around sexual assault and violence prevention for 25 years.

She has extensive experience as a sexual assault counsellor and coordinator and policy advisor to state governments across Australia. She was a foundation member of the NSW Premier's Council for Women from 1995-1999, and provided key leadership in the development of the NSW Violence against Women Strategy.



Moira Carmody

Her most recent research, a three-year study carried out in collaboration with the NSW Rape Crisis Centre, investigated how young people negotiate sexual intimacy and looked at ways to develop more effective non-violence education programs.

"I'm pleased and honoured to be appointed as a member of the National Council to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children," Associate Professor Carmody said.

"Among the priorities is developing resources to educate young Australians about the impact of domestic violence and sexual assault and teach them about respectful relationships.

"Research shows that prevention education is crucial if we are to tackle the problem of domestic violence and sexual assault - we need to find more creative, innovative ways to engage young people on issues of sexual ethics, managing relationships and negotiating sexual intimacy."

Associate Professor Carmody is currently finalising her book titled *Sex and Ethics: Young People and Sex*, which will be published later this year.