INTRODUCTION TO PART 4: PREVENTION AND CHANGE

The previous selections have each contained some portion or information relevant to the prevention of sexual assault. However, the following papers were constructed by the authors around the theme of preventing rape or of change—either needed or already taken place.

Easteal's thesis is that, in order to reduce rape, Australian culture needs to be changed dramatically. These changes include confronting the false myths concerning rape, further modification of the criminal justice response, and fundamental shifts in attitudes about gender, power and misogyny. The bulk of the paper provides a review of the literature in the presentation of empirical evidence concerning who rapes, why they rape, and the impact upon its victims. The erroneous beliefs are shown to be just that by the research which has been conducted in this field.

Tomaszewski builds upon one component of Easteal's thesis and addresses how schools need to develop programs and materials to reduce and prevent violence against females. She discusses other studies which have revealed that a portion of the community believe that physical force against a wife is at least sometimes justified and that a substantial segment of Queensland fourteen-year-old boys believe that rape is acceptable under certain conditions. Further, girls' experiences of sexual harassment in Australian schools is described. She concludes that these attitudes must be addressed in the schools through the development of policies and protocols, professional development, and curriculum that promotes equity.

Talking to people to educate and change their attitudes is also the subject of a paper by Pease and Velazquez who address the need for men in the workplace to learn about sexual harassment and discrimination. They begin by explaining how hegemonic masculinity operates as a concept within organisations and either keeps women out or in 'their place'. Strategies for implementing change in men's attitudes and behaviours are then discussed with an overview of the Men Against Sexual Assault anti-sexist educational programs. The basis of thought underlying education about myths and other relevant matters is that men are more apt to change if they are encouraged to do so by their male peers.

Reekie and Wilson look at the new understanding of consent, resistance and self-defence and how these affect the need for more law reform and prevention. The evidence is conflicting and the orientation of women's safety programs is to advise women that there is no one uniform response to rape. If a woman does choose the path of resistance, the authors point out that the existing laws do not adequately protect her since they are defined
in white male middle-class terms of reason which do not recognise the extent to which rape inflicts bodily harm. They also advocate that more than law reform is needed in the Aboriginal community and present several models for enhancing women's justice.

The next two papers point to changes that are needed in legal procedure. Heenan and McKelvie review the work of the Victorian Law Reform Commission focusing upon three significant changes that arose from its labours: the Police Code of Practice for Sexual Assault Cases; jury directions; and alternative arrangements for giving evidence by adult victims. For each area, the authors summarise what they see as the major stumbling blocks to implementation and point to the need for monitoring programs which can be problematic in either the police or the courts' domain.

McSherry also looks at the significance of changes to the *Victorian Crimes Act 1958* in Section 37(a). She focuses upon how the change has altered the concept of consent and has initiated what she hopes is the beginning of seeing sexuality on a communicative rather than a penetrative model. Aside from shifting to a negative definition of consent, that is, 'without consent' means that she did not freely agree to it, the section also mandates certain changes in judges' directions which include the lack of free agreement, and the awareness that rape does not require physical injury, lack of prior sexual contact with that person or another. Consent must now be clearly communicated which lends support to a communicative model of sexuality.

Turning from the courts, the last two papers in this section look at policing rape and changes that could or currently are being implemented. Scheffer reviews some of the recent developments in forensics and the Victorian Sexual Offences Intelligence (SOI) System with its component parts. He provides details concerning the current scientific testing employed by the Victorian Forensic Science Laboratory. The article concludes with a discussion of how the SOI can be used to assist the police particularly in identifying serial rapists and recommends that a national standardised DNA profiling system must be implemented in order to generate an Australia-wide database.

Moloney, a Victorian Police detective Inspector, looks at what the police objectives are in criminal investigation and in sexual assault specifically. Following an evaluation of police procedures with the latter in 1988, a specialised rape squad was formed, a Child Exploitation Unit was transferred to the Crime Department, and all detectives were trained in victim sensitivity. In March 1992 the Code of Practice for Sexual Assault (mentioned above) was adopted; this Code outlines procedures from the start to completion of a sexual assault case. Moloney also discusses the United Nations Declaration relating to victim's rights—Victim Impact Statements. In addition, he points to the need for increased police powers for obtaining samples or physical examination in order to best connect offenders to crimes.