



Annual Story 2022–2023

SECCA is proud to live, work and love on the lands and by the waters of the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.
Always was, always will be, Aboriginal land.



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We support everyone’s right to respectful relationships and safe sexual expression.

SECCA is a not-for-profit that supports people with disability to learn about relationships, sexuality, and sexual health.

At SECCA we understand the pressures our clients can experience because of the intersections of disability, mental health, accessing social services, and any involvement with the criminal justice system.

We aim to build capacity in individuals to achieve positive relationships and sexual expression in a way that suits them. We do this through therapeutic support, education, and resources.

Our Purpose

SECCA works to create a warm and welcoming space that affirms the rights of all people to learn and make decisions about their relationships, sexuality, their body, and themselves.

Our Values

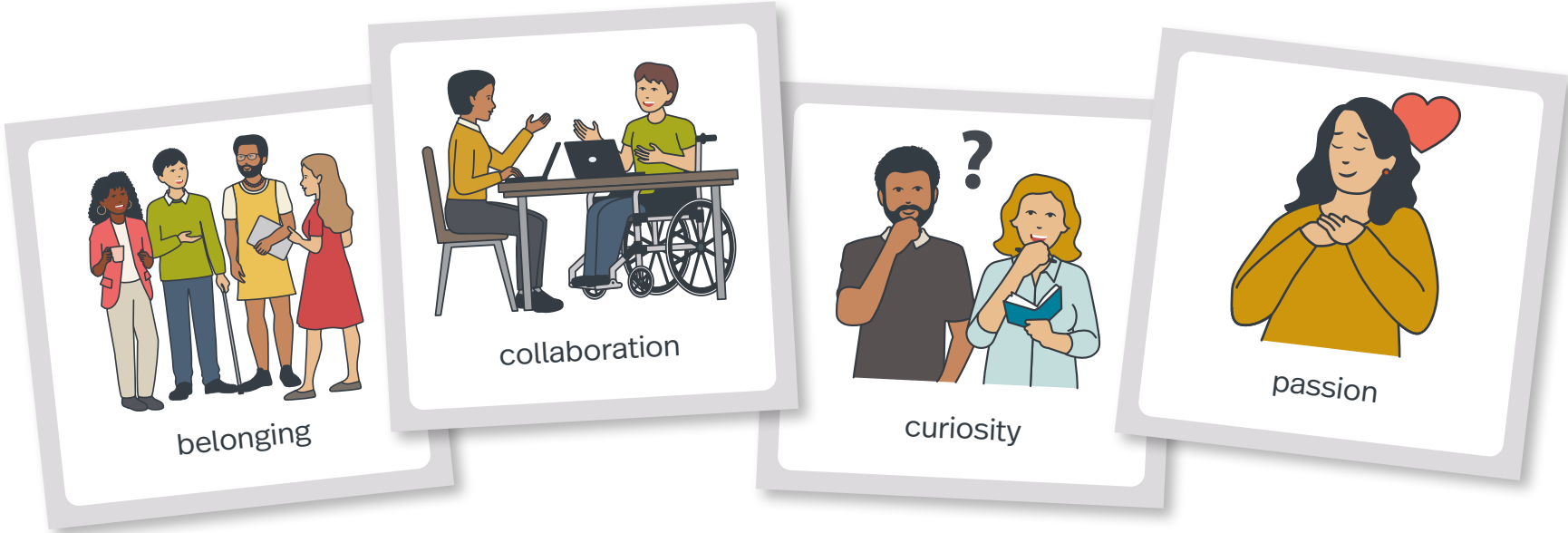
Over the past year, our staff and clients worked together to develop and co-design SECCA’s new values. These illustrate our hopes and dreams for the organisation.

Our Clinical Director Dr Emily Castell and Clinical Lead Tiffany Bunter co-facilitated two client engagement groups to determine the values that best defined our staff and clients experience of SECCA. Our creative partner Media on Mars then translated these values into beautiful tiles and scenes.

SECCA would especially like to thank Ella Coombes, Milly Molly and Rachel Wright (members of the client engagement group) for their work.

Our values are presented here as a summary of the sentiments important to us, and as a statement of our intentions going forward.

An Easy English version of SECCA’s Purpose and Values will be available in the upcoming financial year.



SECCA is an amazing organisation and I direct all health professionals to their resources.

Respondent
SECCA Satisfaction Survey,
February 2023

Belonging

Our cohesive team brings connection and solidarity, creating a safe space to speak up, create, learn and be our authentic selves.



Collaboration

Together, we create a greater positive impact, responsive to and reflective of our diversities, challenges and innovations.



Curiosity

Intentional curiosity creates stronger connections and continuous improvement.



Passion

Our passion for what we do inspires, motivates and brings us together to make a valuable difference for our clients, each other and the community.



Chief Executive Officer Report
This year once again, the SECCA staff, Board Members and the people who engage with our services showed that SECCA’s greatest strength lies in our ability to work together.



Collectively their demonstrated **passion, curiosity**, desire to **collaborate** and create a sense of **belonging** contributed to the many wins SECCA had this year.

In working together through the course of the year, SECCA has navigated the challenging sector environment. Like many providers in the disability and community sector, SECCA faced cost of living increases that outpaced funding for services provided. Yet, the demand for services has never been higher or more crucial.

SECCA saw a higher number of referrals this financial year than any previous year, with 211 requests for counselling services. Additionally, a NDIS Quality and Safeguard Report, released in March 2023, revealed ‘unlawful sexual contact’ in supported accommodation continues to be of concern and represented in the data on reportable serious incidents.

To date, SECCA has continued to sustain a full range of services, even when faced with a financial deficit. As we all too often see, gaps in services leave few alternatives for SECCA clients due to the complex intersectionality of their life experiences.

It is with the uncertainty of the future state of the sector in mind, that the SECCA staff and Board worked collaboratively in the 2022-2023 financial year to develop a short-term 2-year strategic plan focused on building strong foundations and relationships.

The strategic intent of the ‘Now’ strategy being financial sustainability, scaling, and growth opportunities. The strategy piece was guided by SECCA team discussions had in December and June that identified the frameworks underpinning the work SECCA does and how that aligns with our purpose, values, and the way we practise. The identified frameworks build on the principles of trauma informed care and the human rights-based models SECCA has traditionally drawn upon for service delivery.

An important part of this work was a re-evaluation of SECCA’s purpose and values. Staff as well as clients participated in this co-design process. SECCA facilitated 2 client engagement groups to develop SECCA’s new purpose and values which together the staff and clients agree align with our hopes and dreams for the organisation. It is with great pleasure that we unveil our new values and the corresponding images in this year’s Annual Story.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Ella Coombes, Milly Molly and Rachel Wright as well as other members of our Client Group for their insight and contributions to our purpose and values work.

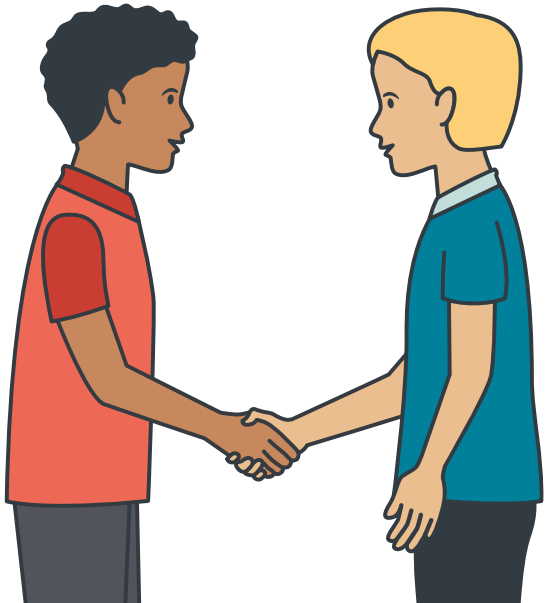
Whilst focused on strategy, values, and purpose, the SECCA staff remained committed to advocating for the sexual rights of people with disability throughout the year.

In the second half of the year the SECCA team recognised an opportunity for improving disability inclusion and representation in the upcoming 2026 Census. SECCA responded to the Census Topic Consultation submitting a paper for on “Sexuality, Disability and LGBTQIA+ Inclusion.”

Most recently in May, SECCA’s submission related to disability and sexuality was accepted and published by the Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme – Inquiry into the Capability and Culture of the NDIA. Our data highlights the importance of SECCA services and the continued need for preventative comprehensive sexuality education.

I would like to acknowledge we are able to provide continued support to the community due to the ongoing backing from our funders at the Department of Health and Department of Communities. I'd also like to acknowledge Lotterywest for funding that enabled us to complete organisational capability, capacity assessment, culture work and strategic undertakings. While there remains much work to be done in our space, together we are making an impact.

Tara Harson Eastep
Chief Executive Officer

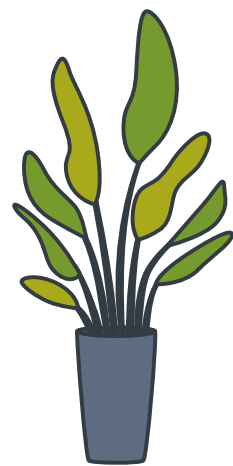


**Thank you for
continuing to do
your amazing work
and producing such
great resources.**

Respondent
SECCA Satisfaction Survey,
February 2023

Chair Report

I am proud to reflect on the year that was and acknowledge the remarkable progress, dedicated efforts, and significant accomplishments that the Board, staff, and stakeholders of SECCA have achieved this year which has been marked by strategic planning, partnership development, innovation, and a continued commitment to our core values.



The concerted efforts that went into developing a short-term 2-year strategic plan aimed at building strong foundations and relationships for future financial sustainability, growth, and scaling are a standout. The outcome of this work reflects the forward-thinking approach of SECCA in ensuring its long-term impact and influence.

We worked closely with the Employii team to review and co-design our values and purpose, as well as established a client engagement group, demonstrating SECCA's genuine commitment to inclusivity and collaboration.

We also listened to our clients' voices when we reconfigured our counselling rooms to be more neurodiversity affirming and trauma informed – Mature Low Sensory, Mature High Sensory, Youthful Low Sensory, Youthful High Sensory. This work builds on the principles of trauma informed care and reflects the human rights-based model SECCA has always worked from.

Once again, this year, senior SECCA staff members were invited to participate in the Commonwealth Senate Community Affairs Committee Hearing on Universal Reproductive Health. This involvement highlights SECCA's authoritative voice in this crucial public debate.

Furthermore, the growth of the SECCA team through a multi-disciplinary approach demonstrates the organisation's commitment to providing comprehensive and well-rounded support to its clients. The introduction of sexual assistive technology support and completion of the National Sex Relationship and Your Rights website exemplify SECCA's dedication to staying at the forefront of knowledge dissemination and resource provision.

We are equally excited about the collaborative venture between SECCA and Sexual Health Family Planning ACT, aiming to develop an accessible Consent resource by June 2024.

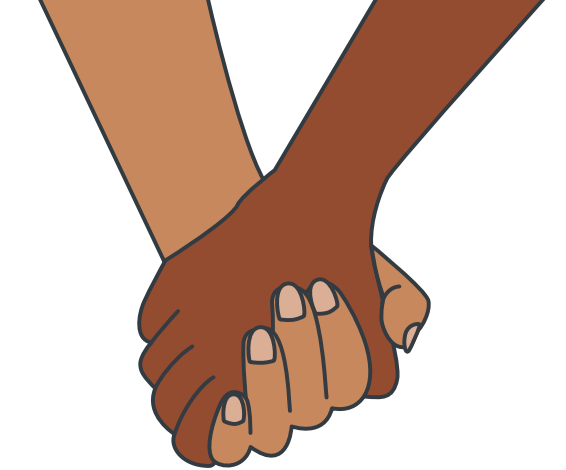
I would like to thank all our supporters and funders, in particular the WA Department of Health for our 5-year funding extension. Our continued, collaborative working relationships affirms SECCA's indispensable role in the community and underscores the organisation's multifaceted efforts in advocacy, innovation, and service delivery.

Finally, with great appreciation and respect, I applaud the achievements and milestones reached by SECCA this year. It is testament to the dedication, expertise, and resilience of the entire team. I look forward to the coming year and SECCA's continuous efforts to make a positive impact on the individuals and communities we work with.

Amanda Negus
Chair of the Board

**SECCA is truly making a
difference in this space.**

Respondent
SECCA Satisfaction Survey
February 2023



Our Board

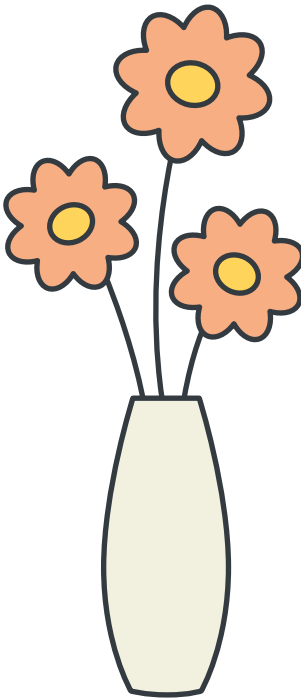
SECCA’s Board comprises a dedicated group of volunteers with a specific interest in supporting people with disability.

They continue to contribute their invaluable time, energy and vision to SECCA.

Office bearers 2022/23

Chair	Amanda Negus
Deputy Chair	Shaun Mays
Secretary	Anne Mecham
Treasurer	Renato Sansalone
Board member	Mahesha De Silva
Board member	Brooke Draper
Board member	Catrina Wold

SECCA would like to acknowledge the efforts, contributions and dedication of outgoing Deputy Chair Amanda Hunt during her time on the Board.



Our Management and Staff

SECCA is recognised as a leader in the field of sexuality and disability.

The multidisciplinary team have been carefully selected for their demonstrated empathy, interpersonal skills and experience relating to disability and sexuality.



→ Scan the code to learn more about our team.

SECCA’s staff as at 30 June 2023

CEO	Tara Harson Eastep
Clinical Director and Clinical Psychologist	Dr Emily Castell
Education Director	Jordina Quain
Clinical Lead	Tiffany Bunter
Education Lead	Felicity Pheasant
Administrative Officer	Maria Barnett
Clinical Support Officer	Laura Morton
Clinician	Tash Brockwell
Clinician	Ashleigh Taylor
Clinician	Claire Wise
Clinician and Education Officer	Alysha Oorijitham
Clinician and Education Officer	Bonnie Bentley
Education Officer	Laura/Remus Short
Education Officer	Sandra Norman
Education Officer	Kimberley Andreassen





Education Director Report

It has been an honour to be SECCA’s first Education Director and to work alongside a diverse team of passionate, creative, powerful, and intelligent people who value lived experience, collaboration, and humility.

The size and reach of SECCA’s educational arm is the largest it has ever been. We work at many levels and with varied approaches to offer parents, professionals, and organisational support through:

- 1:1 consults and policy advice
- state-wide training and resources
- national projects and advocacy, and
- research both locally and internationally.

The following is a short summary of the successes achieved by the SECCA team over the 2022/23 FY.

Department of Health Funding

SECCA is grateful to have received a 5-year extension from DOH to support SECCA workshops and consults.

Spreading the Word

SECCA received multiple invitations to speak at events, podcasts, panels, advisory groups and conferences in the sexuality, disability, justice, and education sectors.

National Reach Increase

SECCA established the Australian Sexuality and Disability Specialist Group to combine advocacy efforts, share resources and increase sector connectedness.

Sex Positive Topic Expansion

SECCA established new workshop and research topics beyond the familiar foundational sexuality concepts including sexual aids, gender diversity and accessing sex worker training.

Communication Strategy Development

SECCA created and designed a communication plan to circulate core information, opportunities and resources through newsletters, email and social media. Through these channels SECCA aims to strengthen reach, amplify sex-positive messages and foster relationships.

Looking forward, SECCA is aiming to expand:

Services

Including online training, sexuality policy review and development, and small group education for people with disability.

Topics

Including consent, menstruation, menopause and supporting gender affirming care.

Advocacy

Specifically promoting accessibility of sexuality education curriculum, legal processes, and the redevelopment of the Assessment of Sexual Knowledge tool.

With a skilled team, adaptive leadership, community inclusion and collaborative approach, I look forward to seeing how SECCA grows in the year ahead.

Jordina Quain

Education Director



→ SECCA provides education services for carers, families and professionals, to help them better understand and support others.

Scan the code for more information.

Clinical Director Report

I am so delighted to contribute to my first annual story in the role of Clinical Director.



I am the cisgender and neurotypical daughter of British immigrant parents, and I grew up on the lands of the Whadjuk Nyoongar people with my two siblings, one of whom has a disability.

Many changes have occurred for our clinical team over the past year, and I am so proud of the team, and to be able share these developments with you. With the addition of five members our team has grown to be truly multidisciplinary including: sexologists, an art therapist, social worker, psychologists, an occupational therapist, and counsellors.

June 2023 was busy for us – we reconfigured our counselling rooms to accommodate our growing team. These newly appointed rooms are suited to meet low and high sensory needs and offer choice to clients aligned with principles of neurodiversity-affirming and trauma-informed care.

At the same time, we migrated to a new client management system. This new system is more flexible, allows us to better support our referred and waitlist clients, and more accurately understand the needs of our client base and their key presenting issues.

The implementation of a new triage system for responding to incoming referrals has allowed us to continue to manage our waitlist responsibly (currently, between one to three months long).

In addition to providing one-to-one counselling services, we have maintained our focus on meeting arising community needs. Art Therapist Tash Brockwell and I participated in the Cerebral Palsy Network’s podcast series to provide community education, highlight key resources, and to promote awareness of the sexual rights of folks with disability.

Finally, we are excited to have expanded our clinical offerings to include a sexual aids assistive technology support. This new service meets the needs of many clients who express a desire to explore and affirm their sexuality through sexual aids that are pleasurable and are safe for use.

Reflecting on the year, I am so grateful to the clinical team and in awe of their ongoing commitment, passion, and efforts in providing responsive and flexible support to affirm the sexual rights and needs of people with disability.

Dr Emily Castell

Clinical Director



→ SECCA provides specialist counselling in regards to human relationships and sexuality.

Scan the code for more information.

Our Projects

2022
2023



NOW AVAILABLE

Feel Safe Project

Feel Safe is a free, all-inclusive, guided, and scaffolded e-learning platform that assists in teaching protective behaviours to young people.

In 2022, SECCA was funded by the Department of Social Services to modernise a 1990s resource that had “good bones”, but was outdated and required intensive, prescriptive training. After extensive consultation and involvement of young people with disability, SECCA launched an adaptive and updated version of the original Feel Safe. In responding to feedback and to ensure relevancy, additional topics were added, including problem-solving and emergencies, how porn impacts relationships, online safety, online dating and wanted/unwanted touching.

The platform meets the highest accessibility standards and embeds comprehension assessment through quizzes, SECCA-produced mini-films and educational videos, reflection tools, worksheets and supporting brochures and posters. In addition, a Feel Safe workshop was added to SECCA's ongoing training list to share additional strategies and maximise platform use.

For more information visit
secca.org.au/resources/feel-safe/

ONGOING

National Sexuality, Relationships and Your Rights (SRAYR) Project

SRAYR is a free resource that tells people about sexuality, sexual health, relationships, and the law.

The resource tells people about their rights and getting help. SRAYR uses Easy English and pictures to help people learn.

In 2019, SECCA was funded by the NDIA (now managed by the Department of Social Services), to expand our WA-specific, sex positive and rights-based resource SRAYR, to be nationally adapted.

This is the third iteration of the resource. It was originally printed in 2002 as a 21-page book, was then expanded through extensive community consultation in 2017 with new topics, images and layout as a 100-page book.

In 2023, the National SRAYR resource was released in print with versions for each state and territory plus a nationally applicable website embedded with 36 supporting animated videos.

The remainder of the project will focus on launching, marketing and evaluating the project outputs. The project will cease at the end of June 2024.

For more information visit
yourrights.secca.org.au

ONGOING

The SECCA App

The SECCA App is a free, digital resource that helps educators, health professionals and supports deliver Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) to people of all ages and abilities, specifically those with neurodifference.

In 2022, SECCA was funded by the Department of Communities to improve usability, enhance functionality and upgrade the SECCA App. Feedback from App users directed upgrades to include the creation of topic journeys, additional games, and lesson development, and a ‘Going to Work’ section. Topics now include protective behaviours, relationship skills, consent and e-safety so the App remains relevant, guided and adaptive.

To ensure use and awareness of the App by teachers, disability employment specialists and parents, free regional and

online training sessions have commenced. These training sessions and supporting surveys create opportunities to capture and adapt to community feedback. This supports continuous improvement and feasibility of the SECCA App in relationship and sexuality education.

The remainder of the project will focus on training delivery, support documentation, marketing and evaluation. The project will cease at the end of January 2024.

For more information visit
app.secca.org.au

The printed books are invaluable to
our work. Being able to look through
and go back on their own time to review
is essential to the people we work with.

Respondent SECCA Satisfaction Survey, February 2023

SECCA Tile Library Expansion

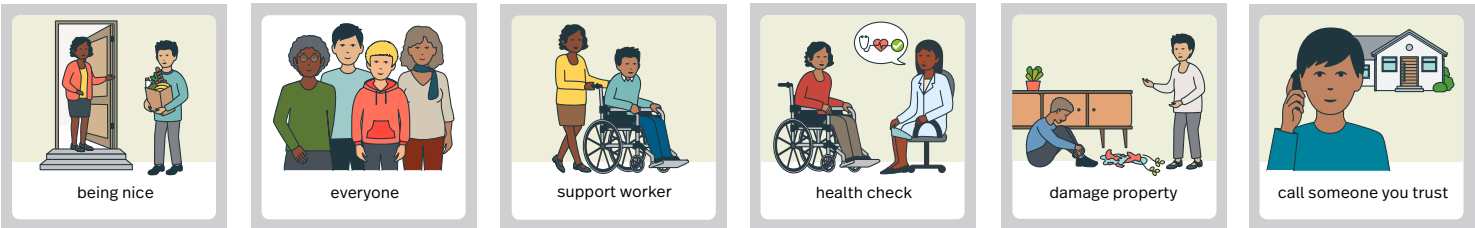
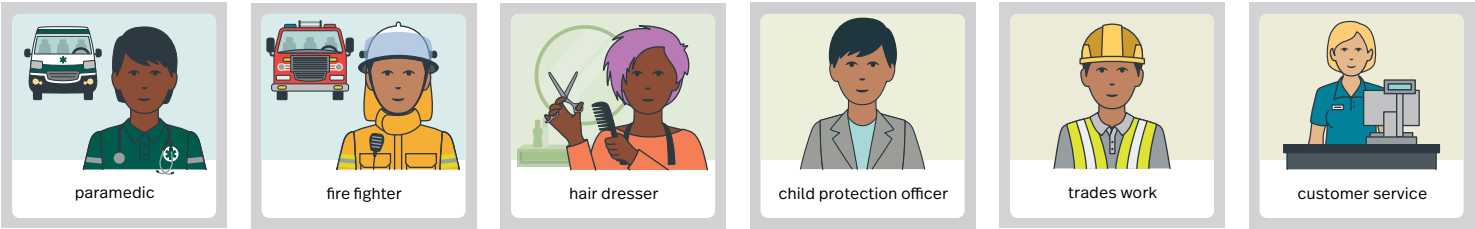
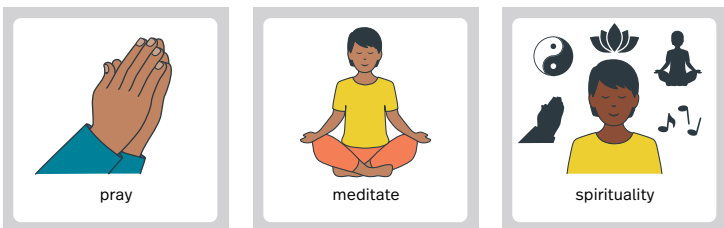
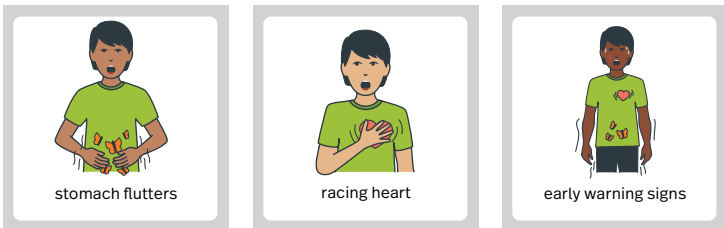
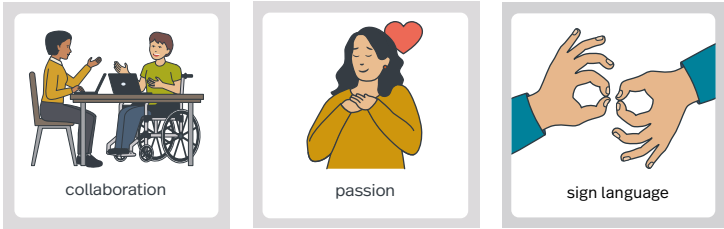
2022-2023 New Tiles

SECCA's resources are picture-based and written in Easy English to ensure accessibility and understanding. Anatomically correct illustrations remove ambiguity that often confuses or adds shame to learning about sexuality, and the simplified representations allow everyone to see themselves within the image.

SECCA's values (as detailed on page 1) have been represented in the traditional SECCA tile format, as have many other tiles developed for SECCA resources over the past year, including tiles for SECCA resources:

- Feel Safe
- The SECCA App
- National Sexuality, Relationships and Your Rights

SECCA has worked closely with our creative partner, Media on Mars, to create these new additions to the ever-evolving and growing SECCA Tile Library.





Tiles in Action

The Tile Library is the basis of a consistent visual language, utilised across all SECCA resources, in both print and digital formats.



Financials

SECCA is a registered NDIS provider, and the majority of clients are funded for counselling through their NDIS Plans.

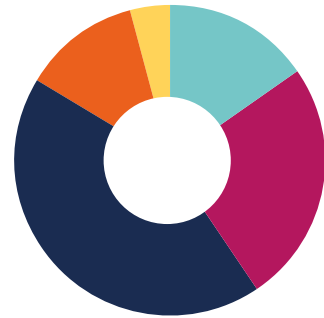
SECCA is further supported by funding from the WA Department of Communities and WA Department of Health.

Additional grants are secured to deliver specific projects and activities.

Full financials available from SECCA on (08) 9420 7226 or admin@secca.org.au



Where our money came from
Financial Year 2022/2023



- WA Department of Health
- WA Department of Communities - Disability Services
- Projects
- NDIS
- Other

Exhibition displays

- Disability Expo
- Belridge ESC Parent Expo
- Carine SHS Parent Expo
- Armadale ESC

211
Referrals

Media contributions

- Cerebral Palsy Support Network Podcast
- Kimberley Care Group Sexuality and Disability
- Western Independent Syphilis: STI on the rise

Conferences + Presentations

- Australian Association for Adolescent Health Conference Presentation and workshop
- People With disabilities WA State Conference Presentation
- Youth Advisory Council WA fair.ground Conference Presentation
- Australasian Sexual and Reproductive Health Conference 3 posters + Poster Tour

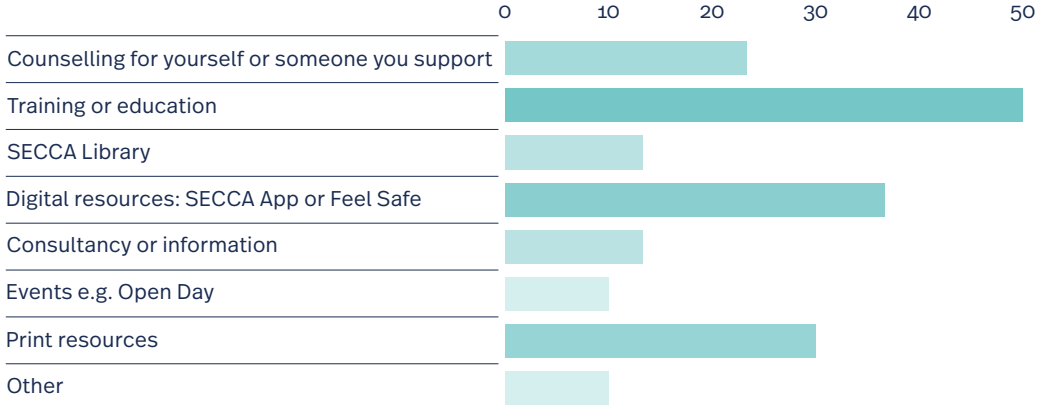
5
Regional presentations

40
Workshops and presentations

986
Attendees

New workshop topics added:
Feel Safe and Sexual Aids

SECCA Services survey 2022



Looking Forward

New resources are constantly in development. The following is due for release in the later part of 2024.

Informed Consent and Relationships Education (I CaRE) Project (New)

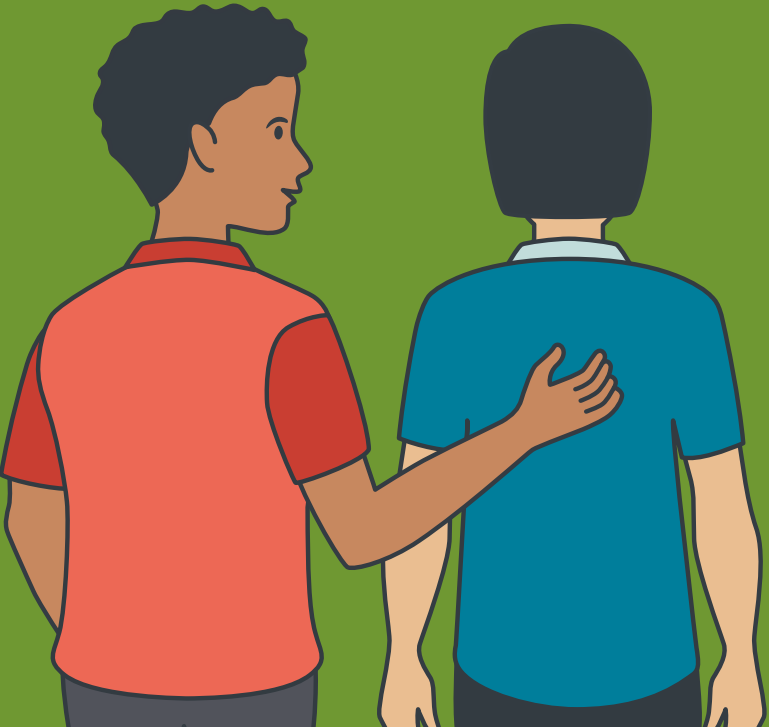
The ICaRE project will develop Easy English, picture-based and guided support resources for people with disability to learn about consent, boundaries, and bodily autonomy.

In mid-2023, SECCA was approached by Sexual Health Family Planning ACT (SHFPACT), to collaborate and design their I CaRE series as a part of their Safer Girls, Safer Women project. The series acknowledges the important role of consent in harm minimisation and protective behaviours education.

The resource will focus on introductory consent topics including public and private, bodily autonomy as well as expand on these concepts.

The development process will involve meaningful and responsive consultation with people with disability and reinforce rights. Explicit examples will be used to reinforce topics related to consent and types of touch, communication and the law.

The books will be available both online and in print by the end of 2024.



I really enjoyed the activities,
it was great to see the work
SECCA does with clients
as well as professionals.
Such a needed service
in our community.

Respondent
SECCA Satisfaction Survey
February 2023

Seeking Connection

SECCA is a not-for-profit organisation
which supports people with disability
to learn about relationships,
sexuality and sexual health.

For support in using this resource or
accessing disability appropriate health
services, please call us or visit secca.org.au

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West Perth WA 6005	E admin@secca.org.au

Sexuality Education Counselling & Consultancy Agency • secca.org.au

