

ANNUAL REPORT

2014/2015



disability relationships sexuality 



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ABOUT *secca*

secca is a non-profit community organisation and was established in 1991 to assist families and individuals with disability.

Mission Statement

secca's mission is to provide a tailored, flexible and responsive service to people with disabilities, their family, carers and others around issues of sexuality, relationships and sexual health.

Statement of Purpose

secca exists to support people who have disabilities to learn about human relationships, sexuality and sexual health across the lifespan and make informed choices, acknowledging individual capacity, to enhance the quality of their lives.

STATEMENT OF VALUES

secca embraces the following values for ourselves and for the clients and community we serve:

- 1) Rights Based**
- 2) Respect, Equity and Equality**
- 3) Engendering Trust and Mutually Respectful Relationships**
- 4) Effecting Change/Making a Difference**
- 5) Quality Practice**
- 6) Accountability, Transparency and Integrity**
- 7) Self Determination**
- 8) Collaboration**
- 9) Diversity**
- 10) Social Justice**

KEY BELIEFS AND PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING *secca's* PRACTICE

secca endorses the principles that:

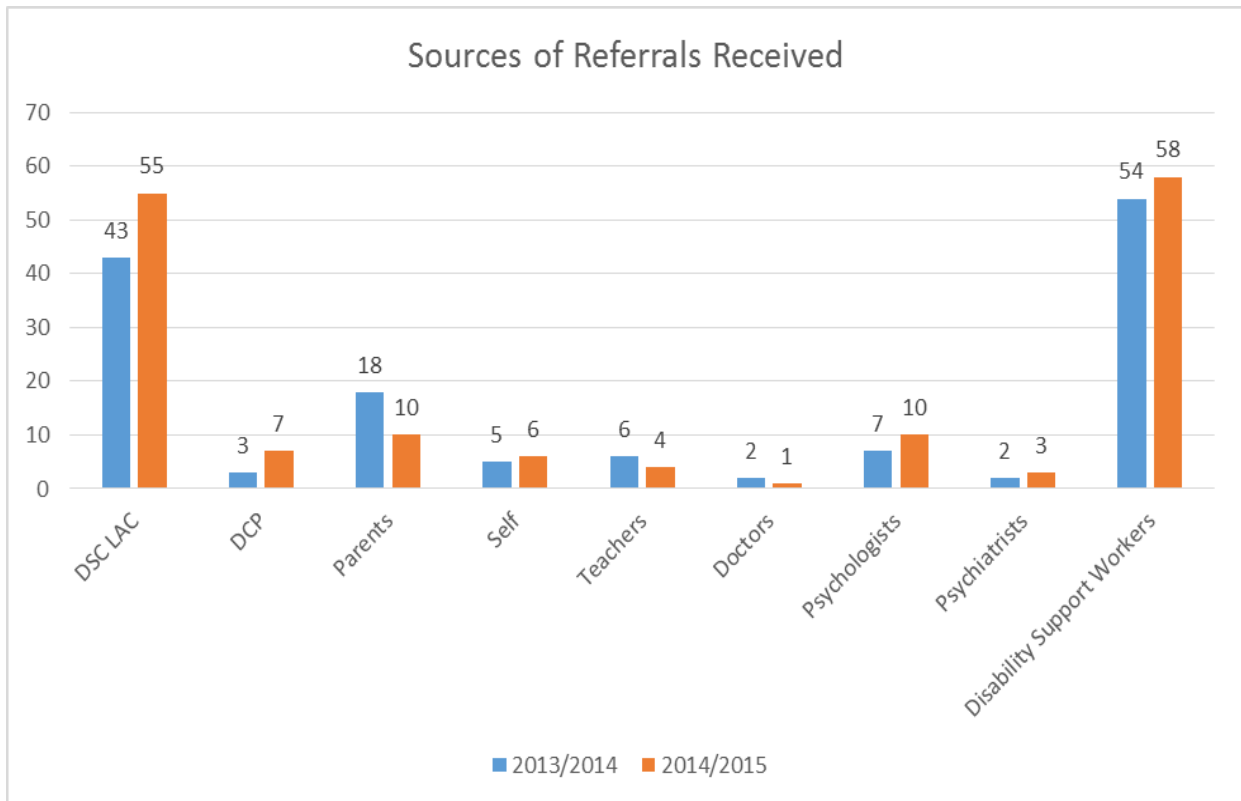
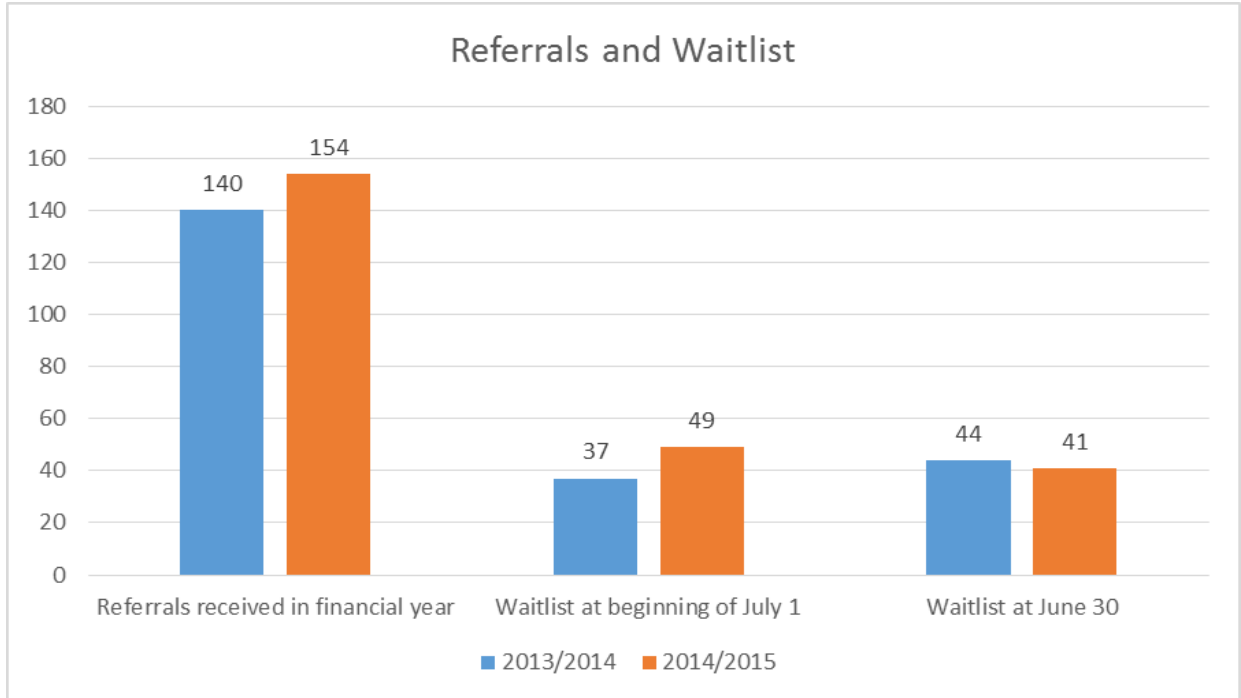
- All people are sexual beings; they begin to form relationships and have physical and psychological needs and desires from the time they are born; these needs and desires change over time from birth to death;
- The developing sexuality of an individual is an entity subject to life long change, continually and inevitably influenced by daily contact with persons of all ages and especially by contacts with peers, the family and other primary care givers, religion, other institutions and the wider society; and
- Sensitive human relations and sexuality education can be a positive force in promoting physical, mental, spiritual and social health. It should be geared to the three levels of learning: feelings, thoughts and action, and should begin as early as possible.

KEY BELIEFS AND PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING *secca's* PRACTICE

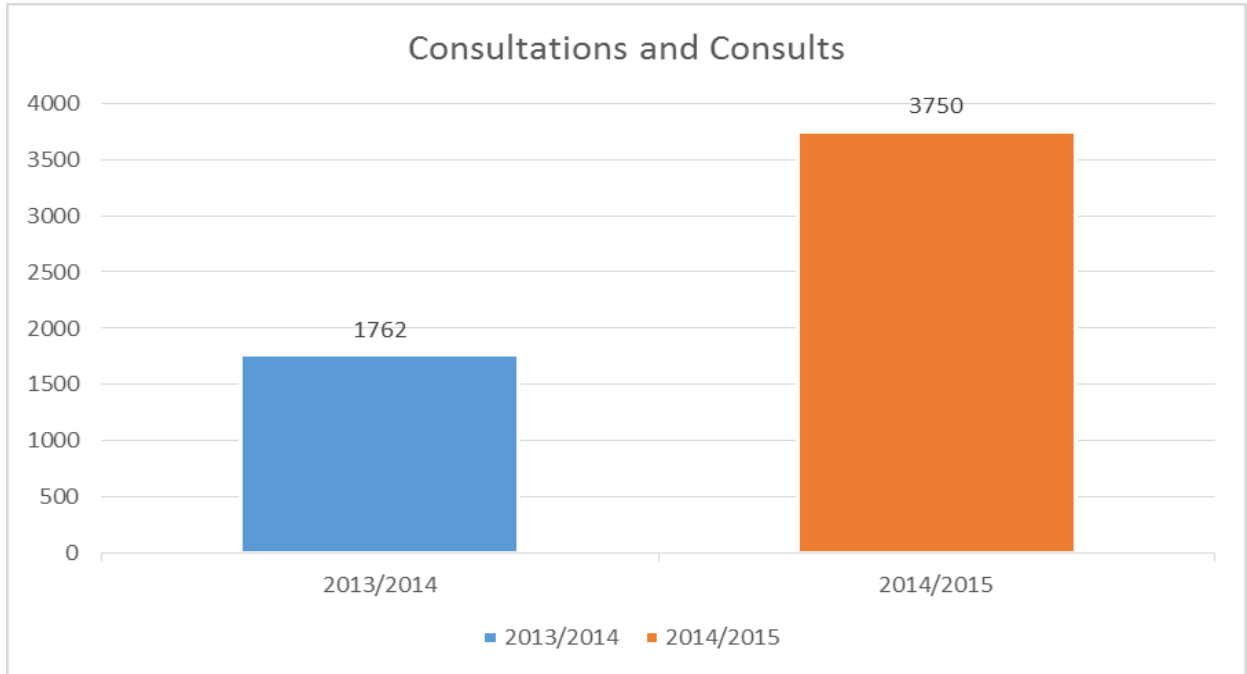
In this context **secca** believes that:

- All people have the right to live free of discrimination, regardless of their age, gender, sexual preference, marital status, ethnicity, religion or disability;
- Sensitive human relations and sexuality education can be a positive force in promoting physical, mental and social health;
- Human relations and sexuality education can be formal or informal;
- Everyone receives this education one way or another and all persons are informal human relations and sex educators whether or not they are aware of it;
- Formal education in the area of human relations and sexuality should be planned and implemented with careful attention and sensitivity to developmental needs, community and cultural settings and values and respect for individual differences;
- Education in responsible human relations and sexuality education is a basic right of every person;
- The primary source of knowledge, moral values and emotional support is the family. **secca** will support families to enable them to fulfil this role;
- People have the right to express their sexuality but not to hurt or violate the rights of others; and
- People have the right to honest and accurate information so they can make informed choices about their own sexual behaviour and sexual expression.

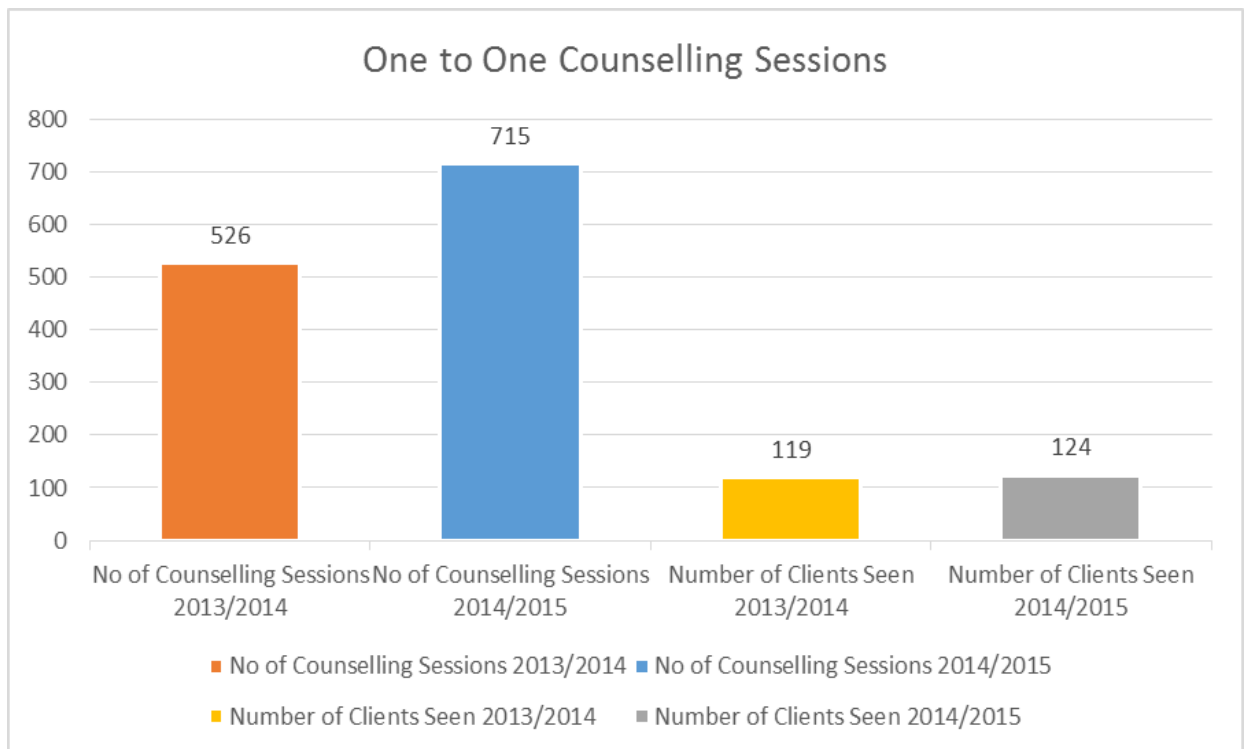
REFERRALS AND WAITLIST 2014/2015



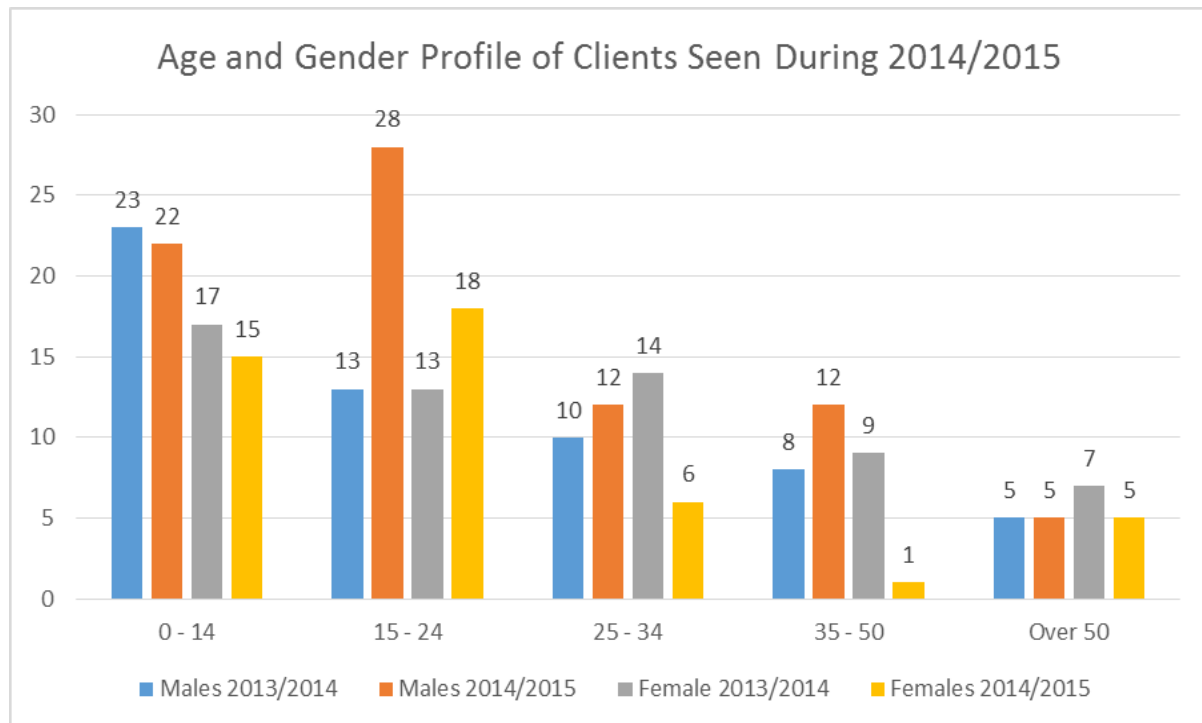
CONSULTATIONS/CONTACTS AND ONE TO ONE COUNSELLING SESSIONS 2014/2015



Consultations and Contacts
2013/2014 = 1762, 2014/2015 = 3750

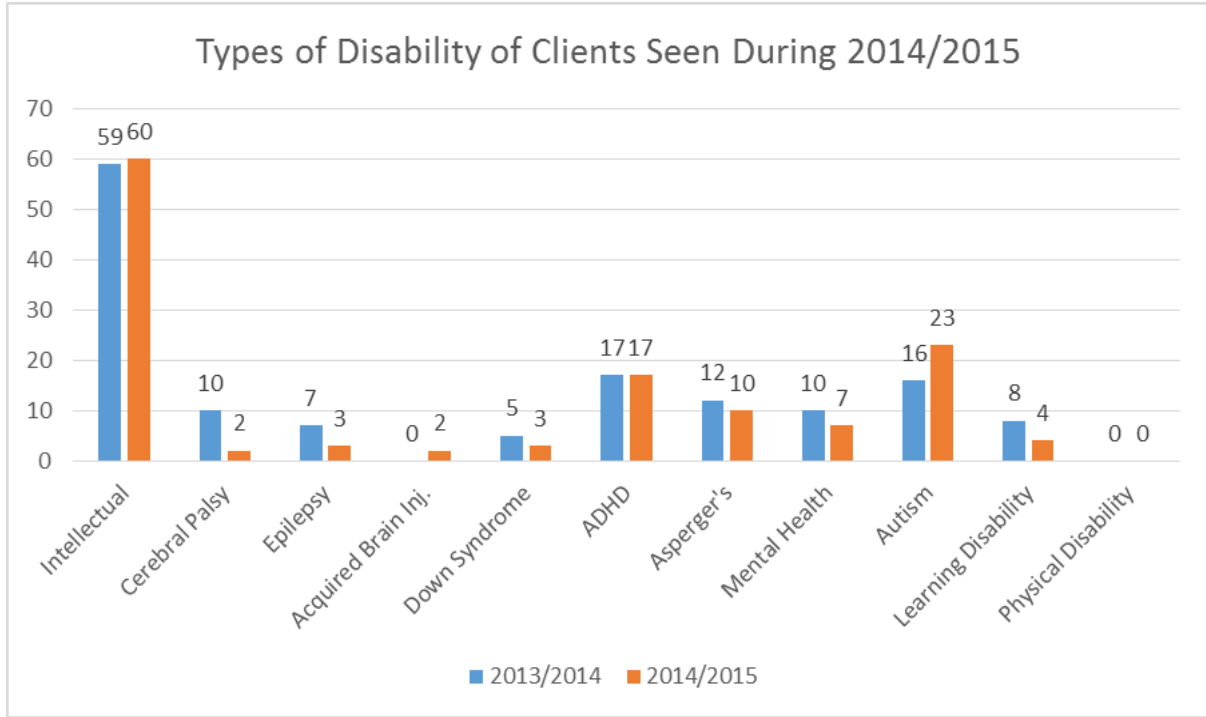


AGE AND GENDER PROFILE 2014/2015



AGE	MALES		FEMALES	
	13/14	14/15	13/14	14/15
0-14 years	23	22	17	15
15-24 years	13	28	13	18
25-34 years	10	12	14	06
35-50 years	08	12	09	01
Over 50	05	05	07	05
Age N/A	00	00	00	00
TOTAL	59	79	60	45

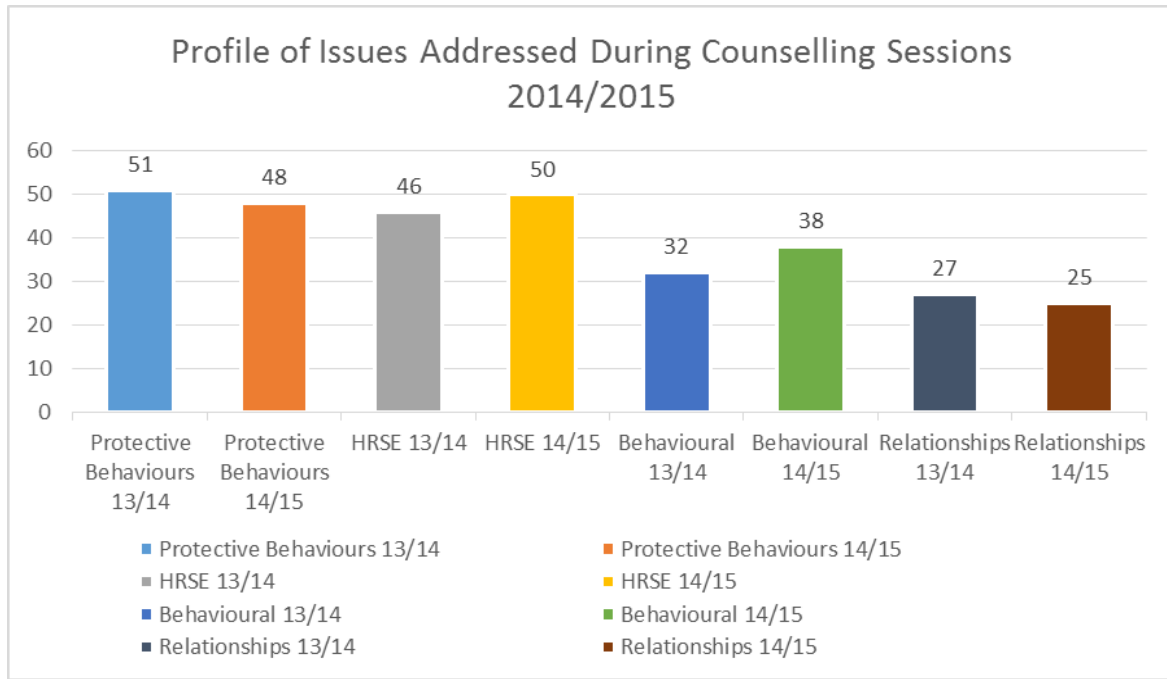
TYPES OF DISABILITY 2014/2015



	2013/2014	2014/2015
Intellectual	59	60
Cerebral Palsy	10	02
Epilepsy	07	03
Acquired Brain Injury	00	02
Down Syndrome	05	03
ADHD	17	17
Asperger's	12	10
Mental Health	10	07
Autism	16	23
Learning Disability	08	04
Physical Disability	00	00

(Clients may present with more than one disability)

PROFILE OF ISSUES ADDRESSED 2014/2015

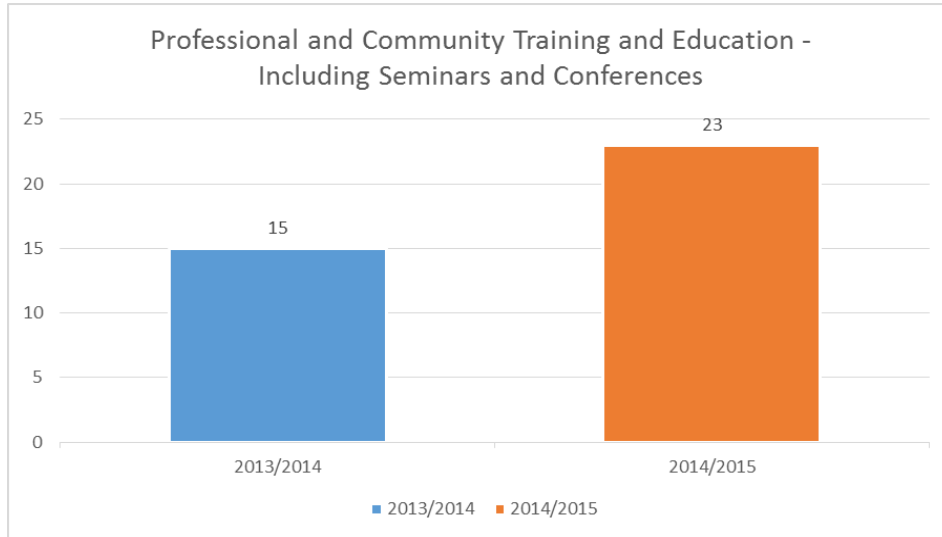


***Includes issues relating to sexual abuse/assault**

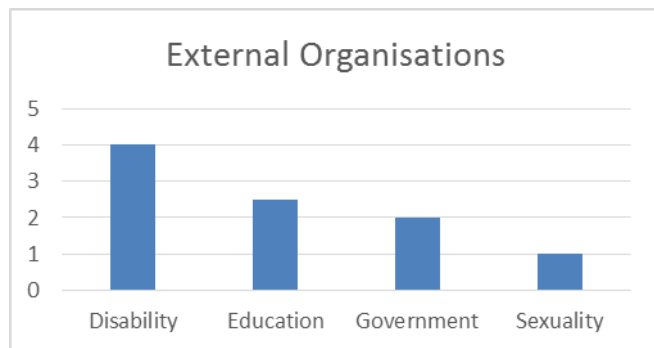
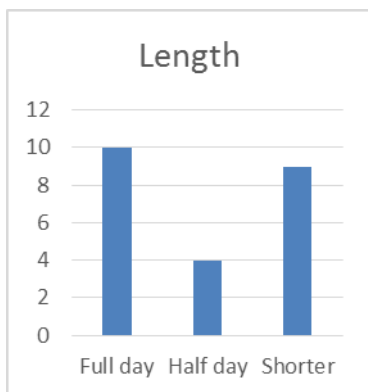
	2013/2014	2014/2015
Protective Behaviours *	51	48
Human Relationships & Sexuality Education	46	50
Behavioural	32	38
Relationships	27	25
TOTAL	156	161

(Clients may present with more than one issue)

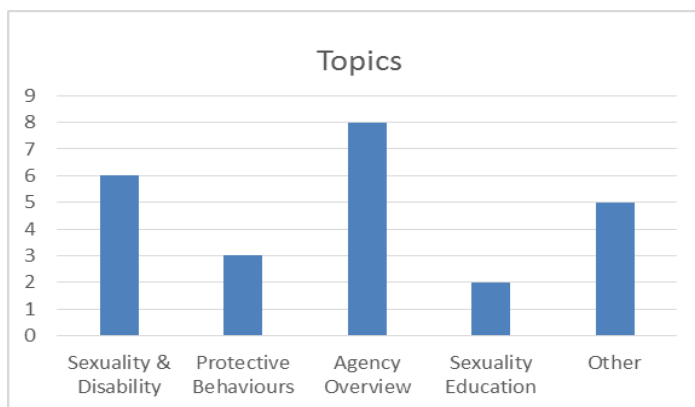
PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY TRAINING AND EDUCATION 2014/2015



A total of **23 presentations**, 7 in-house and 16 to external organisations.



In addition to Perth we also supported workers in Mandurah, Rockingham, Geraldton & Merredin.



'Other' topics includes: Sexuality and the Law, Sexuality Rights, Internet Safety, Sexuality and ABIs, Sexuality Policy.

A total of **511 Participants**, including parents, support workers, teachers, therapists, sexologists, students, managers, foster carers, allied health workers, youth workers, guardians, education assistants.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

secca's Board of Management is comprised of individuals who have a specific interest in people with disability. The Board members act in a voluntary capacity. The Board is elected from the membership of **secca**. They continue to contribute their invaluable time, energy and vision to **secca**.

The Board of Management for 2014/2015 was as follows

Office Bearers:

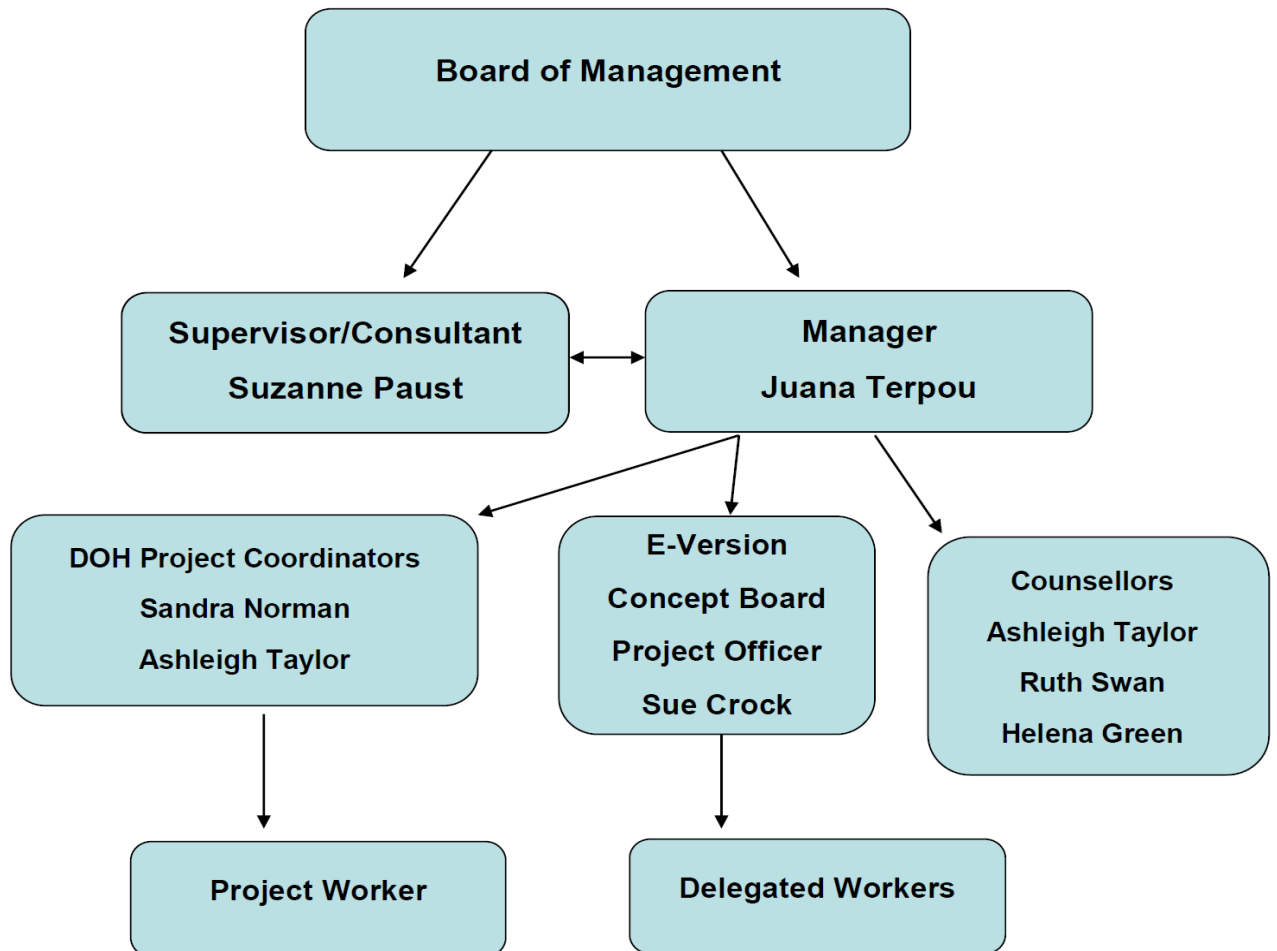
- Jillian Pearsall-Jones - Co-Chairperson
- Corinne Wray - Co-Chairperson
- Caris Jalla - Secretary
- Mark Munsel - Treasurer
- Suzanne Paust - Co-Manager
- Juana Terpou - Co-Manager

Committee Members:

- Susan Main - Individual Member
- Mary Butterworth - Individual Member

secca's ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AS AT 30TH JUNE 2015

secca's STRUCTURE



CO-CHAIRPERSONS REPORT 2014/2015

Once again, the 2014-2015 period has been a busy and productive time at **secca**. Juana Terpou, **secca's** Manager, has been involved in ongoing negotiations with DSC and the Department of Health to continue to fund therapy services and project development. She has done a wonderful job in encouraging the team at **secca** – whether these be clinical staff or project officers. Well done Juana! As can be seen from the Manager's Report for 2015, **secca** has had a bumper year in terms of workshops run, and therapy services provided.

Resources developed over the past year include the highly praised Sexuality Concepts Resource (SCR). This resource is used in many WA Education Support Centres and schools for students from kindergarten to Year 13, and on into adulthood. Sue Crock is working on an e-version of this resource, and **secca** is developing the SCR into an App for iPads.

Mark Munsel – our much valued Treasurer over the past two years – has resigned from his Board role due to the logistics of his move to Brisbane. Mark, you have done an outstanding job, and thank you for developing a Treasurer's Manual for **secca**, which should smooth the handover to our next Treasurer, which position we are currently advertising through Better Boards and Volunteers WA. Thanks to our Auditor Leon Stielow, and book keepers Preston Corporate.

Suzanne Paust resigned from **secca** at the 2014 AGM, but reconsidered due to her high level of knowledge and expertise in provision of specialist **secca** services, development of processes in preparation for the introduction of services under NDIS MyWay, with referrals in the Lower South West region gradually increasing. In July 2015 Suzanne returned from her well-earned break to work with **secca** in a consultancy role .1 FTE. This will be a mentoring and supportive role. She will join our Board of Management as a member of **secca** staff, in a non-voting position.

As was the case in past years, **secca's** Open Day in June 2015 was very informative and well attended. Highlights included a session in which staff told the stories of their journeys, and a question and answer session.

We thank the Disability Services Commission, the Department of Health, National Disability Service and LotteryWest for their support and recognition of the high level clinical and educational services provided by **secca's** enthusiastic and highly skilled team. We thank our fellow Board Members for their support over this period at **secca**, and for their many and substantial contributions over the past year.

Kathryn Lawrence – Co-Chair of **secca** - stepped down from the Board at the AGM in 2014 due to increased family and work commitments – thank you once again for your enthusiasm and expertise Katherine. Corinne Wray stepped up to the plate as Co-Chair with Jillian Pearsall-Jones – thank you Corinne for your many contributions.

Dr Jillian Pearsall-Jones and Mrs Corinne Wray
Co-Chairpersons, **secca** Board of Management
September 2015

MANAGER'S REPORT 2014/2015

It is with pride that I reflect on the past year and the achievements made by **secca**. 2014/2015 has been a year of significant changes to the agency structure. Yet, through the positive attitude and actions and commitment to the aims of the agency by **secca** staff, this report is able to demonstrate that, not only were contractual obligations met, but also we have gone beyond 2013/2014 accomplishments.

Suzanne Paust, who had been an inaugural member of **secca's** Board of Management in 1991 and later Manager of the agency, moved into the part-time position of Supervisor/Consultant and I was appointed Manager of **secca**. Suzanne's new role within the agency has allowed utilization of her knowledge and experience of working within the disability sector in both a professional and personal capacity for nearly 40 years.

Our core function is to support people who have disabilities to learn about human relationships, sexuality and sexual health across the lifespan and make informed choices, acknowledging individual capacity, to enhance the quality of their lives. The services is tailored, flexible and responsive to the individual and their disability, their family, carers and significant others around issues of sexuality, relationships and sexual health.

Requests for **secca** counselling services continue to exceed our capacity to meet them. During the 2014/2015 periods 154 referrals for service were received. This is an increase over last year's figure of 140. 124 clients were seen in 715 individual counselling sessions. The number of individual sessions provided has increased from 526-recorded last year and I thank the team of highly skilled Psychotherapists who manage complex and multifaceted cases. There are a number of factors that could be attributed to these figures.

Firstly, **secca** has a reputation for providing services of excellence that is highly supportive. We are aware that our services go beyond providing support and information to individual clients and is available and accessible to the family members and significant others who frequently are dealing with their own emotional responses to the individual who has a disability.

Secondly, as more people move into community living and open employment issues relating to sexuality emerge.

Thirdly, increased access to the Internet has raised another level of issues for which people with a disability required information and education if they are to live safely within the community.

MANAGER'S REPORT 2014/2015

As our referrals for services remains constant, so to does our wait list. When discussing waiting list for our services it is prudent to remember that **secca** is the only agency that offers one to one counselling conducted by tertiary trained Psychotherapists who are skilled with dealing with forensic sexology issues. **secca** sees individuals who may have been rejected by other service providers as “too difficult”. Consequently, our reputation for quality service is renowned and the wait list is a consequence of our excellent reputation. Through careful assessment and caseload management, our team of Psychotherapists is able to keep waiting time for services to a reasonable period. The wait list as at June 30, 2015 was 41, which is 4 less than last year.

Most of the referrals come from Disability Services Commission (DSC) Local Area Coordinators (LACs). This correlates with the role of the LAC particularly in those areas where My Way is being trialed. The LAC works closely with individuals and families to source the most appropriate service for their needs. We thank them for their continued confidence in our agency and the services we provide. This year there has been an increase in the number of self-referrals to the agency. We speculate this is due to continued advocacy within the disability sector and by disability support workers for individual's rights.

The referrals made for counselling services males between 15-24 years of age has increased markedly to double the number seen in 2013/2014. This could be another manifestation of the My Way trial and involvement of the LAC. The majority of the referrals were for “Inappropriate Behavior” followed closely by “Human Relationships and Sexuality Education”. These categories, however, are very general and tend not to capture underlying issues of more complex problems. It may take two to three sessions before these emerge.

Requests for tailored Professional and Community Training and Education Workshops have been high and the workshops included on **secca's** Calendar are continually fully booked. The increase from last year's figure of 15 to this year's figure of 23 is outstanding and reflects the professionalism with which **secca** is perceived in the community as well as the increased recognition of the importance of supporting individuals in their relationships and sexual lives. I am also very delighted to report that a new workshop on Internet Safety has been added to **secca's** calendar which was developed in response to growing needs identified among **secca** counselling clients. This workshop assists parents and carers to understand the benefits and risks of different types of technology and how they can support people with disabilities to use the internet safely.

MANAGER'S REPORT 2014/2015

During 2014/2015 **secca** secured funding from DSC to further develop the eVersion Sexuality Concept Resource. Under the tutelage of Sue Crock this resource has been expertly developed through discussion with the community and educators. The funding will cover two aspects of the Sexuality Concept Resource's development. The first is to expand the resource into an App that incorporates the East and West Kimberley Kriol language. Together with comprehensive and culturally sensitive illustrations, there will be an audio translation to match each of the picture cards that make up the resource. Aboriginal workers from the Kimberley will be trained in the use of the App with its focus on the Aboriginal people living in the Kimberley region. The second aspect of the funding will enable **secca** to revise the Sexuality Concept Resource so as to develop comprehensive illustrations that relate more to adult sexual health issues such as reproductive health, pregnancy, prostate, breast checks and menopause. The associated workbook for the resource will also be revised. The electronic version of the resource will be accessible statewide and will be available for individuals who have a disability, service providers, family members and other carers. Both of these projects are expected to be completed during 2017.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each member of the **secca** team. Individually they work with clients in an extremely challenging and confronting area. The difference they make to the lives of their clients is extreme. As a team they support the principles and mission of the agency. Their understanding and flexibility as we have all traversed this year of major restructure is highly appreciated.

My thanks to **secca's** volunteer Board of Management for their support and contribution to the agency. I would particularly like to thank **secca's** Treasurer, Mark Munsel. Mark is leaving the Board this year. His patience, support and encouragement to me as I eased into the Management role have been invaluable. I wish you well in your future endeavors.

I thank our funding bodies, Disability Services Commission and the Department of Health. Through their funding of **secca's** projects they demonstrate their confidence in the agency and its positive contribution to the lives of our clients.

Juana Terpou
Manager