**Transcript**

***Dr Catherine Barrett – Primary prevention of the sexual assault of women***

The research that I’m doing is a study looking at the primary prevention of the sexual assault of older women. It’s a study we have just had funded by FaHCSIA and we’re just about to start it now.

The issue of sexual assaults are relatively, of older women, is a relatively new one in Australia and we’ve only just started collecting data on the extent of sexual assault and we know that in aged care services there were three in the last year. There have been 350 reports of sexual assault and we know that it also happens in the community but we don’t know what the underlying causes are and that’s a real problem because we know that the best way to prevent sexual assault from occurring is to understand the underlying causes. So our research is really gathering data on what the underlying causes are. So the outcome will be a database on the evidence that then enables us to develop the framework for preventing sexual assault.

The greatest impact that we’re really targeting is a reduction in the level of sexual assault of older women. So that’ll have a really significant impact on older women. That’s what we’re hoping for but it will also have a really significant impact on the community and service providers because I think everybody wants to prevent the sexual assault of older women but people don’t know how to do it. So this study will have an impact on service providers because it will give them the information they need to do their job well and the impact it will have on the community is it’ll help people feel that they can do something to help prevent the sexual assault occurring.