

## Let's Make it Easier on the Others!

Internationally, 1 in 3 women will be sexually abused before the age of 24. This statistic is frightening! Let's Make it Easier for the other is designed to assess how Victoria should best help that 1 in 3.

What do these women really experience?



Are we providing them with enough support?

Many women have already fallen victim to the trauma of sexual assault. Unfortunately, there will be more.

This survey aims to find out how Victoria can best assist young women who will experience Sexual Assault in the future.

If you have been a victim of Sexual Assault and are between the ages of 18-24, this is an opportunity to make a difference.

Your experience is a valuable because we can learn so much from it.



**By Madeleine Collins  
RMIT Student**

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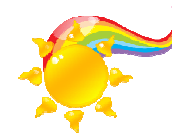
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# The: Let's Make it Easier for the Others!

Project



Created By Madeleine Collins  
Produced in association with Women's  
Health in the South East WHISE  
*'Strength in dignity, choice, diversity,  
justice'*

# The 'Let's Make it Easier for the Others!' Project

Dear Survivor,

My name is Madeleine Collins and I am a student at RMIT University. I think it is important to let you know that I am no one of great social importance. I do not have any political power, I do not work as an employee of any organisation and I do not represent a powerful body. What I have is greater in value than any politician, professor, counsellor or health worker. I too, have lived the experience of a victim.

In September, 2008, my life changed forever as I became a Victim of Sexual Violence. Experiencing such a horrific crime has opened my eyes to all aspects of Sexual Trauma. This experience has given me a rare insight into a system that has much to learn and many changes to make.

I was studying a Bachelor of Social Science (Youth work) at the time I was assaulted. I have always had a passion to help people and the experience of the crime has sparked my desire even more.

It took me over a year to decide to do something with my experience. It wasn't until I began my university placement, at Women's Health in the South East, that I saw a platform to do some good.

I understand that there are many elements of Sexual Violence which are frustrating, exhausting and simply not dealt with well. All victims have a tale to tell and the capacity to help others. By getting involved in this project you will be able to finally have your say about your experience and maybe even make a difference for the future. This study is unlike anything the government have ever received before. This study is produced entirely by those who have been impacted most by Sexual Violence, the victims.

The opinions represented in this survey will be written up into a submission for the Victorian Government. Your identity will be kept anonymous. Together we will be able to make it a little easier for young women who experience Sexual Assault in the future.

I wish you all the best for a safe and happy future.

Yours Sincerely,

Madeleine Collins



## What is involved in Participating?

The questionnaire is broken into 8 different sections, with 45 questions in total.

The questions are designed to give you the space to write about your opinions and ideas. Each survey should only take about twenty minutes. The questions cover issues related to your experience following the crime.

Example Question:

'Why did you choose to report the crime/ not report the crime?'

You do not have to answer every question.

What you choose to disclose is entirely up to you

All the information will be kept anonymous.

The findings will be written up into a submission for government. I hope to make recommendations about actions they may take to ensure young women are supported through this difficult process.

**Without victims voicing their views we can't hope to change the current situation. With courage and conviction much can be done.**

**Let's Make it Easier for the Others! I look forward to hearing from you.**

Thank-you

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