

Let's Make it Easier for the Others!

Questionnaire

Instructions:

The survey/ questionnaire is broken into 8 different sections, with 45 questions in total. The categories are:

1. Background Information
2. Emotional Impacts
3. Physical Impacts
4. Financial Impacts
5. Social Impacts
6. The Legal System
7. Your Support Networks
8. The Experience

Some sections may not be relevant to you, depending on your experience. If you believe they are not relevant to you, simply skip that section.

You do not have to answer every question. What you choose to disclose is entirely up to you. Please do not feel pressured to answer anything that may be too traumatising or uncomfortable. This is supposed to be a positive experience and a chance to share your opinions. Any information you can provide is valuable.

Please ensure you **do not** write your name or anyone else's name on the questionnaire.

To Submit:

Either:

Attach to both the Survey and Consent form to an email and send to:

s3167038@student.rmit.edu.au

OR

Send both the Survey and Consent form to:

Madeleine Collins
Student At Women's Health in the South East

15 Scott Street
Dandenong
VIC 3175

About me & Thank-you “Young Women Let’s make it Easier for the Others!”

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. While, this may seem to undermine my credibility, 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 the Victorian Legal System, the Victorian Police, Sexual Assault Support Services and the impacts 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. Initially, my life was shaken off track and 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 and I am hoping you will have some insight into these issues too. By filling out this form you will be able to finally have your say about your experience and make a difference for future victims. This study is unlike anything the government have every received before. This study is made 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. Currently, 1 in 3 women will be sexually assaulted before they are 24. So, unfortunately there will be more of us. Together we will be able to make it a little easier for young women who experience sexual assault in the future.

On behalf of all women, thank you so much for participating. I wish you all the best for a safe and happy future.

Yours Sincerely,

Madeleine Collins

For more information or to discuss please contact:

Women's Health In The South East
Ph 03 9794 8677 Fx 03 9793 1866
15 Scott Street, Dandenong, Vic 3175
Em whise@whise.org.au Web www.whise.org.au

Background Information

1. How old were you when at the time of the assault?

12 or under	<input type="checkbox"/>
12 - 18	<input type="checkbox"/>
18 - 24	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Was the perpetrator known to you prior to the assault?

3. Did you report the crime?

4. Why did you choose to report the crime or choose not to report the crime?

5. How long after the assault did you choose to report the crime?

Emotional Impacts

6. What emotional impacts did you experience? (eg. Depression? Nightmares? Fears? Anger? Embarrassment? Guilt? Shame? Mood swings? Anxiety? ...)

7. Did you receive support for these emotional impacts? If so, what kind?

8. Was the support....? (Circle)

Very Helpful

Kind of Helpful

Not Helpful

9. What more could have been done to assist in your emotional recovery?

Physical Impacts

10. What physical injuries did you suffer as a result of the assault?

11. What was done to assist your physical recovery?

12. Do you believe this support was sufficient? Why/ why not?

13. How long after the assault did you receive medical attention? (Doctor, hospital..)

Financial Impacts

14. What were some of the costs associated with experiencing the crime?
(eg. Medical bills, security, loss of pay...)

15. Did you receive any financial support for these costs? In what way did this assist in your recovery?

Social Impacts

16. What impact, if any, did the assault have on your relationships with others?

17. If the assault impacted upon your relationships what, if any, support were you given?

18. Was this support useful? Why/ why not?

The Legal System

19. Did your assault lead to dealing with the police and other elements of the legal system? (If 'no' skip section.)

20. Did you speak with police?

21. Did you make a statement?

22. Was it made clear to you the importance of your statement and how it would be used?

23. Do you believe the police need to change the way they respond to victims of sexual assault? If so, how?

24. If you could, what would you change about the way in which the police handle sexual assault cases?

25. What are some words to describe your experience of the Legal System?

26. Did you give evidence in court? If so, how would you describe this experience?

27. What were the positive experiences of the legal system?

28. Did you experience any negative factors of the legal system? If so, what were they and why was this experience negative?

29. Were you satisfied that justice was served?

30. What do you think the public should know about the way in which the legal system deals with crimes of sexual assault?

31. How long did it take for the legal system to conclude your case? That is, how long did it take before acquittal, or sentencing?

32. If you experienced delays, how many delays did you experience? And what were they for? (Adjournment, no judge available, booked court rooms, perpetrator did not show up etc....)

33. Were you given the opportunity to make a Victim Impact Statement?

34. If so, was the experience of making an Impact Statement positive? Why/why not?

35. Did you read it in Court?

36. Would you have liked to? Why/ Why not?

37. Were you satisfied with the way the Legal System handled your case? Why/ Why not?

38. Given the opportunity, what would you change about the Victorian Legal System? Why?

Your Support Networks

39. Who was the most supportive and helpful person or people to you through out your experience? (eg. Counsellor, partner, family, friends...)

40. What did they do that made an impact on your recovery?

41. Who was least helpful /supportive throughout your experience? What was it about them that made things more difficult?

The Experience

42. What is one word you feel accurately describes your experience of sexual assault?

43. What are some feelings you went through? (Eg. Sadness, anger, happiness, feeling isolated...)

44. If you could change one thing about the way the state of Victoria deals with victims of sexual assault what would it be? Why?

45. Given your experience, what advice would you have for other victims?