

Question 1 If you are a victim survivor, did you decide to tell someone about your experience? If you did tell someone, did you contact: y a particular support service; y the police; y a health professional, a teacher, an employer; or y a family member, friend, or some other person? Was there sufficient information available to you to help you decide who to tell and what to do? Where did you find that information? Was the response you received adequate? What supports did you need at that time? Were the supports adequate? How could they be improved? If you decided not to tell someone about your experience, you may wish to share with us the reason(s) why.

I was molested by a random man outside a shopping complex years ago at night. I initially told my friend [REDACTED] (an older cisgender man) on the night it occurred that I had been molested and he asked if I was okay and said nothing more. I then thought that I wouldn't worry about reporting it as I had had other men touch me in clubs and never reported them. I didn't know if I'd be taken seriously.

A couple of weeks later I kept thinking about the incident and posted about it on Facebook. Many women told me that I should go to the police, so I did. There was not sufficient information anywhere obvious about who to tell or what to do. I hadn't learnt about this in school or heard about it in the media.

The response I received was to report the crime factually as it occurred-detail by detail. No advice was given on who to contact for mental health support, even though I was distressed while having to re-tell the incident. I had to ask all the questions about the process and no one ever followed up with me at any point (including when he went to trial, was found guilty and sentenced to community service). This was incredibly frustrating as it felt like nothing was happening even though it was. I also got the impression that I was the least important person in the situation and they did not care whether I got closure for this event. I didn't matter in the process.

They also told me that even though this man had been a random stranger to me on this night, that it was his 'right' to find out my full name according to the law. This made me frightened that the man, who didn't know me prior, could potentially come after me after the trial. He may stalk me on Facebook or track me down. This was incredibly scary and no one seemed to care about this flaw in the justice system or protecting my privacy. I did not know this man, but because he committed a crime against me, he was entitled to know my name. This needs to change immediately if it hasn't yet, in sexual/abuse crimes against strangers. It was/is a dangerous situation for women.

Question 2 What reforms or recommendations have been implemented in your state or territory? How are they working in practice? What is working well? What is not working well?

I have no idea. I haven't heard about any reforms etc. I do know that 30 women have been murdered in Australia this year and perpetrators of DV are still allowed to stay in their family home, while women are encouraged to run away (often with children). Many of these women become homeless.

Question 3 How can accessing the justice system and reporting be made easier for victim survivors? What would make the process of seeking information and help, and reporting,

better? You might consider the kind of information given to victim survivors, the confidentiality of the process, and the requirements of particular groups in the community.

There needs to be media campaigns about: the cycle of abuse, where PERPETRATORS can go to learn how to not abuse women, what sexual crimes are and how to report to police. People should be able to report abusive people even when they're not the victim themselves (often reporting yourself is dangerous). When you report, you should be able to take a support person in, you should be given the process in writing and have it verbally explained to you, you should be given a list of support services and asked if you'd like a referral to these services. After each stage of investigation and court proceeding you should be given a quick call to update you on the process. Perpetrators should never be given your name in a court proceeding if they have never known your name prior.

Question 4 Do you have other ideas for what needs to be done to ensure that victim survivors have a safe opportunity to tell someone about their experience and get appropriate support and information?

Jail men who are reported for DV while investigating the case. Allow for leave at their workplace when this occurs. Create a list of offenders online that the public can access. Invest in programs to educate perpetrators about how not to abuse women.

What are your ideas for ensuring victim survivors' rights are identified and respected by the criminal justice system? What can be done

The legal system should be looking for how the perpetrator knew the victim was consenting not the other way around. Why does the victim have to re-tell the situation but the perpetrator does not?! Why does the complainant not have legal representation?! No wonder so few sexual offences get tried and receive any justice for victims.

Give victims the choice, support and information about whether they present in court or not. I was not given this choice.

Take past cases/convictions and allegations into consideration in court cases. Past behaviour is an indicator of future behaviour.

Question 24 Should cross-examination that reflects myths and misconceptions about sexual violence, such as the belief that a 'rape victim' would be expected to complain at the first reasonable opportunity be restricted on the ground that it is irrelevant or on any other ground?

Of course, all nonsense myths about sexual assault should be pointed out to the jury prior to the start of the trial (by the judge), then any mention of such sexual assault myths should be named as such and stopped from proceeding.