

Question	Answer
Asset ID	709581
<b>Page 1</b>	
Title	Miss
Please specify your title	
Given name	<input type="text"/>
Family name	<input type="text"/>
I do not wish to provide my name	
Contact number	<input type="text"/>
I do not wish to provide a telephone number	
Email address	<input type="text"/>
I do not wish to provide an email address	
Street address	
Suburb	
State	QLD
Postcode	
I do not wish to provide a postal address	I do not wish to provide a postal address
What type of submission are you making?	I am responding to Discussion Paper 3
Who are you making the submission for?	I am making this submission for myself
What is the name of the organisation?	
What is the core work of the organisation?	
What is your position in the organisation?	

Question

Answer

Do you have authority from the organisation to make a submission on its behalf?

Please specify who you are making this submission for

Please select at least one from below

I have lived experience of domestic, family or sexual violence and/or of the criminal justice system, I have supported a friend or family member experiencing of domestic, family or sexual violence and/or engaging with the criminal justice system

Please specify (if **Others** was selected )

Are you able to advise a timeframe for when most of the lived experience/observations in your submission occurred?

In the past 10 or more years

**Page 2**

How would you like us to use your information?

Anonymous – published on website

**Page 3**

What is your age range?

I am between 36 – 45 years old

What is your gender?

Please specify other gender

What is your current postcode?

What is your main language other than English spoken at home?

In which country were you born?

Australia

Do you identify as a member of any of the following groups? (Please tick all that apply)

Person who identifies as LGBTQI+

**Page 4**

## Question

Your knowledge and experiences

## Answer

My submission is in response to "the experience of women across the criminal justice system". I want to ensure the Taskforce has a diverse range of experiences to draw from when making decisions, also so that what happened to me doesn't happen to someone else, to be victimised by the institutions that are supposed to keep you safe following a sexual assault is something no one should ever experience. I've often felt that what happened afterwards was actually worse than the assault itself. Those men were predators, but I'm not sure what excuse the Queensland Police has for their actions. I was assaulted by two men outside a major sporting event in my early twenties. It was a coordinated assault, I was focused on the man in front of me so I didn't hear the other man come up behind me. They held me down while they assaulted me, I froze, I didn't scream or try to fight them, something I still feel shame to this day despite an intellectual understanding that my response was "normal". After they finished they let me go, and they were laughing at me as they left me there, I kicked into gear of sorts and realised there would be police around. I located the nearest police, two male officers and told them I'd been assaulted, I was very upset, I noticed immediately that they were looking me up and down. I hadn't been drinking so I thought it was strange until one of the officers stated that "I wasn't the kind of woman who gets assaulted". I am queer, and although female present more masculine, I have short hair and at the time was wearing shorts and a t shirt. They wouldn't listen to me, wouldn't let me lodge a report, in their words "nothing they could do" all because I'm the wrong type of woman. They didn't even ask if I was OK they just wanted me to go home. In retrospect I feel being an openly queer woman may have actually made me a target, there were plenty of feminine women there that night. For many years I thought maybe I'd gotten it wrong, maybe I'd done something wrong, until something triggered it and I discussed it with a psychologist. I've since learnt that I did nothing wrong, and not only was I a victim of those two men who assaulted me, but those two policemen. Over 10 years on I still have quite the PTSD response when anyone comes up behind me, particularly if they touch me, even when its friends or someone I know. And every time I hear in the news or social media of people asking "why didn't you report it to the police", my anger is palpable, I TRIED. I've come to accept that the police cannot protect me, nor will they be there for me after a crime. Working in enforcement I've met lawyers who have worked in sex crimes, and between their stories, the incredibly low conviction rates, and that I still present as a masculine queer female I would never report a sexual assault ever again. One of the questions you ask is what is working well? I cannot speak to what is working well as I was never allowed the opportunity to find out, but no one should be denied the opportunity to file a sexual assault report based on their appearance. Any single person in the world can be sexually assaulted regardless of their gender identity, their sexuality or the clothes that they choose to wear or how they cut their hair. Those men who assaulted me considered me a perfect woman for their needs. I urge the Taskforce to ensure all types of women are included in its review. What happened that night is something I'll never forget, and given the amount of discussion on sexual assault in recent times I find I'm triggered often. As someone working in enforcement I recognise that we can't stop all crime, we can't stop all of these predators, but what happened afterwards with the Queensland Police should never have happened. This is something that is in our circle of influence, how we respond to victims of all types, not just the feminine ones. And by no means is that comment intended to disparage victims who are feminine, I have feminine female friends who have been sexually assaulted and their stories are worse than mine. But to think, if I'd had long hair and worn a skirt those police officers might have taken me seriously that night.

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