

With You We Can launches Australia's first victim-led sexual violence knowledge hub

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA - DECEMBER 9th, 2022:

[With You We Can \(WYWC\)](#), a network led by victims of sexual assault, will today launch its knowledge hub for victims of sexual violence.

The knowledge hub hopes to empower victims who report sexual assault by demystifying the police and legal processes, and ultimately, working to improve them.

The reporting, investigation, and prosecution of sexual violence are in urgent need of an overhaul. The abandoning of the high-profile Lehrmann retrial due to the trauma it inflicted on key witness Brittany Higgins, is yet another sign that the criminal justice system is failing victims.

Uniquely informed by sector leaders and people with lived experience, WYWC aims to ensure that victims who feel safe to report sexual assault are empowered to do so. Among other resources, the knowledge hub debunks myths that discredit victims and exonerate perpetrators, breaks down key legal terms by jurisdiction, and outlines the step-by-step processes for victims from police reporting to criminal proceedings, and post-court complaint options.

Sarah Rosenberg, Co-founder and Director of WYWC commented: "Sexual assault victims are grossly under-represented and do not receive the social nor judicial validation that they deserve. Our criminal justice system is no longer fit for purpose, but there are victims courageously going through it blindly right now. Victims, who are doing a public service by reporting perpetrators, have a right to know what lies ahead of them."

"If we create more understanding around our justice system, not just for victims but for the public who might not otherwise engage with it, we highlight its limitations to a wider audience and become better placed to reform it. If we normalise understanding of reporting, we change outcomes for victims everywhere."

Members of the WYWC advisory committee include Lula Dembele, Dr Bianca Fileborn and Professor Anne Cossins.

WYWC marked the launch in Sydney last night at Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience's (AIME) new Imagi-nation Factory. The event featured a screening of Australian playwright Suzie Miller's award-winning play *Prima Facie* starring Jodie Comer, as well as an introduction from Wendy McCarthy AO and a Q&A about the resource led by Professor Andrea Durbach.

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