

JACQUI

I want to thank everybody who was a part of this research project especially the woman who shared their stories. I found sharing my story for the research was very empowering and it has given me the power to speak about the sexual assault to others and not feel ashamed of myself because it happened. It is amazing how many people do not see this as an issue and how much damage it does to the woman involved – low self esteem, feeling we have to do it as it is part of the relationship we have chosen to be in.

A very empowering situation for me has been my friendship with a couple of police persons in Wodonga and sharing my story with them, they have made me feel so powerful for the simple fact that they believed me, they told me to stand up and let people know this is happening. I want to thank them from the bottom of my heart.

In my work I see woman constantly who are being sexually assaulted by their partners, but they are not recognizing it as a crime – I have been their with one woman as she has got help for the issue – but she did not want any police involvement.

We must change the attitudes in society and in the police force about this issue as well as helping to make woman feel more comfortable with reporting to the police.

After spending a couple of hours with the other woman in the research, I feel stronger and I want to thank them for that. I would also like to thank everybody who is here today for recognizing partner rape is an issue in our society and it is about time we stood up as woman and let the world know that this is happening.