



Why is it so difficult to end the cover-up culture?



The former army private who was attacked in her room.



Former navy trainee Deborah Morris was raped by her training officer.



Naval chaplain Mel Baker was assaulted by someone she was trying to help.



Former trainee Danielle Wilson was sexually assaulted during a mock exercise.



Erin Brown was repeatedly raped during her service.



Narelle Wilson was sexually assaulted by a medic.



A former military police officer who was raped.



A sailor raped while on exchange on a NZ naval ship.

EXCLUSIVE CYDONEE MARDON

A FORMER army private attacked in her room by a soldier has joined the ranks of victims demanding Minister Peter Dutton step in and overhaul the Australian Defence Force's broken system of reporting sexual assaults.

The woman is the eighth victim to come forward and speak out against the "pathetic and lacklustre" way victims of sexual assaults are treated by the ADF.

Senator Jacqui Lambie has thrown her support behind

our campaign to abolish the system by which the ADF investigates and rules on complaints against itself.

"Somehow, I'm still shocked and disappointed at how our ex-servicemen and women are being treated by Defence" Ms Lambie said.

"You'd think with a royal commission breathing down their neck they'd start making changes. I promise you this: I won't let this go. The cover-ups are over. It's enough."

The former private, who cannot be identified, said she was one of only a few women at a trade school when she was assaulted.

"I was in my dorm room studying when the individual came into my room and locked the door behind him," the woman said.

"I found out later he had been drinking on base at the pub with a few other people. He tried to rape me and then another guy from the pub knocked on the door to check on me. I screamed out. The other guy came in and kicked him out."

She didn't immediately report the attack but, once her mental health started to decline, she made a complaint about a month later. She didn't reveal the identity of

her attacker as he was still posted to the base and she feared retribution.

Nine months passed as her mental health declined further before an official complaint was made and military police launched an investigation.

That was only after a ranking family friend brought it to the attention of the Chief of Defence and the Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Office. "There was no follow-up from either parties at any time during the investigation," she said.

The case finally went to a Military Magistrates Court. After two days of hearing

and negotiations the accused soldier pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of "disobeying a general lawful order" in relation to entering the private's room. His sentence was a fine.

But her nightmare didn't end there. She put in a PTSD claim that the Department of Veterans Affairs knocked back three times.

"They wouldn't accept I had PTSD even though there was a military court hearing and a guilty plea. It took years and contracted legal advice after my case was escalated within DVA for them to accept liability," she said.

The private said she spent

time in four different hospitals during her service and had to battle superiors who tried to have her administratively discharged.

"The system failed me as a victim," the woman said. "I received no support, there are so many things covered up along the way. I suffered so much mentally, the system is broken."

"There was no support given from my unit at the time and the process of reporting the assault was not made clear. That's still the case."

Mr Dutton has not responded to repeated requests for comment in relation to the campaign.

Sheer tights are finally slipping back into style

ALICE COSTER

THOSE symbols of 1980s power dressing, the barely black sheer stockings, are back in fashion.

But patterned tights are not only back in style, they are the autumn sartorial statement as temperatures drop.

And don't hold back. Polka dots details, fishnets, stripes, or embellishments such as bows, love hearts and diamantés not only keep us warm and hide a

multitude of sins but elevate the ordinary outfit.

Tired of being unable to purchase quality, sexy, bold fashion tights in Australia, Melbourne aunt and niece duo Nancy Romano and Makayla Maree created Aviana The Label.

The legwear range made in Italy is designed to encourage women to be fearless and expressive in their fashion choices as seen on the streets of Milan where Maree (pictured second

from left) was living and studying.

Romano, who moonlights as a Netflix chief executive, said she wanted to add a classic European accessory into Australian wardrobes while encouraging women, from the teenager who isn't afraid to be daring to the ultimate corporate boss lady.

"I want women to feel that instant sense of femininity and empowerment that I fell when I slip into a pair of fashion tights," Romano said.



Sheer stockings are back in fashion.

Party stabbing

A MAN has been charged with wounding after a stabbing on the South Coast.

Emergency services were called to Beachview Close, North Narooma, after a 31-year-old man was stabbed in the early hours of Saturday.

The man was reportedly stabbed during an argument with a 24-year-old known to him when a party got out of control.

Paramedics treated the man for stab wounds to his buttocks and upper leg.

He was in a stable condition when taken to Canberra Hospital.