

Producer: Angus Llewellyn

ACT SCRIPT PART II
VERSION # 1

SCHEDULED TX DATE	
SUGGESTED INTRO KEY	
PRESENTER	
MUSIC	

STUDIO INTRO

SCRIPT

Support – the brochure, internal police triggered	<p>1:01:44.6 Lisa: So, you had just told a senior advisor to Prime Minister Scott Morrison that you had been raped on Minister Reynolds' couch in her private office.</p> <p>1:01:56.1 Brittany: Yes.</p> <p>1:01:57.2 Lisa: That's a serious crime.</p> <p>1:01:58.6 Brittany: Yeah.</p> <p>1:02:56.3 Lisa: What support were you given by Fiona Brown?</p> <p>1:02:59.9 Brittany: We have an employee assistance program. And I remember she gave me a brochure for the Employee Assistance Program. And I think she told me that day that I could take the rest of the day off and I did.</p> <p>1:03:53.4 Lisa: So, what was in the brochure that you were left with?</p> <p>1:03:56.0 Brittany: A phone number. I did call it. I think it was like a two-month wait to speak to a psychologist.</p> <p>1:01:59.6 Lisa: Did she call the police?</p> <p>1:02:03.1 Brittany: She said, internal mechanisms were already at</p>
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	<p>play...1:02:08.1...inside of Parliament House, it's its own unique AFP unit. And so, that act independently from the ACT Police and they're a branch of the Federal Police apparently. ... It was this automatic sort of series of events that had been triggered on the basis that there'd been a breach of security in the Minister's office.</p>
Tbc – why does APH have its own separate police force?	<p>TBC - Dr Rosemary Laing is a former Clerk of the Australian Senate and a leading authority on the complex laws which govern our federal parliamentary building.</p>
Tbc	<p><i>Dr Rosemary Laing TBC – former Clerk of The Senate. [Aus Parl has precinct defined by this and it's there for separation of powers; it's there for this and that reason and a separate police force, not the AFP or ACT police has to enforce those laws.]</i></p>
1:06:05.8... they decided that they would elevate it to the Belconnen AFP Sexual Assault Crimes Unit. And they had jurisdiction over that sort of crime in the region, I guess.	<p>1:05:40.3 Brittany: So I said I would speak with the police and I did. I did on the Wednesday. So I immediately on the Wednesday I was met with the AFP Canberra Parliament House Unit. I went down and I, it wasn't a formal statement, but I gave them sort of, I sat down with them and I went through all the events. ...</p>
The CCTV	<p>1:09:40.5 Lisa: So at any point, did you ask to see the CCTV footage of you on that Saturday night, into the Sunday morning?</p> <p>1:09:50.3 Brittany: Yeah. I became weirdly fixated on it personally.</p> <p>1:12:55.7 Lisa: Do you know how far ... that CCTV followed you?</p> <p>1:13:05.0 Brittany: It, it went from the very front entrance of where the taxi would have stopped all the way through, going through security, all the way up to the suite. ...</p>

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	<p>1:10:08.9 Lisa: Because at this point, you knew that quite a few people had seen this CCTV?</p> <p>1:10:13.5 Brittany: Yeah, yeah I knew that Fiona had seen it, I knew that sort of, one of my other colleagues had seen it from Defence. And so it was this strange thing where it felt like everyone had all this information on my own assault, and I didn't have any. ...</p> <p>1:10:37.8... I asked at least half-a-dozen times to see that CCTV and she always said no.</p> <p>1:10:58.3 Lisa: Who's she?</p> <p>1:10:59.6 Brittany: Fiona.</p> <p>1:12:06.8 Lisa: How did that make you feel?</p> <p>1:12:10.6 Brittany: ... It felt like a betrayal ... for them to sort of withhold this one really small thing that I needed just personally for myself to process, [starts to cry] to move on, or just to understand what had happened to me. ... I don't know why, it really upset me.</p>
<p>Meeting in Reynolds office next to the couch</p> <p>Pic of Whatsapp message mentioned here [message indicates stuff about the dad so that's why it's here]</p>	<p>1:13:52.6 Lisa: So when did Minister Reynolds speak to you about what happened?</p> <p>1:13:55.8 Brittany: So, I let them know that my dad was going to come down just to sort of support me over that weekend.</p> <p>1:14:14.5... I got a WhatsApp from Fiona Brown indicating that Minister Reynolds would like to have a meeting with me and Fiona on the following Monday.</p>
	<p>1:15:41.2... I kind of expected to walk into Fiona's office where we'd been having all of</p>

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	<p>our other meetings and we actually went into the room where it happened.</p> <p>1:16:07.9 And it was just like a whiteout in my mind. Because it's the first time I'd ever had to go back there. ... And between sort of me and their table was the couch. And I just remember feeling so, I'm sure they were saying words but I barely remember a single word they said during that entire process.</p> <p>1:16:38.7...this is where its happened, it's right there. That's exactly where it, and it was just this loop playing in my mind of this trauma that I'd just sort of come to terms with and I just thought it was unfathomable that they would put me in that space again.</p> <p>1:16:55.2 Lisa: Did Minister Reynolds know that that was the couch that you allege the rape happened on?</p> <p>1:17:00.1 Brittany: There's no way she wouldn't, she knew it was in her office.</p> <p>1:18:07.7... I felt like I was reliving it, every second of being in that room.</p> <p>1:17:05.2 Lisa: So what did she say to you?</p> <p>1:17:07.5 Brittany: She was apologetic. She was nice, she did say nice words. She was apologetic, she asked how I was. And then pretty quickly the conversation turned to sort of, the police. And if I chose to go to the police, we would support you. And it was this sort of, it felt like a weird sort of, HR ticking a box moment ...</p>
<p>...1:17:45.8...And then successively, all their actions following that, made it very clear that that wasn't anything that was actually a real feasible thing for me to do.</p>	<p>1:20:50.0...I could tell that it made Fiona uncomfortable. I could tell that –</p> <p>1:21:15.9 Lisa: It made Fiona Brown uncomfortable if you brought up anything that referred at all –</p> <p>1:21:20.7 Brittany: To the incident.</p>

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	<p>1:21:21.1 Lisa: To the alleged rape?</p> <p>1:21:22.7 Brittany: Yeah, yeah. And so, it became a topic that was really hard to raise with her. And she was sort of my only point of contact in terms of HR or anything. She was my only sort of person I could go to. The minister clearly didn't want to hear about it anymore. She didn't broadly want to see me anymore. And so, Fiona was like my sort of, the only person I could talk to. And it was dismissed, it was played down, and it was made to feel like it was my problem. [cries]</p> <p>1:21:53.2...it always sort of came back to sort of being a me issue. And if you can't deal with it, then you can leave.</p>
	<p><i>breath</i></p>
	<p>1:24:22.3 Lisa: So at that stage you were only dealing with the internal Parliament House police unit. Who called in the AFP?</p> <p>1:24:30.5 Brittany: The internal Parliament House decided to elevate it to them. So, that's when the Belconnen Sexual Assault Crimes Unit got involved.</p> <p>1:24:58.1... And they actually came and picked me up from Parliament House. And so they, that was the first time I had a real counsellor. So I had a lady from the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre there with me. And I met her for the first time, and I had two officers there.</p> <p>1:25:24.0 And they were very proactive. From the onset, they had already sort of started acquiring footage from the venues we'd been at earlier in the night. ... And so, this officer was already starting to get information together but immediately she raised the fact that she was already having difficulty with Parliament House getting copies of the CCTV footage.</p>

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	<p>1:27:27.5... She said that this would be a bit of a battle. She didn't know if she'd be able to get it.</p> <p>1:27:37.9 Lisa: And she was so concerned she elevated it to her superior.</p> <p>1:27:42.1 Brittany: Yeah, that's correct.</p> <p>1:27:43.4 Lisa: And did her superior have any luck getting that CCTV?</p> <p>1:27:46.5 Brittany: Not to my knowledge.</p>
	<p><i>TBC Dr Rosemary Laing – former Clerk of The Senate. [the parliamentary precincts are defined by law but they don't provide any protection for criminal law, but gaining evidence can be very tricky. But it's only tricky if it involves members of parliament going about their business. If it's not MPs then there should be nothing stopping the AFP getting the CCTV]</i></p>
The election – going to WA	<p>1:29:18.0 Lisa: So this all happened just weeks before the Federal Election of 2019 was called. And I believe that Fiona Brown from the Prime Minister's office gave you two choices on how to proceed.</p> <p>1:29:38.6 Brittany: Yeah, so essentially, I could go home. They'd pay me and I could just sort of take leave and I could just sort of process what had happened to me and I could just go home.</p> <p>1:30:15.1 Lisa: To try and heal.</p> <p>1:30:16.3 Brittany: Yeah. And I asked, so what's the process of coming back. And she said, well you wouldn't. And that was the really clarifying moment for me where I fully sort of internalised that this is a political</p>

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	<p>issue, my job is on the line for this, I don't really have a choice.</p>
	<p>1:30:51.0 Lisa: So what did you choose?</p> <p>1:30:54.5 Brittany: This was my dream job; I had worked my entire life to get here. [cries]</p> <p>1:31:15.8...So yeah, I went to WA.</p> <p>1:31:34.5 Lisa: What was in WA?</p> <p>1:31:36.7 Brittany: I was sort of just a part of Minister Reynolds' sort of WA based team, we were helping in the seats of Hasluck, Canning and Swan. ... and it was pretty much hell. It was a horrible, horrible six weeks.</p> <p>1:32:02.4 Lisa: So you were isolated.</p> <p>1:32:04.1 Brittany: Yeah, I was by myself for six weeks in this, up in a hotel room but we were sort of working seven days a week pretty much. If we weren't, if we weren't sort of in office we were at events and campaigning and so, I was just, I was pretty suicidal to be honest at the time. Because you're just alone, it was really hard. {cries}</p> <p>1:32:30.6 Lisa: Did you think it was a curious option to send someone who just alleged rape to the other side of the country with no support network around her at all?</p> <p>1:32:41.4 Brittany: Yeah. I thought it felt intentional. Sorry –</p> <p>1:32:53.3 Lisa: How did Minister Reynolds treat you during those six weeks?</p> <p>1:32:57.0 Brittany: I mean she was never outright rude to me, but she did sort of actively try and avoid me as much as possible. She didn't like me coming to her events. She didn't like me going to things with her. I think I made her uncomfortable.</p>

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Dropping the AFP case, staying silent	<p>1:33:40.7 Lisa: Why did you decide not to pursue the case with the AFP at that point?</p> <p>1:33:46.3 Brittany: Because we were already coming up with so many blockades and I realised my job was on the line. I didn't feel like I had a choice. ...</p> <p>1:34:10.4 Lisa: Did you feel pressured in any way whatsoever not to proceed with the case with the police?</p> <p>1:34:18.9 Brittany: Oh absolutely, I mean there is a strange culture of silence in the parties, and you just, you don't, the idea of sort of speaking out on these sort of issues especially around a campaign is just, it's like letting the team down. You're not a team player,</p>
	<p>After the election Brittany Higgins was offered jobs with three different ministers.</p> <p>She accepted an offer from Employment Minister Michaelia Cash.</p> <p>In July 2019, the minister was asked what she thought about two claims of sexual assault that had just been made public.</p>
https://www.9news.com.au/national/calls-for-change-in-liberal-partys-boy-club-culture/68aa3d19-6ca3-4a4a-8bf3-bef3fa677b6d	<p>Michaelia Cash: These are serious allegations and I'll say to the parties concerned that they should be reported to the appropriate authorities.</p>
	<p>1:44:20.1 Brittany: Yeah, I was actually down the hall from her... it was hard to hear that because I knew it fundamentally wasn't true. I knew that you know, even if you go down the right pathway, they're not going to, the party isn't willing to help or support you.</p>

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	<p>1:45:45.4 Lisa: Did Minister Cash have any words of advice on how you should deal with the trauma that you were going through?</p> <p>1:45:50.9 Brittany: Yeah, I was having difficulties actually coming through the entrance at Parliament House. It was that same entrance where the incident had happened and so I felt every time I walked through it, I'd get quite panicky and I'd sort of, said that I was having difficulties just coming in. And at that point she was like, well you're just going to have to sort of suck it up essentially. 1:46:09.7 And it was, it's that same idea of, you deal with it or you leave.</p>
	<p>1:47:09.6 Lisa: So, apart from Fiona Brown, has anyone else from the Prime Minister's office been in touch with you over the assault?</p> <p>1:47:17.5 Brittany: Yeah, so I've had Yaron Finkelstein sort of, broadly in proximity around it. During the actual week after the event,...</p> <p>1:47:36.2 Lisa: Who is Yaron Finkelstein?</p> <p>1:47:37.6 Brittany: He is the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister I think is his official title. But essentially, he just like the fixer, he fixes problems. Not just people but other issues but he's the fixer.</p> <p>1:50:10.3 Lisa: Did you hear from Yaron Finkelstein after that initial period?</p> <p>1:50:15.0 Brittany: I did, I did. It was just like a strange sort of check in essentially. But those happened to me kind of pretty regularly.</p> <p>1:50:46.9 Lisa: And what did he say?</p> <p>1:50:48.9 Brittany: Just checking in.</p>

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	<p>1:50:51.4 Lisa: Is it normal for a junior staffer to get a call from the Prime Minister's chief fixer?</p> <p>1:50:56.7 Brittany: No, no it's not normal.</p>
The alleged rapist	<p>1:59:51.6 Lisa: So, what's happened to the man that you say raped you, on Minister Reynolds' couch?</p> <p>2:00:07.1 Brittany: Yeah, he's fine, he's working in Sydney, he's got a good job. Everyone, people don't know why he left, and I don't think he's been, I don't think he's suffered any consequences for it at all. I think he just kind of got to keep going.</p>
	<p>2:02:58.5 Lisa: If everything that you say is true, it sounds to me like the easiest place in this country to rape a woman and get away with it, is Parliament House in Canberra.</p> <p>2:03:14.4 Brittany: Yeah, yeah.</p> <p>2:03:29.4...so it's sad that this stuff happens under their nose and they're fine with it. Well, they accept it, they tolerate it at least. And yeah.</p> <p>2:03:58.5 Lisa: Why, because that's just the way that Canberra works?</p> <p>2:04:02.0 Brittany: I think it's, it's just fundamentally the way that party political structures work. I don't just think it's a Liberal thing, I think it's a Labor thing, I think it's an everyone thing. There's this, it's like an institutional sort of issue that there is, there's this protectionist culture around both of them where it's in everyone's interest to make the problem go away.</p>
	<p>2:11:07.6 Lisa: Are you able to keep working in this environment?</p>

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	<p>2:11:10.4 Brittany: No.</p> <p>2:11:12.9 Lisa: Have you resigned?</p> <p>2:11:14.6 Brittany: Yeah.</p>
<p>2. APH police meeting - they say they'll refer to AFP THE CCTV Reynolds meeting AFP sexual assault team meeting Dr Rosemary Laing – getting evidence <i>[add in aqua sections from part 1 of the transcript about who are they protecting? Not in their remit]</i> The election is called, dropped the AFP case Talent on the pressure to be silent from various offices and people - told to suck it up Why speaking now? Complicit if she stays and another attack happens. Responses from various requests</p>	<p>2:12:59.1 Lisa: With that election looming, are you at all concerned that maybe by resigning you've just taken this problem out of your boss's hands? Out of the Government's hands?</p> <p>2:13:17.3 Brittany: No, I think that resigning is the only thing that I can personally do to sort of, say that I'm not a, I didn't co-sign to this behaviour. That I don't think that what they did is right. And I don't think they should do it to anyone else. I think by being silent and by working with them and continuing on like nothing had ever happened, would make me complicit and if they ever did that to anyone else, that would make me feel like I was somehow saying that you can do that to people.</p>
	<p>2:19:48.6 Lisa: Brittany thank you, and good luck with it all.</p> <p>2:19:51.4 Brittany: Thanks, thanks.</p>
	END

BACK ANNOUNCE**SUPERS**

NAME	SUPER	SUPER POSITION

Producer: Angus Llewellyn [REDACTED]

VISION

SYDNEY MAM ROUGH CUTS

SYDNEY MAM RAW VISION

ATV MAM ROUGH CUTS

ATV MAM RAW VISION

GRAPHICS NOTES

LEGAL NOTES