

## NOTICE OF FILING

This document was lodged electronically in the FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA (FCA) on 15/03/2021 9:18:00 AM AEDT and has been accepted for filing under the Court's Rules. Details of filing follow and important additional information about these are set out below.

### Details of Filing

Document Lodged: Statement of Claim - Form 17 - Rule 8.06(1)(a)  
File Number: NSD206/2021  
File Title: CHARLES CHRISTIAN PORTER v AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION ACN 429 278 345 & ANOR  
Registry: NEW SOUTH WALES REGISTRY - FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA



*Sia Lagos*

Dated: 15/03/2021 12:40:03 PM AEDT

Registrar

### Important Information

As required by the Court's Rules, this Notice has been inserted as the first page of the document which has been accepted for electronic filing. It is now taken to be part of that document for the purposes of the proceeding in the Court and contains important information for all parties to that proceeding. It must be included in the document served on each of those parties.

The date and time of lodgment also shown above are the date and time that the document was received by the Court. Under the Court's Rules the date of filing of the document is the day it was lodged (if that is a business day for the Registry which accepts it and the document was received by 4.30 pm local time at that Registry) or otherwise the next working day for that Registry.



## Statement of claim

No.                      of 2021

Federal Court of Australia  
District Registry: New South Wales  
Division: General

### **Charles Christian Porter**

Applicant

### **Australian Broadcasting Corporation and Anor named in the Schedule**

Respondents

### **Parties**

1. The Applicant (**Porter**) is and was at relevant times:
  - a) a member of the House of Representatives for the seat of Pearce, Western Australia;
  - b) the Leader of the House of Representatives;
  - c) the Commonwealth Minister for Industrial Relations;
  - d) the Commonwealth Attorney-General;
  - e) a senior member of Cabinet to Prime Minister Scott Morrison; and
  - f) 50 years old.
  
2. The First Respondent (**ABC**) is and was at relevant times:
  - a) a corporation able to be sued;
  - b) Australia's national broadcaster headquartered in Ultimo, Sydney;

---

Filed on behalf of (name & role of party)	Charles Christian Porter, the Applicant	
Prepared by (name of person/lawyer)	Rebekah Giles	
Law firm (if applicable)	Company Giles	
Tel	1300 204 602	Fax
Email	<a href="mailto:rebekah@companygiles.com.au">rebekah@companygiles.com.au</a>	
<b>Address for service</b> (include state and postcode)	Level 13, 111 Elizabeth Street Sydney NSW 2000	

---

- c) the publisher of the digital platform [www.abc.net.au](http://www.abc.net.au) which it makes available for publication throughout the State of New South Wales and the other States and the Territories of Australia on the World Wide Web (**ABC website**);
  - d) the user of the Twitter handle @abcnews;
  - e) the user of the Facebook accounts @abc and @abcnews.
3. The Second Respondent (**Milligan**) is and was at relevant times:
- a) a journalist employed by or contracted to the ABC;
  - b) a reporter for the Four Corners programme, distributed and broadcast by the ABC;
  - c) a person for whom the ABC is vicariously liable in relation to her conduct as a journalist and reporter;
  - d) the user of the Twitter handle @Milliganreports;
  - e) the user of a Facebook account @LouiseMilligan.

#### **Article**

4. On or about Friday 26 February 2021 and continuing thereafter, the ABC and Milligan published, of and concerning Porter, an article entitled '*Scott Morrison, senators and AFP told of historical rape allegation against Cabinet Minister*' on the ABC website, in the Australian Capital Territory, the Northern Territory, New South Wales and the other States of Australia, a copy of which is **Schedule A**.

#### Particulars of publication

- a) The ABC website is a mass media website viewed by tens of thousands of persons throughout Australia daily.
- b) The Article was uploaded onto the ABC website on Friday 26 February 2021 from where it was downloaded throughout Australia in each State and Territory to persons many of whom were known to Porter.
- c) The Article was republished by the ABC on its Twitter page on or about Friday 26 February 2021. As at the date of this pleading, the tweet received 95 re-tweets, 27 quote tweets and 233 likes. A copy of this tweet is annexed hereto and marked **Schedule B**.

- d) The Article was republished twice by Milligan on her Twitter page on or about Friday 26 February 2021. As at the date of this pleading, the tweets respectively received 352 comments, 2,000 re-tweets and 4,100 likes and 96 comments, 670 re-posts and 2,000 likes. A copy of these tweets are annexed hereto and marked **Schedule C**.
  - e) The Article was republished by Milligan on her Facebook page on or about Friday 26 February 2021. As at the date of this pleading, the post received 28 comments, 16 shares and 116 likes/reactions. A copy of this post is annexed hereto and marked **Schedule D**.
  - f) Porter relies on the republications in the preceding paragraphs on the question of extent of publication of the Article.
5. The Article was defamatory of Porter and carried the following defamatory imputations (or imputations that do not differ in substance):
- a) Porter brutally raped a 16-year-old girl in 1988.
  - b) Porter anally raped a 16-year-old girl in 1988.
  - c) Porter's brutal and anal rape of a 16-year-old girl contributed to her taking her own life.
  - d) Porter is reasonably suspected by police of brutally and anally raping a 16-year-old girl in 1988, warranting criminal charges being brought against him.
  - e) In 2020 Porter was reasonably suspected by NSW Police of raping a 16 year-old-girl in 1988.
  - f) There are reasonable grounds for suspecting that Porter brutally and anally raped a 16-year-old girl.
  - g) There are reasonable grounds for suspecting that Porter's brutal and anal rape of a 16-year-old girl contributed to her taking her own life.
  - h) Porter had so conducted himself that it warranted him being reasonably suspected by police of brutally and anally raping a 16-year-old girl in 1988.

Particulars of identification

- a) Porter is a public figure with:
  - i. a Wikipedia entry [www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian\\_Porter](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_Porter);

- ii. a Twitter handle @christianportertmp;
  - iii. a Facebook account @ChristianPorter;
  - iv. a website [www.christianporter.com.au](http://www.christianporter.com.au); and
  - v. a profile on [www.aph.gov.au](http://www.aph.gov.au).
- b) He is well-known throughout Australia as the Commonwealth Attorney-General and senior cabinet member to the Morrison Government.
- c) Details of his personal life and history are well-known to the Australian public, are accessible on the internet and in particular, are known to politicians, political operatives, public servants, journalists and those who have personally interacted with him at school, university, in his career as a lawyer and barrister and as a politician including the facts set out below.
- d) In 1988 Porter was 17-years-old.
- e) In 1988 Porter was a champion debater and attended the World Universities Debating Championship at Sydney University as Captain of the Australian School's Debating Team.
- f) On about 9 November 2020 the ABC and Milligan published a Four Corners programme on the ABC television network about Porter in which it was alleged that Porter:
- i. is a sexist and misogynist;
  - ii. has a history of mistreating women;
  - iii. has a reputation for making unwanted sexual advances;
  - iv. has been accused of an inappropriate sexual relationship with a female Ministerial staff member
- (November 4Corners).**
- g) On 9 November 2020 the ABC and Milligan published on the ABC website an article entitled '*Christian Porter was warned over public behaviour with young female staffer by then-prime minister Malcolm Turnbull*', which accused Porter of engaging in inappropriate and unacceptable behaviour with a young female Ministerial staff

member, the said article still being available for publication on the ABC website, under Milligan's profile, as at the time of filing this pleading.

- h) On 10 November 2020 the ABC and Milligan published on the ABC website an article entitled '*Investigation reveals history of sexism and inappropriate behaviour by Attorney-General Christian Porter*', which accused Porter of engaging in inappropriate and sexist behaviour towards women, said article still being available for publication on the ABC website, under Milligan's profile, as at the time of filing this pleading.
- i) On or about 10 November 2020, Milligan and the ABC published statements on the program 'The Drum', imputing that Porter is a misogynist and a sexist.
- j) For the purpose of preparing the November 4Corners and the two articles referred to in the preceding particulars, Milligan conducted interviews with many persons who knew Porter during which she asked a range of personal questions about him including his sexual preferences and whether he forced a former partner to perform sexual acts against her will.
- k) Milligan intended to include, as part of the November 4Corners, allegations by a woman who claimed that Porter had raped her in 1988 at a debating competition when she was 16 and he was 17, being a person who committed suicide in about June 2020 (**AB**).
- l) Shortly prior to her death in June 2020, AB had informed persons, including Malcolm Turnbull, Senator Penny Wong, Daniel Mulino MP, her friends, and others unknown to Porter, that she had allegations to make about Porter's conduct in 1988, even though the details of her allegations were not specified to each of those persons.
- m) By the time the November 4Corners was aired, a number of persons including employees of the ABC, persons to whom Milligan had spoken about Porter, persons to whom AB had communicated, and other persons unknown to Porter, were aware that some sort of sexual misconduct allegation had been made about Porter in relation to his conduct when he was about 17.
- n) On about Wednesday 24 February 2021 four Members of Parliament being the Prime Minister, Ms Celia Hammond MP, Senator Penny Wong and Senator Sarah Hanson Young received by postal service a 31-page document including an anonymous letter and other materials, in which Porter was named and AB's allegations were set out (**Dossier**). Porter did not receive a copy of the Dossier.

- o) The Prime Minister received the Dossier, understood that it made allegations about Porter, but did not read it and forwarded it to the Australian Federal Police.
- p) Milligan claims to have received a copy of the Dossier from “*friends of [AB]*” on Thursday 25 February 2021.
- q) Porter was referred to throughout the Article as “*cabinet minister*”, “*senior Minister*”, “*senior member of government*” and “*accused perpetrator’s seniority*”.
- r) AB was referred to in the Article as being 50 years old.
- s) In the Article the alleged assaults were said to have taken place in Sydney in 1988 “*long before the accused man entered politics*”.
- t) At the time of publication of the Article, there were 21 members of Cabinet excluding the Prime Minister.
- u) At the time of publication of the Article, 5 of those 21 members of Cabinet were female and 16 were male.
- v) At the time of publication of the Article, 6 male members of Cabinet were approximately the same age as AB in 1988. Of those, only 3 of these were Senior Cabinet Ministers, including Porter.
- w) The Article was promoted by the ABC and Milligan on the 6.00pm ABC News television programme causing the Article to be widely read throughout Australia.
- x) On the day of, and shortly after the publication of the Article, the visits to Porter’s Facebook page increased significantly.
- y) On the day of, and shortly after the publication of the Article, the visits to Porter’s website [www.christianporter.com.au](http://www.christianporter.com.au) increased significantly.
- z) On the day of, and shortly after the publication of the Article, Porter was identified on social media and elsewhere on the internet as the Cabinet Minister the subject of the Article.
- aa) On the day of, and shortly after the publication of the Article, on social media and elsewhere on the internet, members of the Australian public made the connection between the November 4Corners and the Cabinet Minister the subject of the Article.



- ab) On the day of, and shortly after the publication of the Article, Porter's name was trending prominently on Twitter and did so for a number of days leading up to Wednesday 3 March 2021.
- ac) On the day of, and shortly after publication of the Article, Porter was likely named as the Cabinet Minister the subject of the Article in the ABC's and Milligan's Twitter feeds in response to their promotion of the Article on those platforms. Those comments have since been deleted by the ABC and Milligan.
- ad) On the day of, and shortly after publication of the Article, Porter was named as the Cabinet Minister the subject of the Article in Tweets that tagged Milligan or used the hashtag for the 4Corners programme (#4Corners).
- ae) On the day of, and continuing from the publication of the Article, media outlets and prominent figures called for a response from Porter as the Attorney-General in respect of the allegations and questioned why he had not made any public comment about the process or the allegations.
- af) On the day of, and continuing from the publication of the Article, a large number of attempts were made to alter Porter's Wikipedia entry, compared to previous history of changes to his entry. On Sunday 28 February 2021 an unknown person attempted to amend Porter's Wikipedia entry to include the fact he was in Sydney in 1988.
- ag) On Monday 1 March 2021 the ABC and Milligan published a further article on the ABC website entitled "*Friends of woman who accused Cabinet Minister of rape call for inquiry into allegations*" in which "*friends of [AB]*" were quoted. One or more of those friends had also appeared in the November 4Corners and made allegations about Porter (**1 March article**).
- ah) The 1 March article was deleted from Milligan's profile on the ABC website on or shortly before 12 March 2021 but, as at the date of filing this pleading, still appears on her Twitter feed.
- ai) On Tuesday 2 March 2021 the ABC broadcast the 7.30 programme on ABC television in which a friend of AB gave an interview and referred to AB's participation in the State Debating Team (**7.30 story**). The same friend appeared in the November 4Corners.
- aj) On Tuesday 2 March 2021 Malcolm Turnbull gave an interview to the Sydney Morning Herald in which he stated that "*everybody knows*" who the Cabinet Minister



the subject of the Article was and he (and others in the media) called for the Cabinet Minister to identify himself.

- ak) By Wednesday 3 March 2021 Porter was obliged to identify himself as the subject of the Article because of the matters set out in the preceding particulars. He did so at approximately 3.09pm AEDT that day.
- al) On Monday 8 March 2021 the ABC broadcast an episode of the Media Watch television programme in which it made the following admissions:
  - i. The ABC and Milligan broke the story by the publication of the Article on Friday 26 February 2021.
  - ii. The allegations the subject of the Article made front page headlines in the weekend papers across Australia;
  - iii. By Monday 28 February 2021 it was widely known in Canberra that Porter was the subject of the Article.
  - iv. By Monday 28 February 2021 Porter had been identified on the internet as the subject of the Article.
  - v. By Monday 28 February 2021 Porter's name was trending on Twitter.
  - vi. Mentions of Porter's name on Twitter increased by 500 per cent on Saturday, 27 February 2021, then doubled from Sunday 28 February 2021 to Monday 1 March 2021 and doubled again on Tuesday 2 March 2021.
  - vii. By Tuesday 2 March 2021, a tweet was published every 6 seconds naming Porter.
- am) As at the date of the filing of this pleading, the Article remains on the ABC website and on the social media platforms of each of the ABC and Milligan, as set out above, where it remains available for publication throughout Australia.
- an) By reason of the matters set out in the preceding particulars, Porter was identified by readers of the Article as the subject of the Article at the time of publication or shortly after publication and he continues to be identified by readers of the Article.

The names of persons known to Porter who identified him by reason of the matters set out in preceding particulars will be provided in correspondence shortly after the filing of this pleading.

- 6. Further and in the alternative to the preceding paragraph, by reason of Porter's identity as part of a limited class of persons, namely senior male Cabinet Ministers at the time of the

publication of the Article, the Article was defamatory of Porter and carried the following defamatory imputations (or imputations that do not differ in substance):

- a) There are reasonable grounds for suspecting that Porter brutally raped a 16-year-old girl in 1988.
- b) There are reasonable grounds for suspecting that Porter anally raped a 16-year-old girl in 1988.
- c) There are reasonable grounds for suspecting that Porter's brutal and anal rape of a 16-year-old girl contributed to her taking her own life.
- d) There are reasonable grounds for suspecting that Porter is reasonably suspected by police of brutally and anally raping a 16-year-old girl in 1988, warranting criminal charges being brought against him.
- e) There are reasonable grounds for suspecting that Porter was reasonably suspected in 2020 by NSW Police of raping a 16-year-old girl in 1988.
- f) There are reasonable grounds for suspecting that Porter had so conducted himself that it warranted him being reasonably suspected by police of brutally and anally raping a 16-year-old girl in 1988.

### **Damages**

7. By reason of the publication and republication by the ABC and Milligan of the Article, and the grapevine effect of those publications and republications, Porter has been gravely injured in his character and reputation, and has suffered substantial hurt, distress and embarrassment and has and will continue to suffer loss and damage.
8. Porter's harm as a result of the publication of the Article was aggravated by his knowledge of the following matters:

#### Particulars of Aggravated Damages

- a) The ABC and Milligan knew that Porter would be readily identifiable as the subject of the Article and that he would ultimately be compelled to publicly respond.
- b) After publishing the Article that did not name Porter, Milligan re-published on Twitter comments from Malcolm Turnbull calling on the Cabinet Minister to identify himself.
- c) The ABC and Milligan knew that the allegations by AB could never be proved in any criminal or civil proceeding and despite that published the Article to harm Porter and

to ensure that he was publicly condemned and disgraced in the absence of any finding against him.

- d) On Friday 26 February 2021 the ABC and Milligan promoted the Article on the 6.00pm ABC News television programme to ensure that it was read by as many people as possible.
- e) The conduct of the ABC in broadcasting the 7.30 story in which it was alleged that AB was telling the truth.
- f) The ABC and Milligan were frustrated that they were unable to broadcast AB's allegations in the November 4Corners as they intended (because they were indefensible) and thus disingenuously published the Article without naming Porter, in order to give effect to their intention to harm him.
- g) Milligan engaged in a campaign against Porter in order to harm his reputation and have him removed as Attorney-General by her continued publications about him as set out in the particulars of identification, above. She has further continued to defame him including on social media by republishing assertions to the effect that:
  - i. AB should be believed;
  - ii. AB deserves justice for the brutal rape perpetrated upon her by Porter;
  - iii. Porter has committed criminal offences in other jurisdictions.
- h) The ABC and Milligan published the Article making serious allegations of criminal conduct about Porter without any warning to Porter and without any attempt to give him an opportunity to respond, despite the fact that they were aware of AB's allegations for many months prior to publication of the Article.
- i) The ABC and Milligan selected portions of the Dossier to quote in the Article for the purpose of making AB's allegations appear as credible as possible when there were other significant portions of the Dossier which demonstrated that the allegations were not credible.
- j) Milligan did not disclose in the course of reporting on these allegations her close friendship with a friend or friends of AB including persons who were named in the 1 March article and/or the November 4Corners.

- k) Milligan acted with malice knowing of the impossibility of any finding of guilt or civil liability in the circumstances and believing that a public campaign designed to damage his reputation would be a more effective substitute against Porter in replacement of the process of the justice system.

Date: 14 March 2021



Signed by Rebekah Giles  
Lawyer for the Applicant

This pleading was prepared by Sue Chrysanthou SC and Rebekah Giles, lawyer and settled by Bret Walker SC.

### **Certificate of lawyer**

I, Rebekah Giles, certify to the Court that, in relation to the statement of claim filed on behalf of the Applicant, the factual and legal material available to me at present provides a proper basis for each allegation in the pleading.

Date: 14 March 2021



Signed by Rebekah Giles  
Lawyer for the Applicant

NEWS

"SCHEDULE A"

## Scott Morrison, senators and AFP told of historical rape allegation against Cabinet Minister

Four Corners / By Louise Milligan

Posted Fri 26 Feb 2021 at 5:39pm, updated Sat 27 Feb 2021 at 12:21am



Scott Morrison has been sent a letter detailing an historical rape allegation against a senior Minister. (ABC News: Tamara Penniket)

Australian Federal Police have been notified of a letter sent to Prime Minister Scott Morrison detailing an alleged historical rape by a Cabinet Minister in the federal government.

The letter requests urgent action be taken by the Prime Minister to investigate the alleged rape, which occurred in 1988 before the accused man entered politics.

The matter has also been referred to the Australian Federal Police.

The letter was forwarded to AFP Commissioner Reece Kershaw by Labor's Leader in the Senate, Penny Wong, and Greens Senator Hanson-Young, who were also recipients of the letter.

### Key points:

- A letter detailing a historic rape allegation against a Cabinet Minister has been sent to the Prime Minister
- The alleged offence took place in 1988 before the man entered politics
- The matter has been referred to the AFP

Four Corners understands that Commissioner Kershaw has briefed South Australia Police and NSW Police.

The letter, shared with Four Corners by a friend of the complainant, attaches a detailed statement prepared by the complainant for her lawyer about the brutal rape she alleges took place.

## NSW Police set up strike force

Last year, NSW Police set up a strike force with a view to commencing an investigation into the historical allegations about the Cabinet Minister after the woman came forward.

Strike Force Wyndarra was established by police after she reported in Sydney in February 2020 to detectives from the NSW Police Child Abuse and Sex Crimes Squad that she had been raped by the man.

The woman had engaged a lawyer and told many friends about the allegation, but took her own life in June last year.

In a statement to Four Corners on Friday, Ms Hanson-Young said: "This morning I received information regarding a disturbing and a very serious allegation of a criminal nature against a senior member of the government.

"Following the advice given to the Prime Minister by the AFP Commissioner this week, I have spoken with the Police Commissioner today, who is now taking steps in relation to this information."

Senator Wong told Four Corners in a statement on Friday that she had notified NSW, SA Police and the AFP, and would assist in any investigations.

"I have also written to the Prime Minister and Senator Hanson-Young to outline the steps I have taken, following receipt of this anonymous letter," Senator Wong said.

"It is my hope that appropriate action is taken to examine the allegation."

A spokesperson for the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement: "As per the AFP Commissioner's instruction, any complaints or allegations of this nature made to anybody — whether they're parliamentarians or journalists — should be referred to the AFP.

"As the AFP Commissioner outlined in advice to all parliamentarians on February 25, 2021, rereporting to the police is the way to ensure any alleged crimes are properly investigated."

South Australia Police are investigating the circumstances of the woman's death for the state coroner.

### If you or anyone you know needs help:

- [Lifeline](#) on 13 11 14
- [Kids Helpline](#) on 1800 551 800
- [MensLine Australia](#) on 1300 789 978
- [Suicide Call Back Service](#) on 1300 659 467
- [Beyond Blue](#) on 1300 224 636
- [Headspace](#) on 1800 650 890
- [ReachOut](#) at [au.reachout.com](http://au.reachout.com)
- [Care Leavers Australasia Network \(CLAN\)](#) on 1800 008 774



Four Corners has seen the woman's statement and has spoken to many friends of the complainant whom she told about what she alleged took place and who knew her at the time of the alleged incident.

The letter urges the Prime Minister to set up an independent parliamentary investigation into the matter, similar to that commissioned by the High Court into allegations against former Justice, Dyson Heydon.

"When news of [the complainant's alleged] rape becomes widely known to the public (as it most likely will), legitimate questions will be asked as to who knew what, when they knew and what they did," the correspondent wrote.

"This is occurring today in relation to Brittany Higgins.

"In [the complainant's] case, the loss of respect for our political institutions will be exacerbated by the aggravating factor of [the accused perpetrator's seniority].

"There will be considerable damage to community perceptions of justice... and the parliament when this story becomes public if it is simultaneously revealed that senior people (like yourselves) were aware of the accusation but had done nothing...

"Failing to take parliamentary action because the NSW Police cannot take criminal action [due to the complainant's death] would seem like wilful blindness."

### **Wong, Turnbull also made aware of allegation**

Senator Wong, who was made aware of limited detail surrounding the woman's allegation last year by the complainant herself, contacted South Australia Police to offer her assistance in the coronial investigation when she discovered the complainant had died.

The woman had also written in 2019 to former prime minister Malcolm Turnbull, and he too wrote to South Australia Police with his knowledge of the allegation upon learning of her death.

South Australia Police had originally referred the woman to their NSW counterparts because she alleged the incident occurred in Sydney. SA Police are currently preparing a report into the circumstances of her death for the state's coroner, including her early release from a psychiatric institution in Melbourne.

The coroner will then determine whether to conduct a public inquest into her death.

The woman alleged the sexual assault took place in Sydney in 1988, long before the man's political career commenced.

NSW Police provided a statement to the ABC about the case:

"In February [2020], NSW Police received a report of alleged historic sexual abuse. Inquiries were commenced by officers from the Child Abuse and Sex Crimes Squad under Strike Force Wyndarra."

### **COVID-19 outbreak delays investigation**

Detectives from Strike Force Wyndarra were due to travel to Adelaide to take the woman's formal statement in March 2020 but their trip was postponed after the COVID-19 outbreak erupted and state



borders were closed.

Friends of the woman, who had years earlier been diagnosed with bipolar disorder, say her mental health deteriorated in the weeks before she took her life. She had made previous suicide attempts.

The NSW Police statement said: "On Wednesday 24 June 2020, the body of a 49-year-old woman was located at a home at Adelaide by South Australia Police (SA Pol)."

The day before she took her life, the woman informed NSW Police that she no longer wished to proceed with the investigation.

She would have turned 50 this week.

"NSW Police understand that reporting sexual assault can be distressing and traumatic for victims — and it (is) always the choice of an individual whether to proceed with an investigation or not," the statement said.

### **'This is my story, plain and simple'**

The woman's death means a criminal investigation into the politician can no longer proceed because the allegation cannot be tested.

The woman, who had been a brilliant and celebrated student at the time of the alleged incident, had prepared a long statement for her solicitor at the end of 2019.

"This is my story, plain and simple. It's not pretty, but it is mine," she wrote in the statement.

"And I stand by it, every single word and image in this document is true."

In her statement, the woman alleged she had been anally raped by the man when she was aged 16.

"All I really want, in the end, is for this to have been reported to the NSW Police Force and to know that a copy of this document, and a transcript of any interview they might do with me, is in their archives..."

"If this story does become public knowledge, I hope that it will encourage other women to come forward.

"Not for me, but for themselves... I also hope that other people who have endured similar traumas, should these facts become public knowledge, will feel less alone."

The woman had told numerous friends who had become leaders in business, politics, the law and the arts and the ABC has spoken to many of them.

"She was caught on a jag, in a very specific era, around a very specific incident. That really seemed completely consuming and completely debilitating to her," one friend told the ABC.

#### **Sexual assault support services:**

- [Canberra Rape Crisis Centre \(24 hours\)](#): 02 6247 2525
- [1800 Respect national helpline](#): 1800 737 732
- [Lifeline \(24 hour crisis line\)](#): 131 114
- [Beyond Blue](#): 1300 224 636

"She was consumed with a trauma which she told me, deeply and consistently, was as result of an assault that had occurred, early in 1988, and her life at that point was really devoted to exploring how she could get some kind of justice, accountability and peace from that."

In the months before her death, the woman had attended a psychiatric clinic in Melbourne.

"There were many of us that were willing to support and help her carry that burden to the extent that we could. And ultimately, of course, we couldn't do everything we hoped," the friend said, crying.

Another friend, who had been helping the woman find rape support counselling and who has also come forward to NSW and South Australia Police to assist with their investigations, said the woman had been frustrated because COVID had delayed police from flying from Sydney to see her in Adelaide to carry out their investigations.

"[I feel] enormous sadness," the friend said.

A third friend told the ABC it was "such a waste".

"A beautiful, clever, young woman with so much potential has a life squandered and a life ended far too early," he said.

In a statement, South Australia Police told the ABC that a full report into the woman's death is being prepared for the coroner.

"It is not completed yet and there is no timeframe provided. SAPOL will not be making any further comment as this is a matter for the coroner."

[Go direct to the source](#)



[Download the ABC News app for all the latest.](#)

## "SCHEDULE B"

<https://twitter.com/abcnews/status/1365196552134742017>



ABC News  
@abcnews

...

PM, senators and AFP told of historical rape allegation against Cabinet Minister



Cabinet Minister accused of rape in letter sent to Scott Morrison, senators  
The AFP have been notified after Prime Minister Scott Morrison and two senators received a letter detailing an allegation of historical rape against a Cabinet ...  
[abc.net.au](https://www.abc.net.au)

6:06 PM · Feb 26, 2021 · Microsoft Power Platform

95 Retweets 27 Quote Tweets 223 Likes

## "SCHEDULE C"

First post by @Milliganreports

<https://twitter.com/Milliganreports/status/1365191307057000453>

5.45PM 26 Feb 2021



Louise Milligan  @Milliganreports · Feb 26

BREAKING: Exclusive from me: Australian Federal Police notified of letter sent to [@ScottMorrisonMP](#) detailing alleged historical rape by Cabinet Minister in who's now in Government. Letter requests urgent investigation like High Court's on Dyson Heydon.



Cabinet Minister accused of rape in letter sent to Scott Morrison, senat...  
The AFP have been notified after Prime Minister Scott Morrison and two senators received a letter detailing an allegation of historical rape ...  
[abc.net.au](https://www.abc.net.au)

 352

 2K

 4.1K



Second post by @Milliganreports

<https://twitter.com/Milliganreports/status/1365236982478114819>

8.47PM on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021



**Louise Milligan**  @Milliganreports · Feb 26



"This is my story, plain & simple. It's not pretty, but it is mine..If this story does become public knowledge, I hope it will encourage other women to come forward..that other people...should these facts become public knowledge, will feel less alone."



Cabinet Minister accused of rape in letter sent to Scott Morrison, senat...  
The AFP have been notified after Prime Minister Scott Morrison and two senators received a letter detailing an allegation of historical rape ...  
[abc.net.au](https://www.abc.net.au)

 96

 670

 2K



## "SCHEDULE D"

[https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=1059519824459280&id=100012038172584](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1059519824459280&id=100012038172584)



Louise Milligan

26 February at 22:04 · 🌐



The woman, who **had** been a **brilliant and celebrated** student at the time of the alleged incident, had prepared a long statement for her solicitor at the **end** of 2019.

"This is my story, **plain and** simple. It's not pretty, but it is mine. And I stand by it, every single **word and image** in this document is true. All I really want, in the end, is for **this** to have **been** reported to the **NSW Police Force** and to know that a **copy** of this document, and a **transcript** of any **interview** they might do with me, is in their **archives...** "If this story **does become public knowledge**, I hope that it **will** encourage other women to come forward. **Not** for me, but for themselves... I also hope that **other people** who have endured similar traumas, **should** these facts **become public knowledge**, will feel less alone."

The words of a woman **who** took her life in June last year. Story by me today:



ABC.NET.AU

### Cabinet Minister accused of rape in letter sent to Scott Morrison, senators

The AFP have been notified after Prime Minister Scott Morrison and two senators received a le...

👍👎👏 116

28 comments 16 shares