
Two women 'were not raped'

By TONY WRIGHT

Two young women who cried rape after a night out in Canberra last week had not been raped, police said yesterday.

Their stories of being attacked and sexually assaulted in a dark alley in Civic "were not accurate", according to Detective Superintendent Brian Brinkler.

"We are now not investigating [the complaints] as rape," he said.

"It turns out the young ladies went willingly with the male persons to the area where they said they were attacked and, although

we are still making investigations into their claims, it turns out their stories were not accurate when they first made the complaints to police.

"The stories have changed markedly to what the initial complaints were."

Superintendent Brinkler said the claims could have been made "because of their age and because they shouldn't have been there". No charges of providing false information had been laid "at this stage".

The information was being released to allay public fears.

The women, aged 18 and 20, told police that they had left Pandora's night club about 3am on Saturday. They said that soon after they had been attacked and sexually assaulted by two men in a dark lane between a Mobil service station and the Griffin Centre, Civic.

Police said also that they were no longer investigating the discovery of a blood-soaked shirt found in the Stromlo Forest at the weekend. A young horse rider had told police her horse had suffered a spiked hoof, and she had used the shirt to stem the flow of blood.
