

Knife attack was 'falsely reported'

By TONY WRIGHT

A woman who alleged that she had been attacked by a man with a knife near the Lyneham shopping centre last week had not been attacked at all, police revealed yesterday.

A police investigation had discovered the woman had falsely reported that she had been attacked, and that the knife wounds she had received had been self-inflicted.

A police spokesman said the woman had been "suffering significant personal trauma" at the time she reported that she had been attacked. No action was contemplated against her for filing a false complaint.

Police were called on Wednesday night, May 31, when the woman ran into Tilley's cafe and bar, claiming she had

been attacked by a man with a knife. She said the man had held a knife to her throat before she escaped. The woman said also that she believed she had been followed by a man on several previous occasions.

Large spotlights were set up in the area and police searched fruitlessly for an attacker. The woman was taken to hospital suffering minor knife wounds.

Police and social-welfare workers were currently assisting the woman, the police spokesman said.

Late last month Canberra police announced at a press conference that two young women who had reported that they had been raped in an alley in Civic had changed their stories and had not been raped.