

TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION INTO FAMILY VIOLENCE

My Mother was born in [REDACTED] in [REDACTED], and moved to [REDACTED] with her husband. She learnt in time that he was a violent alcoholic. He would spend time at the pub and she would wait in for on his return. He was fine when he didn't drink, but apparently when he drank, he would be verbally abusive to his children and physically violent to his wife.

I was born in [REDACTED]. My sister is [REDACTED] years older; my brother is [REDACTED] years older. Around [REDACTED], after too much verbal and physical abuse, my Mother was brave enough to leave. We lived in substandard private housing until my Mother was able to obtain a Housing Commission home. There, she felt safe.

I don't want to go into the sordid detail of the impact of my Father's behaviour on my family apart from saying that my brother and sister were badly affected, with my Sister having been sexually abused by my Father. My Mother was badly affected for many years in terms of her trust toward others, having experienced violent physical abuse. She feared for our well-being.

There has been much focus in government advertising in appealing to the social conscience of the perpetrator. In my view, this is the incorrect focus. The focus in advertising must be on the victim by affording them immediate support for short to long term accommodation. The victim, rather than the perpetrator should feel support and get that support 24/7.

Cooperation between state and federal agencies must see a victim be able to transition easily and without resort to poverty situations from domestic violence to independence. Support must also be long term, with the focus on repairing the victim's sense of self worth. Community programs may assist, but I noticed Mum never truly recovered from her situation because that support was not there, apart from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]