

Written submission to the Royal Commission into family violence.

The following is informed by our daughter's experience of an abusive relationship. Her partner was killed in a road accident in 2000 which probably saved her and their two boys from years of trauma.

Reflecting on those years, the Royal Commission is an opportunity to outline some of the issues we observed and to suggest community focussed solutions.

At 18 yrs, our daughter was ready for life and love, and unable like many young women, to recognise bullying and excessive demands are early signs of ending up in a bad place. She believed that given time his behaviour would change.

Recommendations

- Develop a series of community service announcements which describe the many types of unacceptable behaviours which oppress, bully and belittle a partner.
- Accompany with respectful depictions of conflict resolution and contact information for support, learning new conflict resolution skills and anger management.
- Support might take the form of "Nurse on Call" where someone is available to assist the caller to identify what the issues are and where to explore a way forward.
- Offer annual forums for separate audiences of men and women to clusters of school communities on respectful relationships.

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- Alter tenancy regulations so that not only the lead tenant is responsible for property damage.

In addition, following the Community Consultation on 14th May, I was shocked to hear of consistent failure of police to intervene when serious violence was threatened, provide effective responses and follow up and protect women, particularly in situations when there was a conflict of interest involving the police and the perpetrator.

Recommendations

- Establish an on-going Office of Commissioners into Family Violence with a brief to collect data and documentation provided by key agencies, research and monitor and evaluate system-wide strategies.
- Require mandatory monthly reporting to the Commissioner of all reports of family violence taken to the police and the action taken.

Thank you for considering
this submission.

Cynthia J. Pilli.

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24/5/15