

RCFV - ANONYMOUS

To Whom It May Concern: I was assaulted by my partner [REDACTED]. At this time my partner had been abusing me from months. I called the police for assistance often. I was calling lifeline, careers of vic, Monash Hospital and 000 due to my partners abuse and suicides attempts. During this time I was trying to work. My visits to my GP became more often and it was clear I required support. I had stressed my concerns for our safety so many times the CAT Team started to come to the house for our health and safety. I am sad to say this didn't last long enough. Plus didn't really give me any relief. My partner was very good at controlling every situation, and coming across as if he was coping. My partner didn't have a fixed address after being removed from our house after the assault [REDACTED]. The IVO wasn't placed on him until [REDACTED]. In the time between my partner was not charged for a burglary at my house [REDACTED]. Which he admitted too, in a text message. I am left with damaged window and loss of property. I had to change my locks and I didn't feel safe at home. I had to call the police so many times and I have documented most, as best as one can whilst being abused. I even had to keep calling them to get the matter looked at. The police don't do domestic violence well. I had to speak to domestic violence liaison every time or nothing. There is no point in trying with standard police you just come away more hurt and insulted. I can only say this, from my experiences. On the day of the assault, I went to stay at a family friend's house. I had only spoken with the police and 000 by telephone. I had no follow up call from them at this point until I meet with the domestic violence liaison, [REDACTED]. This made me feel very alone for long time, due to the lack of police response to my assault. My partner only let go of his hold on me when a neighbor came to my aid. I was calling out in the street "Help, call the police" several times. The police did not leave cards at my neighbors in relation to this. I have not found this man who saved me. Neither did the police try. Therefore my partner did not get charged for the assault. Now I have an IVO protecting me for a year, but this has already been broken by him. Due to this I have to appear in court again, disrupted my life and suffer anxiety, stress all at a cost to me. Now the VOCAT tribunal have declined my psychologist's application for support with counselling. All because my ex was not charged. This is the hard bit to swallow, It's just all the abuse that lead to that point: physical harm, emotional and psychological abuse, verbal abuse, threats of violence to me, stalking, controlling my money, damaging of my property and belongings, behavior that caused me fear to live at my home, work and community, withheld my passport and document whilst being in Hospital. Does not count. All the times I rung 000 not recorded for my use, just to cover the police. No assistance from police in a matter like this, this is civil matter they say. So I have to be able to afford to deal with this at my own cost, even after you have nothing left from just getting to this point. Trying to survive, staying positive and staying healthy is really a tough battle. Not one that I would wish on anyone.

I am a survivor of domestic violence twice now, when I was [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] (it stopped because I went to live on the streets) and now [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] years old. I have had to do this on my own both times with just the support I can gather from my community, and 1 very special family friend. He was there for my sister's, mum and me in the seventies when the police would drop us off. So many years on and it all feels just the same. Not much has changed in 30/40 years. This is not good enough, for our women. This is not good enough for me.

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