

To Whom It Concerns:

Hi. I have never done a "written submission" for anything so I apologise if I am not following a set pattern of so doing. Also for spelling errors as this is difficult enough with out checking. making "perfect". I wish you well with your good proposal, intentions & efforts for this Royal Commission into Family Violence and look with interest to what you may actually achieve on a proched term as this is an extremely complex broad emotional & individually coloured problem across all cultures & communities. And not to minimise what Luke Botby's mum is doing but I would ask you to remember the man is dead, she has nothing to be afraid of & can speak freely & openly. I am invisible & have no voice, he is not dead, neither is family.

I am [redacted] years old. [redacted] holder of Diploma [redacted] - [redacted] for my own business for a few years as a single parent. I have undergone various types of counselling since [redacted] for myself & with my children [redacted] from what the public school system offered, CAMS, court mediation, CASA & private. [redacted] (as a note my husband [redacted] had to come due to my fears) was my best & best. He addressed my immediate fears of safety then guided me through an understanding of why I am & then how to change what is not true or relevant for the now. He felt that I had suffered 'abuse' from conception as I come into being so my parents would be allowed to marry. They were good parents in that I was housed, fed, clothed and educated. We shared house with my [redacted] grandparents. All I was about [redacted] I knew they loved me.

I had a 'normal' relationship with my younger brother while we were [REDACTED] - she was

a [REDACTED] - but things changed with going to school. [REDACTED] as the son was the heir, I would just be married, none changed + so not really a [REDACTED] I became afraid of [REDACTED] throwing [REDACTED] from the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] as I loaded the trailer to [REDACTED] punching me in the stomach causing me to collapse on the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] - I got the strap when I got home, so my story was the 'lie' + trying to run me over using [REDACTED]

I was lucky there was a tree close by to run to - I'd come home as had a few days off from [REDACTED]

My dad had a belt, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] left scars when he belted me for the last time as an older teenager - the welts were visible in school PE uniform. The last time he hit me with his hand/fist was across my face, my jaw is a bit funny as result - I was about [REDACTED] yrs old.

My first husband [REDACTED] was going to 'rescue' me from all this, he is [REDACTED] mths older than I + we were married in [REDACTED] We moved to Hells then to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] yrs later.

In [REDACTED] Court Medics told me to leave, buy a book that would explain 'all' to me. I thought she was mad but she was right. He was a true (not like Mr Abbott!) misogynist. I was suicidal, undecided whether I had the right to take my children with me. After having left [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] - I was prepared to put the kids in my car + just drive - he walked out when I asked him to much to my surprise. Thought court was a nightmare for me as I was the 'boddie' + he the perfect husband, father.

I experienced rape within that marriage, so bruised walking was difficult + very painful. But he never lifted a hand, I hit him once, I just wanted him to stop putting the kids down. I'm sorry [REDACTED]

saw this. I can tick every segment of the wheel of
 Violence. His guns were stored under our bed. I
 remained in [REDACTED] to a wonderful gentle man Roll of
 true Christian integrity who has no idea what 'game
 playing' or 'walking on egg-shells' is all about. Several
 years into this marriage I began to have difficulties
 relating to [REDACTED] though? unable to sleep frequent flash-
 backs + nightmares. We started to see [REDACTED] + continued
 for several years. He recommended to my relief that my
 GP put me on an antidepressive that helps with an
 excessive fearful state of mind. He said I had post-
 traumatic stress disorder with traces of [REDACTED]
 — I can still have panic attacks where I need to run
 especially if a stranger man sits too close.
 My parents + brother thought I was mad to leave
 such a good man go [REDACTED] he still is in their eyes
 as has supported them by doing a "group" intervention
 order against [REDACTED] [REDACTED] ago.
 [REDACTED] my first born was a beautiful baby,
 cuddly giggly fun loving + caring but... he had
 difficulties speech throughout a school said he had no
 [REDACTED] He had [REDACTED] as well
 and counseling — it was always my parenting that
 caused the problem. [REDACTED] took up where [REDACTED]
 left off + was encouraged by [REDACTED] within my hearing
 "I deserved everything + more because of what I'd done to
 him and his father [REDACTED] + I had many bruises. After
 [REDACTED] went into foster care, some weeks later [REDACTED]
 wanted me to look at his "brand new arms" as they
 had no bruises. After [REDACTED] rammed our car
 while it was parked outside + [REDACTED] I sought an
 intervention order. Hoping for a [REDACTED] with one for breathing
 space from multiple abusive calls + driving past

house the judge gave one 'till further orders'
 How will I ever know if it is safe enough to see [REDACTED]
 again? - I don't even know if [REDACTED] is alive!
 That's background

In [REDACTED] just before [REDACTED] after having [REDACTED]
 throw the volume closer at me, my minister who was
 supporting me to make [REDACTED] accountable for [REDACTED]
 actions visited at my frantic request. After talking
 outside with [REDACTED] for around 3 hours [REDACTED] took
 [REDACTED] home with [REDACTED] was convinced that if [REDACTED]
 had not [REDACTED] I would have been dead the next
 morning by what [REDACTED] was telling him.

I went to DHS/[REDACTED] for help. [REDACTED] was
 put into foster care after I signed was willing to sign
 papers to say I was ^{unable} unwilling to give [REDACTED] a safe
 place to live a safe being home. It was [REDACTED] that
 needed protecting not [REDACTED]. I had no voice.
 Apparently there was nothing that recognised what I
 was torn with.

I do not want any other matter - if there is matter -
 to have to sign such a form to be safe. I
 keep for other children safe. DHS [REDACTED] were
 going to put us through extensive counseling so we could
 be together again - this never happened. I sat through
 meeting after meeting year after year till [REDACTED] was [REDACTED]
 gone listening to [REDACTED] needs, wants, my inability to
 provide [REDACTED] rights. The on going abuse, threats we
 were subjected to ^{we} never ^{addressed} arose. I was consistently
 questioned as to why I did not want [REDACTED] sleepover
 + to what sort of matter I was when DHS/[REDACTED]
 could never find a carer that could handle [REDACTED] for
 any length of time. - not even one who had worked in
 a juvenile detention center.

What do I want of the Commission? I want you to recognise that there may be mother's like me → not monsters but women who ^{though not perfect parents} would die for their children to protect them to enable them to have a better future... yet whose children are violent + abusive to them. Yes the child needs help but so does the mother, she too is worthy of protection. She too has the right to feel safe in her own home.

I sought help from all I could think of for my [REDACTED]. I never felt heard. It was my parenting, my discipline, my Christianity, my remarriage, my... my... never [REDACTED]. Some of the workers who stepped inside my home could not hide their surprise.

I don't know who they expected who [REDACTED] had told them but I nor my husband [REDACTED] nor our home was it!

I know you can never 100% trust what parents tell there are always 2 sides. But please remember you can never trust though always hear what a child says. This is the difficulty in this — who is telling the truth? Please listen + observe carefully before judging. Even then be open to being wrong.

Recognise + have a change of forms to sign please. please [REDACTED]

PS. CASA was involved because of [REDACTED] telling about her father. as she became fearful of access once [REDACTED] went into care. Both children had talked of inappropriate behavior ^{years before}, but when I went to my solicitor + raised concerns over access he told me it was me not

working the father to have his legal rights. no
 court would allow charge as I could be twisting
 the children to say so. - years later when [redacted]
 went to CASA it was not me twisting just me
 reporting what they had said. pity lawyer had not
 listened - we loves - are not ^{all} vindictive pay-
 backs!

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