

Submission to the Royal Commission into Family Violence

Anonymous ()

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When I was [redacted] my fiancé committed suicide. It took me a long time to get over this.

Then I met my [redacted]'s dad, [redacted]. He was a [redacted] taking a lot of speed. [redacted] months into the relationship I fell pregnant with my [redacted].

There were lots of fights – mostly verbal. He was away a lot, so it was over the phone. He was very controlling.

When I had [redacted] things got worse. He was totally controlling. He got it in his head I was sleeping around. He got his friends to check up on me. Became very violent. For the next [redacted] years I lived in fear of everything. Back then there was not a lot anyone could do [redacted].

I copped a lot of hidings. A couple of times I called the police. I had a restraining order. He breached it by assaulting me and a friend of mine. He was taken to [redacted] cells and released the next day. He got a \$1000 fine. I took him back. I stopped reporting it. It was our shared money – it would have been my money [if he'd got more fines]. Eventually I left him in [redacted].

I've been in violent relationships since then. The last one was only [redacted] months ago. An [redacted] man, [redacted], a drug addict. He took all my money, and assaulted me in front of my [redacted]. He was the worse one – I couldn't get rid of him.

I didn't even bother going to the police. He'd been to prison a few times – anti-police. I knew it would 10x it if I'd gone there.

[Regarding [redacted]]. [redacted] good. I get out in [redacted] days so she's getting better every day. She's [redacted]. My [redacted], [redacted], is [redacted].

[redacted] is still in [redacted]. He's broken into [redacted] house, left a knife there, stolen things. I've got an intervention order on him. I'm hoping to get housing in [redacted].

Somewhere to go and hide would have been good.

I'm nervous about going back there. He's been shot in the face and leg since I've been in here.

I will now [let the police know if something happens]. I've been in trouble with the law. The [redacted] police know that. They might not help me.

[Regarding whether anyone knew about past violence when it was happening]. I told people at Centrelink. They just told me to move and get the single mother's pension.

[redacted] had a back history of violence. No-one tells you that until it's too late. His family certainly didn't tell me til it was too late. I think a registry (of repeat offenders) is a good idea. It seems intrusive but so is being bashed. I think you should be able to go on the internet – or at least through the police.