

29th May 2015

TO The Honourable Marcia Neave AO, Patricia Faulkner AO, Tony Nicholson

Dear Sir / Madam,

I wish to bring to your attention my experience when I was a Victim of Domestic Violence. In [REDACTED], my Mother fell and broke her neck. She was living with my Father as his wife. He did not telephone the ambulance, I who lived in the same street. I found out the following morning when I telephoned my Mother before going to work. I was working as a [REDACTED]. With the assistance of [REDACTED] I able to get my Mother to see a Doctor. My Mother was in hospital for [REDACTED] months. I resigned from my position because her situation was complicated and she needed an advocate. I also realised that my Father had changed; he was no longer rational or capable of making decisions. He underwent a [REDACTED] assessment which confirmed he had [REDACTED] impairment as the [REDACTED] told him in my presence it was [REDACTED] brought on by alcohol abuse. (I have a copy of this report). I was later assaulted by my Father and advised by the [REDACTED], whom we had sought assistance to put an Intervention Order on my Father. I did this and the Magistrate made an order of five years.

In [REDACTED], I received a message via mobile from [REDACTED], a [REDACTED] at the time that my Mother was sick. I had received threats to kill from my Father [REDACTED] months before saying he was going to cut my throat and showed me with his hand how he would do it. I became so frightened that I did not attend to see my Mother for three months. I could not get out of bed for three days due to the fear I felt after this threat. I reported this to the Police who said they would interview my Father about the threats to kill me.

When I received [REDACTED] message, I went to seek Police assistance to escort me into my Parents home so I could get my Mother out to see a Doctor and feel protected by the Police attending.

I spoke to a Sergeant at the Police Station who telephoned my Parents home and asked to speak to my Mother. My Father had answered the telephone and told the Officer that my Mother was in bed asleep. This was early evening. The Officer asked my Father if he had taken my Mother to see a Doctor. My Father replied about one week ago. The Sergeant told me he would arrange for the morning Constables to come to my home and accompany me to my Parents home to assist my Mother. It was a Saturday morning and I heard a knock on the door. I opened the door and there were two Police Officers. I was going out but the Lady Officer (her name is not to be mentioned) said they had already been to my Parents house and my Mother was fine. I asked did she go into my Mother's room or lounge room.

The Lady Officer (her name is not to be mentioned) replied in the lounge room. I replied Officer the evidence is in the bedroom because [REDACTED] message said the smell in the bedroom was pungent. She the Lady Officer (her name is not to be mentioned) did not pay any attention and left with the male Constable. I have a copy of the letter dated [REDACTED] which confirms my Mother needed Medical attention.

The Police had arranged for my Father to attend the police station regarding the threats to kill on the [REDACTED]. I spoke to the Constable who was going to do the interview and asked if I could go to see my Mother as [REDACTED] months had lapsed since I last saw her? He said yes. When I went to my Parent's home, my Mother wasn't there so I went to the Police station. I asked a Constable at the desk if he could tell me if my Mother was there as well because my Father was being interviewed and I felt safe there and would like to take that opportunity to see my Mother.

He told me to wait and sit down whilst he went to enquire. The Lady Constable (her name is not to be mentioned) came out to the front desk. I greeted her and said Constable may I take this opportunity to show you a letter which confirms my Mother was ill. My aim is that should I need Police assistance in the future to assist my Mother, you will see that there is a medical reason.

She read the letter, gave it back to me and she went into the office. A few minutes later the Constable that was interviewing my Father came out, he told me I won't take him away because he could get a heart attack. (Please note my Father [REDACTED] due to [REDACTED] [REDACTED]). My Father [REDACTED]

I was asked to follow him into a room and when I did there were three Police Officer's all male and I was told that the Lady Constable (her name is not to be mentioned) was putting an Intervention Order on me ! I could not believe what I was hearing, I remember crying and asking why they weren't adhering to the Intervention Order the Judge had granted that my Father could not make any threats etc. to me. There was no reply. I will never forget that evening for the rest of my natural days. I contested the Intervention Order but I had to go up to 6 times as there were always excuses why my Parents weren't there by the Police. . Eventually my Father was interviewed in the dock and I will show that the Interpreter did not do her job properly by not interpreting what he said. I have the Court tape. I have also a video of my Father during the Police interview which shows he was at one stage holding his hand and moving it under his neck just how he threatened me and he was told by the Constable who was doing the interview not to go near the Interpreter as he also grabbed his ID badge.

I was allowed to go to my Parents home after the Intervention Order was made against me. My Mother was able to get out of the house with the assistance of [REDACTED] and apply to the Magistrate Court to have the Intervention Order against me removed. This was granted by the Magistrate.

In [REDACTED], a Neighbour telephoned me to tell me that my Mother had a fall outside whilst in my Father's company. I had to seek the assistance of a next door neighbour to get my Mother an ambulance and go with her to the hospital where ex-rays showed she had sustained injuries to her back. I went shopping on a Sunday afternoon, [REDACTED] and I purchased some clothing for her because my Father was also financially as well as psychologically abusing her. When I arrived at my Parents home, my Mother was in bed with back pain. I showed her what I had purchased for her and she was happy. My former husband was there with my Father and his Brother and Family. I greeted them and asked my ex Husband why he was there? We had a discussion over the telephone a few days earlier and he had made some very serious and hurtful remarks against [REDACTED]. I told him the only thing we have in common is [REDACTED] and we don't have to see each other or communicate unless it's for [REDACTED]. I said goodbye and left. The Intervention Order was still in place solely for my Father and he was not involved in the discussion or affected by it. They called

the Police and the Police charged me. Justice was never done. I felt let down by the Policewoman involved, the Interpreter who didn't do her job properly either.

I ask that in Schools there are classes to Teach that Domestic Violence be verbal, physical, emotional or financial is NOT a Culture We want to embrace.

I feel if we can reach the Children so that they have this knowledge to make informed decisions on what is socially acceptable, We can help curb if not eradicate all together this very serious , damaging issue –

May I suggest that Counsellors / Psychologists have a better understanding of the long term effects of Domestic Violence...The scars for Us Victim's run deep and remain with us for the rest of our natural days?

On be-half of myself, I wish to thank you all most sincerely for having this Royal Commission, for it is the only thing we have left to feel safe to speak up .

May my story help to improve where the other Institutions have let us down so many more Victims' will feel safe and heard and hence come forth?

With gratitude,

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(2)

[REDACTED]

29 November 2010

Dear [REDACTED],

Further to our conversation and your request to the [REDACTED] Freedom of Information Officer, I am writing to provide you with the following information.

On [REDACTED] we had a report from our after hours service which outlined their attempted interventions with your mother, Mrs [REDACTED] on Saturday [REDACTED]. You had contacted the after hours service because your son had visited the home and reported that Mrs [REDACTED]'s room smelt of [REDACTED]. You had expressed concern that your mother may have a [REDACTED] which required treatment. You further stated that you felt unsafe to enter the home due to previous threats to your safety issued by your father.

At your request the after hours service contacted Mr [REDACTED] and offered to send in a locum doctor to check on your mother. Mr [REDACTED] reported that his wife had seen a doctor recently and felt that a doctor's consultation was unnecessary.

The after hours service contacted the [REDACTED] police station and spoke with an Officer [REDACTED]. She reported that she had undertaken a welfare check visit to the house earlier that day and reported that the house did not smell of [REDACTED] and it did not appear that Mrs [REDACTED] required urgent medical attention.

(Her name is not mentioned)

The arrangement was made that contact would be made with the case manager (myself) the following Monday [REDACTED] for appropriate intervention.

After discussing the situation with yourself on Monday [REDACTED], I made a doctor's appointment for Mrs [REDACTED] that afternoon. I visited the home with a colleague, [REDACTED] who is a nurse by background. At the home [REDACTED] managed to obtain a [REDACTED] sample from Mrs [REDACTED] and we convinced Mr [REDACTED] that it would be a good idea to take his wife to the doctor. Mrs [REDACTED] was seen by Dr [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED] road medical clinic who arranged for the [REDACTED] sample to be sent to pathology.

I have since been in contact with Mrs [REDACTED]'s regular GP, Dr [REDACTED]. Dr [REDACTED] reported that Mrs [REDACTED] did in fact have a [REDACTED] which required treatment with antibiotics.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

③

[REDACTED] October 24, 2011

To the [REDACTED] Magistrates Court

I [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Professional Level (3)

Have listened to a CD recording of the Court Hearing of [REDACTED] and have been asked by Mrs [REDACTED] to express my expert opinion on its contents.

I particularly noticed at 13:28 of the CD when the interpreter translated a question from English into [REDACTED]:

Q. Did she ever threaten you? – Interpreter: [REDACTED] (quite correct)

However, due to a peculiarity of the [REDACTED] language, the question could have meant two things:

- A. did you ever threaten her?
- B. did she ever threaten you?

The witness understood the meaning of version A. and answered accordingly:

Answer to A.: “When she behaves like an idiot”.

At this stage the interpreter, to avoid confusion, chose to clarify that the intended meaning was that of B. and not A., but in so doing she omitted to translate the first answer.

The final [REDACTED] answer to the original question in version B.: “Did she ever threaten you?” Was “No she didn’t”.

Signed:

[REDACTED]