

Victoria's Royal Commission into Family Violence 2015

With regard to the above issue and following my recent contacts with your office, I herewith submit my opinions in relation to the shortfalls in Family Violence Policy.

The focus of my concern is for women and children residing in abusive households where the male perpetrator is a member of the Police Force. I refer in particular those women in such situations who reside in small rural towns who fear for their lives and those of their children and who have concerns that they cannot telephone for police assistance knowing that those who are likely to respond to the call are the perpetrator's work colleagues who may not be supportive of the victim. In the event that such a person does flee with her children, I am also concerned about possible misuse of Police powers by accessing confidential information through women's refuges.

Such women have an added fear if their partner is in possession of the family passports as this heightens the risk of her children being abducted abroad by their father. These circumstances further complicate the Family Law process and significantly increase the psychological impact of parental separation on the children as well as the mother.

Please advise what system is in place and what improvements will be put in place to assist/support and most importantly protect the partners and children of perpetrators of domestic violence who are members of the Police Force. I would be grateful if you will forward a copy of the outcome report on conclusion of the Royal Commission into Family Violence.