

[REDACTED]

PH: [REDACTED]

E: [REDACTED]

D.O.B: [REDACTED]

Address:

[REDACTED]

Dear Justice Marcia Neave,

my name is [REDACTED], and thank you for this opportunity to be part of this first of perhaps many Royal Commissions into Family Violence.

I have been contemplating what I might include in my submission for many months now.

Over time, my situation has changed somewhat, since we first approached the idea of disclosing so many details, that I hope will aid you in your course of analysis and reform.

My [REDACTED] children ([REDACTED] years old) and I recently (the [REDACTED]) have said no to decades of Family Violence, and have made our first approach ever to police, courts and lawyers at that time, and in fact, this is the first ever 'breaking out of denial' as a family, and facing my husbands' abuse of every kind for over [REDACTED] years.

The police have only this week, after [REDACTED] months of reportage, taken all our statements, evidence provided and witnesses of abuse, to the level that criminal charges are currently pending and a police lead prosecuted case opening up as I speak. This now complicates my ability to disclose details that may pollute the future of our case in court, and I am disappointed that I cant relay all details to you as this particular case will flaw you, in that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

I cannot even presume to offer that the police and courts and lawyers

will do their best to uphold the existing laws regarding so many forms of assault- sexual, physical, emotional, psychological, to myself and my of my children, but we must hope and pray that justice is served.

My [REDACTED] children and myself are all suffering as victims from: P.T.S.D, depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts and physical sicknesses as a result of our long-term abuse.

Our approaches to police have ranged from local, to the newly appointed D.V Police Commissioner, lawyers from the local level, to a Supreme Court Judge, only to be ordered at a local Magistrate level, to engage in mediation, along with bungled initial application of I.V.O's, resulting in in-adequate limited I.V.O's.

I will attempt to answer some of your 21 questions that are a guide in submissions, but I beg that you will revisit our story once courtroom disclosure is finalised, or at least exposed. For I want to discuss our story in my new detail, but the case currently under courtroom scrutiny won't allow that.

Before attempting these questions posed by the Royal Commission, I can say that from first reporting to police, seeking I.V.O's (in mid [REDACTED], [REDACTED]), without any aid, thus receiving limited I.V.O's, court room orders to mediate, and applications for variations on the I.V.O's has definitely allowed, since then, continued psychological violence, theft, death threats, maternal alienation, financial disempowerment, and total isolation from family an friends, and the perpetrator denying all, has brought our case into a stage of further pain and suffering at the hand of the perpetrator. This is the case you must revisit in the near future, as every element, bar murder, exist in this one.

We have thus far avoided being on the front page, but you must be compelled to know that I have sort help at the top levels, and have sort a 'fair go' attitude at all crisis agencies, and a general failure has been present from go to woe.

In our case, the Rolf Harris exposure has reminded us what the public at large think of the un-likelihood that perpetrators' of domestic violence, or in his case, the trusted chaperone of elevated status, could inflict on their wives, children, or in-trusted children in their charge.

Q1.

A1:

The first and foremost goal of the Royal Commission should be the attitude to educate society that society exists under a gendered apartheid system of patriarchy.

Some women and men are attempting to educate this understanding around the world, at local levels, and the handling of the young, as the first port of call for reformation through education.

Q6.

A6:

The occurrence and persistence of Family Violence exists due to the one singular issue, of the fact that we live in a country and world, which operates under gendered apartheid system of patriarchy.

Change, or ultimately remove this system and *voilà* – the circumstances won't require any more Royal Commissions, world peace may come a lot closer.

Q7.

A7:

Perpetrator accountability, perpetrator ownership of choices, to choose violence, or, equality.

Perpetrator and society's willingness to approach gender equality, which would require a massive will to change the existing last 500 years of man and woman on earth.

To live without the male privilege system, which rewards men for acts of masculinity, and disempowerment and discrimination against women, who attempt the same acts.

Q8.

A8:

Improve police understanding of what women and children are exposed to as victims of Family Violence, such as: P.T.S.D, depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts, disempowerment via psychological abuse, resulting in hundreds of obstacles which hinder the facing of Family Violence, and reporting the matter to police in the first place.

You have to be believed from the outset, and the police and lawyers need to know that all reports are made under duress, and the statements of the issues may not come freely and all at once, these memories are un-locked at an unpredictable rate, and surely complicate all proceedings, and if the agencies that can make a difference knew this then, the reporting would have to be probably

drawn out, to confirm all details, and this simply takes time Commissioner, lots of excruciating time and patience by the police, lawyers and courts, so that the whole story is extracted and not merely the tip of the iceberg.

Can I here, re-name Family Violence, and call it 'Domestic Terrorism'? These Domestic Terrorists, in many cases are more clever than the system of our laws, since they leave no trail, and scanty hearsay evidence may exist, that cannot be prosecuted.

The major deficiency existing in the law is that there is no mechanism to apply the full definition, both of the United Nations, and every other version of the Family Violence Act, the accountability of the perpetrator.

Only the elements to physical and sexual abuse come under a criminal charge possible and even when that is present when proven in court that the perpetrator intended to kill their wife or child, that the sentencing is substantially reduced, simply because it was in a domestic setting.

How is it that a murderer has a stiffer sentence for murdering a stranger, than murdering an intimate partner, or son, or daughter? How does this familiarity of relationship change the laws that sentence of a man to a token jail term, than a real penalty of his crime with appropriate sentencing being implemented, regardless of his relationship to the victim?

This needs immediate change and reform.

Q9.

A9:

Yes ideally you have one file on your case which is shared amongst the agencies, but as it stands, you have to tell your story to 10-20 different bodies that all clamber around insufficiently over a long period to achieve what may take a small percentage of the time if all agencies liaised with each other to create a file and case number which is managed from the outset with decisive precision to arrive at a safe, just, and beginning of healing for victims, that today does not exist. This is an essential reform that is required.

Q10.

A10:

The main barrier is police and lawyer and courtrooms being the barrier. Police could facilitate a pathway to successful reportage, and police and lawyers and the court should recognise that the impact on victims needs immediate attention to facilitate this progress.

Q14.**A14:**

To force perpetrators' of Domestic Terrorism to be accountable by imposing serious repercussions to any freedoms within the current social framework, which has a non-attitude to misogyny.

Q18.**A18:**

Isolation is one of the most extensive and dangerous barriers, it has proven that victims in isolation can undergo the ultimate scenario – death.

Remote Victorian communities definitely experience the ineffective engagements of victims to Family Violence services, this along with discrimination, religion, gender preference, and fear of the perpetrator finding out that the victim has attempted reportage.

Q20.**A20:**

Gender equality through educational awareness-made reality through widespread education, meaning at all levels of hierarchy from the:

Church

State

Army

Kindergarden

Schools

Universities

Health

Welfare

Economics

Sport

Religion

Art

Media

and the home

Q21.**A21:**

The first step in the short term responses would definitely be the first police reportage through the victim of Domestic Terrorism, to be taken with belief, compassion, and 'can-do' help given, and justice for

victims, and penalties for perpetrators’.

The long-term responses would definitely be a shift in attitude through education, to a gender equal society, which will take many steps in a long journey, which starts with one step. The first step being: acknowledgment that there is a problem of gender inequality, and how we all maybe part of the solution to educate a grass roots level, that will grow out of willing soil to yield towards justice. Gender equality is justice.

As you and your title suggests and infers Justice Neave, may I close here and thank you for this rare opportunity in our time to be included in this process.

And as I have stated, please watch this space, as I have said I haven’t been able to elaborate on our personal experience as I wanted, but invite you to look me up in the future to discuss more details as they become available through the passage of time and the procedures of the courts of Australia; that I hope too, include your title, ‘justice’. Justice and healing are at the top of our list.

Yours sincerely,

