


RCFV - ANONYMOUS



May 29, 2015

The Commissioners,
Royal Commission into Family Violence (Victoria)

Dear Commissioners Neave, Faulkner and Nicholson,

Submission: Royal Commission into Family Violence – Victoria.

As an Affected Family Member (AFM) of family violence and sometime carer of an adult daughter who has been and continues to be a victim of domestic violence in Victoria, I write to you in the hope that my input into your Inquiry into Domestic/Family Violence in Victoria will contribute in assisting you in the important task you have undertaken. The breadth and depth of the problem of domestic violence in Victoria is now acknowledged to be huge and it is also understood that Victoria Police responses to incidents of domestic violence are crucial in numerous ways: assisting victims and their families, prosecuting offenders when required and, most importantly, contributing to reducing the continuation and possible escalation of the violence.

3.2.1 How police decide which option pathway to follow

The risk management strategy is not only aimed at making AFMs safe and supporting their wellbeing, but also should assist with breaking the cycle of violence and hence reduce the risk of repeat incidents. (The Victoria Police Code of Practice for the Investigation of Family Violence).

Unfortunately my submission relates to a complaint I recently sent to the Acting Victorian Commissioner of Police, Mr Tim Cartwright. I say unfortunately because I hold the Victoria Police in high esteem and applaud the great work they do for Victorians. My complaint to Commissioner Cartwright relates to the failure of some Victoria Police officers to acknowledge the victim of domestic violence and to appropriately follow guidelines relating to such incidents. Their behaviours were not only unprofessional, and immoral in my view, but they directly contributed to my daughter's ill health and her continuation in the violent relationship in which she was embroiled. Their harassing, bullying and abusive behaviours over many years – in the guise of doing their job and in the guise of upholding the law literally and not the spirit of - directly contributed to her unstable mental health and falling back into chaotic behaviours and relationships. Their actions in pursuing my daughter despite contact by her lawyers as well as other police officers who were supporting her, enabled her domestic violence abuser to continue to make a number of attempts on her life – unsuccessful to date only by the grace of god.

In my complaint to Mr Cartwright, a redacted copy of which is attached, I set out a series of very unfortunate incidents relating to some of his officers and my daughter. These incidents, and the actions of his officers over more than a three year period, indicate intent by those officers to harm my daughter, a victim of domestic violence, in a most extreme way and a complete failure on the part of his officers to duly follow Police Policy and Procedures as they relate to contact and investigation of domestic violence incidents in Victoria (Code of Practice for the Investigation of Family

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Violence June 2014). All of this whilst my daughter was concurrently being ably assisted by other Victoria Police Officers who had rightly identified my daughter as a victim of domestic violence and who were members of the Victoria Police Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT). As a number of Victoria Police were hounding, harassing, abusing, victimising and causing enormous mental, physical, emotional anguish to my daughter, a SOCIT team were supporting her and doing their best to jail the domestic violence offender – with some success.

Unfortunately, as my daughter suffers from mental health issues and the accompanying problems associated with such issues, the detrimental effects of the negative actions and behaviours by some members of the Victoria Police contributed enormously to her remaining in the relationship with her abuser and his associates or returning to the relationship. In doing so they totally undermined the efforts of family, friends and professionals who were trying to help and support her. The abuser and his associates unbelievably portrayed themselves as on “her side” and as her “friends” – as opposed to the Police who she nevertheless continued to ring for help ever hopeful and ever trusting of them as she had been raised to be.

The Police play a crucial role as they are at the forefront of family and domestic violence and I hope my story of both the professional and unprofessional behaviours of Victoria Police can assist in recommendations that support change through better training of officers and better training and supervision of their managers.

I'll leave it at that, then, as you get the picture and this small piece of the jigsaw probably echoes a thousand other stories you've read or listened to; each story unique in some way yet the same in the degree of their sadness and heartbreak and the havoc domestic violence plays in the lives of its victims, their friends, their families and our communities.

Regards,



Attachment: Redacted copy letter, Acting Commissioner of Police (Victoria) 6.5.15

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REDACTED COPY
RCFV – Victoria
29 May, 2015

6 May, 2015

Mr. T. Cartwright APM
Acting Chief Commissioner Victoria Police
Victoria Police Centre
G.P.O Box 913
Melbourne, VIC, 3001
AUSTRALIA

Dear Mr Cartwright,

Re: Complaint – Unprofessional and Inappropriate treatment of Female Victim of Domestic Violence by Victoria Police

INTRODUCTION

As an Affected Family Member (AFM) of domestic violence and both a parent and sometime carer of an adult female victim of family violence I shall be making a submission to the Royal Commission into Family Violence along the lines outlined in this letter to you regarding the behaviours and actions of Victoria Police as it relates to initial handling and ongoing responses to reported Domestic Violence. I would like to report to the Commission that on bringing to your attention the matters outlined in this letter I received a constructive and speedy response to my concerns. I intend also on making a submission to the Human Rights Commission. I will rely on your office making the decision as to whether the officers both named and un-named but alluded to in this complaint are officially investigated through the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC) for, among other things, failing to follow the advice of the Victoria Police as it relates to the response and investigation of family violence in Victoria.

It is with sincere regret that I find myself writing this letter of complaint relating to the poor performance, poor decision-making and the lack of understanding of the impacts of domestic violence on women by some of your officers. I understand the officers in question would act only with the approval of a Senior Officer and therefore this complaint must also extend to the supervisors of the officers who are the subject of this complaint, namely:

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- First Constable [REDACTED]
- First Constable [REDACTED] (original informant)
- First Constable [REDACTED]
- First Constable [REDACTED]
- First Constable [REDACTED]
- Constable [REDACTED]
- The Supervisor, the faceless man who, like Lazarus, chose to bring back from the dead the charges outlined in Complaint I. I understand he or she would be a Senior Officer within the [REDACTED] Police Station. The possibility of ineptitude together with the whiff of corruption shrouds this faceless person – faceless to us, but not to you.
- Senior Constable [REDACTED] (unknown ID No. or location – previously [REDACTED] Police Station.
- Constable [REDACTED] (unknown ID No. Location [REDACTED] Police Station).

COMPLAINT 1 (Reference Appendix I) Current Charges.

My daughter (in place of name for redacted copy) is [REDACTED], she lives in [REDACTED] a [REDACTED] suburb of Melbourne, and she has been a Victim of Domestic Violence, one among many, many, many women in Victoria. Having said that, she is an individual with a story and she has, like you and those you care about, made mistakes, made wrong choices and wrong decisions in her life. But, perhaps unlike some others, she has paid a hefty price for those mistakes.

She has been the victim of domestic violence for a number of years; as noted in your records. The male in question, [REDACTED] is a well-known criminal with an extensive criminal history; again, clearly detailed on your system for at least the past 25 years. *My daughter (in place of name for redacted copy), with no criminal history; until now, of course, through the deliberate actions of your officers. Him recently jailed for again attempting to murder my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy) – just one of the initial domestic violence charges . Her at home very sick, mentally destroyed and unable to go to court and have to face him, his associates. Threatened and intimidated by his associates. Terrified of everyone and everything. Frightened for her life, for the lives of her family. Shattered. Vulnerable. No-where to turn, no-one to turn to. No-one who understands. Alienated from everyone who knows*

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her and loves her. Symptoms of illness that are wide-ranging and acting out behaviours that are self-destructive and self-harming.

In [REDACTED] this year, he goes to jail and we believe that it's finally over. Time now to try and build a new life. But, no, wait, some members of the Victoria Police aren't satisfied with jailing the perpetrator of domestic violence, the man who stalked her and who only through the grace of god failed on several occasions to kill her. Your staff, your officers, they want to jail the victim, *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)*, as well. How can that be? Why? On the one hand Victoria Police Officers trying to help her and support her knowing, understanding, acknowledging her unwellness, the trap she is in, the errors of judgement made. On the other hand Victoria Police Officers hounding her, relentlessly pursuing her, ensuring the victim keeps in her place and understands her true powerlessness and reaches a point of despair that only a woman who is a victim of men's violence knows.

Just nine (9) days after your Officers helped to jail [REDACTED] for his crimes against *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)*, First Constable [REDACTED] sent *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)*, the victim of domestic violence crimes clearly documented in your files, a Summons for a purported crime against [REDACTED] for which the penalty is 7 years jail. Absolutely unbelievable and an action that has lead me to write to you to express my disbelief in the absolute failure of your officers to follow all of the guidance and the procedures your office has for years and years outlined for them to follow and understand relating to female victims of domestic violence. And if they can't manage to get their heads around it you have experts who can advise and help them to do so. *My daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)*'s crime? She purportedly sent [REDACTED] two text messages eleven (11) months previously asking whether, one, he was still in hospital and, two, asking him to delete her phone number. Just to be clear – 7 years jail is what your officers seek for her for caring whether that man is unwell and in hospital.

Your officers, First Constable [REDACTED]), First Constable [REDACTED] (original informant), First Constable [REDACTED] First Constable [REDACTED] supported by their Senior Officers, after all *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)* has been through, now want to pursue her relentlessly, ceaselessly, ruthlessly and unremittingly and force through a conviction no less – to see her sitting in jail for 7 years. For sending two text

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messages that they say contravened an IVO that First Constable [REDACTED] swears under oath was taken out against *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)* in a Court of Law on [REDACTED] by First Constable [REDACTED]. Except, we have no proof in the Brief that First Constable [REDACTED] was in fact successful in that application. First Constable [REDACTED] swears under oath that the facts are true and correct yet her Brief contains no evidence of the existence of an IVO on the date in question, that is, [REDACTED]. She includes a Statement from the career criminal and female abuser, [REDACTED], that an IVO exists and includes as Exhibit I a copy of a Certified Extract of a [REDACTED] Magistrates Court document dated [REDACTED], with the word WITHDRAWN on it in in very large black writing. (SEE Appendix I).

As required by law, *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)* was in court on [REDACTED]. The Prosecutor on the day could not explain to the Magistrate the need for such an IVO and as *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)* has stated to me the Magistrate immediately dismissed it. Not only does Constable [REDACTED] give a start date of the unsubstantiated IVO, but she also gives in her sworn statement an end date of [REDACTED], again with no evidence supplied that such an IVO ever existed.

On Wednesday [REDACTED], seventeen (17) working days before *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)* is to go to a Court of Victoria and give evidence against the man who harmed her so much, First Constable [REDACTED] - 5 months after being handed the case by First Constable [REDACTED] (original informant) - says in her Statement she serendipitously decided to follow up on the "person whereabouts" relating to *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)* [REDACTED]. I would ask what senior officer at the [REDACTED] Police Station prompted this decision? Despite the recorded history of [REDACTED] criminality, his domestic abuse and his current imprisonment for numerous crimes against *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)* [REDACTED] has been led to believe that's her job and one she should be putting time, effort and taxpayer's money into. First Constable [REDACTED] and his un-named colleague are sent to *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)*'s home. They arrived unannounced, arrested her and then started haranguing her. She wonders who they are? Why they're at her home? What they're talking about? Again she is faced with unconscionable conduct by your officers toward her. Their behavior, their manner and the stated reason for their presence. A victim of domestic

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abuse and she has to try and work out what they're talking about; that [REDACTED] is the victim and she a nasty abuser and a criminal to boot. She knows the Victorian Police has taken out an IVO against [REDACTED] but here are these Police Officers saying something absurd, confusing and contradictory. They abuse her for being confrontational and uncooperative. She was feeling overwhelmed, traumatized, dissociated, and shocked. A dreadful and traumatic experience for her being viewed, spoken to and treated like a criminal. All the time being exhorted by the Sexual Violence Unit at [REDACTED] Police Station to appear against [REDACTED] in court. Who were [REDACTED] and his offsider? Who are their mates? Who is [REDACTED] friends with? Who is the senior officer directing these young Constables? Does [REDACTED] reach extend to the Victoria Police? She withdraws back into deep un-wellness and doesn't tell me of these events for many months. First Constable [REDACTED] later wrote up a document he signed as purportedly reflective of a so-called statement made by her to him on that day. I know how unwell she was at that time and how confused she was and would strongly question the veracity of this document.

All of this adding to her victimization, her vulnerability, her fears, driving her ever back to those who feigned being her protectors, rather than what they truly were, that is, her abusers. Alcohol abuse, depression, all the hallmarks were there, in plain sight of your Officers.

It seems clear that the charges laid by First Constable [REDACTED] are dodgy, trumped up, misguided and verge on corrupt behavior by your officers. I ask that you deal with this matter promptly and advise *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)* in writing at the earliest opportunity that as there is no substance to the charges that they are immediately withdrawn. Confirming she does not need to engage a lawyer to attend court with her on [REDACTED]

COMPLAINT 2 (Reference Appendix II) Charges dropped [REDACTED]

The perpetrator, [REDACTED] has over half of the risk assessment indicators outlined at point 3.2.1 of your Code of Practice into Family Violence 2014 –all well-known to police and in plain sight for them to see. A violent criminal history of over 25 years duration accessible to Victoria Police.

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██████████. First Constable ██████████ It was not enough for this officer to give a Safety Notice against the victim of domestic violence, *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)*, who had rung the police for their help. First Constable ██████████ had to really hammer his point home with both a Safety Notice and charges against her of making a false complaint. He claimed that ██████████ did not have a gun as *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)* had reported in her call but he proceeded to turn the whole thing on its head and said in fact ██████████ was the victim to her; a serious career criminal with a criminal history stretching back a quarter of a century is deemed by First Constable ██████████ and his Senior Officers to be a victim of a woman who is on their system as a victim of domestic violence to this man. Absolutely ludicrous and if not corrupt behavior then at the very least immoral and unprofessional.

On the same occasion as the charges that First Constable ██████████ is pursuing so vigorously on his behalf he charges her with having made a false statement to police. As one lawyer said so clearly, this was ludicrous beyond belief and he asked *My daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)* what she had done to “piss off the police” that they would be pursuing her not only with the “failure to accompany” but now this ‘load of rubbish’.

My daughter (in place of name for redacted copy) did not receive the Summons/charges/brief associated with making a false complaint. In fact she received an extremely nasty, threatening and intimidating letter from the Victoria Police Licensing branch saying they were going to take her Security Licence off her because of reports from police about her “make false complaints”. Licensing are notified but not the respondent. Is this another example of some police officers attitude of *who cares about a woman who is the victim of domestic violence? We might as well add to her pain and sorrow too?*

Knowing nothing of the charges, only having the letter from Licensing, *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)* was naturally completely thrown by the letter and seriously disturbed by it. Her lawyer eventually chased it up and said there were Charges and he was trying to get a copy of them. She has never received them herself from the Police. Two court appearances, thousands of dollars to lawyers, and the charges were rightly dropped. Anxiety, fear, terror, being pursued by Victoria Police Officers all because she is a victim of domestic violence.

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First Constable [REDACTED] on the night of [REDACTED] claimed they never found the gun *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)* said the abuser [REDACTED] held to her head; he apparently has a long history of firearms offences. Senior Constable [REDACTED] says in his Statement "[REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] had left the address and he took the shotgun with him". (APPENDIX II). First Constable [REDACTED] and the other officers who attended that night would have presumably been given this extremely vital information prior to attending the scene. First Constable [REDACTED] makes an oath that the documents relating to his Brief are true and correct. As he must have read his Brief in order to make this oath he would have read the Statement made by Senior Constable [REDACTED]. Despite knowing on the night the truth regarding the gun being removed by [REDACTED] prior to police arrival, and despite subsequently reading the Statement made by Senior Constable [REDACTED] First Constable [REDACTED] proceeds to charge *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)* with making a false complaint. His behavior is in direct contradiction with Victoria Police stated policy and procedures required for him to follow when dealing with Victims of Domestic Violence.

His behavior is immoral and unprofessional at the very least. I spent a great deal of money hiring lawyers to fight these charges which were subsequently withdrawn by police. I would like restitution of those expenses.

Complaint 3 (Reference Appendix IV)

Between [REDACTED] intimidated, threatened, menaced and bullied *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)* into giving him money. I'm fairly certain it wasn't the first time he had done this. He must have watched her enter her PIN and without her knowledge or consent on at least one occasion used her card to withdraw money from her account.

On [REDACTED], *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)* reported the theft of her money by [REDACTED] to Senior Constable [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED] Police Station who took her Statement. On the appropriate advice of Constable [REDACTED] she went immediately to her Bank and completed a VISA/EFT transaction dispute/enquiry form. (APPENDIX III).

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Senior Constable [REDACTED] rang my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy) on [REDACTED], and told her she had camera footage showing my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy) withdrawing money from an ATM and then turning around and giving [REDACTED] both the cash and her card as he clearly expected her to do. Senior Constable [REDACTED] at the time agreed my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy) was obviously being stood over by [REDACTED] to give him her money and her card. On another occasion her card was used to buy goods, again without her being present and without her consent. She told Senior Constable [REDACTED] she did not know if it was [REDACTED] or one of his associates who had used it. Financial violence by men against women is only one of the many ways they harm women and keep them powerless. According to The Victoria Police Code of Practice for the Investigation of Family Violence, violence can include physical, emotional and psychological violence, coercion and threats, verbal, social, **financial** and spiritual abuse.

When My daughter (in place of name for redacted copy) was refused a refund of the monies stolen from her by [REDACTED] she enquired from her Bank the reasons for this refusal. They told her the relevant Police Officer, presumably Senior Constable [REDACTED] as she was the only officer my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy) had dealt with, told them of the footage showing my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy) withdrawing the money from an ATM. Where Senior Constable [REDACTED] presented to my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy) as understanding the monies were stolen from her by [REDACTED], this is not what she apparently presented to the Bank. My daughter (in place of name for redacted copy) has tried to pursue this matter, while battling physical, emotional, psychological issues as described and explained throughout this document, but to no avail. Senior Constable [REDACTED] transferred and My daughter (in place of name for redacted copy) was told that Constable [REDACTED] from the [REDACTED] Police Station "had the file". My daughter (in place of name for redacted copy) has rung the [REDACTED] Police Station on numerous occasions only to be told he was not available and she has left messages. She has emailed Constable [REDACTED] who has not once replied to her.

My daughter (in place of name for redacted copy) gave the SOCIT team at [REDACTED] a copy of her application to her bank and asked them to assist her. Nothing came of these requests.

You say to women who are victims of domestic abuse to contact you if they need help but there appears to be a serious disconnect between what you say, what your public website says, what your ads say and what your Officers working on the ground actually do when it comes to dealing with female victims of domestic abuse and family violence in Victoria.

I would like you to assist *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)* in this matter with advice being provided to her bank that is true and accurate surrounding the circumstances of [REDACTED] stealing the money from her.

Complaint 4 (Reference Appendix IV) Conviction [REDACTED] 2014

3.2.1 How police decide which option pathway to follow

The risk management strategy is not only aimed at making AFMs safe and supporting their wellbeing, but also should assist with breaking the cycle of violence and hence reduce the risk of repeat incidents. (The Victoria Police Code of Practice for the Investigation of Family Violence).

Around [REDACTED] attempted to murder *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)* driving her [REDACTED] Holden in such a way that he crashed it into a fence narrowly missing a pole. The [REDACTED] Police attended. [REDACTED] is well-known to Police and knows Police well. Initially prepared to make a statement to Police who knew the situation and circumstances as well as [REDACTED] long criminal history, they also knew that family violence was at its core. But, she eventually recanted through fear and despair from making a Statement.

In [REDACTED] *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)* was a passenger in a vehicle involved in a minor accident [REDACTED] but she was inebriated and, not understanding it was unlawful, said she didn't want to go back to the Police station with them. She asked that they get detectives to attend the scene as she wanted to talk to them. They did not accede to her request. First Constable [REDACTED] and Constable [REDACTED] proceeded to charge her with failure to accompany them to the police station.

On [REDACTED] again attempted to murder *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)*. As happened in [REDACTED], she was asked to make a Statement against him. Although unwell and fear-filled, I believe she had finally realized he would eventually succeed

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in killing her if she did nothing. I was living Interstate and *My daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)* rang me from the [REDACTED] Police Station. She told me the Police had said they would get the current charges dropped against her if she made this Statement. They told her they understood that the refuse to accompany police to the station and the supposed making a false complaint were all enmeshed with the domestic violence she had suffered. They were understanding, supportive, caring, professional and she wanted me to support her decision to make the Statement against [REDACTED]. She was afraid of the possible consequences from [REDACTED] against her and against her family, her pets and her home. I supported her decision as it meant a start toward freeing herself from those people and she felt confident in the police who were around her at that time.

She made the Statement. The Police claims that they would have the other charges dropped never did eventuate. She believed right up to the end in what the Police on that night had promised her. Instead, not only did some police officers continue to pursue her relentlessly, mercilessly, unfairly and without fear of consequences, but she was now terrified of reprisals from [REDACTED] and his associates. And further down into unwellness she toppled.

The Statement she had made referred to above was made available to First Constable [REDACTED] and Constable [REDACTED] and their superiors, providing clear, current and relevant evidence of the nature and level of violence to which she was a victim. The expression *water off a ducks back* I think aptly describes their total lack of response to her revelations and they could not have caused more harm to her psychological well-being if they'd tried. To meet her pleading for understanding and her pleading not to take her licence away from her for 4 years – the damage that would do to her ability to become well, to get a job, to survive – with what could only be described as contempt, was heartbreaking for me. Unbelievable to me how they relentlessly pursued a clear and obvious victim of domestic abuse for a crime that no-one – including a Judge – even knew about. For a crime of which she was a victim. For a crime that harmed her and no-one else.

The driver of the vehicle, who naturally ran away from the accident, was an associate of [REDACTED] and the car was owned by [REDACTED] who was at the time in jail for attempting to murder a woman and her child in another State (he was subsequently jailed for that offence). So, unbeknownst to her, to me and to anyone else I have ever asked (including lawyers) there is a

law relating to an inebriated passenger in a vehicle involved in an accident, that is, that they cannot refuse to accompany police to a police station.

All of this known to First Constable [REDACTED] and Constable [REDACTED] It is common knowledge the Victoria Police have wide discretion in matters such as these ensuring that the spirit of the law is also served; "getting someone" is not the end game especially when that someone is clearly identifiable as a female victim of domestic abuse. This fact appears to have been deliberately and with malicious intent ignored by First Constable [REDACTED] and Constable [REDACTED] and their Senior Officer at [REDACTED] Police Station for they repeatedly refused consideration of all the facts including the ongoing criminal charges and jailing of [REDACTED] as the perpetrator of crimes against *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)*.

As we fought the "refusal to accompany" charge and explained the situation over and over – *My daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)* was not the driver; she had been drinking as enforced by these men; she was going where she was told, etc. etc. etc. we received appropriate responses from everyone – except your Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and their superior officer. Any lawyer we spoke to – and there were a few – all confirmed pursuing *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)* was purely discretionary on the part of the Police. It was their choice to do so. First Constable [REDACTED] and his senior officers knew *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)* was a victim of domestic violence, had read her Statement given to Police relating to crimes against her, and relentlessly, ruthlessly and unremittingly pursued her as a "criminal" despite her lawyers approaches and despite the fact that they were working against their colleagues at the [REDACTED] Police Station who clearly understood and treated her appropriately as a long-standing victim of domestic violence. The evidence was clear, the history there for your Officers to see, but they chose to ignore it. It appears they have not read or listened to what your Office has been saying for at least the last 10 years regarding the role required to be performed by Victoria's Police Officers as it relates to domestic violence. They have not read, or have chosen to ignore, all the public utterances by both yourself and your senior staff relating to dealings with women who are victims of domestic violence and who, as in the case of *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)*, have had the abuser try to murder her on several recorded occasions. She was a passenger in a vehicle. She harmed no-one. She presented no harm to anyone but herself. Why did Victoria Police

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spend two years and enormous resources to hound her and hound her through two years of courts. Where is the satisfaction in further harming a female victim of domestic violence for these officers of yours?

With ten years standing *The Victoria Police Code of Practice for the Investigation of Family Violence* appears to have been completely ignored by Victorian Police Officers involved in this case which spanned two years and thousands of dollars in legal fees for us. Never mind the extreme distress, the acute mental anguish and the emotional and physical toll it took on *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)*. Even the final Judge in the Appeal had to look up the law! It was clearly not designed to entrap victims of domestic violence who are drowning in the chaos of their lives and who are harming no-one except themselves.

CONCLUSION

All of the above behaviours being exhibited by your Officers were concurrently trying to be countered by the SOCIT team at [REDACTED] Police who were supporting *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)* and trying to ensure that [REDACTED] was tried and convicted for the serious crimes he committed against her. While the above-named officers were trying to discredit her and successfully cause her financial and mental/emotional harm, the SOCIT team were trying to support her and get her through what was obviously an extremely harrowing and exhausting process. Unfortunately in the end the Officers who are the subject of my complaint were successful in wearing *my daughter (in place of name for redacted copy)s'* emotional and mental health down and she was so fearful of testifying against [REDACTED] that she did not attend Court. She believed and understood his reach, and that of his Associates, was extensive.

Please ensure this is the last we hear of the concocted charges brought by First Constable [REDACTED] via First Constable [REDACTED] (original informant) and her ilk and the last we hear from Victoria Police other than in the normal and honest work that the majority of your Officers participate in, as clearly demonstrated by the SOCIT team at [REDACTED].

My daughter (in place of name for redacted copy) is attempting to move on with her life away from being a victim of domestic violence to an individual with courage and determination – *sans* drivers licence, *sans* mental and physical health, *sans* self-respect and *sans* a sense of self-worth – be on her side, not against her. Find compassion not contempt. Find sympathy and not spite.

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She is afraid of when the next false charges will appear from Victoria Police officers. What will they be? Will we again have to go to court and me spend thousands of dollars on lawyers to defend her. The time has come for you, as their ultimate boss, to put a stop to their unrelenting pursuit of her. To make it clear the Victoria Police are serious about pursuing domestic violence offenders – and not their victims. Serious about supporting and assisting victims of domestic violence and not relentlessly pursuing them to cause harm and havoc in their lives.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Attachments: **(NOTE: not included in submission to RCFV-Vic)**

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|--------------|---|
| Appendix I | Charge Sheet and Exhibit I a copy of a Certified Extract of a
[REDACTED] Magistrates Court document dated [REDACTED] |
| Appendix II | Copy Statement Senior Constable [REDACTED] |
| Appendix III | Visa Enquiry/Dispute Form. Emails relating to same. |