

Royal Commission into Family Violence,
 P.O. Box 535
 Flinders Lane VIC 3009

29th. May, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

To begin with, I am so grateful at the privilege of being able to contribute some of my suggestions towards this inquiry, as it will give some meaning to all that I've been through and hopefully make a difference to others in the future.

When you see all that I'll be sending, you'll get an idea of why I've been putting off writing to you till the last minute, as there was just so much to encapsulate, and I have a strong sense of duty to do justice to this pressing issue!

... Even though I don't know her name, I'd like to dedicate my efforts, in particular, to a woman living not far from me, (██████████), who was killed by her partner, a year or so, ago

While I'm aware you may not have time to read everything, I'm including copies of letters I've previously sent, to the Chief Commissioner of Police, (Mr Kay), in ██████████, then Mark Caillot (his deputy chief of staff), as well as some info, poems etc., I managed to present to the magistrate, ██████████, before my ex-partner's (██████████) last hearing for a breach of Intervention Order, and the letter of gratitude I wrote to him afterwards.

I realize how the commission isn't concerned so much about the individual histories of abuse, but in amongst it all, I was bringing up, I feel, some pretty important points, so I hope it'll be of some value...

I'll also be sending copies of articles that I feel are relevant,

I thought I'd write out a list of thoughts I've had, as a result of my own experiences ...

Some of them, I know, will 'come from left field'!

Here is a summary, which I'll elaborate on afterwards, if I get time.

- ① AN INDEPENDENT PANEL of people from within the community, to turn to, and to hold police accountable, when they refuse to investigate, let alone act, on a proveable breach!
- ② A 'VICTIMS RIGHT CHARTER' should be on display at police stations, and should be mandatory that anyone reporting domestic violence should be given one.
... And, again, someone independent, to hold police accountable in respecting the listed rights!
- ③ BETTER, TARGETED PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING to hopefully recruit more compassionate, less macho, 'red-kneek' types, to work as Family Liaison Officers, especially.
- ④ A SPECIALIZED COURT for domestic violence, as well CONTINUITY WITH THE SAME MAGISTRATE, (both of which I know have been suggested, and I wholeheartedly agree!)
- ⑤ BOTH at Breach of Intervention Hearings, and at any Appeals (on the sentence), the victim/solicitor, should be able to respond to the 'story' put out by the defendant!!
- ⑥ Victims shouldn't be told they don't even need to be, at court, for an appeal hearing!
- ⑦ Not only 'FLASH INCARCERATIONS' for any breach, but also sentences for proveable violent assaults, to be commensurate with those for the general public

⑧ THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS for domestic violence should be changed, from just 12 months.

(see article titled "Arrest for YouTube show", where a man was going to be charged for damaging property at an old quarry, years after the event, because "Some offences have no statute of limitations.")

So said Sen-Const [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]), who said that that was fair enough, as "police see robbery as more serious than domestic violence"!

⑨ THERE SHOULD BE "AN INTERVENTION" HELD, with friends, etc. (as there is with drug addicts, alcoholics, early in an abusive relationship.

... Scientific research backs up what I've experienced, how continual stress, relentless stalking, broken sleep, prevented me from making rational, informed decisions.

(It was only after many years, once I had space and time away, that I became horrified at what I'd been putting up with!)

See the article, "but he says he loves me", where the author of the book with the same, psychologist Dina McMillan, states: "When you are with people constantly you are not able to process information properly."

⑩ This leads me to how I believe young girls need to read THIS book, particularly, and recognize "the red flags" in time.

⑪ As a 'Ministry of Housing' tenant, I've learnt that there is nothing in their charter to help with the security of someone going through domestic violence...

Not only that, the staff can be downright cruel and amazingly

insensitive! ...

As I'd been informed that the Ministry of Housing don't have the funds to provide 'special' security measures for tenants experiencing domestic violence, I explained how the few things I was requesting, (blinds and a security door at the back, and a small wooden gate to block off the driveway), had all been part of the basic fitout of the ministry property, next door!

Even after telling the staff member how I had real concerns,

[REDACTED], her response was that, "if every housing tenant wanted to get what their neighbours had, the Victorian taxpayers would be continually forking out millions of dollars!"

(Once I contacted the Ombudsman, these features were installed.)

⑫ PROBLEMS WITH TRANSPORT ... to court, etc.

While I have never driven, I'm sure many women lose access to their cars etc., and especially, being in a 'rural' area, and not wanting to catch public transport to the city (as my 'ex' also doesn't drive), it took me about 2 dozen phone calls, and about a week, to get funding to go to Melbourne and back, with the [REDACTED], that still charged: \$ [REDACTED] each way.

It was all extremely stressful and upsetting, and, again, I believe that some of the funding needs to go towards some sort of system to help victims with transport.

⑬ BIG PROBLEM WITH MENS BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT GROUPS.

While I know that these CAN work for some men, in my case, my ex-partner used his participation in these groups to keep me in his life, and, he was able to manipulate the leaders (of the [REDACTED] group), to believe he was sincere in wanting to change. I was never warned that the reality could be that everything was a pretense! (In Professor Keith Campbell's words, "with malevolent narcissists, you shouldn't attempt to treat them, as they learn better ways to manipulate!")

AS SO FAR I'VE EXPERIENCED SO MUCH UNFAIRNESS,
PLEASE READ THIS, AND HELP ME GET SOME JUSTICE
FOR [REDACTED] YEARS' OF TORTMENT!

1.

The legal limitations in writing the Victim's Impact Statement, and the relatively 'minor' nature of the breach, have once again added a further layer of pain, hurt and a terrible feeling of injustice, considering all that I've suffered at the hands of the defendant.

(This is particularly so, as, despite this being the [REDACTED] breach with which he has been charged, it is the first time I've been aware of my right to present a Victim's Impact Statement!)

I've endured the most traumatic and serious, physical, (verbal and emotional) abuse, and believe I'm only alive due to luck, and the fact that [REDACTED] did not drink, or take drugs...

* [REDACTED]

(Despite being a pensioner, I ended up staying at various local motels on [REDACTED] occasions, as the only way to feel safe!)

* See [REDACTED]'s own signed admission to all this, in a list written out for a counsellor in [REDACTED], as well as the [REDACTED] [REDACTED], admitting to breaches of the [REDACTED] Intervention Orders I took out, at the suggestion of the leaders of the [REDACTED] group, due to [REDACTED]'s continuing physical violence, even while attending the group!

[REDACTED]

The magistrate was so concerned for my safety, that, after questioning [REDACTED] (who readily admitted to all my complaints,) he then put ME in the dock, and questioned why I was allowing [REDACTED] to live with me, at the time!

[REDACTED] and I, had gone hand-in-hand to that hearing, with me naively believing in his "promise to change, and never be abusive again, as otherwise, he'd end up going to prison!" He was also contemptuous of the magistrate, afterwards telling me how "the magistrate couldn't speak for him, since he couldn't look into his head!!"

So, the irony is, that, despite voluminous proof, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] he's never had even a short custodial sentence, he's been able to carry out the most cruel charade from the very beginning, that is still continuing today within my small community, playing a 'double-game', at my expense.

* That is, that it is ME, who is the abusive partner, [REDACTED]

... If just ONE of the serious incidents of physical violence I'd suffered, had even been investigated, I believe I would have been spared the terrible humiliation and injustice that I'm still being exposed to!

As a victim of domestic violence, I'm made to feel like a 5th class citizen, * since a person in the general community committing JUST ONE of his offences [REDACTED] (without causing physical injury), would get years in jail, because of the psychological trauma it causes!

Yours sincerely, [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
1st June, 2015
[REDACTED]

To Whom It May Concern,

Following on my phone call this morning with [REDACTED], I very much hope that these further points I'm sending, will be included as an addendum to my previous submission, (dated the 29/5/2015).

.. I've studied as a [REDACTED] and as a [REDACTED] (where I actually topped the [REDACTED]), but, while all this gave me a lot of knowledge in certain areas, it's also, helped me to realize how ignorant I, and many in the community, are, when it comes to understanding, and dealing with, Family Violence!

As I've explained, 'Murphy's Law' has been operating in my life these last months, when I'd finally felt emotionally able to write my submission! (My ex-partner's appeal on his small fine for his [REDACTED] breach, and then cancellation at the last minute, just as I'd completed another Victim's Impact Statement that I'd agonized over! And then, a very unpleasant situation with the Ministry of Housing, where it was left to me to take photos, and send in information, etc. as they "didn't have the time" to come out to investigate themselves, an issue which they were using to make me feel less secure in my tenancy) So, apart from all this extra stress [REDACTED], I ended up running out of ink for my photocopier last Friday (the 29th.!) After going down the street by bus, it left me a very short time to write my submission, and get to the Post Office by close of business... I so much want what I've suffered, to be of constructive help for the future.!

Yours Sincer [REDACTED]

Enc: 7pp

⑭ ACCESSIBLE RECORDS ABOUT ANY PREVIOUS INTERVENTION ORDERS - AS WELL AS THE REASONS FOR THEM!

Women should then be encouraged to research this about a potential partner at the very beginning of a relationship, (no matter how unlikely it might seem)!!

This was, of course, unfortunately, what I found myself up against, due to the joking, laid-back, 'country bumpkin' persona of [REDACTED], (which still makes his behaviour behind closed doors, unbelievable, to those who haven't experienced it!). While he initially lied to the [REDACTED] group leaders, that he'd never had an Intervention Order previously, he admitted that his 2nd. wife, [REDACTED], had taken one out, before our first trip to court (when he thought it would show up on his records.)

However, I was told it was "confidential information", when I tried to find out more details about it, from the police!.. Had I found out THEN, [REDACTED], how he'd broken down the door [REDACTED] when his wife had locked him out to protect herself, I believe it would have allowed me to 'nip the relationship in the bud', before I'd become more emotionally invested, and able to be manipulated.

⑮ ALSO, WOMEN, (even those without children), should have easy access, and be encouraged to find out, whether her prospective partner has ever been charged for paedophilia!

... Again, in my case, it was only years later, that a friend found my ex-partner's name on the Internet, having been sentenced for [REDACTED] sexual assaults on a [REDACTED] year old [REDACTED]. (He'd been a [REDACTED]) [REDACTED]

Not only would this information have helped to reveal the true character of this 'Jekyll and Hyde', but it would have saved me from even more humiliation and pain when I eventually found out!

... Only then, did I realize the truth behind his 'inability' to have 'normal' sex, and the perverted acts he invariably preferred. Yet, he even used THIS to try and wreck my reputation, as he would tell his colleagues [REDACTED] how he didn't love me, but was with me for sex, [REDACTED]

(This is what I was eventually told, when I wondered why I sometimes saw the staff rolling their eyes when I walked in!) So all this, was of course, demeaning and deeply humiliating! However, in reality, because I felt abused by it, and knew he'd discussed our sex life with others, for the last years of our relationship, there was no 'physical' side, till he was to build trust. (So, he then told another friend, that the only problems we were having, was because I'd become frigid!) This person, [REDACTED], himself told me how [REDACTED] doesn't have a bad bone in his body. "There wouldn't be any problems if you started having sex again!"

(16) FRIENDS OR RELATIVES SHOULD BE ABLE TO REPORT INCIDENTS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE that they witness, or believe they have proof of, and present this to the police.

The victim shouldn't have to agree to a charge being brought against the partner/perpetrator for the police to act on the report (Despite having an Intervention Order, - It took me years, of (potentially fatal) assaults, before I was prepared to report my partner, as I'd felt I would be responsible for making him 'a criminal', and I thought he was trying to change, having spent hours travelling to a [REDACTED] group, etc!). Perhaps the police will respect others more than the victim, seeing I they took over [REDACTED] years to bring any charges, even with plenty of proof (including witnessing incidents themselves) and then, only acted when a breach was reported by a counsellor after my ex was seen stalking me.

17) CLEAR GUIDELINES TO HELP POLICE BRING CHARGES OF "USING AN AGENT" TO CAUSE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE! ... (the insidious health effects of which, CAN actually end up killing you, by default!)

... As it is, police don't want to touch this, and quite cynically say how "you can't stop people gossiping about you", and that 'the agent' has to be prepared to give evidence.

Yet, my ex-partner is able to continually use this to control me, without any physical contact, such as when I missed out on a [redacted] job, because of the 'stories' one of his friends was spreading, including truly defamatory rumors and how (1) "wouldn't leave poor [redacted] alone to live his life" (just after he'd been charged with stalking, and assaulting me [redacted] / Breaching of an Intervention Order)!

18) Should a defendant's solicitor present the argument in court, that "the defendant and his partner are now WORKING ON THEIR RELATIONSHIP" .. (to try and lessen the sentence for his stalking and assault / Breach of a (partial) Intervention Order, the magistrate should check to see if a full Intervention Order, was now in place, and been breached. (This is highly likely, after bringing such a charge!)

This was the case for my ex-partner's 1st charge for a breach (in [redacted]).

The following year, when I realized how he had no intention of stopping his abuse, and had proof and witnesses for many of those breaches, (including, involving a 'lay' counsellor who worked at [redacted], to convince me that "being happy for the rest of (my) life, was more important than ignoring the legalities" since he believed that THIS time, [redacted] was genuinely remorseful," the police refused to have him charged!

- ①9 While there obviously needs to be widespread education in schools on developing respectful relationships, and how to recognize the 'red flags' or warning signs very early on. I believe strongly, on the need to also focus on education for RESPECTFUL CHILD REARING!

Within this context, the issue of making the smacking of children, illegal, should be revisited.

As our politicians often say, (on other issues), "what message are we sending," to young children, as they grow up, often in fear, and being physically punished, by a much larger, powerful person, who also usually says they love them?

Also, the very fact that they repeatedly learn, that 'a bit of biff' is what you use, when you really want to get someone to do something you want - to control them!

- ... An amazingly hypocritical instance of this, I witnessed at my shopping centre, where a mother was shouting at one of her children, "Don't you smack your brother!"; and promptly gave him a hard slap on the face!

But, it's not just about physical violence, there needs to be an awareness of the needs of children in their various stages, as well as the appropriate expectations we should have of them at their different stages of development, eg. not expecting a 3 year old child to keep still for 2 hours, while you have a coffee with friends... I've realized how my parents never considered my needs in any of the decisions they made, so I actually didn't even consider my needs for most of my relationships, so that I ended up losing my identity, which made me more vulnerable to abuse.

M:F	[REDACTED]	4.
Name:	[REDACTED]	
Age:	[REDACTED] yrs old	
Sentence:	Sentenced in [REDACTED]	
Offence:	Other: Paedophile [REDACTED]	
M:F	[REDACTED]	
Name:	[REDACTED]	
Age:	[REDACTED] yrs old	
Sentence:	Sentenced to [REDACTED]	
Offence:	Other: [REDACTED]	
M:F	[REDACTED]	
Name:	[REDACTED]	
Age:	[REDACTED] yrs old	
Sentence:	Sentenced [REDACTED]	
Offence:	Other: [REDACTED]	
M:F	[REDACTED]	

MAKO sex offender list

* I've been informed that it's very difficult to actually prove a child sex charge, so that it's very likely that my ex-partner had carried out many other paedophile acts, before he was charged for these assaults.

[REDACTED] hinted at this happening to her, when she asked if I could arrange for her to talk with the psychologist [REDACTED] was seeing at the time, as she wanted to discuss something "she'd never talked about outside the family". However, she didn't want to give me, any details, as she "didn't want to give me more ammunition, against her father!"

Her mother fled their home, [REDACTED], with [REDACTED], when she was [REDACTED] years old. - and perhaps, this was one of the reasons she gave for the Intervention Order she was granted. ([REDACTED]).