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Sandy Rea,
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Royal Commission into Family Violence

To whom it may concern:

I have been a registered psychologist for r30 years. I have been in private practice for 15 years, having also been employed at HM Barwon Prison and HM Melbourne Assessment Prison.

I have treated many women and written reports for VOCAT.

I have been called as an Expert Witness for the Magistrates Court and County Court (Criminal jurisdiction).

RECOMMENDATION:

Across Australia each day, there are hundreds of Intervention Orders issued by various courts against men with allegations of family violence.

If the court deems their behaviour so 'risky' and potentially dangerous to the family members, then it seems so logical in my clinical experience that this is the 'red flag' for the escalation of violence.

If a man's behaviour is unacceptable to the Court (by virtue of the IO), then IMMEDIATELY the Court should mandate that man to engage in, for instance 6 sessions of psychological intervention e.g. with topics including anger management, consequential thinking, the impact of violence on their children etc.

The community is demanding how the Government can intervene. I am well aware of the complexities of family violence, but this is one suggestion which I believe is achievable, proactive and positive, worthy of investment and training.

Regards

Sandy Rea, Psychologist