

## Submission for Royal Commission Into Domestic Violence

---

Hello, my name is [REDACTED] and I have been and still am, a victim of domestic violence.

I would like to share with you the things that helped and hindered me in my process of leaving the situation.

My partner was emotionally, financially and physically abusive with me. We have [REDACTED] children together. We separated [REDACTED]. I took out an intervention order against him by the police. He attended my address in the following [REDACTED] and assaulted me physically in front of the children, knocking me out and permanently damaging one of my fingers which will not straighten anymore. He was charged, and bailed out within hours. This is a slap in the face to me. The police did their job supporting me, and then the legal system slapped him on the wrist and said 'don't do it again'. He did do it again. After the [REDACTED] breach he was remanded for [REDACTED] days, and then let out again on a suspended sentence. It took a further [REDACTED] breaches plus breaches against his new girlfriends IVO to put him in prison for [REDACTED]. [REDACTED].....

He has done mens behaviour programs and has assaulted me before he had even finished it. Yet in his mind he doesn't belong in a mens behaviour group.

Tougher sentencing please. And safety for victims.

Next hurdle. I was never offered help to move. I was advised against going into a womens refuge by Quantum (support for women experiencing domestic violence). So my violent ex partner is out, and knows where I live. Great. Even though the [REDACTED] children were also on the IVO I could not get any direction or advice from anyone including Quantum, as to what I should or shouldn't do in regards to the kids seeing their father. I ended up having to do mediation and making a parenting plan. Which lead to more violence. What a joke! It was not until I was able to get a lawyer (as my ex had applied for access through the courts) that I was finally given direct advice to this issue. This was the greatest help having a lawyer.

Quantum, I felt, only wanted to tick off the sheet that I had done all the things they needed me to do in their 6 months of intensive help. I hardly got any support with attending court from them either. And no emotional support. Once the 6 months was up. They disappeared.

I had a great deal of help from my psychologist and my GP, and cannot speak highly enough of how the police handled my situation in a professional and caring manner. I always felt supported even though I went back to my abuser a number of times.

My abuser is released on [REDACTED]. So I live in limbo now as to what will happen. Will this be my last few days alive, or will he leave me alone? No one can make me feel safe at this point because my ex just laughs at the justice systems sentencing.

Why should I have to face him over custody issues time and time again. The man who bashed me many times. Who called me a slut to my children. Who raped me. I never want to see his face again. My children certainly don't want to see him either. He is not the victim. He should not have rights.

So in summary this is what I hope will change:

1. Tougher sentencing
2. More power to the police
3. Victims access to shelters or refuge or help relocating, or housing.
4. Reforms to womens help groups.
5. Immediate access to counselling for victims.
6. More intense mens behaviour programs.

I hope this helps in some way. I am always contactable and willing to give my voice and opinion if needed.

Thankyou for this Commission.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]