From: To:

Enquiries

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1. If a male/female is identified by a domestic violence service as being a perpetrator based on verbal or written stories and comments from the victim, then that male should be labelled on a Perpetrator register with their offence next to it, i.e. emotional violence, or see attached offences list, etc. This list should be available to all Domestic Violence Services, Centrelink, Lawyers, Court system.

- 2. Once a perpetrator is identified on this list, they should be kept away from the female victim and their children for one year including emotional violence. Then child access arrangements can be started. This gives the victim time to recover and get stronger, to cope with the onslaught of abuses that will start once the abuser has contact with the children and partner.
- 3. Totally outlaw the theory that some counsellors and lawyers have, that the abuser often won't hurt the children even though they have hurt the partner, through emotional, physical, financial, mental and psychological means.
- 4. If the perpetrator refuses to help financially, they revoke their parental rights.
- 5. All fathers have to pay at least half of school fees, books and excursions by law regardless of their income. They have to pay it off over time, if they are poor.
- 6. Child support must be based on basic cost of raising the number of children involved, not on the parents income.
- 7. Business owners should be forced to pay Child Support based on the Company profit and turnover, not on their income. This is because some business owners who are parents, are claiming most of their expenses through the business, so that they can claim a low taxable income.
- 8. More support, including integration into work, society and healthy relationships should be offered to the victim, through one on one support and support groups, such as building self esteem, standing up for yourself,, etc.
- 9. An ongoing media representative should be voicing ongoing violence and strategies for early warning signs for vulnerable people, such as young people, women. Educating the society through constant media coverage and more education through schools.
- 10. Children should be given the choice to not go to an emotionally, physically violent father, without having to go through Court, or making the system easier based on

the knowledge that they are on the Perpetrator register. The welfare system would not be at breaking point, if children were not forced to go to the father. There should be a system in place to enable this. Also, counsellors and lawyers shouldn't be making excuses for the emotionally abusive, dysfunctional and mean spirited father, saying they just parent differently!! Mean words and actions, without physical abuse have long term affects on an adult and child's self esteem and ability to function. Emotional violence needs to be recognised with the same aggust as physical violence. The system, including doctors, lawyers and welfare system, needs to recognise and get educated that mean words can cause long term emotional, wellbeing and self esteem issues, which make it difficult to function and is equivalent to being bashed in the head physically. Professionals need to understand that people need to heal and get stronger. Especially before having to deal with Court appearances, and child access issues. Mothers should not be forced to send their children to fathers who continually physically or emotionally abuse their children in their care. If the father is swearing, putting the mother down and the children, then the father should loose the right to see the children indefinitely or for a period of time until he learns. If he doesn't learn and wants to use the child access and a chance to abuse, then the father should loose his right to see his children. This will enable the victims to heal and recover and lead positive lives. It should also be taught that children absorb the behaviour of the abuser, and will enact that on the mother, making life harder for the mother, because she is being abused by her children and her former abusive partner. The children should be given counselling to help them undo this manipulative behaviour, before they become like this permanently and adult victims should also be given specific counselling, to help learn to stand up for themselves and get validation that this behaviour is unacceptable. Long term goals to help avoid staying in the same pattern should also be addressed. Some of this is probably done already in the welfare system, but it needs to be a specialised area that needs to be talked about specifically.

- 11. Court waiting rooms should be sensitive to violent partners waiting in the same space as the victim. This should also be taken into account in the court room, where intimidation, fear and manipulation are used to affect Court outcomes. These tactics should be overruled by a judge, so that perpetrators are charged with an offense.
- 12. Each offence should be charged.
- 13. Children should not have to wait until a violent father hurts them physically or emotionally before they don't have to go to the father anymore. An early warning system and documented concerns, needs to be put in place, where the mother can override the rights of the father's access based on documented incidents. The mother should not have to go through Court for this.
- 14. Intervention orders should be easier to obtain and people shouldn't have to go through countless incidents of abuse before their concerns are recognised or actioned. If they are on the Perpetrator list, it should almost automatic, depending on the circumstances and extremes of abuse.

- 15. We shouldn't have to go through Court, or make the Court system easier to recognise emotional, physical abuse and its affects on the children and victim. If a person says they are being abused. They shouldn't have to spend thousands of dollars in court to prove it. A perpetrator register should be enough.
- 16. Don't allow perpetrators to use the Court system to bankrupt the victim or to use as an avenue of intimidation. Judges should put an end to pointless hearings, this should be an option to any divorce, property or child maintenance hearing. An advocate for the victim should be available in the Court room, to help determine acts of intimidation and then reported to the Judge, so the perpetrator isn't able to underhandedly affect the victims statements. The perpetrator should be punished, even by having their case thrown out or to get less money, or some punishment, if this behaviour is found out.
- 17. People that are on the Perpetrator register, must be treated differently in the Court, welfare system as it should be obvious to all based on the statements of the victim, that this person must not be allowed to misuse the Court and welfare and child support system for their own manipulation measures. It should be based on helping the victims.
- 18. Counselling should not have to be a joint decision of both parents. The perpetrator can use this as a means to stop the child getting help or preventing the victim getting relief.
- 19. Have a brokenness and abuse checklist for all doctors and welfare agencies, to gauge the level of affect the abuse has had on the person to determine a general level of therapy needed to advance healing for the person. Brokenness being how they feel now, and Abuse being what happened.

Thanks for the opportunity to submit my thoughts.

Please feel free to contact me on to discuss or further develop these proposals into a workable solution for all victims.

Yours faithfully