

ACTION FOR LIFE

I am the vine, you are the branches. John 15:5

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Royal Commission into Family Violence
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SUBMISSION

Royal Commission into Family Violence

Terms of Reference: "Facilitating early intervention before violence occurs"

We are all aware that family violence is rampant in our society – the most vulnerable being women and children.

To address family violence, we suggest the Commission please consider and deliberate on the following points:

- That **greater powers be given to Police** to intervene before situations become too explosive and dangerous, especially for mothers and their children.
- It should be made easier for **children to be removed from volatile situations** where obvious danger presents.
- **Women should be able to access crisis support needed for them and their children to leave without delay**, with ongoing protection and support, when an emergency presents. It is imperative that regional victims receive the same level of priority assistance as those residing in cities.
- **Sex, violence and the availability of pornography via TV, Cinema, internet and all social media and the impact of same in our community needs to be investigated** and publicly exposed as an often precursor and contributor in triggering domestic abuse and violence.

We recommend the Commission investigate the dangerous and sometimes fatal impact addictions/entertainment have on each affected family member, their family and wider community, resulting in the Commission providing forthcoming sound recommendations to reduce these destructive influences which devalue the dignity of each person and the essence of family and a healthy community.

- **Other addictions – i.e. drugs including liquor, gambling etc.**

These mentioned addictions tragically contribute daily to family violence, in some cases death. We recommend long term resources be made available to their cause and effect, how best to offer assistance to all adversely affected including family members. The revisiting and tightening of liquor and licensing laws and relevant penalties could prove beneficial.

*Submission on Royal Commission into Family Violence
"Facilitating early intervention before violence occurs" – cont'd*

- **Abortion**

It is very difficult to understand how our State can address family violence with sincerity of intent yet ignore the State sanctioning of the violent killing of unborn babies up to birth by abortion, as well as infants who survive and are left to die after abortions. This infanticide is being performed in epidemic proportions in Victoria - shrouded in silence.

In 2013, there were 14,450 abortions funded by Medicare in Victoria. There were many others outside that. This means that some forty babies had their lives terminated violently, and funded by Medicare, for every day of the year. In the same year, 73,959 babies were born. This means that for every five babies born and permitted to live, one was denied that chance.¹

In 2011 forty babies were born alive and left to die due to "unsuccessful" abortions. This was an increase from thirty-two in 2008² when the law on abortion was changed to permit the termination of a baby's life until the moment of birth. This legislation did not incorporate independent counselling for mothers. It sanctioned the continuation of partial birth abortions as well as no pain relief for the unborn baby being aborted. It is tragic to note that animal foetus being experimented upon under the National Health and Medical Research Council are administered pain relief³ whereas a human foetus is denied this basic fundamental right.

Methods used to violently destroy so many unborn babies are varied - all of a horrific nature. Some surgical methods are: by dilation and curettage (D & C), or suction, or dilation and evacuation (D & E), or saline, or dilation and extraction (D & X – aka partial birth), or prostaglandin, or inter cardiac injection – with the sole of purpose to "spot and destroy" a child in the mother's womb. Chemical abortion are equally destructive.

When investigating these methods nobody can deny that this violence is both horrific and objectionable.

Anecdotal information suggests that many women opt for an abortion to please someone else, spouse, partner or other family member, out of fear of repercussions if they continue with the pregnancy. The long term mental, physical and social impact of abortion on any woman who has had an abortion is well documented and in turn affects others near and around her. This is accentuated by the fact that she is expected to get on with life and forget she was ever pregnant. Family violence is not only physical but also psychological and emotional. Surely this warrants the Commission's attention.

Additionally, should the doctor not wish to be involved in an abortion, he/she is required by law to refer the patient to another doctor he knows will perform the termination. Medical staff are not permitted to refuse to be involved under threat of dismissal. Thus their conscience is violated by State laws.

Given that the current law permits so many babies to be violently destroyed, it would seem that the first action would be to quickly recommend that the law be changed to stop this domestic violence and for the Commission to arrange for practical, life-affirming support options to be investigated and made easily available to mothers and fathers facing an unplanned pregnancy.

No family violence that the Royal Commission will examine could be worse than the procedures utilised in the extermination of our youngest and most vulnerable citizens. It is our hope and request that

1 Consultative Council on Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity 2008-2011

2 Australian Bureau of Statistics

3 Australian Code for the Care and Use of animals for scientific purposes - 8th Edition 2013

Commissioners give the most serious consideration to this modern infanticide being performed in our community.

Yours sincerely

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