

SUBMISSION TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION into Family Violence

May 2015

I attended the consultation held in [REDACTED] on Tuesday [REDACTED] and resolved to submit my story to the Commission. I have chosen the option that I am happy for this submission to be made public as I believe that I have finally been given the right to voice my family's violence concerns and that this will be heard.

I was born in [REDACTED] and have resided here most of my life, I am [REDACTED] years of age [REDACTED]. The perpetrator of the violence is their father [REDACTED] with whom I entered a relationship in [REDACTED]. Life was reasonably okay for us until [REDACTED] when [REDACTED] suffered a work accident. We were married in [REDACTED] in order that I could become his official next of kin and be party to hearing from medical professionals about [REDACTED]'s health and pain control issues as they interacted with and impacted upon our family life. Following this accident [REDACTED] became an abuser of medication prescribed for pain control. Over a period of [REDACTED] years [REDACTED] would doctor shop for prescriptions and in one instance was caught [REDACTED]. He would also self-harm and attend [REDACTED] Hospital's Emergency Department or the mental health facility to obtain the drugs.

During the [REDACTED] years [REDACTED] accessed [REDACTED] detox and rehabilitation treatments. I took our [REDACTED] to stay nearby to enable visits to him and for him to visit us when permitted. One in-home detox occurred within the family home at [REDACTED] conducted by the drug and alcohol work based at [REDACTED] Health. The worker arranged a controlled medication daily program which I supported [REDACTED] with and the many tests required by the in-home program.

From [REDACTED] the violence was never physically obvious though I suffered many acts of sexual, mental and emotional abuse and these were impacting upon our [REDACTED]. In [REDACTED] when I discovered his stash of drugs hidden in the shed, I told him to leave the rented family home. I told [REDACTED] that with the drug abuse he was heading towards suicide and that he needed to deal with the problem elsewhere. I helped him organise a place to stay, however for the next [REDACTED] months [REDACTED] would return to the home to "use the washing-machine" or some other pretext. My protests were ignored and he continued the sexual and emotional verbal abuse.

In [REDACTED], I took [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] to enable [REDACTED] to participate in [REDACTED] training. While there, [REDACTED] kept texting to ask if he could [REDACTED]. When I returned home I found extensive damage had been done to the rental house which I can only assume was perpetrated by [REDACTED]. I felt so violated that I left home with [REDACTED] to stay with friends for a period of [REDACTED] weeks until the rental lease was up. I sought the first Intervention Order then and that was to last for [REDACTED] months only with [REDACTED] having no access to [REDACTED]. Knowing from our networks that [REDACTED]'s behaviour had worsened and having received numerous abusive text messages from [REDACTED], I sought a second Order because the family was insecure and this Full Order was granted [REDACTED] for a [REDACTED] year period. There followed more breaches in the form of text messages (I have copies of some over a period of [REDACTED] years) and I would not answer the many mobile phone calls. In all, I have reported [REDACTED] breaches of the Intervention Order with no ramifications for the perpetrator [REDACTED]. At one time I had entered a relationship with another man and [REDACTED] made his life hell with accusations, threats and lies all in text messages. As well as these, we have had several Family Court sessions with the Initiating Family Law Application heard on [REDACTED] #

1.

All these appearances have required me to take days off from my part-time work to supplement the education sporting and general care needs of [REDACTED]. On some occasions, [REDACTED] who is unemployed does not appear.

Following an argument with me about house rules, [REDACTED] left home and chose to reside with [REDACTED] father in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who is always unemployed and [REDACTED] who dropped out of school moved from place to place, and at one period lived in [REDACTED], another period in the [REDACTED] Hostel, temporary emergency motel type rental-virtually homeless.

On the [REDACTED] following yet another breach of the Intervention Order, I prepared a Victim Impact Statement (Attachment) which was supplied with a Statutory Declaration to the [REDACTED] Police – I do not know what, or if this was seen by the authorities. Once again, there was no satisfactory outcome for our family.

In [REDACTED], [REDACTED] now aged [REDACTED] was taken by ambulance critically ill from [REDACTED]'s residence to [REDACTED] Hospital. [REDACTED] was taken from ICU to a [REDACTED] Hospital on [REDACTED] surgery. I learnt about this from networks and not from [REDACTED] or the hospital and understood that [REDACTED] illness could have proved terminal. Following this serious illness, [REDACTED] requires [REDACTED] medication for the rest of [REDACTED] life. Following hospital discharge, [REDACTED] came back to my home to rehabilitate and still resides with myself and [REDACTED].

On [REDACTED] I was contacted to attend a Roundtable Dispute Management (RDM) meeting here in [REDACTED] the outcome of this being that we were not considered as acceptable for the program. I continue to receive text messages from [REDACTED], the latest being on [REDACTED], many of these are abusive.

In [REDACTED], [REDACTED] initiated another Family Law Court session to request custody of our youngest [REDACTED]. We both attended the court here in [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] and through his solicitor [REDACTED] used his usual tactics of lying about [REDACTED]'s life with me. My solicitor dismissed his ramblings and the result was a stay of the case which is now to be heard at a [REDACTED] hearing in [REDACTED]. It is my opinion that [REDACTED] would need to have clean drug tests for a long period of time before having any type of access to our [REDACTED]. The incident when [REDACTED] was residing with him last year is still frightening to me.

In conclusion, I would like to say that I just wish that this continual harassment would stop and allow me and [REDACTED] to get on with normal living. [REDACTED] currently plays football for [REDACTED] which requires me to take [REDACTED] drive each way twice a week for practice. [REDACTED] is employed, [REDACTED] is not as yet, and [REDACTED] is continuing on at school though [REDACTED] has issues with depression. [REDACTED] as the oldest is helping [REDACTED] to resource help for this and I think [REDACTED] is a responsible young [REDACTED] years now. We can have adult conversations about our family's future together.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute my voice to the many others during this Royal Commission.

Yours sincerely, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]