

N N A A M I

*The National Network of Adult and
Adolescent Children who have a
Mentally ill parent/s. Inc.*



Royal Commission
Family Violence

29 May 2015

Dear Justice Marcia Neave and Commission Members,

In reference to your Royal Commission of Inquiry into Family Violence please find enclosed a Submission Cover Sheet from the above organization.

NNAAMI provides specialist tailored support and counseling to hidden vulnerable children, young people and adults who manage the constant grief trauma and overwhelming burdens of their parent's mental illness 24/7.

People around the world gain support from our NNAAMI website www.nnaami.org.

Please view our website along with all the stories on our website as you may find this relevant to your inquiry.

Despite many national mental health strategies and plans it is remarkable that the above organizations vital work is still not assisted or funded by government.

I am deeply concerned in reading today in the Herald Sun article entitled 'Violence is about control' Friday 29 May 2015 which states *"The community needs to understand that the scourge of family violence cannot be blamed on issues like alcoholism and mental health , says Rosie Batty.....and "It's not caused by drug and alcohol abuse , or mental illness"*

Conversely it is our experience that the majority of referrals to NNAAMI where a young person or adult had endured trauma, abuse or violence while managing the burdens of a parent's mental illness. The parent experienced a major mental illness. Had refused treatment or was not compliant with treatment or receiving adequate treatment. The larger majority of those who reported to us they had experienced past abuse or violence from a parent, had reported to NNAAMI it was their mother with major mental illness who was the perpetrator.

It's vital to reach hidden children potentially at risk of family violence before it's too late. For these children there is a huge conflict of interest if their support were to be managed by mental health services and they can often perceive child protection or family welfare services a threat so for them they stay silent. The known statistics reported to date of family violence in Australia are shocking any form of violence against women is unacceptable. While government must find better ways to assist existing services court systems and police in an effort to reduce family violence and provide better mental health, drug and alcohol services and child protection services, and family violence services and targeted community education. It would be foolish in this day and age for governments to ignore the value and potential of nnaami support and prevention initiatives when looking at and addressing family violence for those most at risk the children.

Please advise me if I can be of any assistance in your enquiries and deliberations.

I can be contacted on [REDACTED]

Yours Sincerely

Mr Paul Mckillop
NNAAMI
WAYMI

" We are the children breaking the silence "

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