

Submission to Royal Commission into Family Violence

I was with [REDACTED], my now x -husband for ~[REDACTED] years. He was often verbally abusive, angry and short tempered but only once physically abusive. I just accepted that this was part of being with someone & thought that we was under alot of pressure at work & always worked extremely long hours. Little did I know that alot more was going on than I could have ever imagined.

[REDACTED]'s world collapsed, after about [REDACTED] years of lies and secrets, when he lost a job at the same time that he had reached the maximum limit on all his credit cards. In desperation he then revealed to me in a [REDACTED] page hand written letter he confessed that he had accumulated \$[REDACTED] of credit card debt on [REDACTED] credit cards. He hide this from me by having these send to post office boxes and work addresses. He did have 1 credit card that I did know about which in his letter to me he confessed that he had been "stealing money from the family, by withdrawing cash advances' and then fraudulently modifying the statements for several months to hide cash advances he was taking for the card - using the money for gambling and keeping all his other cards afloat. (If a person fraudulently modified documents at work - there is a good chance that he would be in jail - however if you lie to your wife and family - destroying their lives - isolating me socially and emotionally - this in the eyes of the law - is not a criminal offence).

I was so shocked by all this news, it was similar to the how a person feels when they have been physically beaten or when other extremely bad news is found out such as when a person is given a diagnosis of a terminal illness.

I believe I have been suffering from PTSD from this betrayal and secrets he was hiding from me for at least [REDACTED] years. I used to be able to function at a high level in a [REDACTED] administration level but due to the stress and emotional trauma of this betrayal it greatly affected my short term memory. It has also affected our children, with anxiety and difficulty sleeping for my son & my daughter has become short sighted which the optomerist believes is due to stress.

At the age of now [REDACTED], in the past I have gained qualifications as a [REDACTED], [REDACTED], 2/3 of a [REDACTED] degree and a [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] but now I just feel like a broken person. Once [REDACTED] realised that I wasn't going to bail him out an said I wanted to get divorced within months we had a [REDACTED] girlfriend, who's english isn't great. He managed to pull the wool over my eyes so i'm guessing it would be easy to fool someone with a different cultural background.

I was a good wife to him and i'm a good person, I've worked hard all my life - at the age of [REDACTED] I should now be working to save for retirement and holidays but with children at the age of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], i'm working just to make 'ends meet'. Every night I wake up and lie awake thinking about how much he lied to me and betrayed me of years and years - it feels so unfair & I can't believe how duplicitous he was. When he was withdrawing cash advances from the 1 credit card I knew he had - at the same time he bought tickets for us to see, '[REDACTED]', sending me a nice message and suggesting a romantic lunch before the show. some one recently said to me that you can only betray someone when they trust you and this is so true.

The other comment I would like to make here is that I have been following the Royal Commission into child sexual abuse, as the hearing is going on in [REDACTED] at the moment.

I believe that the wide spread abuse that occurs in institutions, particularly to men leads them to be abusive to others and I'm now wondering if [REDACTED] (x-husband) was sexually abused by the [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]. He was always very negative about the brothers at school and told me about being subjected to physical punishment and emotional abuse (brothers and principal criticising his family etc).

The victims of sexual abuse from the clergy - will never get over from the abuse and betrayal as spiritual leader is suppose to be there to provide leadership and guidance to individuals and families. Similarly I don't feel like I will ever trust another man again as I have been betrayed (emotionally abused) for an extremely long period of time ~ [REDACTED] years by the person who is suppose to love me the most.

From [REDACTED]

email [REDACTED]