

To- The Royal Commission into Family Violence

From- [REDACTED]

Re- Submission

Date- 21/5/15

I am writing as a retired [REDACTED] to express my concern regarding the link between humans being cruel to animals and humans being violent to humans. I believe this situation is contributing to the alarming increase in family violence, usually perpetrated by males against women and children. This proof is detailed in a Victorian government website which states 'Research has established a strong connection between abuse towards animals, and abuse towards people' (DEPI, 2014)

Despite this fact, the Victorian government promotes and funds hunting and shooting of ducks, quail and deer as a suitable recreational activity for all from the age of 12 years. Most unfortunately, the shooting of those birds especially is often cruel because of poor targeting and carelessness, resulting in injured birds taking days to die slowly and in agony. This is absolute cruelty and the whole so-called sport is unnecessary and inappropriate in our society which should be progressing towards non-violence.

Duck shooting is already illegal in half of Australia, namely, Queensland, NSW, Tasmania and the ACT. So there is plenty of precedence for Victoria to follow their enlightened lead. However, this State's additional problem comes from the fact that there are two *Shooters and Fishers Party* MPs who now hold some balance of power in our parliament. So reform will not be easy.

Nonetheless, I conclude by urging a ban as soon as possible on the recreational shooting of animals in Victoria.