



29<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a mother and now Grandmother observing and assisting my adult [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] after experiencing Family Violence.

I would like to address the Royal Commission on the issues of the flow on effect for the wider family unit.

Giving our daughter, [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], a safe haven has impacted on my husband and my 'golden years' where we were just adjusting to life of the 'empty nesters'; to have time with each other after our child rearing and raising, and having time and energy to enjoy grandchildren at our leisure.

We attempted to stand back and allow the couple to work on their relatively 'new' relationship with the added pressure of an unplanned pregnancy and the arrival of their [REDACTED] early [REDACTED].

This relationship was always a bit strange. "[REDACTED]" seemed to move in with [REDACTED] very rapidly, which already rang alarm bells for me. He is an [REDACTED] national, originally coming to Australia on a [REDACTED] visa. This was arranged very quickly from [REDACTED] and he arrived with little more than the clothes on his back and a computer lap top. He encouraged [REDACTED] to accompany him back to [REDACTED] for a [REDACTED] holiday, which occurred against our better judgement during [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] became pregnant. They returned together to Australia. The relationship with the wider family became very strained.

Due to [REDACTED] apparently wishing to stay on in Australia a Partner Visa was applied for prior to his [REDACTED] visa' expiring. This was due to expire during [REDACTED]. I recall there being a lot of financial and time pressure to submit and pay for the visa application.

The first incidence of family violence that we became aware of was during [REDACTED]. An Intervention Order was applied for on [REDACTED]'s behalf by the Police who attended the incident. It was granted, though 'watered' down, due to [REDACTED]'s desperate wish that things would get better and prepare for the arrival of their baby.

Unfortunately things did not improve and it is only now that I am learning more and more about how difficult things really were. She hid and created a veil in embarrassment and shame of what was happening. We felt powerless to interfere.

Generally the services available to [REDACTED] have independently been very supportive, in their individual areas, but we have soon realized they are only able to operate to their level in their area of expertise. The Police can only do their job to a certain point and we feel they are limited in their powers.

[REDACTED], as the victim, has been the person to make all the changes – phone number, place of residence, blocking social media contact, leaving the area she had employment. Our concerns are that the Perpetrator is still 'at large' able to conduct himself in 'normal' life – to the point that he has already, within [REDACTED] short weeks of [REDACTED] leaving, enticed another girl/woman to live with him in the apartment they shared! This was discovered when there was a property retrieval on Wednesday [REDACTED]. The implications of this are gut wrenching!

It has become very apparent that our daughter [REDACTED] was lied to by a very smooth operator. We raised our family to trust and respect, so she seemed to have no shield or defenses against someone she thought she could trust. [REDACTED] has now been left to raise her young baby by herself, compounded by some of her own health issues. Lurking in the background [REDACTED] is fearful that [REDACTED] will attempt to make a claim for the child, which according to my understanding of our laws, he is entitled to do.

This is all complicated by the fact that [REDACTED] was assessed by a Mental Health Crisis team on one of the occasions the Police were called. The outcome of this seemed that he has a "narcissistic personality – axis 2 – DSMIV-TR with undertones of depression, but not at considered at risk of 'self harm'". He used this to bleat that [REDACTED] should stay to help and it was all her fault. Yes, I became privy to the endless phone calls and witnessed the harassment, as by this time she had left and was with us for support and care.

It seems that [REDACTED] has been able to manipulate the system to his advantage, due to the time it takes to action being interviewed by police and being physically served with summons and court documents. He has learnt to become very elusive, stringing out the time it has taken to deal with the process.

[REDACTED]

At the time of writing this, we desperately hope for his removal from Australia on 'bad character' grounds. We are contacting the [REDACTED] Consulate, Immigration including an appeal to the Minister to look at this case, attempting to find 'legal' help in the form of listing

on the 'Airport watch list' as we have been advised to do. Many, many hours of trailing from one office to another, repeating our story, seeking help and advice, along with many hours researching the internet for information, and phone calls to various agencies, asking the 'right' questions. No doubt everyone has been kind and understanding, willing to help within their own area of expertise, but I am finding myself overwhelmed with the amount of information I have to scroll through to make some sense of how we are to proceed. There have been many times of 'hurry up and wait'...

If there were some way that [REDACTED] unstable mental health issues could have been used to 'slow' his freedom down, despite him being a 'foreigner', this would have been a useful tool at the most anxious crisis point at the time. No-body could or wanted to take control, as [REDACTED] himself couldn't or wouldn't conform for a longer term outcome. This is clear as he has very quickly entrapped, with his charm and forlorn appeal, another woman, with enhanced tricks for his performance and repertoire. We have all had a hand in creating this situation. Sadly, I am strong enough to suggest that he is a repeat offender.

We have only just learnt that whatever we would like to put into place 'legally', the opposite party will be notified and given the 'rights' to defend. There are a number of flaws with this, as with my information gathering I have discovered that this will then allow him to remain here to challenge the "legals". As 'fair' as this may seem, I feel it has 'locked us down' in the process. I am at the point of watching and waiting with the thought that the Police (though no-one has said as much) hope that Immigration will deport him and then their case for charging him with breaching the Intervention Order can be closed.

Hopefully in the future the reporting and documentation of these instances can be streamlined – surely with computer systems and rapid communications the administration process can be 'cleaned up' – I am struggling to understand why it all takes so long.

Sincerely yours

[REDACTED]