

## RCFV - ANONYMOUS

## Submission to Royal Commission into Domestic Violence

Thank you for providing the opportunity to make a submission. I am sure that you will already have received many horrific stories, and mine is one of them - so I won't dwell on the details, except to say that the story has greatly impacted on my life and wellbeing, and to a lesser extent, that of my daughter. I was at great risk of being the victim of a murder suicide, and my baby daughter being left an orphan – or worse.

Violence culminated in a terrible week in [REDACTED] 1989, when my partner threatened me with a knife, cut off my hair with a carving knife, pulled out my pubic hair, and the hair on my legs. He had previously attempted to suffocate me, and had assaulted me in other ways over a considerable period of time. After his last assault he took my [REDACTED] month old daughter from the house in the middle of the night in his car – they were gone for some hours, but fortunately he returned her when she told him she was cold, and then left again.

On his return to the house a couple of days later, he came at me frothing at the mouth and wide-eyed – possibly psychotic. Amazingly I was able to grab my daughter and run from the house, headed for a doctor's surgery around the corner. He chased me – we live near a railway line - had I had to stop for a train I have no doubt he would have killed me.

The doctor's receptionist locked the doors and called the police, who assisted me to remove items from the house. My partner returned to the house during this time, and the police threatened him with restraint. In their presence he said goodbye to my daughter, and told her he was going up into the sky.

I begged the police to have my partner committed -he had previously attempted suicide, and had tubing in the boot of his car. I can still hear them saying "we can't take away his liberty".

During the following 24 hours he killed himself. I had encouraged him to seek help many times, and he promised he would, but never did. I will always feel guilty that I couldn't help him, and had always hoped that if things came to a crisis, and the police became involved, that the state would become I become involved in his welfare. Clearly this was naive, but it was the best I could do.

The world lost a very talented [REDACTED], my daughter lost a father and me a partner. He was already dead when I was in court seeking an intervention order.

I understand that in these situations the police give priority to the safety of women and children, and that is the correct thing to do. My plea is that more attention also be given to the mental health of the perpetrators. My partner was not a bad person. . He was ill and needed psychiatric care.

For me, the legacy of domestic violence is magnified by his suicide. .the only opportunity to ever get help for him would have been through the intervention of the police.

Thank you for reading my submission

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