

Mrs B. Turner

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Dear Royal Commissioners,

I wish to make a submission to your Inquiry into Family Violence. In QLD we call it Domestic and Family Violence, Domestic being in an intimate relationship and Family being from a family member (either by blood relation or in-laws). I have been a victim of both, I have studied the inner minds of perpetrators and have passed this information onto a Registered Psychologist whom was not only enlightened, has since changed the way she “practices”.

The Federal Government is willing to spend billions of dollars on terrorism, even trying to pass contentious laws for the surveillance of everyone in the country in the “hope” of stopping what “might” amount to an attack on Australian Soil by the “odd few”. The reality is, Family Violence is terrorism on an individual scale which is being carried out on Australian soil against millions of women, but all the Federal Government wants to do is perhaps discuss it at the COAG meeting later this year. Unless we are all prepared to work together and recognise Family Violence for what it really is, we will get not where and the money going into all of these inquiries is a waste of tax payer funds.

Some of the core issues that to date have been misconceived:

I will not bore you with statistics, you already know them, you also know that the “system” is of no real help to victims, in fact, it is the reason why most victims go back into the abusive relationships. All victims have been trained to think they are useless, worthless, no one cares and that the only person who will “protect them” is the perpetrator. When these victims finally pluck up the courage to end the abuse, they begin the long arduous task of leaving, this can take years, all because of a simple sentence that is said to them at the Police Station or in Court or even from the Centrelink Office.

The world is a very frightening place, the victims have had to rely on everything and I mean everything from the perpetrator, to make it in the big wide world can be far too overwhelming for victims, and to continue to be re-victimised every time they have to tell their story to get anywhere in the “system”, they take it that it was easier in the relationship so they go back, most often to more aggressive abuse.

I can only rely on what occurs in “the system” in QLD, so please forgive me if you already have some of these things in place. At present, when a woman tries to leave an abusive relationship, she has to go to one Court to get a Protection Order, another to get custody of the children, a Divorce, etc, etc. None of the Courts talk to each other and the Family Court is of the strict opinion that all children need their fathers, irrespective of the violence they may portray.

Children are strictly pawns in a game of the perpetrator that can cost them their lives, or that of the victim's which may leave the children orphans, if all of the Courts for Family Violence were merged into one then this can be predictive by the Judge and a ruling to prevent access to the victims and children which will turn into a more stable situation", in turn protecting many lives – but remember, Protection Orders alone do not stop perpetrators.

In Family Violence situations the perpetrator does not care about the victim, nor the children, they only care about themselves and making themselves feel better. All perpetrators are not in control of themselves mentally, they are lacking something that came from their upbringing, they take this into their adult lives and think that in order to feel in control they must abuse others. Abuse = power which = control, in turn makes the perpetrator “feel” in control, in reality they are far from it, but as they were taught this abnormal behaviour from an early age, they do not know any different. Their entire lives are spent trying to “feel” in control internally and they think the only way to get that is to abuse those around them, to be all “powerful”.

This education is continued in their adult lives by watching society's leaders and the way they treat each other – for example, hurling abuse at each other from across opposite sides of the Parliament or on the television without any signs of repercussions, so if the Politicians can do it and get away with it, the perpetrators think they can too.

You are definitely aware of the inequality of women in the world, women are seen as second class citizens, not worthy of being equal. What you don't see is how that gets twisted in the minds of male perpetrators, to them, women are the “scum of the earth” and must be treated as slaves, etc. This has been a very long term problem and is not about to change without a massive shockwave to the “system” – for example, equal pay for the same job, more female Politicians, more female Executives. Good luck with that, especially being the Bureau of Statistics just released its latest figures stating that the gender pay gap is wider than it has ever been. If society doesn't consider women as equals then how can the hypocritical society try to instil this message into young boys to prevent them from growing up thinking the same thing that society does now. Dilemma, true, but it is not the only area that needs a complete shake up in its hypocrisy.

One of the biggest problems of Family Violence is “Victim Empathy”. Sympathy is when you feel for a person for what they are going through but have never been through it yourself. Victim Empathy is “identifying” with the victim because of being abused yourself.

When people bully others or Family Violence perpetrators are brought before the Courts or go off to Counselling, one of the first questions they are asked is “how do you think the victim feels?” – stupid question because the perpetrator already knows how it feels, it has been done to them and they know they could bring the same reaction out in the victim, that's why they did it. The very next question is more troubling, “what other ways do you think you can find to resolve your issues with the victim?” The victim is not the problem, they are just an innocent bystander in the way of a mentally ill person who is desperate to feel “in control” because their mental illness makes them feel out of control.

However, usually in Counselling situations the Counsellor pushes the perpetrator to come up with answers to the last question, when they cannot, the Counsellor gives them some pointers. I have to say it, no perpetrator will ever go off to Counselling to heal themselves of their abusive nature, it hurt them enough to have been abused in the first place, they never want to talk about that or deal with it, it has become their anchor in life (as it were) because that's the way they think the world operates. They've spent their whole lives in training for this moment and the fact that they haven't been sent to jail for their crimes, they are happy to continue with their behaviour because it gets them what they "need", the inner self satisfaction of being in control of themselves without much ramifications to them over their abusive behaviour.

Think about it, perpetrators commit multiple very serious aggravated crimes, even Torture (20 years jail in the Commonwealth Criminal Code), Rape (14+ years jail), etc, they get away with it, the only punishment they get is a piece of paper telling them they are not allowed to go near their victim. Some don't even get that. To the perpetrator, their thought processes are Whoop De Do and continue abusing, if not the same victim, moving onto others. I've been Tortured on behalf of a family member, the perpetrators and the family member have never seen the inside of a Court room, not through want of trying, but because of who they are and who it will embarrass – TOUGH should be the case, instead, it's tough for me. I pray that you finally see the light and make sure this does not continue.

Reiterating - Family Violence is never about money, it's not even about power, it is only about "control", but not of the victim, it's for the perpetrator to feel in control of their inner being because they have always felt out of control, in severe fear, inept, all the feelings that victims feel and these people think that abusing others is the way to feel that inner control. So what these people do in Counselling is say what they think the Counsellor wants to hear and even the victim if they are in the room, then they twist all of those new ideas around once out the door and they give the victim hell.

I know this because not only did I live through it, but I have read the documentation my previous husband wrote from his Counselling notes, more so how he learnt from the prison Psychologist whom taught him that violence is not the answer, but that he did not want to change the abusive behaviour because that's when he felt most in control, so he learnt ways to be Psychologically abusive. It is subtle and can turn a victim's mind to, well, "mush", for want of a better word. By the time I learnt this was going on, I spent some time trying to see things from his angle (inside his mind), then I learnt how to get rid of him. I am but a humble disabled person, at the time I used a walking stick to get around, he was a thug of a man, I turned his Psychological games back onto him & within 2 days he was gone from my home, yet the many times I tried to get rid of him when he was oppressively physically violent I was fighting a losing battle.

This tells you that Psychologically, these perpetrators have mental illnesses & the more Counsellors try to teach them Victim Empathy, the more they learn the ways of Psychological abuse because they just don't want to change. The idea of Counselling should be to fix the perpetrator not the perpetrators problem with the victim. For far too long the focus has been on victims in all forms of bullying and abuse. Until the

focus is on proper repercussions to the perpetrators, proper help for the victims and the roundabout in the system for victims is straightened into a clear direction, you will never stop it, perhaps you can bring it back down to a level that is “acceptable to society”.

As for trying to ascertain who is the most dangerous, can you predict the future? The victims know, but they are too frightened to speak out, or if they do, they are just classed as paranoid. It all has to do with a “progressive line” of conduct by the perpetrator. The reason why the violence has become more aggressive to the point of 1 woman a week dying in Australia and why the children are being killed by the father just to hurt the mother, is because in all forms of bullying, the abuse has to be progressive otherwise the victims get used to it and simply ignore it. The perpetrator feels most powerful when they actually cause pain in others, when the victim gets used to the abuse, the perpetrator must step it up a notch – this is the “progression line”. The trouble is, you will never know how far along the “progression” line a perpetrator is, there are no indications until after the abuse occurs.

Take for example the schoolyard bully, if he calls someone a name but the victim ignores it, the bully will try a more aggressive form, continuing until they either decide the victim is just too hard then move onto someone else or the victim responds. Even then, over time the victim becomes switched off to the abuse and does not respond the way the bully wants (it’s the reaction of fear that feeds the bully), so the bully will either become more aggressive or if they haven’t learnt any more skills, they will move onto someone else. ALL bullies learn how to carry out all of their behaviours by their family members, once they get to the end of their repertoire they don’t go any further because that is unknown territory, all bullies want the comfort and security of knowing what is going to happen, how the victim will respond and unless they have been taught or can predict the response, they won’t dare go further than their skill sets.

All you can do is treat all perpetrators exactly the same, until you learn of their abuse from the victims, failure to do so will either create more sneaky abuse or more revengeful abuse. Not until the world of Psychology gets the true picture of what is happening and how to appropriately respond, we can never predict how far a perpetrator will go.

Sometimes alcohol or drugs are a factor, but not in many cases and I have to say that alcohol does not cause Family Violence, there is already an underlying mental illness that comes to the forefront because as we all know, alcohol drops the “masks”. People can be more violent with alcohol or drugs in their system, but, their true nature of being abusive was already there, elicit substances only exacerbates their emotions which causes them to act out. Substance abuse can cause people to be violent, but not all Family Violence situations include this as a factor, in fact, in all of my previous experiences, none of the perpetrators had substance abuse issues. The true cause of Family Violence is the improper teachings in the family home. There in lies another problem, the authorities want to step in to teach the young boys how to treat women, yet when they get home, that’s not how it is done in the family home and frankly, that’s where it is truly learnt. Put plain and simply, it is the family unit that must be looked at from within.

### The Vicious Circle:

When a child grows up in a violent home they see how the victim is treated and what were the reasons they were treated that way, they also see how the victim responds to every form of abuse and that the victim does not leave – the mindset is that this is normal because the victim just keeps putting up with it. In today's technological world, these children are also seeing on the nightly news that victims are not getting any help from the system (example – Rosie Batty), to these children that means the system will let you get away with this behaviour or not help you when you need help.

Not all of the children in one particular abusive household will become an abuser, they may become a victim, it may even fester in them until something triggers it in their adult lives. The sad reality is that most children of Family Violence households will either be abusers or victims. The vicious circle of abuse and the reason why it is so rampant today.

Sometimes during their abusive upbringing they can become very angry at the perpetrators, they desperately yearn to hurt them back, but are far too frightened, instead, when they grow up full of that vengeance, something triggers them from being a victim to becoming a perpetrator, a very dangerous one at that. Their mind is so twisted that not only do they abuse their partner, they abuse the families of their partner as well. In a normal Family Violence situation the perpetrator will abuse all of the family members to isolate the victim, but with the vengeful perpetrator, once the family have gone out of their lives they continue to stalk and abuse them because to the perpetrator this is the pseudo family whom they can take out their revenge on without being hurt back.

I know this sounds complicated, bear with me as I try to explain. A woman grows up being abused by her family members, she is quite normal for a while, but then takes on a Psychology course at University, all of a sudden her anger at her own family and her vengeful feelings come to the forefront of her mind. She becomes aggressive to her partner and son and chases away the father-in-law. Once the father-in-law has gone under normal Family Violence relationships that would normally be the end of it, however, as this woman needed a pseudo family to take out her revenge on, she chose the father-in-law, a soft gentle man who would not retaliate (a safe bet for her).

She stalked him and tried on multiple occasions to have him convicted of criminal offences for which he was completely innocent. She utilised the “system” to help her in her cause (wasting hundreds of thousands of tax payer dollars in the process), all for her own personal need for “inner control” and revenge. In her mind, this was her sending her own family to jail for the criminal acts they carried out upon her.

After years of trying, but not succeeding due to the father-in-law's true innocence, she gave it one last shot. I am not going to go into details, except to say that the man and his partner were Tortured, abused and had to put up with that particular part of the “system” chasing after them for 2 and a half years. Finally the “system” realised the error of its way and desisted. To this day no one has faced the consequences of their actions and the woman perpetrator, well she is still very abusive, just has had to move onto other people for fear of having the “system” down upon her. The victims are

suffering from psychological trauma that affects their everyday life, but the “system” does not care because it is too busy protecting itself.

This is not a one off event, many perpetrators have figured out they can use the “system” to abuse, mostly they make false complaints/statements, etc about their victims and the “system” is happy to oblige them. But when the “system” gets it wrong as has often been the case, they do nothing to help the victim, instead they close the door leaving the victim with no where to go. It’s high time those abusers of the “system” are brought to Justice for their falsity and abuse because the millions of tax payer dollars being wasted is important, so too are the victims and so too is the fact that the “system” is so full of false information that one “foolhardy” investigated in the future might just believe the false information on file and decide to use it against the victim once more – yes that I have seen for myself as well.

So, the moral to this story is that, sure people can be very left very twisted after Family Violence, they can hurt many, many people, they can abuse the “system” in their abusive ways, they can even get away with it because it is far too “embarrassing” for the “system” to be caught up in all that sordid detail. In the long run, where does that leave everyone, it has cost the “system” and the victim a great deal but the perpetrator got away with it and thinks nothing of doing it again to someone else.

One last thing I don’t see coming out of any Inquiry into Family Violence is the financial burden placed upon the victim by the perpetrator being rectified. There are plenty of perpetrators that take everything from the victim, all of the money in the bank account/s, run up credit card bills and sometimes take their possessions. This creates a financial hardship on top of the victim trying to make it in the world on their own, but no one does a thing about it. The perpetrator doesn’t do this as a monetary gain, he does it to hurt and continue to hurt the victim, knowing that the victim will be forced to think about the perpetrator for a very long time. Remembering that all perpetrators are narcissistic control freaks over that of greedy materialistic people. If a perpetrator causes such financial hardship to a victim, they MUST be made to repay every last cent of it to teach them the valuable lesson to their ego.

One thing you should learn from this Inquiry of yours, that I hope you publish for all to see, is that people who are victims of such violence are in fact the most strongest of people because they have had to put up with far more than any ordinary person would have coped with. Sadly that is not recognised, by themselves or the “system”, instead, they are often shunned or not believed or sent around and around and around but still end up no where. So what that tells you is the “system” as we know it today is designed for the bullies and abusive people to use at their will and that the “system” is not only abusive to victims, it is the main cause why most victims go back into the abusive relationships.

One of the biggest misconceptions that the “system” keeps putting out there that needs to be redressed immediately - when the “system” says that Family Violence is a crime, in the majority of cases no one is charged with a criminal offence, the victim has put themselves through hell to go to Court to get that Protection Order, had to give evidence to prove their claim, yet, the offender is not charged. The Judge can only give a Protection Order if he/she suspects that the violence has occurred and is likely to occur “again”, that means that based upon the information already supplied

by the victim, it has happened in the past, but no criminal charges pending leaves the victim confused further than they already are. This does nothing to help the victims trust the system.

The perpetrator thinks it is not a crime because they were not charged or even punished and future perpetrators think that it isn't a crime otherwise 1 in 3 women being abused, that would account for overfilling Courts and prisons of all those offenders being charged. When people are told that something is a crime, people usually get charged with an offence, but as the jails are not overcrowded with perpetrators of Family Violence, what does that say to society – perhaps it is one of the main reasons why the statistics have risen (tripling in the last 10 years). Stop telling the public that Family Violence is a crime unless the “system” is prepared to charge the perpetrator in most cases.

The other thing I want to make perfectly clear to all, at present all Protection Order cases are heard in the Magistrates Court in QLD. A Magistrate known to me was furious that a victim did not show up to Court, instead sending a note to say she was too frightened to be in the same room with the perpetrator and that she was terrified the perpetrator was going to be cross examining her because the Magistrate allowed him to defend himself. The Magistrate stated that the victim had no valid concern to be frightened in his Court because it was a secure environment and that there were plenty of Police Officers nearby. He almost ruled against her but thankfully gave her a second chance.

Here's how the victim sees this process: “it's not what they say, it's how they say it”, “it can be the way he looks at me”, “I'm frightened and feel I will lose it on the stand if he shouts at me”, etc, etc. After years of abuse, just being in the same room as the perpetrator, irrespective of how many Police Officers are in the same room, it is a terrifying experience. Just being confronted by the perpetrator once more, let alone that all of the blame for the violence will be thrown back onto the victim, as all perpetrators do. When certain words or phrases have been instilled into the victim's mind, the perpetrator only has to make sure that is said to the victim and they feel intimidate, harassed, terrified out of their minds. Would you want to go back into the lions den after being attacked multiple times?

The idea of a Protection Order is to make the victim feel safe, but to get it the victim has to put themselves through hell again. Suggestion, perhaps an American style system whereby the Police take all of the evidence from the victim, prepare the case and take it to Court themselves on behalf of the victim. I know this ties up Police resources but it does have other benefits. When the victim takes the matter to Court the perpetrator thinks very little of being “prosecuted” by the victim, but if the Police take the matter to Court, the perpetrator thinks twice about breaching the Protection Order because the Police have got the complete file on the perpetrator – this is what the perpetrators think. They are most fearful of the Police than they are of the victim, sometimes that fear can make all the difference, stopping more violence, not just on that victim but on future victims.

Frankly I feel the Police resources have been tied up too much in a lot of other areas and this is why Domestic and Family Violence crime has skyrocketed. The Police are supposed to serve and protect, but there is so much more to their job that takes them

away from the everyday chore of fighting crime in the suburbs. Governments want to bring the statistics of violence against women and Family Violence down, they are willing to throw resources at it, well, this is how the victims see it, they need the Police to be more resourced to help the victims and to bring offenders to Justice.

Speaking of Justice, more to the point consistent and persistent Justice, Family Violence has no borders, the Laws dealing with this must be on a National scale, by individualising the States means that cross border crimes of this nature are harder to detect, prosecute, etc. The former LNP Government of QLD tried to make their own Laws for QLD and I must say, whilst they had some good ideas, they are limiting and still give no real consequences to the perpetrators. Until this occurs, any Inquiry into Family Violence is a complete waste of time.

On the other hand, your Premier wants to see all violent offenders of Family Violence jailed and whilst this “panders” to the general population, it is impossible and irresponsible. There simply are not enough prisons in Australia to house all of the offenders, even the worst of them (defining the worst of them is a tricky business because to some victims, the psychological scarring is just as bad as the physical). The biggest problem that will come of this is “rehabilitation”, and that is because there will be none. No offender wants to change their ways, sending them to prison only exacerbates their already twisted psychological make up, upon their release they will be far worse than when they went in. There is a far better approach to this but, someone has to be the brave person and not only enforce it but monitor it to make sure it will do its job.

For all offenders of Family Violence there needs to be a “rating scale” of the level of their abuse, that then needs to be applied to the sentencing of these offenders. Instead of sending them to prison, send them to community service, but somewhere where they cannot rot this setup like so many do. It must be a place where they can do good, see their good work because all their lives they have been trained to think that to be good you have to be bad, to create good, you have to abuse, they need to see the opposite and they need to experience it from their own efforts. They also need to be sent to Counselling with a Psychologist, someone who will treat them and not their problems with the victims, per above information. If a perpetrator realises that in doing good they get a really good feeling inside, that goes a ways to helping them see the true way to live instead of what they have been taught – “in order to feel good inside you have to abuse someone, be in control of them, have them bow does to you”. This is a good time to change their thinking processes to make them a better person, sending the “minor” offenders will only make them more violent.

Last but not least, they must pay a financial compensation to the victim, not a small amount, something that will hurt their hip pocket to make them feel the punishment. This has a two fold effect, it teaches the offender that if you abuse others it will cost you and it will give the victim a “sense” of Justice to some degree. It will help the victim to get their life in order a bit more seemingly. One must consider the offender not paying, hence a Victims fund setup through the Justice Department like they have in QLD. The victim receives the money immediately, not dragged out by the offender to punish them and the Justice Department will most definitely make certain the offender pays.



All offenders must be put into a situation where they cannot get out of their punishment, even the Counselling. For example, once an offender is sentenced by a Judge, they must return to Court within a specified time limit to report to the Court on their progress and they must take a copy of a report from their Psychologist and the person in charge of their Community Service. If for any reason the offender is not doing what they are supposed to, then send them off to jail – no second chances, remember, all offenders are very manipulative, they must be taught the consequences of their actions and that manipulation does not work anymore. Of course, all offenders must contribute to the cost of their recovery, after all, it's not the tax payer that got them into that mess in the first place, they should not be burdened.

All victims need a quick end to the abusive relationship, they need to be able to get the assistance they need to start their entire lives all over again and they need to be able to mourn over what has happened to them, not having the mourning process drag out for years. At present the opposite of all this is happening.

I'm sure you would have heard from many Psychologists, Social Workers and Counsellors, Police Family Violence Workers, etc that is great, but what I think you won't hear is that the amount of funding that goes to supporting victims now with all of the different centres, help lines, Court procedures, etc, etc, is actually a waste of money – the reality is that it just isn't working, hence why there are so many Inquiries and why you are holding a Royal Commission. Funding needs to be better allocated, I know a lot of help centres are desperate to stay afloat, stay "employed", but, if they are not working, then perhaps they should be re-organised.

I have given you some tips throughout how to fix this scourge of society, but the main focus should be on logical thought – the perpetrator must pay for the damage they cause, both in offence sentencing/Counselling and compensation to the victim/s. Victims must be better supported, their thoughts are they need an easy way out, they need to have the perpetrator stopped and they need their lives back, if it cannot happen quickly, it just isn't going to happen. A one stop shop help service and the same in the Court processes is a better way forward from here.

Dame Quentin Bryce, QLD, has just handed a report to the QLD Premier with the findings of the former Government's Special Taskforce into Domestic and Family Violence (not publicly available yet), one of the recommendations is for a special Domestic Violence Court, I agree, but it must handle all of the family matters from a Protection Order right through to Custody/Access of the children and a Property Settlement, that way the Court has the power to know all of the family information and make a proper fair Judgement for all concerned. I wish it to be known, I have not read the report, I can only give my opinion on what the media have reported about it.

I can say there are things in the media about the report that are of concern, that is to say "Strangulation is often a precursor to domestic violence homicide and a clear indication of escalation of violence,". There are actually many other clear indicators prior to strangulation that the violence is going to escalate but victims are in a "zoned out" frame of mind most of the time they do not recognise the warning signs. I also do not agree with the offenders wearing GPS bracelets, there will be so many of them that the amount of resources tied up will become astronomical, however, there is a way around this. At present if an offender breaches a Protection Order they are pretty

much given a slap on the wrist multiple times before they are truly punished – simple answer to this for minor breaches only, breach it once, do a weekend in jail, breach it twice a month in jail, three times a year in jail, making each time a much more severe punishment. Severe breaches should always be met with a long jail term.

I agree with the words “Their stories could have come from war zones”, to be frank, Family Violence is terrorism on an individual scale and yes it is breaching the basic Human Rights, but when victims are ignored or as in my case, ignored because it will embarrass the Government because their employees were used as tools to torture me, well, what does that say about how serious it is taken in today’s world?

No borders, no Political rhetoric, just plain simple rules that society has to abide by. If a perpetrator commits an offence, there must be consequences, but as so many are doing this horrible act, re-training is the best approach for the minor perpetrators, jail and re-training for the rest. Do be warned, putting these offenders into the mainstream prison population with their already twisted mind filled with mental illness is only going to make them far worse, perhaps a special prison where they can be re-trained under close supervision of a properly trained Psychologist (not some fresh out of University student either).

As much as I am a great believer in everyone being treated equally, in this instance, the victim comes first, if she wants to stay in the family home, then so be it, the perpetrator must be removed. I do warn though, the perpetrator will want revenge for this, the authorities must be aware and alert for any chance of revenge attacks on the victim because the perpetrator will not feel it fair that the victim is treated better than they are.

Also, if the victim wants to move interstate to get right away from the victim so that the children can start afresh, then so be it because the victim is trying to get the children to see a better way of life. Sometimes Judges are cruel in forcing the mother’s to pay for travel arrangements for the children to have access to the children, look, if the father is abusive no one wants the children to be near them because they are only going to be used as tools for violence against the victim and they will learn the “vicious circle” of violence. Sometimes it is better for a child to grow up without a father than go through having to walk on egg shells around him or worse, do his bidding in the violence towards the victim. There are plenty of other “father figures” that the child can have access to, like a grand father or a male teacher, something that perhaps just needs to be a quick reminder to the mother, but not insisted upon. “Mother knows best”.

One of the problems I see in QLD with what they call Domestic Violence Police Liaison Officers is that a lot of them are male, this can be quite intimidating to a victim, but more importantly, the way the males are trained in their Police training (to be a bully), often reflects back out when they are dealing with victims. Sometimes it may be one sentence they say, but it can mean the difference between the victim successfully leaving a relationship or going back. I know the Police get frustrated because a victim goes back, but, sometimes it is their own fault but they don’t see it, other times it is because the “system” takes too long to help the victim who just wants it all over NOW.

Something I see very lacking in a lot of these cases is family support (mother, father, siblings, etc). There have been many times parents or family members have tried to get help for the victims, but no one will intervene or when they do, it only makes it worse for the victim. Careful thought needs to be put in place here because the families of victims are very important, they too are victims, but they are left feeling so helpless. When the victim leaves an abusive relationship it would be so nice for the family to have that contact to offer their support if they so choose.

I know a lot of families feel that they did not go into the relationship with the victim's partner, "they made their bed they can sleep in it", but on the other side of the coin, there are many families out there that want to help, but are shunned by the system, which in turn makes the victim feel their family do not love them. That isolation could be avoided so easily by the Police doing a quick pop in to the victim (when the perpetrator is not home – at work perhaps), just to let the victim know their family are behind them or that they can phone their family anytime they wish, etc. Again, I know it ties up Police resources, but you would be surprised at how many victims may leave an abusive relationship if they knew their family were truly behind them, ready to help and support them.

Having said all of this, even after your recommendations to the Government, the problem has always been the implementation and follow through. Like the VLAD Laws in QLD (Anti Bikie Laws), 99% of the Laws were already in place but the Police did not act, in fact I have copies of newspaper stories where the Police told a disabled pensioner to forget that the Bikies stole his motor for his boat and move on with his life. Since the VLAD Laws were implemented the Police now follow through. The difference being is the new Laws made the Police feel like they had more power, but in effect, the only part of the new Laws that would have done that are in breach of Human Rights.

Before you get to thinking that the High Court upheld the VLAD Laws, think again, I know Campbell Newman (then Premier) came out in the media to say that the Court upheld them, in reality all the Court did was dismiss the case because it did not affect the person bringing it to Court. The new Government say the VLAD Laws have gone too far. We do have rights in Australia, they are listed in the Australian Constitution, just not as the ordinary person would read – under Part V - Powers of the Parliament – "external affairs". If you would like further elaboration I am happy to oblige. In basic terms, we are obliged our Human Rights per the United Nations Covenants, but as you have seen by the VLAD Laws in QLD and the Federal Government's "swipe" at the Human Rights Commissioner and even in your own state (news story link below), Human Rights are a flippant thing that no one gives a toss, especially those who chose to abuse. The lessons these people are being taught is that it must be okay to do this because everyone else is and everyone else is getting away with it.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-05-05/victoria-breached-un-covenant-in-treatment-of-corinna-horvath/5431690>

As this country does not take human Rights seriously, Violence Against Women is viewed as "the norm" by those who choose to partake in this hideous crime. So whilst educating young boys might seem like a good idea, the education they are getting from the real world is still very much contradictory, even though there are many Inquiries into Family Violence. The only way to get around this is to educate victims

and potential victims how to avoid Family Violence situations in the first place, (I'm working on having that manuscript published) and have the "one stop shop" for victims to assist them to start a new life and prosecute offenders then retrain them, but again, until the country takes rights seriously, don't expect these offenders to change, why would they, they would take it as unfair. Life is full of unfairst, but it seems that women are the ones to wear the most of them, at the hands of brutal people.

One thing I ask you to do for the disabled women who are victims of Family Violence, ask a few Barristers, Prosecutors and Lawyers how the disabled people are really treated within the Justice System. Here in QLD, their view is that disabled people, both physically and intellectually, are lumped into one category and are classed as "unreliable witnesses", in reality, most cases don't make it to court. With this arrogant view, is it any wonder that disabled women are abused. Only your recommendations can help change this.

These are some of the core issues that I feel will not be disclosed to you, either in part or in full because others either lack in intelligence or bravado to tell you. As a victim of every form of abuse that defines Domestic and Family Violence I have suffered for and had many decades of understanding what it is and how it affects both victim and perpetrator. I see where the "system" fails, why it fails and how it really needs to be completely scrapped and started again with a whole new set of rules and education within. I am happy to assist or elaborate on any issue for you where ever you need because for the there to be a Royal Commission into Family Violence over that of an Inquiry gives a real and possible opportunity that changes will occur, I pray this is what will finally happen.

No one likes Domestic and Family Violence, it would be a happy world if potential victims knew what was happening before the violence began so as not to fall into the prison and life long suffering that is Family Violence - Prevention is better than the cure. I'm working on having that work published, but until then, we can only pray for the safety and sanity of all victims worldwide.

Yours sincerely  
Mrs B. Turner