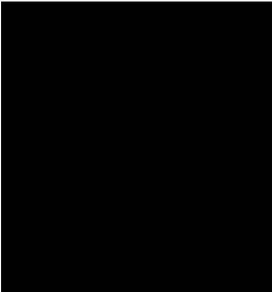


The Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence

My Submission



Introduction and experiences:

My name is [REDACTED], I am a Victorian by birth, although I am currently living in [REDACTED] until Family Court matters are dealt with and I have the permission to move back to my hometown [REDACTED] to be closer to where all my family and friends live who can help me [REDACTED].

I am [REDACTED] years of age, and have on the [REDACTED] separated from an [REDACTED] year marriage that was filled with abuse of every kind directed at myself and my children. Even though I applied for a DVO within a week after the separation, the abuse is still ongoing, and it is tearing me to shreds. I ensured that the children's father could still contact his [REDACTED] children who live with me, without any restriction included in my protection order. However [REDACTED] after the separation and [REDACTED] after he was himself served while in [REDACTED] he came back [REDACTED] and applied for a DVO based on fraudulent and deceit allegations and accusations, an absolute transference of what [REDACTED] has done to me and the children while in the marriage.

It was I who had left so many times throughout the marriage, only to get sucked back into the 'Vortex of Hell', by the ex or his mother. It was I who had gone to a Women's Refuge; it was I who had applied for a previous DVO while living in [REDACTED]. And yet he can list of all these allegations and not even be questioned as to their validity, however sign in front of a JP that all this is true and such, when there is no truths.

Research:

Research shows that the level of Domestic Violence escalates after a separation, whereby the perpetrator feels the loss of control that they once had over their victims: and so they compensate by going to extreme lengths to keep some form of control and manipulation of their estranged spouses or partners. While it is assumed that protection orders are effective, they are only effective when and if the law sees the breaches for what they really are. I got told by a police officer that I have no right to complain about what I thought was breaches because in her own words “well he has a DVO out on you, so who are we meant to believe?” I got told by another police officer “oh don’t worry that your ex is impersonating [REDACTED] through text messages on [REDACTED]’s phone, just ignore them”. I am sorry to say there is no protection, even with a protection order, and my case goes to prove this to be true, with all of the events that have occurred from the moment my estranged husband was served [REDACTED]

Changes needed to be made:

- There needs to be a Nation-wide data base, whereby any persons reporting Domestic Violence to either a doctor, counsellor, police, hospital staff, or other professionals, these reports and details are entered into the Nation-wide data base for ease of access for courts, police and such.
- Every time a victim of Domestic Violence returns to the abusive relationship, again it is entered into the Nation-wide data base.
- In terms of applying for DVOs, the data base can be accessed to verify the authenticity of the application with a history of abuse and such already being recorded and readily available.
- There needs to be a deposit of \$5000 for each application of DVOs, however those individuals whose history is readily available on the Nation-wide data base and want to proceed with the court processes of obtaining a DVO, do not have to pay that \$5000-\$10,000, it is provided through funds already available which just gets recycled for the next authentic applicant.

- However for those who have no records or history of being the victim of Domestic Violence or in cases such as mine where the application is retaliation to already being served themselves, these persons must lay down the \$5000-\$10,000 deposit that is non-refundable. This would effectively weed out the people like my ex from applying for a DVO based on lies and fraudulent accusations. These funds gained when the party loses their case or drop their matter, are then put into the funds for another Domestic Violence applicant.
- There needs to be much tougher laws protecting the victims of Domestic Violence. Breaches made by either the perpetrator themselves or by the perpetrator's family need to be treated as law breaking actions. Not just brushed aside or dismissed as the victims problems. The persons breaching these orders, be that the perpetrator or the family members who continue in causing further abuse, emotional, psychological and physical turmoil and torture all need to be held accountable for their actions within the legal system.
- There needs to be consequences for these parents who are using the children or putting them in situations that expect them to lie for a parent.
- The police can no longer take into an incident of breaching an order as a one off incident. The entire history of the relationship and the trauma experienced after the separation all need to be taken into consideration by the Police. It is all too easy for the Police to say that this is just a single incident.

There is no such thing as single incidences when it comes to Domestic Violence abusers, for abusers there is a continual need for control and power over the victim and they will do all that they can to retain that.

My ex has taken [REDACTED] of our [REDACTED] children interstate, despite there being no final custodial orders in place, he did this on the [REDACTED] and I have seen [REDACTED] once on the [REDACTED], which was like drawing blood from a stone. My ex and

his family are a law unto their own, they operate by what I term the ' [REDACTED] rule - Do as I say, not as I do".

I have included in this email my history with my ex and his family and the current experiences I am having with the courts system and the police and the ex.

For me the abuse is still going. It is as though he has rolled up the whole [REDACTED] years into one huge canon ball and thrown it at me in one shot. There is obviously no level to which he will not stoop to, in order to get his own way. Until there is an Australian wide hub from which information can be accessed and information can be added to, then people will continue to abuse and commit Domestic Violence and people like my ex will continue to get away with it, the physical and psychological torture and abuse that my estranged husband had put [REDACTED], [REDACTED] [REDACTED] whom he has taken interstate is extreme, extreme enough for counsellors at Youth and Family Services to report this to DOCS here [REDACTED]. This has me worried day and night as to the damage and hurt both my estranged husband and ex mother in law are capable of doing that both confuse and manipulate [REDACTED]. All of the events that have occurred since the separation have resulted from my ex and his mother using my children as pawns in their deceitful and manipulative behaviour.

Since writing this Submission, I have again been served with a Variation, which I have dissected and counteracted with evidence. My ex has now stooped to forge [REDACTED]'s name and signature to statements. The Mention for the latest Variation was held on Monday [REDACTED], however my lawyer could not be there, so I had to represent myself. I had spent the weekend drawing up what I wanted to say, although 95% could not be used in this mention. I will provide the various documents to show what I have to deal with.

Yours Sincerely