

My story that I want to share with the Royal Commission

I had been in a relationship with a young man. On many occasions he abused me and always made inappropriate comments and made me feel uncomfortable. There were many occasions I witnessed my now ex-partner and his father fighting physically. I would go and sit in the car, not wanting to be a part of this violence and wanting to go home. I would have to wait until my ex was ready to take me home. He would not allow me to drive my car to his house. He would dictate to me what to wear, what and when I was allowed to drive my own car, I would be expected to pay for his meals when we went out to eat for dinner. He would become abusive if he couldn't find a parking spot to park his car. My ex would call me on the phone and abuse me, his mother would ring me and abuse me for no particular reason, he would send me abusive texts, (which my solicitor has copies of), he would follow me when I was driving, try to run me off the road, he tried to run my mother off the road, he tried to run my father off the road on occasions. These incidents were reported to the Police in [REDACTED]; however, the police would never record these incidents accurately. I have been abused in the [REDACTED] Police Station on 2 occasions by this man. He even drove his car erratically out the front of the Police Station and dropped Wheelies. He tried to run me off the road while my [REDACTED] was in his car. He would encourage my [REDACTED] to yell, "Get out of the way! " He also taught my [REDACTED] to say, "The coppers are going to get daddy!" My [REDACTED] wasn't even [REDACTED] years of age at the time.

On the occasion of my girlfriend's wedding it was raining and we had to walk through the Botanical Gardens in [REDACTED] My ex abused me as my shoes were getting wet!! Any opportunity he had to abuse me, he would. When I had a baby the abuse became more frequent. He would constantly put me down and told me that I was useless and that I didn't know what I was doing. He wanted to take the baby out to his parents place without me. I was breastfeeding at the time. He would abuse me if the baby would cry and stated that he was trying to sleep and to shut the baby up. He tried to hit the baby on a couple of occasions. When my family members challenged him, he denied trying to hit my [REDACTED]

I have endured a lot of abuse and became tired of living a life of being abused.

On the [REDACTED], I went to work and when I got home I wasn't feeling well, so I went to bed I woke up at 8:30pm. I still wasn't feeling very well my dad came in to my room to check on me and suggested that I try to eat something and I said no I wasn't feeling very well so I went back to sleep. I woke up to 11:30pm with what I through was gastro. I was up and down all night. In the early hours of the [REDACTED] my dad came up to my room to check on me and I was stuck in the toilet and my dad got me some Panadol for pain. My dad went to work and my mum came up to look after me not long after that I was transported the [REDACTED] Hospital in an ambulance when I arrived at the [REDACTED] Hospital [REDACTED] I was informed that I was having a baby. It was a surprise to me as I didn't know that I was pregnant. [REDACTED] arrived in the world at [REDACTED]. After I had [REDACTED] I was moved up to the labour ward. I tried to ring [REDACTED] and he didn't answer his phone. [REDACTED] rang me back I asked if he could leave work early and he asked why. I explained that we had a baby [REDACTED] Michael through that I was joking so I passed the phone to my mum and she told Michael that it wasn't a joke and asked him to come to the hospital. Not long after [REDACTED] arrived at the hospital to visit me with his mother and [REDACTED] year old [REDACTED] and our new baby he walked into the room and wasn't sure what to think. My sister and her husband were there and my mum and one of my friends. While I was being checked over by the doctor, everyone left the room and

[REDACTED] took [REDACTED] out to have a cuddle. His mother had cuddles and took photos and posted them on Facebook. Later that afternoon, I was moved to a private room. My mum spoke to the midwife that was looking after me and suggested that it would help if I could spoke to social worker as I was in shock from having [REDACTED]. After I spoke with the social worker my mum came back up to the hospital and looked after [REDACTED] and I, while I had a nap. When I woke up a couple of my friends came to visit me. Not long after [REDACTED] and his mum and dad came to meet their new grandchild. [REDACTED] stayed the first night at the hospital with me; he tried to help me with [REDACTED]. I didn't get much sleep that night as I was up with [REDACTED]. On [REDACTED] I was moved to a two bed ward the nursing staff were lovely. They let [REDACTED] stay after visit hours as we were learning how to look after [REDACTED]. On [REDACTED] I requested that I have no visitors as I wasn't feeling very well unless it was with [REDACTED]. Around [REDACTED] [REDACTED] received a call from his mother [REDACTED], she came to visit me. She was at the doors of the Maternity ward; she was banging on the door demanding to see me and her grandchild. One of the midwives was going to call security. She was being abusive to staff as the doors were locked, because it wasn't visiting hours. One of the midwives came and told [REDACTED] that he would have to leave the ward as he mother was being abusive to the staff. She was told to come back at visiting hours. When visiting hour started, [REDACTED] came back with his mother [REDACTED]. She sat on my bed and was talking to me and completely disregarded everyone else in the room. [REDACTED] pushed [REDACTED] cot out in to the hallway so his mother could see [REDACTED]. Not long after that I went up to the sunroom with [REDACTED] and all of my visitors and [REDACTED] went down stairs. My mother and my cousin went down stairs to get a drink and [REDACTED] was sitting with his mother [REDACTED] speaking rudely about my parent's. [REDACTED] told her to be quiet as my mother and cousin were standing right beside her. They could hear everything she was saying. [REDACTED] came back up to the sit with me and my visitors. When visiting hours finished [REDACTED] left. [REDACTED] rang later on to see how [REDACTED] was and [REDACTED] wanted to speak to me. She yelled at me and told me that if I put [REDACTED] in the basinet that my sister and purchased from a friend that [REDACTED] would die. I got very upset and asked her to put [REDACTED] back on the phone, he was very abusive to me I told him that I had to go. I went home from hospital on [REDACTED]. I rang [REDACTED] to come and get me from the hospital. When I brought [REDACTED] out to the car my mother arrived as she wasn't sure how I was getting home form the hospital. She helped [REDACTED] to put [REDACTED] in to his car restraint. [REDACTED] was being very abusive to me as I asked him if the car seat was fitted properly and I was very unsure about leaving the hospital. When I arrived home [REDACTED] was still abusing me. I started to cry [REDACTED] told me that I didn't know what I was doing and called me useless. [REDACTED] walked up to my bed room and stared moving thing around. [REDACTED] went to home to get a bag of clothes and stay the night he didn't get up [REDACTED] when he was crying. I got up to [REDACTED] as he needed to be feed. [REDACTED] was yelling at me, "Shut that kid up, I have to working the morning". The day after coming home from hospital, [REDACTED] wanted to take [REDACTED] out to his parent's house without me. He was very demanding and unreasonable towards me. Mum suggested that he should have his car restraint professionally fitted in his car before travelling and it was not fair on [REDACTED] to take him away from his mother. We asked him to think about things and not rush. He was informed that his parents were welcome to visit any time. My parents offered to vacate the house on many occasions, if he felt uncomfortable with us being there with his parents. He seemed to be jealous of how [REDACTED] was taking up so much of my time. He also didn't agree with me breastfeeding. [REDACTED] only stayed until the Thursday. He came to my parent's home after work and told me that he was going back out to his parent house. I was trying to talk to him and all he did was be verbally abusive to me. He stood over me and threatened me. I rang [REDACTED] later on and tried to

talk to him and he just yelled at me so I hung up on him, because I believe that he had no right to abuse me. Later on that afternoon [REDACTED] brother-in-law rang and spoke to my mother and told her that [REDACTED] was at his house very upset and asked if he could bring [REDACTED] back to my parent house. Mum also informed [REDACTED] what had actually happened and [REDACTED] replied that [REDACTED] didn't tell him how abusive he was towards me. My mother agreed for this to happen as long as he wasn't abusive to me. A couple of days later [REDACTED] sister, [REDACTED] turned up with [REDACTED]. She told us that [REDACTED] was in the car crying and she wouldn't get out of the car. My mother went out to the car and talked to her and invited her to come in to the house to see myself and [REDACTED]. She cried the whole time she was here. She kept saying that she didn't know if she would get to see [REDACTED] again. Mum told [REDACTED] that she was welcome to come any time to visit. [REDACTED] came to the house with [REDACTED] to talk in length. I listened to what she had to say, however she wasn't interested in seeing [REDACTED] or chatting with my mum. My parent's extended an open invitation to visit any time they however they chose not to. [REDACTED] took [REDACTED] outside, it was very cold. I took a blanket and beanie out to put on [REDACTED]. Not long after [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] left [REDACTED] only stayed a couple of times after that. One of the nights [REDACTED] stayed, [REDACTED] was crying and my parents came into my room and saw [REDACTED] sitting on top of me trying to express milk from me with my breast pump. He said that he wanted to feed [REDACTED]. He was oblivious to [REDACTED] crying. [REDACTED] would not allow me to get out of bed to pick [REDACTED] up.

[REDACTED] would only come and see [REDACTED] after work. I offered for [REDACTED] to take [REDACTED] out to his parent's house so they could spend some time with [REDACTED], [REDACTED] always refused. I kept offering [REDACTED] took [REDACTED] out to his parent house. One of the days there was a very bad storm on its way. I rang [REDACTED] to bring [REDACTED] back home to me as [REDACTED] was due for a feed and he was very verbally abusive to be on the phone. When [REDACTED] arrived back with [REDACTED], he brought [REDACTED] in and passed [REDACTED] to me and he continued to be verbally abusive to me. My father came up to [REDACTED] room as he could hear [REDACTED] abusing me and I was crying telling [REDACTED] that it not ok to be abusive to me while I was holding [REDACTED] and that it was a form of family violence. My dad asked [REDACTED] to leave the house. I was also taking [REDACTED] out to visit [REDACTED] and his family as they wouldn't come in to visit. In [REDACTED] looked after [REDACTED] and when I went to pick [REDACTED] up from [REDACTED] parents' house, [REDACTED] was in a nappy and a singlet. It was a cold day and [REDACTED] was not appropriately dressed for that type of weather.

The next day I woke up to [REDACTED] having trouble breathing so I rang [REDACTED] and informed him that [REDACTED] was sick and I was going to take [REDACTED] to the hospital my dad came with me to the hospital. The doctor checked [REDACTED] over and told me that [REDACTED] had Bronchiolitis. The doctor told me to keep a close eye on [REDACTED] and if he wasn't improving by that night to bring [REDACTED] back to the hospital. At [REDACTED] the same night I rushed [REDACTED] back to the hospital. I rang [REDACTED] to inform him that I was on the way back to the hospital. [REDACTED] said to me that he was out four wheel driving I asked him to come to the hospital when he arrived he sat next to me and wanted to show me the photo he had taken. At that time I was trying to care for [REDACTED]. When the doctor called [REDACTED] name I got up and walked over to the doctor that was holding the end door open mother said to [REDACTED] "Aren't you going to go in?" He was too busy playing with his phone. [REDACTED] finally got up after I had already gone in with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] sat and complained to me about how I should be looking after [REDACTED] for us to live in. I was listening to what the doctor was saying about [REDACTED]. The doctor checked [REDACTED] over once again and sent us home. I asked [REDACTED] to stay the night to help me to care for [REDACTED]. He yelled at me and said he didn't bring his work clothes and that he had to work in the

morning. I cared for [REDACTED] throughout the night by myself. A couple of weeks before [REDACTED] broke up with me, he was very abusive and not helpful or supportive to me or [REDACTED].

After we broke up I didn't see [REDACTED] for about 1 month. I saw him down the street one night after I had been out for tea. I asked if we could talk. I asked [REDACTED] if he would like to see [REDACTED].

He said he would like to see [REDACTED] so we agreed that we would meet up a couple of times a week for a couple of hours, so he could spend time with [REDACTED]. After a couple of weeks the visits stopped and I didn't hear from [REDACTED] till I saw him last [REDACTED] while he was at work and I was out with [REDACTED]. He walked across the road as I was putting [REDACTED] in the car he was abusing me. He said in that he had a new girlfriend and that he was going to move with her. I closed [REDACTED] door and I put the pram in the car and told [REDACTED] that I had to go. After that day I didn't hear anything from [REDACTED] till last [REDACTED], when a man turned up to my front door with an Affidavit and said to me that I need to sign it. I told the man that I wouldn't sign anything till I had my lawyer look over it. At this stage [REDACTED] hadn't been in [REDACTED] life for [REDACTED] months.

On the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] took me to court as he had decided that he wanted to see [REDACTED]. The first visit [REDACTED] had with [REDACTED] was for [REDACTED] hours. [REDACTED] picked [REDACTED] up from my house. When I arrived to pick [REDACTED] up [REDACTED] was walking very quickly over to my car and informed me that [REDACTED] had been crying for the whole time [REDACTED] was in his care. I explained to [REDACTED] calmly that [REDACTED] didn't know who he was, as [REDACTED] was almost [REDACTED] old when [REDACTED] left, when [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] month old.

[REDACTED] arrived at my parent's house on the next [REDACTED] and he was trying to put [REDACTED] in the car seat and [REDACTED] kept climbing out. [REDACTED] started to cry and didn't want to go. I chatted with [REDACTED] and I suggested that maybe I could supervise [REDACTED] visit so that he could get to know [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] agreed, so I rang my lawyer and arranged it.

On these visits [REDACTED] would never lift a finger to assist his son. I tried to encourage interaction, however [REDACTED] had grown up where the female in the house, waited on the men. I would be expected to assist [REDACTED] with his meals, his bath.

We had mediation to discuss my [REDACTED] care and during this time he was abusive and the mediation session had to stop twice. There have been other instances with other professionals that this man has been abusive, even his barrister!!!

I have been called the most horrendous names, been accused of sleeping around with other men, and abused by his family members on many occasions. This particular family had grown up in a violent and abusive home.

In [REDACTED], [REDACTED] mother [REDACTED] rang me on my mobile phone and said that she had spoken to [REDACTED], [REDACTED] lawyer and there would be a letter coming in the mail saying that I would have to stop supervising [REDACTED] visit. [REDACTED] asked me what to do about [REDACTED] behaviour as he hadn't been taking his medication for the past three years.

I got a phone call from my lawyer and agreed to stop attending [REDACTED] visits. Two weeks after I stopped attending visit with [REDACTED], [REDACTED] came back from his visit with welt marks on his chest and back. [REDACTED] father abused me as soon as I walked over to his car to collect [REDACTED].

I took [REDACTED] to the hospital to be checked out. The nurse in the E.D. took [REDACTED] and I through into a cubicle. The nurse told me to sit and wait as she didn't know what to do. She spoke to a police officer who was already in the E.D. They suggested for me to take [REDACTED] to the police station and speak to a detective. I showed her the marks on [REDACTED] chest and back. The police officer took photographs of the marks on [REDACTED] and took a statement from myself and my parents. The police called [REDACTED] father and his parents in to be questioned about the welt marks on [REDACTED] chest and

back. [REDACTED]'s visit with the father were stopped for two day so that the police could decide on what was the best interests of [REDACTED]. The following week I received a call from the detective who was working on [REDACTED]'s case. She asked me to come into the station to have a chat. She informed me that she was allowing the visits start again and she informed me that she had spoken to my lawyer and decided for the safety of [REDACTED] and myself that [REDACTED] changeover be at the police station. But the family violence and the abuse still continued and [REDACTED] was still returned from visits with his father with bruises and marks all over his body. On [REDACTED], [REDACTED] was returned to me through Child and Family Services in [REDACTED], with a red mark on his forehead and bruising on his nasal flaps. [REDACTED] was complaining of a headache I asked the CAFS worker what had happened to [REDACTED] and she said that [REDACTED] had walked into a [REDACTED] on a truck trailer while he was in his father care .

After I left CAFS, I drove home to pick up my mum and asked her to collect [REDACTED]'s nappy bag. We drove to the [REDACTED] Hospital in [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] was checked out the Ed by the head doctor. he checked [REDACTED] over and told me that [REDACTED] nose was broken there wasn't any scans done. My father was present at this time.

On the [REDACTED] I rang CAFS and spoke to the manager and informed her of what happened to [REDACTED]. She rang my lawyer and told her that it would be in the best interest of [REDACTED] to have supervised visit with his father, as she believed that [REDACTED] was unsafe in his father care.

In [REDACTED], I received a call from DHS as someone had made an anonyomus report. The DHS worker told me that she would be visiting me at my home to interview me. I informed her that [REDACTED] was hurt in his father care. In [REDACTED] there was another report made against me from [REDACTED]'s paternal grandmother. She had reported me to DHS as she believed that [REDACTED] wasn't safe in my care, which is not true .On the [REDACTED] the police came to my house and placed me under arrest and had a warrant for my phone and camera that had photographs with [REDACTED] injuries . The Magistrate from Family Court had suggested I take photos of [REDACTED]'s injuries and to keep a record.

I was taken to the [REDACTED] police station where I was questioned for two hours and finger printed. I was released without charge. On the way home from the police station my mother received a phone call from my brother telling her that DHS were at my home with the police When we pulled up in the drive I jumped out of the car and I ran to the front door where the DHS worker was and asked if I could talk to [REDACTED]. He was already in a DHS car .The DHS worker told me that they were taking [REDACTED] out of my care, as they believed that I was harming [REDACTED]. The next day I went to court. [REDACTED] was place on a interim accommodation order and was to remain in his father care. I was told that I was that I would have supervised visit with [REDACTED] at DHS in [REDACTED].

Over the first 6 weeks that [REDACTED] was out of my care [REDACTED] would come to visit was bruises on both of the cheeks, it looked like he had been punched to both sides of his face, as well as bruises all over different parts of his body. I reported this to the DHS workers and they did nothing about it.

For the past [REDACTED] month I have been fighting to get [REDACTED] back in my care, as there have been so many lies told to the police and DHS by the paternal grandmother.

Dhs and the police have done nothing to protect myself or [REDACTED] as they have allowed [REDACTED] to stay living with his father and for the family violence and abuse to continue. To this day DHS haven't investigated [REDACTED] case correctly. I have been made to feel like a criminal by DHS and the police from the injury to [REDACTED] that happened in his father care.

I am still fighting in court to have [REDACTED] retuned to my care where he was safe and loved by his family. [REDACTED] is one traumatised young boy who wants to return to my care. He is still being exposed

to abuse and displays behaviour to support this. I have reported this to DHS staff, however they choose not to listen or do anything about helping or protecting [REDACTED] They in turn threaten me with suspending my visits with my [REDACTED] if I continue to report my concerns about my [REDACTED].

I believe as long as [REDACTED] is in [REDACTED] father 'scare [REDACTED] will be continued to be abused by [REDACTED] father.

I have endured emotional abuse by 2 Police Officers, as well as DHS workers. I want this cycle of abuse to stop!!!!

I grew up in a loving family environment without any abuse. My life has been a very unhappy one for the past [REDACTED] months.

[REDACTED]