

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Royal Commission into Family Violence
Date: [REDACTED]
Attachments: SubmissionsCoverSheet.pdf

Royal Commission into Family Violence

Saturday, 9 May 2015

The Honourable Marcia Neave,

I believe that I am qualified to make a submission. I am currently subject to an Intervention order, which at this stage is still in place until [REDACTED]. In dealing with this matter I have had approximately [REDACTED] visits to the [REDACTED] Magistrates Court. I am also subject to a [REDACTED] sentence until [REDACTED]. During the time from [REDACTED], when an interim IVO was first issued, until this day, I have spent many days sitting in court waiting for my matters to be heard, and witnessing many IVO applications.

Traumatically, I have been arrested [REDACTED] times and locked up on [REDACTED] of these occasions. I must point out to you that this has occurred even though there has never been an allegation of physical or threatened violence against me. My home has been searched by [REDACTED] policeman under a search warrant authority. Adding to this, my car was taken from me for [REDACTED] solid days and my computer was removed from my possession for [REDACTED] months, whilst once again no evidence of any crime was detected by police.

It took [REDACTED] months and several court appearances before I was able to contest the IVO application (Although I was facing a goal term I was not allocated legal assistance). In this contest case, the applicant (whom suffers from psychological problems such as [REDACTED] [REDACTED]) was not regarded as a reliable witness, and no order was issued even though she had a respected barrister from Melbourne representing her.

In court the following day and for a week thereafter the Victorian Police were unsuccessfully in their application for an order against me. As a result of the Victorian Police not being successful in their application, they followed through by placing [REDACTED] charges in total against me, from this I was retained on bail with IVO conditions being applied. As legal Aid were not able to provide me with legal assistance I chose to plead guilty to [REDACTED] of the NON indictable charges; in return for a no contact bond for [REDACTED] months. In the following few months I approached a sergeant at the [REDACTED] Police station and through several discussions the acknowledged my concerns and proceeded to investigate my matter. The investigation found that I had been followed by friends of the alleged victim and that malicious phone calls were made to me. The Sergeant contacted me with news of an arrest pending however, interestingly but he was suddenly removed from the case with no further action taken.

In [REDACTED] Victorian Police formed a task force called operation [REDACTED], where they had constant surveillance placed upon me. From here they proceeded to charge me with [REDACTED]. Once again, legal aid offered zero assistance, even after strong applications from my solicitors [REDACTED] and myself. Therefore, I was left with very little realistic choice but to accept a [REDACTED] sentence, and finally the alleged victim was given an IVO. I strongly believed that my chances were good if this had have gone to trial. Although this sentence deal included a breach in the existing bond, [REDACTED] Police felt a need to charge me once again with breaching that bond. This charge was dismissed on the [REDACTED].

The point of this paper is to highlight to you that Police and court resources were used up in pursuing me to such a level, whilst there were, I am certain genuine cases out there with very little attention being given to them. I had not spoken to the alleged victim since cross

examining her in [REDACTED]

I would like you to know that I work with people who [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. I also volunteer assisting [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Through this organisation I have met with many victims of family violence, some with obvious physical injuries. Not one of these people have been happy with the treatment given to them by [REDACTED] Police. One particular lady who was being followed for 15 minutes in a car whilst she was walking home, rang police with the car rego number and was told "get a dog if you are frightened".

Interestingly, in my personal case, I have not seen the alleged victim since I received my [REDACTED] sentence and she has apparently received what as I believe was always her agenda in all this. A victim of Crime payout...

I put forward to you in this paper that police are not properly trained or qualified to deal with situations of this nature. In consideration of this information, attention towards a professional body of people who are qualified and independent from the police should be given the task of deciding who is genuine in these cases, and who is not. The system is completely saturated by people obtaining IVO'S who have their own agendas, whether it be for revenge, VOC payouts or just general nuisances. I have witnessed them all whilst waiting for my own court appearances, and they are nearly always permitted their application towards their interim IVO'S.

I strongly believe in protecting people who are at risk. However is there really any justice when non genuine applicants also get granted IVO's for NON genuine reasons?

I wish you much wisdom and wellness in making difficult decisions that really do effect people's lives.

Regards

[REDACTED]