

**Response to the Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor's Call for Submissions:
Monitoring the Family Violence Reforms – July 2020**

Submission #021 – Individual – other

Q1. What are the major changes you have seen in the family violence service system since the Royal Commission into Family Violence made its final report and recommendations in 2016?

I am not familiar with the recommendation report; however, I am aware that children safety is still a priority. The issue is the meaning of children safety!!

I had a civil, exciting and loving relationship with my children. We argue we wrestle, we fight and if there are any issues we make up for it with kisses and hug. The process that is in place is motivated by cruelty or intended to be hurtful to the family, both financially, morally, and most importantly, an unacceptable attitude of suck it up and live with it attitude, which doesn't fit with a family value of a working class.

It divides family, and it promotes hate, it supports not to forgive, it promotes cruelty and mean personality. Eg. My sister inlaw is described as cruel, mean, and will do anything for money for her ego. We always taught the children not to be like her, but when our family with three children start to deteriorate, the cruel and mean relatives of a family that came from overseas with different value to life has taken unprecedented action to make us all suffer LEGALLY. The family law is process driven with a vast and long waiting period. The healing process of my family is Kisses, Hug before you leave the house, and when you come home, forgiveness and move on if we hurt each other feelings, which is entirely discouraged by the Magistrate court for family violence.

Q2. How has the experience of accessing services and support changed since the Royal Commission for victim survivors, including children, and perpetrators of family violence?

What services and support? There is non. The current service and support is only for people who seek genuine help. The current service is only a creation of employment in the social science sector. This service can only be helpful to families that seek genuine assistance.

I was refer to an organisation called "Better place Australia". then "EACH" we attended counselling, we attended mediation, we patiently waited on the queue, and it was fruitless. We received the certificate stating that we made a genuine effort in order to proceed for litigation. My ex-wife, took my son to attend psychologist who coached him on how to say " I don't want to see my father." If this service was a genuine service, then it should have been looking into children therapeutic session equally with both parents.

As is the case of mine, there are often no legal solutions to family problems. Therapeutic orders can be handy tools to help the family move forward, reduce the parental conflict, and help children transition through the emotional turmoil of their parents' litigation in a healthier way.

Unless the services provided genuinely want to resolve family issues; any hope of relying on the social services that are in place will not help to rebuild a positive relationship between families, and family values will be lost forever for families that are relying supporting services..

Q3. What are the most critical changes to the family violence service system that still need to occur?

1) Waiting period in domestic violence order through magistrate court should not be longer than four weeks. Offcourse unless the domestic violence court is set out to be a source spring for all other services that follow.

My experience on how I feel :- Step 1. Magistrate court stab me with 9inch knife on my back(IVO). For three months not to see my children.

Step2. Support services pull the knife out of my back only 2 inches with hope.

Step 3: Fedral circuit court, pull the knife out another 3 inches and tells me to be patient, attempting to comfort me with words like "waiting 12 months is not a long time".

Step 4: I run around trying to find a solution all over the officials offices in including the Victorian premium. There is no solution, they all say, we have a process in place and you have to follow the process.

How could family be process driven?

how cruel is that to tell my 3 year old son, not to see me, where he never been apart from his father ever since birth?

Q4. Are there any parts of the family violence reforms that have not yet progressed enough and require more attention?

How could anyone wait for 12 month to unite with their family that lives 2km apart.

What reform is this?

It did not make Australia safe place for a family.

Australia is still one of the most unsafe place for a family.

Q5. Are there any improvements that could be made to the implementation approach of the family violence reforms?

Who ever make the first phone call to police, or submitted a domestic violence complaint to magistrate court, get to snatch the children with or without the consent of the children.

There is nothing in this life more important than a family. People die for their country, therefore it's easy to sacrifice everything we have for our children. If you are going to implement a family violence reform then why not investigate it properly? Why wait for 12 or 24 month to be able to see your children, What kind of law is this?

Q6. What has been the biggest impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on your organisation or sector? How have the services that your organisation or sector provides had to change?

The court of family violence is not funded to have Webex or Teams during the Covid-19.

all criminal law, have the highest priority. In my case, the IVO has been pushed back to November.

That will make it a year and six month before my voice get heard. What a joke? But when it was alleged that I breached the interim intervention order, then it was listed after 4 weeks. I don't think I will ever attend that particular court. If I don't see my children for 12 month or 12 years, I don't see the difference, it hurt the same! The damage is already done. I never been hurt this badly in my life, I was shoot,, I was prisoned, I was in a war, I was the most not liveable place in the world. I was born in Ethiopia, my family came from Eritrea. We were separated due to war, and reunited in Australia. I am now separated with my children because of the Magistrate court in ringwood for IVO. It has been 12 month.

An I conclude , Australia is one of the place that is not safe for a family!

Q7. Has the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted any strengths or weaknesses in the family violence service system?

It's a disaster for a family. It's a joke, so much money spent everywhere except for family that are suffering from domestic violence, divorce and separation..... battle for child custody is the biggest simulating pack for the lawyers.

I have volunteered to help my solicitor with IT in order for him to assist the family that are subjected to adjournments.

Q8. Are there any changes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic that you think should be continued?

There is nothing has been done for family that are suffering from separation, divorce and custody of a child.

Q9. The Monitor invites you to make any final general comments around the family violence service system reform.

Family violence services are essential, but exacerbating the situation for family is a role played by family law that needs to be stoped urgently.