

Yoorrook Justice Commission**Statement 1 JR**

Hi, my name is JR, and this is my story.

I have been living as a victim of family violence from my ex- partner for the last 10 years.

We co-parent a child. The father is a white man.

I finally gained the strength to leave my abuser and got on a train with no money.

But the abuse increased after I left. Then he also started abusing my new partner.

I had to leave my child with the father when I left because I had no financial stability and had no idea where I was going to go.

I wanted to protect my child from being exposed to family violence from the father onto me, and I believed the only way I could do this was by escaping the situation.

I was trying to find a way to leave with my child, but the fathers controlling behaviours made it hard to ever get so opportunity.

Once I was living somewhere else, I kept trying to keep up contact with my daughter.

This was hard to do because COVID restrictions made it more difficult, and my child's father was using his controlling behaviours to restrict me. He would say to me 'if you transfer me \$50, I will let you visit'.

The long history of family violence silenced me and made it so difficult for me to speak up for myself.

Whenever I had contact with my child at my home, their father would always make false reports of neglect, abuse and other lies to Child Protection.

After the first few false reports, Child Protection would come and interview me, but didn't take it too seriously. This changed when the false reports increased to allegations of sexual assault against my child by my current partner (who is an aboriginal man).

My current partner, who is the subject of these allegations, was removed the family home by Child Protection, and had restricted contact with his daughter.

Child Protection placed a condition on me that stated I needed to be supervised 24/7 by a professional (or person who DFFH deem as suitable) to care for my child. This destroyed my confidence in myself.

I believe that my ex has been using his controlling behaviours to coach my child into making false reports.

There has been multiple occasions where my child has said 'daddy told me to say ...'.

Then Child Protection closed the case of sexual assault due to the lack of evidence, and the remarks from my child.

We developed a safety plan to protect my current partner from any allegations.

My ex stated that he did not want Child Protection to close the case, and two weeks after the closure, at the first contact back, there was another report of sexual assault even though the safety plan was followed.

Child Protection took this report as truth despite the safety plan and removed my partner from the home again.

I believe Child Protection will always believe and listen to what my ex says, while I always have to prove myself to them.

To remove the condition on me (24/7 supervision with my daughter), Child Protection said I need to complete a Parenting Assessment to improve my parenting skills.

The Parenting assessment worker stated that I did not need any help, and closed after 2 sessions, 7 weeks earlier than it was supposed to finish.

My worker developed a Perpetrator Pattern Mapping Tool to help Child Protection understand the effects that the family violence has had on my whole life.

I believe Child Protection did not consider any of the effects of family violence, until this mapping tool was submitted to them.

My child's father has continued to use his controlling behaviours to further commit family violence through the Child Protection system.

The father continues to seek out new professionals (psychologists/lawyers) and tells them his side of the story to further control the narrative.

I believe there is no consequences for my ex for this continued family violence.

But I have to justify myself and jump through every hoop that Child Protection put in front of me after every false report.

END OF STATEMENT