

My name is [REDACTED] of South Australia.

Thank you so much for allowing me to be heard and share my story.

I am a victim but most importantly, a survivor of severe domestic violence.

How did I let this happen, what did I do wrong, all questions, that victims ask themselves daily.

I was married to my ex-husband in Oct 2017, and since that day it was like a switch went off in his head, immediately he started to become controlling and violent, small things at first, that gradually escalated, I endured about 2 years of daily abuse and violence at his hand.

In March [REDACTED], we were driving along the road, and he was speeding, I asked him to slow down, his mum rang and whilst she was on the phone I said " Mum he's driving like a psycho" He then back handed me in the face with his left fist and continually beat me in the head, until I lost consciousness. When I came to, I knew I was severely injured, I knew my bones were broken and I was in immense pain.

He took me to the [REDACTED] Hospital and dumped me out at the emergency department with my 17-year-old son.

When I went inside the nursing staff gasped, they immediately called for a Cranio Facial team, I was transferred to the RAH and underwent complex Surgery, an eye [REDACTED] repair and Cranio Facial surgery using the iliac crest portion of my hip bone to rebuild my face and had 3 subsequent surgeries to repair my eyesight as best they could.

When I woke from surgery, there he was, wanting to love me and take care of me. He told me that the story we were going to tell people, was that whilst we were driving, I took my seatbelt off and he accidentally hit the curb and that is how my eye got broken. I went along with it. I remember my parents saying to me, you silly girl, you won't do that again will you. I died inside, knowing I was lying to them.

I eventually got the courage to report it to police and he went to prison to await trial. I was granted an AVO.

In [REDACTED] 2021, whilst he was awaiting trial, he was granted home detention bail and was released. He came to my home, entered without permission and went on a rampage. He broke through the walls to get to me, smashing every piece of furniture as he went. He violently hit me, bit me, smacked me, kicked me, dragged me around and tried to strangle me to death, I passed out and he threw a pot plant at me. When I finally regained consciousness, he was talking on the phone to someone, about taking my body to [REDACTED] to dispose of me. I saw a man outside with a [REDACTED] truck and I ran to him. He was already on the phone to the police, as he could hear and see what was going on, that is the only reason I'm alive today.

I suffered horrendous injuries and I have been given a life sentence as his actions left me with a traumatic brain Injury and epilepsy from his attack. He went to prison to await trial again.

Whilst in prison he stood trial for the eye [REDACTED] incident and was sentenced to [REDACTED] months prison to be served at [REDACTED] prison, after the sentence was completed, he was let out of prison again on home detention bail to await trial for the strangulation and assault charges.

I have just been through 3 years of hell in the SA District Court, in a Domestic Violence case against my Ex Husband [REDACTED] I was made to feel like the offender, having my morals and integrity questioned.

He was charged with [REDACTED] counts of unlawful choking, [REDACTED] counts of aggravated assault, property damage, but of course the charges are used as bargaining chips, and his charges were drastically reduced.

I am disgusted in the way that it was played down.
He tried to kill me!

On the [REDACTED] 2024 after years of adjourning, vacating trial dates and blatant stalling from the defence, he finally plead guilty and was sentenced. He pled guilty, to 1 count of choking, 3 counts of aggravated assault and property damage, far less than his original charges.

I read my victim impact statement to the court, after that the defence went on and on about how he was reformed and how he has changed his life, how his new partner supports him in his recovery and that he would never do anything like this again. Truth was he was taken to a psychiatric hospital late [REDACTED] 2023 for grabbing his new partner's arm and he was hospitalized for 10 days under a psychiatric order. The judge completely ignored this latest offending, which was a pre cursor, of what was to come.

He received a sentence of 4 years and 10 months. He was given 3 years credit for serving time on home detention and being incarcerated for his first offence for breaking my eye orbit, which the judge said he could have credit for time served. The judge also said he could serve the remainder of his sentence on Home Detention Bail.

I was totally disgusted that this violent man would only serve 1 year on home detention, living his life, working living with his new partner and child.

This was not the case.
Guess what!!

Yep, he re-offended, beating his new partner. He has now been returned to prison, to complete his sentence. I'm thankful he is in prison, but he has been released 3 times and repeated behaviour, 2 times, each time having access to me and escalating the vicious behaviour, No wonder people get killed, when these vile people get let out of prison to serve sentences at home. NO violent offenders should be let out on Home

Detention. Its not safe for the victims or the broader community. I am truly terrified as to what will happen when he is eventually released. He has re offended twice now, so what has he learned. Nothing, furthermore he knows he can keep doing these crimes and will just get let out anyway.

He now has decided to sue me for everything that I have including wanting any compensation payouts I get, my property, superannuation, cars and any savings I have, claiming this for marital settlement, even though we have been divorced for [REDACTED] half years.

I have applied for victims of crime compensation. This is an absolute joke. It really should not be called compensation, nothing about it is designed to compensate you for anything. I have been waiting since 2021 for my first claim. This was for my eye [REDACTED] being smashed irreparable damage to my sight and severe facial nerve pain that I will have for the rest of my life. The crown offered me 10,000 dollars. I rejected that amount. I have spent more than that, on medication, natural therapies, physio etc combined with loss of wages. The government has a huge pool of money for victims, but does not compensate victims enough. I should be able to access free legal services using the victims of crime funds. I have returned to work, so I dont qualify for free legal services. These scumbags in prison have free legal help, paid for by the tax payer, meanwhile I cant afford basic legal assistance. My life is forever changed. I am waiting for offers from the crown for both my claims. If he had of been kept in prison, I would not have needed to make a second claim, as he most likely would not have offended again.

I have needed help in recent weeks with Domestic Violence leave at work that has been a nightmare, my employer, who at this stage won't name, telling me that I'm not getting hit anymore so I don't qualify.

I have been ostracised, been unfairly treated and not supported by my employer. I have even been taken off my normal team, due to team members being upset by me talking about Domestic Violence on general. I have been asked for proof of Domestic Violence, appointments I attend, doctors' appointments, court dates and therapy sessions, all of which are very private. I am seriously thinking of taking them to court for their behaviour towards me.

I can't help but feel like the system has failed me at every turn.

Enough is Enough!!

Current statistics say that a woman will go back to a violent partner 7 times before either leaving, being severely injured or sadly dying.

I know we currently have access to a disclosure scheme, but it is a convoluted process and police have not been helpful when I tried to do this, not to mention that not many people even know about it. Also, I believe that if this is something that the greater public know about, it could act as a deterrent for offenders and help victims get out of their situation earlier by being able to access information to leave violent partners and then

be offered help and access to resources to help support them with their decision to leave.

Early intervention is the key.

Please help me.

I really think that Domestic Violence offenders register is the way forward. We need to speak about this, we need to make sure that every person is aware of this, and it needs to be an easy process.

I propose 2 strikes and you are on the register for life.

I would love to talk with you and brainstorm and see if we can bring this register to fruition, we need to keep these offenders behind bars, the way we are doing things now is just not working. We need a better system and we as victims need to be heard and supported.

Thank you and Kind regards

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