

My name is [REDACTED] I am not a victim of domestic violence I am a survivor and I have chosen to share with you what I went through as a survivor and how it all still effects my children and myself to this day with the hope that something is finally done and changes are made for the better.

I unfortunately endured nearly 7 years of family domestic violence with my ex husband and then again nearly two years with my now ex partner. I would be screamed at, man handled , belittled , bullied and so much more daily that it become normal. even though I still struggle with the aftermath of these two relationships on a daily basis it was actually the help I searched for and needed that has traumatised me the most.

Women and their children are placed into motel accommodation in “ safe locations “ that most perpetrators are actually very aware of believe it or not so you are always on edge. You are required to speak with your domestic violence support worker every day , self fund some part of the accommodation and also are required to send through 10 or more rentals a week that you have applied for and gone to the open inspections for. Failure to do this could result in the termination of your safe accomodation.

If your lucky enough you might secure a short term rental and be able to move into a place with your children but again you are required to speak to your support worker every week , have face to face meetings every week and also again send through 10 or more rentals you have applied for and viewed.

I was able to secure a short term rental for nearly two years until I was evicted onto the street with my 5 year old [REDACTED] child because my time had come to an end and because at the time I had stopped engaging with my domestic violence support worker. No exit plan was made or provided , my appeal to change the decision was denied and my complaint regarding the said domestic violence worker was dismissed. I personally contacted the minister of housing , DV minister, housing sa and real estate agents for help but still to this day I do not have a home for my children and myself we are subjected to staying with friends and family which has made me constantly feel like a failure and a terrible mother.

Once you have made the hard decision to seek help it becomes the most loneliest and isolated experiences I have ever had to go through in my life. Survivors are made to constantly jump through hoops and follow rules just to be able to receive help and support while the perpetrators continue to live their lives without a care in the world. Perpetrators can constantly breach intervention orders without repercussions and most often get away with putting their hands on you in the first place meanwhile the survivors are on edge all the time and some like me have no place of their own

While not everyone has the same experience I have had things still need to change as soon as possible. I have listed below the things that I believe will help from my own lived experience.

- ~ secure stable housing for domestic violence survivors
- ~ secret undisclosed temporary emergency accommodation for DVS
- ~ specialised trauma counselling for survivors and their children
- ~ interstate re location options for survivors and children
- ~ domestic violence survivor buddy system
- ~ perpetrators to be fitted with a 24 hour monitored ankle bracelet
- ~ perpetrators to receive specialised treatment and counselling
- ~ stricter domestic violence laws with harsher punishments
- ~ secret go bags for domestic violence survivors and children fleeing violence

I know that you are unable to help me with my current situation but I hope that by sharing my own lived experience it does stop any other survivor going through what my children and myself did.

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