

Prevention

Widespread drug use and online pornography are certainly big contributing factors.

Early intervention

My daughter (the victim) sought help with a psychologist and two different family counsellors, none of whom recognised any of the indicators of coercive control. It was only when seeking help from 1800 RESPECT that she was informed that what she was going through was coercive control. Her marriage ended in physical violence in front of her [REDACTED] son.

Response

My daughter found the response from the DV department very traumatising. The officer in charge of her case reduced her to tears of anger and frustration every time she spoke to him. The DV department never asked her about her home situation, never asked about her husband's general behaviour and so never found out about the coercive control which had actually been worsening over several years. The officer told her not to bother with an intervention order because he didn't think she would get one. They gave her no help or information at all regarding where to start looking for housing, counselling or any help moving on. Earlier on the night of the assault, my daughter told me she felt frightened all the time so, I accompanied her to the police station where she told the officer there that she was frightened to go home. He asked her what her husband had done and when she said 'well, nothing but I'm frightened', he said 'well if he hasn't done anything, I can't do anything'. So she went home and was assaulted. She was not told by the attending officers that she would not be able to return to the house if she left that night. She was just asked if she had anywhere safe to go and so she came to us, her parents.

Recovery and healing

My daughter has had no help to recover or heal. 2 YEARS LATER she is still struggling to cope with the massive anger, injustice and frustration she feels that her husband (ex) has been able to remain in the [REDACTED] house, has had none of the inconvenience, upheaval and financial hardship and is not paying her any child support for her [REDACTED] boys. What is the purpose of child services? I rang many services to ask about housing but none of them could help because she was a home owner. There are lots of things that look great on paper but lead nowhere.

The people she has been referred to for psychological help have been woefully ill equipped and not qualified to deal with her level of trauma. It is only now through a private clinical psychologist that she is beginning to get some help.

Coordination

What coordination? If you live in an affluent suburb there may be some coordination but in [REDACTED] there definitely isn't any. My daughter and [REDACTED] boys lived with my husband and myself in our [REDACTED] before a [REDACTED] friend of hers told her about [REDACTED]. She had help from a wonderful lady there called [REDACTED] who helped her find an assisted rental. Her rent has been \$370 per week and is going up to

\$550 per week in September. Centrelink cannot tell her whether her rental assistance will increase in line with this. My husband is [REDACTED] and I am [REDACTED]. We have had our lives turned upside down in every respect and have had to help our daughter and grandsons emotionally, physically and financially. The last few years have certainly taken their toll on our mental and physical health.

From [REDACTED]