

NT OFFICE STATUS of FAMILY

FAMILY SERVICES CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVE

NT OFFICE STATUS OF FAMILY

Post Office Box 988

PALMERSTON NT 0831

Phone 08 8932 3339

29th April 2011

The Ombudsman of The Northern Territory
GPO Box 1344
DARWIN NT 0801

The Ombudsman
M/s C Richards
Dear Madam

COMPLAINT against

- The Northern Territory of Australia [The Northern Territory Government] **The Government** first respondent
- Minister K Vastkalis second respondent

GROUNDINGS OF COMPLAINT

- Deliberate false and misleading advertising by The Government on family violence.
- Purporting the advertising to be truth while knowing it not to be the truth. *[Note The Ministers advisers explanation in the enclosed press]. Or having the responsibility irrespective of 'allegedly' not knowing.*
- Ignoring a constitutional and legislative responsibility to be 'correct' and 'impartial' in service deliveries.
- Misrepresenting the true community facts – already know by The Government to be untrue. Equates as 'propaganda' to appease a self interest community group at the expense of many innocent other citizens
- Causing a range of consequential 'legal' harms to both 'physically' and 'administratively' victimised and innocent citizens.
- By for example the police working to the 'propaganda' and not their oath of 'without fear or favour' and impartial application the law to protect irrespective of the victims or perpetrators gender or race. *{Ombudsman please note the many complaints against police to this Ombudsman's attention on this very issue}.*
- By such as serial false reports by female offenders alleging they are the victims that fail to be impartially investigated by police and the male victim is served by police with a restraining order to vacate his home. And in so many cases has to attend court to answer why not and 'consent' to an order' that lawfully should be upon the female perpetrator. Occurs in NT to between 1,000 to 1,500 males a year. *[Approximately 50% of issued restraining orders].*
- I have one fully police documented {FIO} case the police recorded the female to be a serial false reporter but still 'charged' him with a restraining order to attend court and ignored the female's false

reporting. **Are unlawful financial burdens upon innocent men unnecessarily forced to get legal representation and upon the taxpayer by police incurred cost of raising an invalid protection order and running a known vexatious proceeding in the court. Note a vexatious proceeding is also a serious and prosecutable offence and under the criminal code act brings the false plaintiff the same penalties being attempted to be imposed upon the innocent citizen.** Notwithstanding the social and legal stigmatisation of being a male victim under 'legislated' protection of the Northern Territory Government {equally to a woman} but solely on his male gender having his protection denied and he being inverted unlawfully into be an 'offender' is "Government" corruption of the highest order.

- Is hidden and promoted by a small self interest community sector to be able in spite of legislation (a) remain blameless perpetrators (b) to corrupt police to transfer their blame onto their victim (c) reinforced by such as this false Government advertising (d) that has the sole purpose of stigmatising and vilifying the male gender. Who according to empirical and impartial research by Commonwealth Government [Australian Bureaus of Statistics] are possibly the lowest offenders.
- Exposes The Government ignoring a wider and greater other classes and genders of offenders and victims of family violence only to appease a self centred 'gender based' community group The government is not upholding its higher Constitutional and Legislative responsibilities and duties impartially to the wider constituency.
- By way of final note to this Ombudsman. The Government has not and has no grounds to obtain s 57 relief from the Anti Discrimination Commission of NT to 'target' by 'portrayal' only Caucasian males.
- Purported falsely in the advertising to be the perpetrator of a wide range of other race and culture children.
- Reinforced by the advertisement mentioning Mensline as the only counselling service and no counselling services for offending or women with their own violence problems. *[Is intentionally misleading by The Government to conceal female perpetrators and leave only males falsely represented as sole offenders and male victims of females as being no existent and 'administratively' revitalised by The Government].*
- Is similar to health immunising only one gender and then blaming and 'condemning' the other gender for spreading the disease while the blame all the time lays with The Government for not being compliant to the Constitution and Legislatures and supplying gender impartial services. *[Unless special circumstances exist and correct protocols are followed to obtain 'legal' permission to indulge for special measures in 'prohibited conduct']*.

In support of Community Interest please note the attached

- Media report on the advertising.
- ABS {second survey} reporting on female perpetrator violence proportions to (a) women – are victims of women (b) to men – are victims of women (d) in the home – family violence – 'domestic violence'- by women.
- Media 'editorial' on The Government 'false advertising' and other concerned citizen's protests to the false advertising.

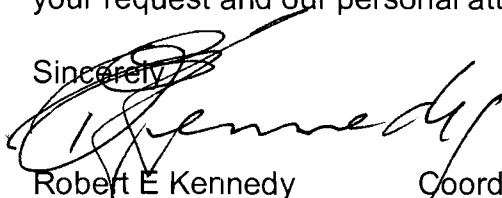
- The same 'false reporting' by South Australian Government dealt with by stopple on complaint as here to The Ombudsman.
- A very typical case of male victimisation similar to many where the male is (a) vilified by Government false advertising (b) has his 'legislated' protection withheld by attending police (c) are frequently instead served with a restraining order removing them from their home (d) frequently initiate further vexations court proceedings he has to afford and defend.
- This coordinators sad experiences trying to raise this gender biased administration with NT Police.
- The Police Commissioner's refusal to receive a complaint supported by FOI police documents reporting the woman a serial false reporter while police had him in court at taxpayers cost on a vexatious proceeding.
- The recognition and provision of violence counselling services for anger perpetrator women and those recognising they are perpetrators. *[The omission of women's services to hide their offending by The Government advertising fails in absolute terms to include the inclusion {ie their equal 'immunisation'} of female offenders and the protection of their women and male victims in their second 'administrative' victimisation by The Governments exclusion of 'women' and them].*
- A violence research professor Linda Kelly's empirical research on the "Feminisation of the Administration of Domestic Violence" on how the 'administration' has become female biased and corrupted not to deliver impartially to males and instead false blames males. Although this is USA it holds equally well for Australia because Australia has copied many 'feminist' protocols like the Duluth {solely male blame} model of policing mentioned above and EMILY's List feminist movement a 'feminist wing' of the Australian Labor Party.
- As in this false advertising giving them 'ideological' rewards for voting their EMILY's List members into parliament who turn a 'blind eye' to their 'sisterhood' in the 'administration' as service delivery staff delivering their own ideology about 'genders' and not according to The Legislature on community facts to the intentions of The Legislature.

Action Sought

In accordance with community interest and minimising harm it is requested that the advertising be suspended forthwith until the investigation of the Ombudsman and Anti Discrimination on their differing basis has been completed. That on the face of constitutional and legislative and other administrations values it should be stopped permanently in the 'propaganda' form currently being presented.

Further information or clarification to this initiating complaint can be given at your request and our personal attendance to the formalisation of the complaint.

Sincerely,



Robert E Kennedy

Coordinator

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FAMILY SERVICES CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVE

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Post Office Box 988

PALMERSTON NT 0831

Phone 08 8932 3339

29th April 2011

Anti Discrimination Commission of NT
LMB 22 GPO
DARWIN NT 0801

The Commissioner
Dear Sir

COMPLAINT

Of community interest and community expressed concern.
The Northern Territory is indulging in racial and gender discrimination
[Prohibited Conduct]

Complaint against

- The Northern Territory of Australia – first Respondent
- Minister K Vastkalis – second Respondent

Grounds of Complaint

- Under the Anti Discrimination Act **[The Act]** and the Domestic and Family Violence Act of The Northern Territory.
- Out of discriminatory falsely based television advertising out of Northern Territory Government **[The Government]** on family violence.
- That gender vilifies Caucasian males by false portrayals as sole perpetrators of family violence.
- Racially vilifies Caucasian males by false portrayals as the sole perpetrators of family violence.
- Such false and vilifying portrayals are contrary to Governments own statistical resources on gender and racial family violence. Viz gender discrimination. (Note ABS attached).
- By the omission of other races who are the majority of perpetrators is Caucasian male racial vilification. Viz racial discrimination.
- Sex discrimination by the complete omission that females are also perpetrators is sex vilification of Caucasian males. (Note ABS attached).
- Sex discrimination by the complete omission that males are victims of females in family violence is sex discrimination against Caucasian males by the advertising omission of other males as victims of females. (Note ABS attached)
- Sex discrimination by absolute omission of females being perpetrators against other women and males.

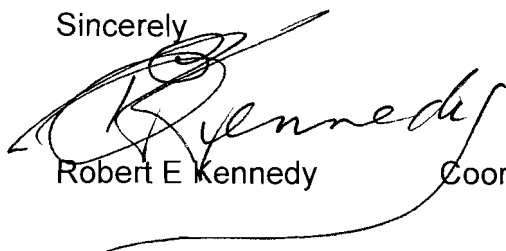
- Mensline is the only stated 'perpetrator' counselling service reinforcing the false solely Caucasian male 'blame' advertising.
- No women 'perpetrator' counselling services are mentioned vilifying Caucasian and other males and re-victimising males {and females} who are victims of female perpetrators.
- States and Territories are held to a higher authority of the Australian Constitution to deliver impartially to all citizens unless exemption is sought for 'special measures' (s57) and is approved within specific special measures legislation or obtained from The Commission.
- The Government has not obtained any s57 special measures relief to 'target' only Caucasian males as sole perpetrators of family violence.
- The Government falsely portrays other race and culture children as the victims of solely Caucasian males.
- There are no s57 special measures grounds to 'target' only Caucasian males as 'perpetrators when they constitute about only one third of the community perpetrators and a similar proportion of the victims.
- The Northern Territory Government under The Act is indulging in gender and racial 'prohibited conduct' against Caucasian males.

Note that The Government or Others may indulge in 'Prohibited Conduct' unlawfully until it is to The Commission's attention or by way of complaint. Thus it is requested that The Commission requests The Government to suspend such 'prohibited conduct' advertising until the matter is fully and properly considered by The Commission.

A detailed submission can follow this initiating complaint if needed to better explain this complaint. Meanwhile other community sentiments of concern on this 'prohibited conduct' are attached with some other supporting material on the grounds of complaint.

- Media release on The Government advertising subject of this complaint.
- Media editorial on The Government's racially biased' advertising. Viz 'prohibited conduct' as under The Act
- Media community letters of concern on racial and gender bias of the Government's 'prohibited conduct' under The Act
- Other Australian States response to similar misleading Government advertising.
- Locally advertised female violence perpetrator counselling service.

Sincerely



Robert E Kennedy Coordinator



Graphic ads about domestic violence screened in the Northern Territory for the first time last night

NT NEWS 05.04.11

Graphic ads portray domestic violence

By SARAH CRAWFORD

A GRAPHIC M-rated ad about domestic violence aired on Territory TV for the first time last night.

The ad shows children trembling beneath a kitchen table while a man threatens a woman and smashes a plate against a wall.

NT Health Minister Kon Vatskalis said the ad was "graphic" and showed the reality in the Territory where half of all reported assaults are related to dom-

estic violence. "We wanted to show exactly what domestic violence is — it is not pretty. It is ugly, it is nasty and you have to see it to believe it," he said.

The ads target men and encourage them to think about their behaviour and seek professional help if needed.

A PG-rated ad will run earlier in the day. The M-rated ad starts after 8.40pm.

CLP MLA John Elferink criticised the campaign. He said the Government should be fixing domestic violence

rather than making ads on the issue. But Mr Vatskalis said there were programs to help perpetrators of domestic violence get help.

He said the ads directed people to seek help through those programs.

Mr Vatskalis said the ads were part of a three-year, \$15 million package targeting domestic violence.

He said the money was going towards raising awareness, reducing alcohol consumption and funding domestic violence support

programs. But he would not say how much the ads — which will run until September — cost.

Mr Vatskalis said the ads targeted all Territorians even though the two perpetrators in the portrayal of violence are white men.

In the ads the victims, or potential victims, come from a diversity of backgrounds.

Mr Vatskalis's media adviser Maria Billias said it was not a deliberate decision to use only white men to act as perpetrators.

HE SAID IT



KON Vatskalis
NT
Health
Minister

“We wanted to show exactly what domestic violence is — it is not pretty. It is ugly, it is nasty and you have to see it to believe it



Australian Bureau of Statistics

4906.0 - Personal Safety, Australia, 2005 (Reissue)

Latest ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 21/08/2006

Summary

MEDIA RELEASE

August 10, 2006

Embargoed 11:30am (AEST)

74/2006

First national personal safety survey released today: ABS

Today the Australian Bureau of Statistics released the results of the first national Personal Safety Survey presenting information about women's and men's experiences of violence.

For the 2005 Personal Safety Survey violence was defined as any incident involving the occurrence, attempt or threat of either physical or sexual assault.

The 2005 Personal Safety Survey found that most Australian adults (95% of men and 83% of women) felt safe at home after dark. About one in 20 women (5.8%) and one in 10 men (11%) reported experiencing violence in the 12 months prior to the survey. Since the age of 15, 40% of women and 50% of men reported experiencing at least one incident of violence.

Physical violence: Approximately one in 10 men (10%) and one in 20 women (4.7%) experienced physical violence (includes being threatened or assaulted) in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Men aged between 18-24 years were most likely to be physically assaulted (43%).

The most common location for physical assaults to occur for women was in the home irrespective of the sex of the perpetrator (64% of physical assaults were by male perpetrators and 38% of physical assaults were by female perpetrators).

Men who were physically assaulted by a male perpetrator were more likely to have been assaulted at licensed premises (34%) or in the open (35%), however if the perpetrator was female then 77% of the physical assaults occurred in the home.

Family members or friends were the most likely perpetrators of physical assault on women (37%) and strangers were more likely to physically assault men (66%).

In the 12 months prior to the 2005 survey 35% of men and 36% of women who experienced physical assault by a male perpetrator reported these incidents to the police.

Sexual violence: In the 12 months prior to the survey it was found that 1.6% of women (or 126,100 women) and 0.6% of men (46,700 men) experienced sexual violence (includes being threatened or assaulted).

Just under one-third (31%) of those who experienced sexual assault were aged between

25-34 years old. The most likely perpetrators of sexual assault were family members or friends (39% for women and 44% for men).

The survey also found that:

- An estimated 27% of men and 56% women reported being harassed at some stage in their lifetime.
- Approximately one in ten men (9%) and one in five women (19%) had been stalked at some stage in their lifetime.

Experience of violence(a) and feelings of safety - during the last 12 months

	2005 Personal Safety Survey				1996 Women's Safety Survey(b)	
	Men		Women		Women	
		%		%		%
Experienced violence	808,300	10.8	443,800	5.8	490,400	7.1
Physical violence	779,800	10.4	363,000	4.7	404,400	5.9
Physical assault	485,400	6.5	242,000	3.1	346,900	5.0
Physical threat	392,800	5.3	162,400	2.1	284,000	4.1
Sexual violence	46,700	0.6	126,100	1.6	133,100	1.9
Sexual assault	42,300	0.6	101,600	1.3	100,000	1.5
Sexual threat	**5,700	0.1	34,900	0.5	44,800	0.7
Felt unsafe at home alone after dark	281,900	3.8	1,029,400	13.4	1,471,500	21.4
Felt unsafe using public transport alone after dark	404,600	5.4	544,800	7.1	384,800	5.6

(a) A person who experienced violence during the last 12 months could have experienced violence more than once. The components when added together may therefore be larger than the total.

(b) Results presented are from the **1996 Women's Safety Survey** (ABS cat. no. 4128.0).

** estimate has a standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

Funding for the women's component of the 2005 Personal Safety Survey was provided through the National Initiative to Combat Sexual Assault and Partnerships Against Domestic Violence - Australian Government initiatives administered by the Office for Women (OfW). The male component was funded by the ABS.

Further details are in **Personal Safety Survey: Summary of Results, Australia 2005** (cat. no. 4906.0).

This page last updated 18 September 2006

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2011

NT News

Why not tell it like it is?

LET'S be brutally honest - domestic violence is entrenched in Aboriginal society in the Territory.

Of course, non-indigenous men also bash their wives.

But the overwhelming majority of domestic violence cases involve Aboriginal men. Ask any cop.

Therefore, it seems bizarre that the NT Government's very worthy campaign features only white men.

This is self-defeating political correctness.

The bureaucrats and advertising executives who put the ad campaign together just couldn't bring their well-meaning, liberal-minded selves to tell it like it is.

Having said that, the Government deserves praise for having the courage to put together the M-rated ads. As Health Minister Kon Vatskalis says: "We wanted to show exactly what domestic violence is - it is not pretty."

Tragically, domestic violence has been acceptable (to men, at least) at some stage in every society's development. It still is in many parts of the world - the Middle East, Africa and the Indian sub-continent. Some backward societies even have rules on how badly a man can beat a woman.

But societies advance and, at some point, domestic violence is seen by most people in the community for what it is - cowardly, destructive and unacceptable.

The Territory's indigenous community needs to get to that point.

WOMEN CAUSE VIOLENCE TOO

THE latest series of graphic domestic violence TV ads ask men who use violence to "stop the hurting... start the healing" - as they should.

But the largest Australian survey of young people and domestic violence found that 21 per cent of young people aged 12 to 20 in the NT have witnessed physical male to female parental violence, while 26 per cent have witnessed female to male violence (ie they are 24 per cent more likely to have seen

WOMEN AS VIOLENT AS MEN CAN BE

I READ an article that stated a new ad about domestic violence had aired on Territory TV recently.

The ad shows a male being threatening to a female in the kitchen while a young child cries in the background.

Myself being a male and a victim of violence, I'm sick of males being portrayed as the perpetrators. Women are as

violent as men are if not more so.
Anthony Peter Cotis, SA

NT NEWS 13.4.11 WOMEN SHOULD NOT BE AFRAID

RE: NT Government TV advertisements on domestic violence. I have not seen the ads but I was surprised to read comment in the NT News that the two perpetrators of violence in the advertisement are white men.

Particularly when the rates of violence against Aboriginal women are so extremely high.

Reports say that Aboriginal women are 42 times more likely to be assaulted than other women.

Still, let's hope more women will speak up. Many women lead lives of quiet despair too afraid of violent men to talk of being bashed and threatened.

June Tapp, Katherine

MALES VILIFIED IN VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN

RE: LETTER by June Tapp that Caucasian males are being vilified in the present anti-violence campaign when others are far greater offenders.

Yes, June, but why not mention women perpetrators when 77 per cent of attacks in the home are done by them, on men and 38 per cent of violence to women is by other women?

And get this one, too. I know of male victims of women who called the police for their protection under the Domestic and Family Violence Act were not only denied their legislated protection but were issued with an order to leave their home.

Robert E Kennedy,
Palmerston

NT NEWS 18.04.11

N.T. NEWS
11.04.2011

mum/stepmum hitting dad/stepdad than the other way around). The Government should also release ads advising women who use violence to seek help.

Greg Andresen,
Senior Researcher, One in Three Campaign

NT NEWS
12.04.2011



MEDIA RELEASE – MON 6TH SEPT 2010 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Ombudsman finds domestic violence campaign ‘misleading’:
men’s groups call for changes**

On the first anniversary of the launch of the South Australian government’s *Don’t Cross the Line* campaign, the Ombudsman has found the Office for Women guilty of unreasonable and wrong administrative action after failing to correct false and/or misleading information on the campaign website.

The Ombudsman asked the Australian Institute of Criminology to investigate the errors after a complaint by Men’s Health Australia showed that statistics on the website misled the public about the nature of violence in young people’s relationships.

Men’s Health Australia spokesman, Greg Andresen said “The research evidence shows that, as far as young people are concerned, the experiences of males and females with regard to relationship violence are quite similar.”

“Around a quarter of young people have seen either mum hitting dad or dad hitting mum, and it’s more likely they’ve seen their parents hitting each other than seeing one-way violence from either parent. Young males and females are also equally likely to say ‘yes’ to the statement ‘I’ve experienced domestic violence’.”

“As far as the attitudes of young people go, the research does show that some young people hold unacceptable attitudes to violence against women. For example, 8% of young people agreed with the statement ‘it’s okay for a boy to make a girl have sex, if she’s flirted with him, or led him on’ and 11% agreed with the statement ‘if a guy hits a girl he loves because he is jealous, it shows how much he feels for her.’

“However, many more hold unacceptable attitudes to violence against men. For example,

- Young people are more likely to say a woman ‘is right to’, or ‘has good reason to’, respond to relationship conflict by hitting (68%), than a man in the same situation (49%)
- While males hitting females was seen, by virtually all young people surveyed, to be unacceptable, it appeared to be quite acceptable for a girl to hit a boy (25% of young people agreed with the statement ‘when a girl hits a guy, it’s really not a big deal.’)
- Female to male violence was not only viewed light-heartedly, it was also seen as (virtually) acceptable.”

Instead of presenting such data on the *Don’t Cross the Line* website, the Office for Women instead presented erroneous statistics such as “95% of domestic violence involves a male perpetrator and a female victim” (the data shows that overall, at least one in three victims are male). While some of these errors have now been corrected, the website still contains a page of inappropriate statistics about violence against women only.

In an interview on ABC Radio on September 2nd, Minister for Women Gail Gago claimed that the campaign “is not a contest about who is the biggest victim.” Men’s Health Australia is hopeful this means that the campaign will be altered to present a balanced picture of relationship violence.

Mr Andresen said, “Unfortunately this is not an isolated incident. The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research recently found that the NSW Government had published eight ‘statistics’ in need of correction in their Domestic and Family Violence Discussion Paper. There appears to be a widespread culture within women’s departments that downplays or denies the existence of male victims of relationship violence and abuse.”

A coalition of thirty men’s health organisations and individuals has written to the Premier asking that the *Don’t Cross the Line* campaign and future respectful relationships and family violence campaigns be moved from the Office for Women to a more suitable government department.

Toni McLean, a counsellor for men and women who use violence said, “The consequences of the government’s one-sided view of relationship violence are devastating for young male victims who don’t speak up because they think their circumstances are unusual. Equally, the vast majority of boys who are non-violent could grow up with the distorted and unhealthy view that many of their peers are abusive to females.”

Micheal Woods, adjunct fellow at the University of Western Sydney, said “The Government has a public duty to present facts honestly and with integrity when releasing information in the public domain, especially about such an important area as relationship violence. We fear that the Office for Women may be ill-equipped to continue a role in designing and implementing respectful relationship and domestic violence policy because of their demonstrated bias.”

Media contacts:

Greg Andresen, Spokesman, Men’s Health Australia: media@menshealthaustralia.net | 0403 813 925

Micheal Woods, Adjunct Fellow, University of Western Sydney: m.woods@uws.edu.au | 0414 710 696

Toni McLean, Domestic Violence Counsellor: toni@tonimclean.net.au | 0409 599 887

Dr Elizabeth Celi, Psychologist & Author: info@qualityliving.com.au | 0413 338 237

Men's Rights Agency - Domestic Violence

MEN'S HEALTH (Australia)

March 1999, Vol 2 No 5, pp114-119

VIOLENT FEMMES

Women aren't the only victims of domestic violence

By Peter Olszewski

Even now, long after the relationship ended, I still have trouble uttering that simple, painful acknowledgment: "I was a battered man." Saying it makes me cringe makes me feel like a coward or a wimp. At first I would switch off whenever I saw a newspaper article or TV report about domestic violence because I knew I was about to be subjected to yet another pungent vilification of men and their propensity to beat women, before muttering to myself. "Hey, what about guys like me?"

Let's get one thing straight - in no way am I denying the problem of battered women or trying to downplay their grief. Violence in a relationship is reprehensible, but the mistake that's made is that the violence is seen as exclusively male in origin. In fact, there's significant evidence to suggest that women are just as capable of committing domestic violence.

As a 'victim' I even began to identify with females portrayed on TV, with their downcast, shamed eyes and their cuts, bruises and puffy swellings and smiled wryly to myself when the reporter would inevitably ask: "If you were being beaten so regularly, why didn't you simply leave?"

I know the answer to that one. First of all you live in the hope that your truly beloved will come to her senses and do something about her violence. And then, of course, there's the problem of what happens when you do try to leave. In my case, it caused a final flurry of totally-out-of-control violence, a string of court appearances, the loss of most of my possessions, the constant redirecting of money to solicitors and the cold, harsh reality of virtually having to restart my life from scratch. But I came through, I made it - I'm a survivor.

Possibly, the event that helped me on the road to recovery most was speaking personally about battered men on a nationwide radio program. For almost two weeks after appearing on that program I received phone calls from all over Australia, from battered guys who'd been through the wringer, felt the shame and had nobody they could talk to until they heard this bloke on the radio - me.

While time consuming, this was also very beneficial for me because I went from being a victim to a survivor, dispensing guidance, wisdom and advice to my fellow sufferers. By speaking out, I also became part of a trend.

Suddenly violence by women against men was being taken seriously and figures started to emerge that backed this up. For example, three US surveys taken by family-violence counsellors in 1980, 1985, and 1995 showed that violence of the same degree was committed by an almost equal number of men and women.

The reports were condemned by feminists - who argued that this sort of data was simply used to devalue female victims - but the research stood up to scrutiny. A Canberra academic who suggested that domestic assaults against men were almost as prevalent as assaults against women, was ridiculed and a Brisbane men's organisation that expressed similar sentiments was promptly labelled as right wing.

In the US, Steve Easton, homeless and unemployed after enduring years of domestic violence, started an organisation in 1993 called The Easton Alliance, which counsels up to 400 men a year. Like most battered men, Easton's domestic situation was a casebook study of classic female violence - the violence simply escalated and he was overwhelmed by it to the point that it almost ruined his life. Easton observed that many women, angered over failed relationships with men, start assaulting their current male partners and the violence slowly escalates from there. And, like violent male behaviour, alcohol was usually a contributing factor with female violence.

Easton's case interested me particularly because he admitted making the same mistake that I did. Many of his problems stemmed from one simple, natural response - he chose to retaliate.

Perhaps at this stage, it would be appropriate for me to tell my story, for no particular reason other than it's a text-book example of female domestic violence in all its pure, unpredictable fury.

I discovered my lover was violent the first night we moved into a house together. I figured it was a one-off thing, stress induced by the move and for a while it seemed so. Then, on two separate occasions, after returning home from eating out, I was king-hit on the side of the head. The reason for the first blow turned out to be because we'd been to a restaurant she used to visit with her ex. The second was that we'd consumed, at her insistence, red wine and oysters, apparently a favourite dish of her ex.

Casebook studies claim that violence escalates rapidly from this point and it certainly did. I would be punched if I mentioned her business rivals and she'd strike out if I had the TV on too loudly or ate too loudly, like her father. And suggesting she do something about her violent behaviour only triggered more of the same.

Finally, she cracked and attacked me with a tennis racquet and her stilettos and systematically destroyed my possessions. I snapped and hurled an ashtray through a window. This turned out to be a major mistake.

She calmed down and coolly phoned the police. When they arrived I confessed to smashing the window and - ignoring my cuts and abrasions and version of events - they ordered me to collect some clothes and get out immediately. I wound up in a domestic-violence court and before I knew what happened, had a domestic-violence order slapped on me. And my partner immediately qualified as yet another female victim of violence in the home.

After a year and many entreaties and promises from her, we got back together. The violence restarted almost immediately, but with a new element - control - which I was to discover is also classic behaviour. In addition to being hit for doing something she didn't like, I was now also being attacked if I didn't do what she wanted. When I resisted, she adopted a new tactic, using other men to get at me if I didn't obey her.

I was now planning my escape because violence had become the order of the day. I moved some things out discreetly and observed that a man she was having an affair with had his house and car trashed when he apparently didn't do her bidding. He reported the violence, creating a track record that would later back me up in court. Meanwhile I was ducking projectiles - like lumps of concrete - and began to realise that this could end up killing me. After a long discussion we agreed to separate. But that night, before I could leave, she went berserk again, attacking me and demolishing the house. I fled.

I returned at dawn. Usually she would wake up contrite - and sober. But not that day. She poured a bottle of wine and a cup of hot coffee over me, threw books and then started laying into me. In pure desperation, I eventually gave her a sharp jab in the stomach.

This snapped her out of it. She became very cool again and rang the police, stating that I had a rifle and was threatening to shoot her and then calmly left for work. I waited for a SWAT team or the equivalent to arrive, but nothing happened, so I finally went to the police station myself.

For the first time, I received some help. The policeman took one look at my bruised and bloodied state and immediately initiated domestic-violence proceedings against her. Over a year of messy court hearings followed before I was finally free to go my own way, albeit broke and bewildered.

I've had relationships since then but the instant I detect the potential for violence or hear confessions of violent acts against previous lovers, I'm out of there. And that's about the only way to deal with violent women. Of course, if you're deeply in love and enmeshed in family and financial commitments, you naturally hope you'll be able to sort it out. Then one day someone will look at you in disbelief and say: "If it was that violent, why didn't you simply leave?"

Early Warning Signs

Female domestic violence begins just like its male equivalent - with the first slap, punch or hurled object. But if the victim's a woman, she will view this first violent act as a very serious sign that there's trouble

brewing. A man will tend to play down the incident or tough it out, often making a joke of it. Take action with the first slap. Don't be melodramatic or wait until things have started to cool down. It's important to act decisively. Explain that you don't like being hit - just like you imagine she wouldn't enjoy it.

Look for reasons for her behaviour. Was it a stressful time? Did it occur because you made a cutting or insulting remark? Did it happen because something you did annoyed her? Was it alcohol-related? Was it due to anger over a past relationship or does it stem from a history of violence in her family?

Research shows that domestic violence is often the product of a violent upbringing. Explore all these avenues, decisively and precisely, and then let it rest. But let her know that the first slap was taken very seriously indeed.

If it happens again, there is a risk of a pattern being established and even more decisive action must be taken. If you spot a trend appearing, make sure you discuss it.

To ensure that she knows how seriously you view the second incident, it may be time to consult her family. It may be embarrassing for her, but if you have a good relationship with her side of the family, it may help pinpoint a problem.

Three strikes and you're out. Domestic violence escalates quickly and if matters become really heated, you too will be drawn into the violence, to the point that you'll be tempted to strike back. Under no circumstances retaliate.

After a third incident it's time to consult a counsellor. Get the violence out into the open with someone outside the family circle, irrespective of how embarrassing it is for your partner. This also creates an important legal precedent.

No matter how remorseful your partner appears after the event, don't let her off the hook. Keep working at the problem and repeatedly stress that it shouldn't have happened in the first place. If the violence escalates to the point where you become concerned for your safety or that of your children, it's time to take the most drastic step of all - a domestic-violence order. This puts the matter in the hands of the police and courts and brings home the reality that she is on the verge of being criminally charged. If matters have degenerated to this stage, counselling is a must and you may have to consider temporarily leaving the relationship.

What is domestic violence?

The legal definition of domestic violence is very broad, ranging from physical violence against a person and damage to their property, right through to psychological or implied violence such as verbal abuse, phone calls, threats, and threatening behaviour.

Certain orders have been incorporated into the legal system to protect victims of domestic violence. These are known as apprehended-violence orders (AVOs), protection orders or domestic-violence orders (DVOs).

These can be initiated within two days. Finally, police can be called in and, if they deem it necessary, they'll apply for an order.

Alternatively, a person can visit a courthouse, request the necessary form, fill it out and - if the clerk of the court decides there are grounds for an order - a summons will be issued. The summons compels the defendant to attend a court hearing or face arrest.

If the defendant doesn't contest the order or agrees with it, it will be issued, usually for two years, compelling the defendant to display good behaviour towards the spouse and to hand in to police anything that can be considered a weapon.

In serious cases, the terms of the "standard order" can be strengthened, with additional provisions determined by a magistrate. For example, defendants can be ordered to stay at least 100 metres from the marital home. If the provisions of the order are breached, criminal charges can be laid.

The domestic-violence laws were brought into being, to their credit, by feminist organisations who made domestic violence a political issue. But the issue is based on the theory that domestic violence is "an expression of patriarchy as a social force and marriage as a patriarchal institution".

However, recent research proves that almost as many women commit domestic violence as men, although male violence is often more dangerous and more likely to inflict serious damage.

Because the initial stage of a domestic-violence order is a civil matter, the onus of proof does not apply as it does with assault charges. To bring a person before a domestic-violence hearing is a relatively straightforward procedure. All that is really needed is the ability to fill out a form accurately and give adequate reasons. Consequently, domestic-violence orders are increasingly abused or often used by women as instruments of revenge or humiliation. A particularly unpleasant example is set by some extreme feminist organisations, which openly advocate the use of orders to deal with annoying men. In fact, some lawyers now argue that nuisance or revenge manipulation of domestic-violence orders is a form of domestic violence in itself.

Where to get help?

There are very few organisations that cater for men who have problems with a violent partner. The federal domestic-violence organisations and help-lines are best avoided because they're set up to deal with women and their problems. Theoretically, men with violent partners should be able to receive help and advice from these agencies, but, in practice, it doesn't work this way.

The only agency dealing exclusively with the male side of this sensitive issue is the Brisbane-based Men's Rights Agency. They've been savaged in the Queensland media but attacks against them are unwarranted. Ironically, they seem to attract criticism simply because they focus exclusively on men's needs.

Run by husband-and-wife team Reg and Sue Price, The Men's Rights Agency has now established a national network and their contact details are:

The Men's Rights Agency
Freecall: 1800 818 004.

E-mail: mra@ecn.net.au

Web: <http://www.ecn.net.au/~mra>

Brisbane headquarters (07) 3805 5611 or fax (07) 3200 8769.

Other organisations, which can be helpful, include:

WA:

Men's Confraternity Inc, (08) 9470 1734.

Lone Fathers Association, (08) 9470 1153.

ACT:

Lone Fathers Association of Australia, (02) 6258 4216, mobile 0417 668 802.

Non-Custodial Parents Association, (02) 6292 1121.

NSW:

DADS, (02) 9721 3177.

Family Law Reform Association, (02) 9542 2459.

Newcastle Lone Fathers Association, (02) 4943 9634, mobile 015 550 964.

QLD:

Gladstone Family Law Reform & Assistance Inc, (07) 4972 5899.

Rockhampton Lone Fathers Association, (07) 4927 6448.

NT:

DADS Alice Springs, (08) 8952 4485.

DADS Darwin, 015 615 669.

Lone Fathers Association, (08) 8932 3339.

SA:

Lone Fathers Association, (08) 8370 3169.

TAS:

DADS Tasmania, (03) 6247 7790.

Lone Fathers Association, (03) 6247 7790.

VIC:

Contact The Men's Rights Agency, freecall 1800 818 004.

Melbourne Lone Fathers Association, (03) 9878 6588.

Note: Many of these organisations are for fathers because manipulations of domestic-violence orders have become a significant feature of child-custody battles. However, the groups are still well placed to cater for the needs of single men.

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At an interview explaining this phenomenon she was deliberately rude to me - SEE LETTER BELOW

PROSECUTE TO STOP FALSE REPORTING

NO spiking — victims took drugs is yet more of the endless prosecutable false reports to police by women wasting police resources and taxpayers' money. And still no prosecutions are made to dissuade false reporting — because they are made by women. Who do the police work for?

I have spent a decade representing blokes who have been falsely accused.

At an interview with Officer Colleen Gwynne, when she was OIC domestic violence, to explain this phenomenon she was deliberately rude to me, destroying my information and I had to end the interview. A case of shoot the messenger.

Just recently I had an interview with the current Commissioner and again tried to tell him what has been going on for a decade. He too tried to divert me from presenting the case. When I said that Govern-

ment and police have too long listened only to the feminists he rose and ordered me to leave.

Another high-level case of "shoot the messenger" so the male case cannot reveal a terrible truth about gender corruption in the police.

Do police listen to feminists? Some days later I happened to be talking to a police officer's wife and she said that is the way police are trained as other police have told me the same.

In 1997 police nationally undertook the Duluth Model devised on solely male blame by feminists and then were trained locally in it by Dawn House.

What I and about 1000 NT blokes, who are victims of false reports and undue restraining orders, want to know is when will the Police Minister have the Police Commissioner return officers to being compliant to their oaths of Without Fear or Favour, enforcing laws of the legislature? And stop enforcing the male hate ideology of feminism?

Also, when will Police Union rep Vince Kelley support his members in doing their duty to their oath and not to gender corruption?

What about gender equality feminists fought so hard to obtain now being ruined by the police holding back on law enforcement of female offenders?

**Robert E Kennedy,
Palmerston**

COMMISSIONER MUST LOOK AT DOCUMENTS

THE police secretly check a journalist's phone record allegedly to catch one breach of discipline cop.

I think not.

When I attended and offered Commissioner John McRoberts first-hand police documents of one case of officer breach of discipline it was only one of a potential 1000 a year.

The Commissioner cut me off and ordered me to leave.

If the Commissioner was genuine he would have, as is required, accepted the complaint and looked at about 1000 breaches of discipline.

**Robert E Kennedy,
Palmerston**

5 YEARS AGO: CHIEF Minister
Ian Tuxworth unveiled plans
Darwin's new \$4 million
central fire station in the
rural area of Winnellie.

www.ntnews.com.au

NT. NEWS 23.04.11

Public notices

Relationships Australia
NORTHERN TERRITORY

**What To Do About Anger
FOR WOMEN**

This information session explores and distinguishes anger as a healthy response, as an act of resistance and as abuse and provides tips on how to express anger in order to use it more effectively and respectfully so you can be aware of what anger tells you and be clear about what changes you seek in yourself and others.

Tuesday 10th May 2011

9:30am - 12:30pm

\$25 per person

Bookings Essential

For more information call (08) 8923 4999

Relationships Australia, 2nd Floor, Cavenagh Centre.

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