

## Submission

### Independent Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service Responses to Domestic and Family Violence

My submission is in two parts

- a) [REDACTED]  
(CONFIDENTIAL)
- b) As the Founder/Managing Director of a DV charity (Beyond DV Limited), which my family established in October 2017, as a result of our daughter's DV experience (NON-CONFIDENTIAL)

#### PART B: As the Founder/Managing Director of Beyond DV \*NON-CONFIDENTIAL\*

- As a result of our daughter's DV experience, and accompanying her to court over six months, our family established a charity called Beyond DV. I have a background in Education (30+ years with the Education Dept, currently on non-paid leave to run the charity)
- We support women and children in the Recovery Phase as they rebuild their lives after domestic and family violence
- Our organisation delivers programs and services from four locations across Brisbane- our Lillian's Place Recovery Centres (Carina, Nundah, Mount Ommaney) and our HOPE Hub in a space at Westfield Carindale.
- Beyond DV is also the Lead Organisation for Qld in the Australian Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Recovery Alliance which was recently launched by Rosie Batty
- Within the first year of establishing Beyond DV I was introduced to [REDACTED] Officer in Charge of the Brisbane North Vulnerable Person's Unit. Subsequently I met [REDACTED] Officer in Charge of the Brisbane South Vulnerable Person's Unit.
- After opening our first Centre in Carina in April 2020, Beyond DV has developed a very strong professional relationship with [REDACTED] and his team, as well as with the Carina Police
- Our Centre is flagged with the police, in case of emergencies related to DFV and clients attending our Centre
- The VPU police officers are regular visitors to our Centres to connect with our clients, assist them with information around breaches and to support women who may be disclosing other evidence of abuse for the first time eg sexual assault
- **Our women take great comfort in being able to talk to highly professional and highly empathic police officers in such a safe, warm and familiar environment.**
- In mid-2021, we had a visit from Assistant Commissioner Brian Codd to our Centre at Carina. A/Commissioner Codd came to have a look at what we provide, in terms of programs and services for DV survivors as well as to speak to survivors first-hand about their experiences in their dealings with police.
- **A/Commissioner Codd stayed for over three hours at our Centre and listened to our survivors with empathy, concern and a genuine desire to understand how police interactions with DV victim/survivors might be improved. This event is something that the 25+ women who were present still speak about to this day, because they genuinely felt that they had a voice and were heard and believed.**

- As well as providing recovery services and programs for women and children impacted by DFV, Beyond DV also has a strong focus on Primary Prevention. In 2020, I developed a DV Awareness Program called “We Need to Talk...” for parents and young people. [REDACTED], Officer in Charge of the Brisbane South VPU has participated in each of these sessions (five in total), providing valuable information to parents and their young people about domestic violence and the support that is available through the police.
- In March 2022. We opened the HOPE Hub at Westfield Carindale- a space given to Beyond DV by Westfield, where community members can access support, information and referral around a range of social issues, with a focus on Domestic Violence and Mental Health. Multiple police officers attended the opening of the space and were instrumental in providing advice prior to opening around security measures that needed to be put in place (the space is in close proximity to the Police Beat).
- In May, we hosted the training of thirty Domestic Violence Liaison Officers by the VPU at the HOPE Hub and were given the opportunity to talk to the officers about Beyond DV and the programs/services we provide. We also spoke about the opportunities that exist for police officers to book consulting rooms at the HOPE Hub to meet with women who have been impacted by domestic violence/sexual assault in a highly secure, highly accessible location which is far less intimidating than a police station and provides a dedicated space for children.
- The HOPE Hub and our three Lillian’s Place Recovery Centres are based on a similar “multi-agency” service delivery model which operates very successfully in the United States. The “Family Justice Centres” which operate in over forty-five cities across the country, focus on the provision of crisis and/or recovery services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, provided by multiple services/organisations in one location. I travelled to San Diego in March 2019 to attend an International Conference on Family Justice Centres and was fortunate to visit a centre in San Diego. With the limited resources that we have as an organisation, we have established this best-practice model in Brisbane.
- **Our ultimate goal would be to see a Police Officer with specialist DV training stationed at the HOPE Hub on various days and at various times during the week (we currently have a HOPE Hub Coordinator funded by the Qld Government at the space seven days a week). This service would be promoted to the public as an option giving DV/sexual assault victims a safe, secure and warm place where they can engage with police around these matters while visiting the shopping centre, which is often the only place that those in abusive relationships can go without their partners.**

We are very grateful for the strong relationship that Beyond DV has with the police and look forward to developing this relationship in coming years, to better serve women and children impacted by domestic, family and sexual violence.

Carolyn Robinson

Founder/Managing Director

Beyond DV Ltd

[REDACTED]

Ph: [REDACTED]