

Inquiry into Elder Abuse in Queensland

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Elder is a fluid term, one at 63 that makes me not old enough for aged care assistance yet old enough to know I'm at increased risk with no support structures rurally. As an aging grandparent, I don't fit the definition of a family relationship within DVO provisions when violently assaulted by my son's ex partner's family. When threatened by use of a federal telecommunications device to come bash me and have my son raped, driven to report this time as the threats were escalating, I'm handed a Police initiated DVO to protect my assailant fearful I should retaliate. A year later, they drive 3 hrs breaching DVOs to enter a locked trespass signed property to strangle me in front of my 3 granddaughters and police state what I was doing there and refuse to charge for home invasion, grievous bodily harm, assault with a weapon, premeditated (had attempted entry a week prior), aggravated assault of a senior in company. This viciousness was carried out in front of the 8 and 4 year old yet Child Safety investigate me and hand the children to my assailants. A private violence order was granted in my favour due to the severity of the attack, yet 6 weeks later my attackers get granted a temporary order after assaulting me. There is no penalty for perjury and clearly when it comes to it, For years I would be forced to keep quiet or the children were withheld, for years I was silenced for fear another story would be made up for daring to speak up. I am now some 6 months into recovery and yet having lived alone on 50 acres for nearly 30 years without a fear in the world I jump at every sound knowing that fighting this bogus dvo order in court will bring further retaliatory action. I could not think of a worse situation to befall the community then to give rural police the ability to dole out DVOs in retaliatory actions without any judicial oversight. Elder abuse is still an invisible illness that pervades, and will continue to be subject of the vague whims of which side the police decide to punish for complaining. I still recall a regional inspector stating to me in response to a Dr reporting an incident to the CJC .. you opened your mouth, you'll cop the consequences.