

INQUIRY INTO SUPPORT PROVIDED TO VICTIMS OF CRIME

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See attached:

After I was told of my daughters death- This is my experience of what myself and our family has endured.

- **Your experience with the criminal justice system was like (e.g., QLD Police, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, and court services currently support victims) and how things could be improved.**

As I am a registered nurse working in a Mental Health ICU with a Master's degree, I know the importance of getting a urine drug sample as it the gold standard procedure of detecting drugs in a person. I requested the Detective on the morning he changed mine and our families life's forever, several times to make sure the perpetrator provides a sample. I was informed that he was picked up making is way to the hospital as he had a knife wound to his hand in the struggle of murdering my daughter. The Detective assured me that all the correct procedures will be done and to trust the legal system. Little did I know that this would be the deciding factor in letting the perpetrator off? In court they stipulated only a blood test taken 11 hours after they had him in custody. The perpetrator is a known drug user and it was reported from his sister that they had suspected that he had used drugs and was asked to leave her residents a few days prior.

The Detective requested my phone to download, which I handed over. It had a voice message left by my daughter the night before she was murdered, the only voice recording I had left of her. He assured me that it would be put on a USB stick as I was worried it would be lost. Unfortunately my server provided would delete them after a few days which they did, I had informed the detective of this. I have requested this several times by email and not been given anything in response. Also my daughter and I had done a video recording on her phone a few weeks prior of us singing in the car to a song. I had a very strong relationship with her this was supported by family and my phone records. I stressed this was of high importance to me, the Detective assured me that they had her phone in

there procession and that I would be given access to the pin code which they had already accessed her phone. I was declined this when a year or so later things were returned. The only live recording in a happy moment with my daughter lost.

I was informed that the perpetrator had premediated the attack and had gone on two separate occasions got a weapon of a cricket bat and a knife. I often wonder how a delusional person would be so organised to do that and then make their way to a hospital as they are hurt.

I denied access to view my daughter as her injuries were horrific. She was pronounced dead at 2:05 on the 22/08/2020. Her body remained there till nearly mid-morning, which as a mother was unbearable emotionally to handle. I was unable to see her till she arrived on the following Friday from the John Tong Centre. Also knowing that witnesses had heard her screaming is an ongoing nightmare for me.

In court they described my daughter's injuries as she had been bashed around the head which ruptured her eye socket and stabbed 19 times. I felt this was minimised, to which was humiliating and very hurtful as the evidence I and her siblings witnessed her in her coffin.

My daughter had been slaughtered her throat sliced and stitching from one side to the other. Her eyelids had been sliced and had a stab wound in the cheek on the left side with the flesh hanging there. She was very blackish in colour cause of the bruising.

Her chest had been dug out with flesh missing, both of her arms had been sliced open from the top of the shoulder to her thumbs, stitching all the way down. Stomach slashed open and slashes to her legs.

I was unable to bring her home as she could not be embalmed due to the excessive wounds.

I had been inquiring with the police by email that my daughter had a baby's bracelet and I know her so well that it would be with her. They confirmed by email that they had not found it and had no knowledge of it. It was reported in court that the perpetrator had stated that my daughter had asked the perpetrator for a cigarette filter. Yet 18 months later when after court her possessions were returned in her bag, which was not itemized was her baby's bracelet and her

tobacco with filters and papers. Things should have been explored in court, we were not given a chance. It made me feel that I had no faith in the system, no excuses this should not have happened.

How well you were kept informed around the investigation, any legal hearings and your experiences with the parole processes.

I went to all of her mentions in court but one as I was in New Zealand seeing my mother and had been in touch with Prosecuting Attorney's office by phone months before the court date. We had not met the person representing on my daughters behalf from the Prosecuting Office. Didn't even know a name.

My eldest daughter and I provided Impact Statements and it was confirmed by Victims Support that the office had received them.

They were not read out in court.

There was no representation of police in court, so there was no questions asked and how could we as we did not met the Prosecuting Attorney until the verdict was read out and court was finalised.

Who was there to guide us or give some expectation of what might be considered.

I get a phone call from the policeman who was assigned to our case a week after court, "Sorry mate, no one told me court was on".

The MH High Court had said that the perpetrator would remain in the inpatient facility for 10 years and no LCT for 10 years as found to be suffering from his mental illness at the time of offence. This is hard for me to accept as he is on very little medication and has responded well, which clearly indicates drug induced psychosis. (Blood test was negative). Yet the Mental Health Tribunal has overturned this less than six months from the court outcome and then granted LCT as he is responding well to medication in a drug free environment.

Apparently he has rights, where is ours!

I feel if the wider community knew how badly my daughter suffered and the failure in the systems that has allowed a person as dangerous as he is to be out in the community there would be outrage.

How can so much bad communication, reporting and misrepresentation happen in one case!

Something has to change!

- **How you found or are finding the financial assistance application process (Victim Assist QLD)**

I must say that my guardian angel in all this is my Qld Health Victim Support officer [REDACTED], who has been my rock and still continues to be.

I have delayed settling my financial assistance as I experiencing anxiety around that.