

Child Safety Commission of Inquiry



Joan's story

Disclaimer: This is the story of a person who shared their personal experience with the Commission of Inquiry through a submission or interview. The names in this story are pseudonyms and identifying details have been removed. The person who shared this experience may not have been a witness and their account is not evidence. They did not take an oath or affirmation before providing the story.

Nothing in this story constitutes a finding of fact by the Commission of Inquiry. Instead, these stories have been published to show how people are experiencing the current child safety system in Queensland. Any views expressed are those of the person who shared their experience, not of the Commission of Inquiry.

Content warning: Some material may be distressing. These statements may include references to violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, suicide, or self-harming behaviours, and may contain strong or confronting language. Some narratives may be about First Nations people who have passed away. Readers are encouraged to engage with this material in a way that supports their wellbeing.

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The child safety system is absolutely horrendous I have lived in resi homes since 2022.

I am aware a CSO is supposed to visit a YP at their placement at least once a month out of the 40 or more months I have been in the system only once has a CSO visited me they have thrown me around the system labeled me as the problem and they call it child protection but all I've been doing is protecting myself from them. I've gone on holiday to my mum and everytime I come back they've kicked me out of my home and given it to other kids I've even had a housemate try to kill me and I had to leave and be homeless for 3 days before.

They gave me a safe place to stay I'm currently living in hotels and they expect me to move just to have a stable place to live another example of child safety failing to protect a child is when I was in year 4 almost all of the abuse and events that led to me having the mental health issues I have today happened that year my mum would ask me to shoot her with a gun because she didn't want to be around anymore but couldn't bring herself to do it she would make entire plans with me to go over to nans house and cook dinner and she would tell me to stab her with a knife she would tell me I wouldn't get in trouble because I'm a kid and everyone would think it's an accident. She used to wake me up every morning while she was getting ready for work because she lost something and needed me to find it I would dread waking up every morning because I knew if I didn't find what she lost she would drag me down the hallway by my hair and slam me against walls most the time I ate grated cheese because there was nothing else to eat and the teachers at school pretty much looked after me and brushed my hair every morning and feed me lunch and one time when my teacher was doing my hair for me I said can you go a bit softer my head still hurts.

from this morning and she reported suspected abuse to child safety they did nothing I never even had anyone from child safety talk to me during that time. I have lost over 1000\$ in stuff from 1 housemate alone child safety hasn't even provided me with clothes in the past year I've had carers call police and ambulance an astronomical amount of times when all I needed was someone to listen and support me I've even had carers try to fight me physically the cycle never ends and all child safety does is blame me and point me out to be the problem even when my housemate tried to kill me the manager of that company still labeled me as the problem and when he spoke to me about it forced me to hang up from child safety after hours and refused to speak to me unless I did then proceeded

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to tell me “stop acting like the victim in this situation you are not the victim” all I’ve ever wanted is a stable home and not even the government has been able to provide that and yet they still wonder why I am the way I am.

There’s so much more I could report but I don’t see a point in putting everything in here since nothing ever gets done anyway I have spoken to everyone I can to report this I’ve even gone above child safety and yet nothing is ever done I’m at my wits end with it I’ve been advocating for myself the entire time I’ve been in child safety but it’s just seems like it’s not enough for them even though I’m giving them everything I got and honestly nothing will ever be enough for them I mean I have my Ls I have a job and they say good behaviour gets you rewards but all child safety has shown to me is bad behaviour gets you rewards and good behaviour doesn’t get you anything.