



Celeste'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.

If you would like support, please visit the Commission's Contact & Support page or reach out to a trusted person or a relevant support service.

Dear Commission,

My family has had involvement with the department of Child Safety since [REDACTED]. This first commenced when the department was referred a Notice of Risk that I had filed at the Federal Circuit Court with regards to family violence perpetrated by my ex-partner towards my children and I. Child Safety took no action, but as a result of the abuse continuing, they did investigate in [REDACTED]. At this time, the department found that my ex-partner had seriously harmed my children, but they were not at future risk.

Following the investigation in [REDACTED], there was a significant escalation in my ex-partner's behaviour towards my children, resulting in a second investigation by the department in [REDACTED]. Child Safety again found that he had seriously harmed my children and they were now in need of protection due to his coercive control towards me.

We entered an Intervention with Parental Agreement in [REDACTED] and I believe that the mismanagement of our case, as well as the serious misconduct of our CSO has directly led to my children being removed from my care during family court proceedings late last year. Although my interactions with Child Safety prior to the intervention were problematic, I am very concerned by how we were treated during the IPA and by the misconduct of our CSO, with the lasting impact this will have on my children and I.

I raised a complaint with the department last year and have received many road blocks to having it reviewed appropriately and responded to. They have recently closed my complaint and I will soon request an internal review. Please find files attached which relate to my complaint and provide further details. I am very happy to

Child Safety Commission of Inquiry



provide more information and I sincerely hope the Commission can help bring about meaningful change, which is so urgently needed.

