

Hi,

██████ I requested that police withdraw a criminal complaint for non-fatal strangulation relating to my ex-partner. The reasons for this were as follows:

- I wanted to move on with my life and not be re-traumatised by the criminal court system
- The criminal court process puts the victim on trial
 - o This concern was confirmed through my own research as well as the lived experience of a person whom had gone through the court system (n.b. with the perpetrator found 'not guilty'). I also watched a Four Corners episode on the topic which re-affirmed this concern.
- My aim was for my ex-partner to understand what he did was wrong – not necessarily impose a jail sentence

I read the current review into non-fatal strangulation and observed that there were no proposed reforms that aimed to deal with the above issues in a meaningful way. I did see a small section on restorative justice that I thought was interesting, however there should be an option here where the victim does not have to be in the same room as the perpetrator.

Some key reforms that I would like to see considered include:

- Instead of having a jury, I would like to see this change to a panel of judges whom have training in domestic violence (i.e. I believe that our court system did not have domestic violence cases in mind when they were developed). Due to the complex nature of domestic violence, I feel that judges with additional training on trauma and violence is required to effectively understand and weigh up evidence. In addition, given the prevalence of domestic violence and lingering community attitudes, it is likely that some of those on the jury either engage in or have ingrained beliefs with regards to domestic violence.
- Better training for prosecutors with regards to understanding of DV and how to pursue DV cases. Lawyers defending perpetrators appear to be much more motivated and incentivised...
- The perpetrator should have to take the stand and be cross-examined – I believe this is critical!
- Ability for the victim to enter the court and give evidence without the concern of being confronted by the perpetrator.

Kind regards,

██████