

Voices of Insight

Listening to lived experience insights is essential and informs our understanding and responses.

We invite you to explore, reflect on and share the latest [Voices of Insight](#) narratives listed below.

- [Anika](#) - "I'm not a child anymore, and you don't hold any power over me."
- [Lee](#) - "Wayne turned my head upside down and inside out."
- [Casey](#) - "We have a choice in life to refuse to be violent. As a proud Wiradjuri man, I make this choice every day."
- [Dorothy](#) - "The system failed me over and over again, but I have not failed my children... I've got this."
- [Joey](#) - "But just because he was there, I wanted to shed my skin after that night."
- [Jules](#) - "I don't want people to necessarily tell me what to do because I am resourceful. Just listen to me."

Voices of Insight Collection

We invite you to explore the latest Voices of Insight additions to the [Arts Lab collection](#),

The original works respond to participants insights and have been developed with collaborating artist Louise Whelan.



If I had to add up how much money worth of stuff he'd actually broken, it would be well over \$20,000 worth of damages to property. I used to try and actually take photos to document everything. I have about 15,000 photos on my phone which show everything he did. And if he went outside to have a cigarette, I would quickly pull my phone out and just take a photo of what he had done. I have lots of photos of all the broken shit I took photos of myself sneaking the things that he had used. I don't know, just to have and remind myself that monster he really is. I feel like I always have to be one step ahead of him in terms of my three youngest girls and custody stuff, if he could take the girls off me and have them fulltime, he would. So, I need to gather as much evidence I could to back myself.

Joey

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I was working full time. But I would do every afternoon and evening when I would see Dan's shoes walking down from the stairs. That's when I knew it was on for young and old. He would come on the door, climb the floor, go downstairs, have a shower, and call for about two hours to his and Anthony's house. I assumed. I had to get home to get the kids ready, bathed, homework done and feed and make sure the house was a little bit before Dan came back and from when Dan got back, he would always carry on, "what's this shit for dinner". It was just absolute non stop.

Melinda

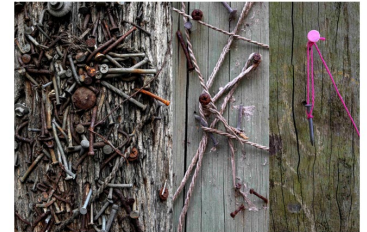
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In my situation my ex-partner Jed, had Complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). I knew the whole array of trauma he had endured as a child living with perpetrators of domestic violence. While this may explain, it does not excuse what he did to me or my family however, whether it was the Police, hospital or mental health services, what he did to us didn't matter, they just excused his behaviour as "he has mental health issues". They dismissed the injuries I sustained, the holes in the walls, the fear we endured and just focused on his mental health needs. We were irrelevant. My children and I were told that we were "Good people who had to nurture him". We heard this from the Police, hospitals, doctors, his family and friends. Never, was he held accountable for his behaviour or violence."

Jules

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I have had to self-advocate for the last ten years. He went on to commit more crimes back in Canada and despite being told of evidence, it is still difficult to get any assistance. He is now Court ordered to have zero parenting time, and contact, zero decision-making. He cannot contact me, my friends or family, known associates, places of work, stalk online etc. It's like Protection Order and a parenting order and it lasts for life. I got it done this way because there was a Children Protection Order option, and there's a downside. He is no longer part of our world. The system failed me over and over again, but I have not failed my children. I have fought in two countries legal systems, and I have won our freedom and my life back. I've got this.

Dorothy

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I insisted we go to counselling. We each went for a session separately before attending together. My partner came home from his individual session in tears and I could see it had really affected him. For the next 10 days he spent all his spare time reading psychology textbooks at the library and online. By the time our joint session was held, he had the psychologist wrapped around his finger and I was the brooder. In our relationship and needed to change my ways.

Marion

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