

**Submission
No 1**

ASSAULTS ON MEMBERS OF THE NSW POLICE FORCE

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

Home Invasion – it can happen to anyone.

Almost every day we read or hear about a home invasion.

If you are like me, you generally make a judgement call: drug related, criminal activity between people known to each other and involved in illegal activity of some sort.

How wrong can you be?

A recent event occurred at my home where I have lived securely for more than 20 years, in a building with excellent security, and surrounded by peace loving neighbours.

The silence was shattered early evening one night towards the end of last year. I was watching the TV news, inside, with the airconditioning running. It was still broad daylight outside.

I became aware of angry shouting in the street and thought it could be some over fueled revellers in the carpark opposite.

When it continued and escalated, I turned off the tv and opened the balcony door. To my horror I heard screamed threats and expletives.

Happening to be alone, I called a neighbor to check if he knew anything. While dialing, I received a frantic call for help from another neighbor whose home was under siege. The residents were enjoying a quiet meal in their courtyard when the out of control man jumped their fence, burst into their apartment and threatened them with rape and murder.

As I urged them to call the police and was about the head outside to investigate (foolish move) I heard crashing in our stairwell and violent screaming. My locked heavy steel lined fire door was being rammed and within a minute the perpetrator was inside my home and screaming threats at me less than a meter from my face. Unless I left, he would kill me.

I asked if I could grab my dog, a geriatric small ball of fluff who had stupidly gone into attack mode. He agreed and with the dog under my arm I fled down internal stairs and made my escape.

Police quickly arrived followed by several others. A violent confrontation occurred which left two police officers injured and wrecked my living room.

Eventually the perpetrator was controlled with tazer and taken into custody.

Event over you might say. But nothing could be further from the truth.

Police officers needed medical attention, property worth thousands of dollars was damaged at a time of the year when most builders were on leave, and the victims were left shattered and fearful.

I am not a young woman and I sustained muscle damage in my chest which continues to cause pain. Nightmares about intruders are now a common occurrence. I will recover because I am resilient and refuse to be a victim.

The perpetrator's prospects for a normal life are now in doubt, his family members, all decent community members, were left to pick up the pieces and to face issues they did not have the knowledge or skills to deal with.

Over the weeks since the incident, most people have offered their support and sympathy and then gone back to their normal activities. That's perfectly reasonable.

But for some of us the night of terror has left us insecure and questioning our ability to feel safe. Counselling is all very well and many are helped by it, but witnessing violence and rage at such close quarters in a previously safe place leaves it scars.

Whatever led to this event and events like it, whether its drug related or out of control aggression, is a matter for the experts. It is clear that something needs to be done to stop this increasing level of violence in our communities. People should be able to feel safe in their own homes. Police can only do so much, and are left frustrated by a legal system that often appears to favour the perpetrator rather than the victims.

What I've learnt: you aren't safe anywhere and I wouldn't want to be a police officer or a paramedic. We are fortunate indeed that some people are still prepared to risk their own safety to protect us.

[REDACTED]

This account relates to an incident on [REDACTED] A full front page account was published next day [REDACTED].

Two police officers were first responders and were the two who were injured inside my apartment. A paramedic called to the police station where the man was charged was also assaulted by him.

The event eventually required up to 10 officers to attend and struggle with the perpetrator.

[REDACTED]