

**Submission  
No 154**

## **COERCIVE CONTROL IN DOMESTIC RELATIONSHIPS**

**Name:** Ms Corinne Lindsell

**Date Received:** 14 May 2021

The Hon. Natalie Ward, MLC

Dear Ms. Ward,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to write to you sharing the tragic and horrific story of how my brother Jeffery was murdered.

***Jeffrey Lindsell - Date of Death 09.10.2017***

Jeffrey Lindsell (39) was killed at the hands of his partner Amanda Zukowski after she set fire to his property on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

Jeffrey suffered horrific burns to 80% of his body and died of his injuries 3 days later on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

In the late evening of Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October, Jeffrey left the local Gynea pub to his home at 19 San Remo Ave Gynea and shortly following his departure, Amanda also left and arrived at his home.

Jeffrey and Amanda were in an on-again off-again relationship and as family members, we were worried about who Jeffrey was in a relationship with, as he didn't seem happy and he often tried to end things with her.

In December 2015 after Jeffrey tried to end things in his relationship he decided to stay with a friend. That night Amanda bashed down the door to his home, and decided to sleep in his bed. This was the family's first insight into her behaviour. (Image 1)

Over the three days when Jeffrey was on life support after the fire, many friends came to visit him and told stories of how she would often hurt Jeffrey by gouging his face and eyes, trying to take the wheel of the car whilst he was driving, destroying his furniture and threatening to hurt herself. Often Jeffrey would spend days away from his family and his work as he was recovering from visible injuries.

One friend even mentioned that he begged Jeffrey to let him take photos of his injuries if he ever needed it. Another friend also stated that Jeffrey's last words to him just weeks before the fire was "I'm worried she is going to kill me in my sleep".

Jeffrey was a warehouse manager at Harvey Norman and had been with the company for 15 years. Colleagues also knew parts to the abuse he was under as she would show up at his workplace, make a scene and demand that he goes home and be with her. His job was suffering and his management and Human Resources team all reached out to Jeffrey to see what support he needed. Jeffrey had confided in one or two people at work with some parts of what he was going through.

Not one person had the full story of what Jeffrey was experiencing, pockets of friends and colleagues had snippets of his story and it wasn't until he was fighting for life in hospital where all the pieces of the puzzle were coming together, and it was too late.

Jeffrey was not allowed to be in contact with any female friends. We found out that he had changed the name of some of his friends in his phone so he could still communicate with them without her knowing. He was cut off from lifelong friends and some of his best friends because they would constantly tell him he needed to end things with her. He was not allowed to have anyone on his Facebook account if they were female and single.

Jeffrey suddenly stopped coming to family functions like birthday dinners and Christmas. He was always missed at significant events with the family and extended family, and even some of his friend's weddings. The guy who everyone loved and the life of the party became a recluse and his loved ones hardly saw him.

The night of the fire was one that will stay with his family for the rest of their lives.

Jeffrey lived in a granny flat at the back of his parents place in Gynea.

One neighbour alerted his parents to the fire around 1am in the morning on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2017. By this time the fire was fully alight and Amanda was in the front yard. Jeffrey's dad, Des asked Amanda where Jeffrey was and she said "I don't know, he is not in the house". Des began attempting to extinguish the flames with the garden hose. The neighbour also asked Amanda where Jeffrey was; in which she repeated "I don't know he isn't there".

Amanda was sitting by the water metre in the front yard and Des was in the back yard and had noticed that there was little to no water coming out of the tap. Kathy (Jeffrey's mother) was on the phone to 000 emergency and when they both notice the fire was getting worse and heading to the garage they moved their cars out the front. It was at this time that Des noticed that Amanda was crouched down at the water metre.

They ran back to the back yard and that is when Jeffrey emerged from his house in flames and collapsed on the grass. Kathy was still on the phone to 000 at the time and both Kathy and Des attempted to save their son from the flames until paramedics arrives and the fire brigade were on site to control the fire.

When the neighbour saw Jeffrey emerge from his house she confronted Amanda who had then decided to run away from the scene. Amanda was later found at her place 4.5km away (which CCTV shows she fled on foot the entire way).

Jeffrey's home was completely destroyed and the backyard, front yard and Parents home was considered a crime scene for 2 months and his parents had to stay in a hotel during that time.

It took 8 months for Amanda Zukowski to be arrested with the charge of murder on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018 where she remained in custody for 4 months. She was released on bail for \$100,000 on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018. She then moved to a new residence in Marrickville. After many court appearances an arraignment was set for the murder trial in February 2020. However on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2020 Amada was found dead in her Marrickville home after taking her own life.

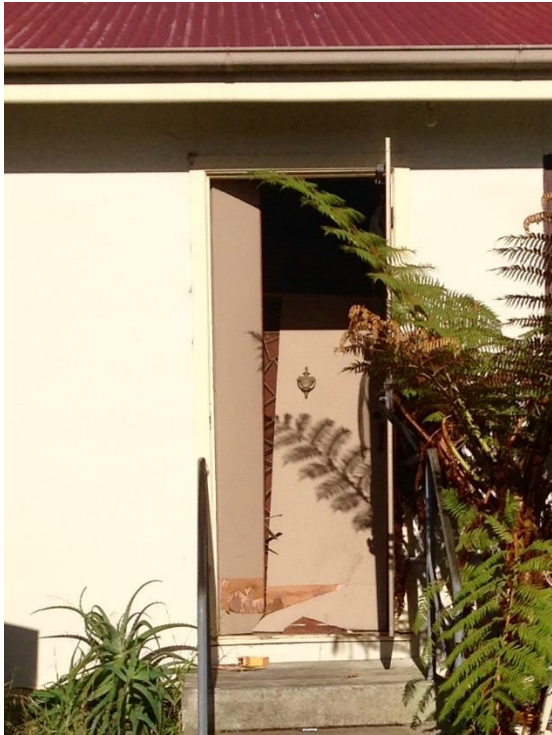
It has been a living nightmare for Jeffrey's family. Jeffrey should be 43 on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021, instead he is forever 39. A few weeks ago (24<sup>th</sup> April) the family celebrated his younger brothers 40<sup>th</sup> birthday, where he is now older than Jeffrey.

Jeffrey leaves behind his Mum and Dad (Kathy and Des), his Brother Nathan (40) and his Sister Corinne (37).

Jeffrey should never have been taken like this.

Whoever knew him loved him.

Submitted by, Corinne Lindsell May 2021 – Jeffery's Sister.



1 Jeffrey's door December 2015



2 Jeffrey's 34th Birthday with his family



3 A photo of the people gathered at Jeffreys funeral 19th October 2017



4 Jeffrey's resting place