

From a concerned Mother and Wife:

The VLAD laws negatively affect my family and myself in so many ways that it is difficult to get them all in writing.

When I was very young my life had taken a very unhealthy turn I was not in a very good place. I started going out with a 1% member who helped me turn my whole life around. The love and support my partner showed me was amazing and then after meeting and getting to know his club (his family) who have also shown amazing support and respect. I grew into a healthy woman who is now a mother of two beautiful, respectful and successful children who are both on their way to becoming adults that any parent would be proud of.

My partner and I are this year coming up to our 20 years of being together and in that 20 years I have seen nothing but respect, love, loyalty and acceptance from my husband and his club. I have also been witness to many other people that have been taken under the clubs wing when they have felt at their lowest and feeling like their was nothing left to live for. I have seen these men grow over the years and they have become hard working, respectful, loyal, caring men who have become fathers and loving partners, who, if not for the support of the club would probably have ended up in jail or dead.

My partner and I decided after 17 years of being together to make it official and in [REDACTED] we got married. [REDACTED]

This is another case of police intel gone wrong and this makes us all concerned as to what intel was used to bring in these Vlad laws in the first place and the ongoing incorrect facts and figures given to the media by the police. The latest figures given to the media are incorrect. The police have stated that there are 920 club members in Qld yet the latest

figures show that 2200 have been charged with some form of crime. Whilst no one in my husbands club chapter have been arrested. I spend everyday with my husband and the police cannot tell me whether I am an associate or participant therefore everyday we are in fear of being arrested for going out in public or even going to work as we have another member working for us. My partner and I have no criminal records, yet everyday we live with the fear of losing our business or being arrested and also living with being treated differently to our peers simply because we prefer to ride bikes and socialize with like minded people. Our children, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] have been under immense pressure from having to live with their parents being called scum and maggots on the news by politicians and high-ranking police officers. What is that teaching them? It is the purest form of bullying, that's what it is and so we are fighting for our freedom as hard as possible because that is what parents are supposed to teach their children. My [REDACTED] son was attacked on social media by an x police officer when a friend of ours posted a clip of him playing guitar. Horrible things were said about him and that was so heart breaking for me to watch my sons face as he read the comments by this person that has never met him or any of his family. As parents we try to teach our kids everyday to treat people as you want to be treated and we also teach them not to judge a book by its cover.

The stress and emotional strain that this has had on us is unmeasurable as many of us trying to appear strong for others, but I know that many of the guys are suffering severe mental health issues they are all so used to just going out with their brothers when life is getting rough getting on their bikes and going for ride, as a way of clearing their minds and helping them to see that there is way to help them through whatever problems they are having at the moment. Just the knowledge of going to the clubhouse on a Friday night to have a drink with their brothers and talk

about the good and bad week that they have had. To play a few games of pool or watch some old tapes from brothers that have past away and reminisce. My children and myself attend many a Friday night at the clubhouse or a weeknight to sit and watch State of Origin. Just to have somewhere to hang out where we are not bothering anyone and don't need to worry about someone bothering us. I had my Hens night before my wedding at the clubhouse because I don't go into nightclubs and I wanted to have a heap of the girls including my Mother and my sisters to come out and have a good time without the fear of being harassed by sleazy guys or the very real fear of having our drinks spiked. But to just go out and have some fun.

These clubhouses are used for family get togethers not organising crime. Our clubhouses are open to brothers for all different reasons. Many times guys from out of town have had family members in hospital, so they will come and stay with the rest of the family at the clubhouse where they can fill the fridge with food, get a warm bed, have a shower and not have to pay for hotel accommodation on top of the expenses of having a wife or child in hospital.

When I look around at the faces of the men in my husband chapter and the surrounding chapters I see a group of men who come from all different aspects of life. You get the guys like my husband who from a very young age just knew that when they grew up they wanted to join a bike club, you get the guy that did several tours overseas fighting for our country and came home and trying to live the shock and stress of what he had seen over seas starts to suffer with PTSD his marriage fails as a result and he finds a group of men that he can rely on he joins the club for comradery. You get the guys that have no family for many different reasons and have no sense of belonging and they meet up with a group of men that make him feel like he belongs and give him a new sense of family. But overall you have a group of men that the majority of them own their own business, they all have jobs and families, they would all give you the shirt

off their back, they would all risk their own safety to help others, they all respect each other and they all respect each others wives and families. You would only need to spend a short amount of time with these guys to realize that they are not the monsters that the previous government would have you believe or the bogus stats that get handed out. In any group of people there are people that do the wrong thing that has nothing to do with being a biker that is human nature. There are politicians out there sexually assaulting children but we don't treat all politicians as paedophiles there are police out there that are abusing there position in authority but we don't accuse the whole police force based on what a few bad police officers do. There are priests out there doing the unspeakable but we don't ban all churches and religions. There are football clubs that after a win destroy hotel rooms and get into fights and take and deal drugs but they don't new laws rushed in overnight by a secretive government.

If a person commits a crime that person should be charged and stand in front of a group of their peers and be judged and sentenced accordingly. You cannot bring in new laws that treat every person as guilty until proven innocent you cannot bring in new laws that set everyone up to become a criminal. In the cases so far, what are the charges? We have a woman who went out for a drink with her boyfriend and his mate. We have a group of fathers that went out to buy their children ice cream. We have a group of men who on their way home from a hard days work, called into the local pub to have a beer. That is called being Australian not organising crime. There was a guy whose snuck into his home which was declared a proscribed place to feed his dog that had to continue living there. Even writing this down it sounds ridiculous but this is what we are living with.

The Police have now notified my husband that he is NOT entitled to Natural Justice. Why Not? He has no criminal record, he is not committing any crimes, and he works from 6 in the morning until 8 at night most days of the week. He

pays taxes every year, he employs 6-8 people, he donates to charities when he can, he has been an amazing father, husband, friend and he has been an amazing supportive and level headed leader and brother to many men that have just needed guidance to get back on the right track and he should be rewarded for what he has contributed over the last 35 years not punished. These VLAD laws need to go they are not helping the crime rates go down, as the bogus figures would have you believe they are simply punishing innocent people. People who are big time criminals don't ride around on really loud shiny motorbikes with location patches on their vests, they don't want to stand out in the crowd. How many times do we hear on the news, "members from the Rebels Motorcycle Club arrested on such and such charges" and then a couple of days later it is "associates of the Rebels Motorcycle Club" and then by the time the court case happens it turns out that they were no part of the Rebels Motorcycle Club in anyway, shape or form. Or the time the news said a whole chapter of the RMC was raided and arrested on charges of an underage girl drinking and assaulted at one of the clubhouses. So in shock we call the President of that chapter, he knows nothing about it. So he calls every single member in his chapter only to find that not one single member was raided or even questioned or knows anything about the story at all. Yet it made the news and headlines in the paper. We then have to live with the general public thinking that is was a true story. At no point are the police or news reporters held accountable for their actions. The lies and bogus stories have to stop. The Vlad laws have to go. They are un-Australian and inhumane. Charge those that are doing the wrong thing with the laws that were already in place, don't make up more laws to try and make innocent people guilty.

Sincerely

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