

# I'm 3, why won't someone help me?

*"You won't put your fingers in my bottom, like Daddy does, will you Gran?"*

She's three. She'd been complaining of having a sore bottom and asked me to look at it. The odd way she posed herself showed me she expected an internal examination. I unknowingly started an ongoing process by 'reporting suspected child sexual abuse' of what she told me, and what she showed me. Nothing happened.

She disclosed to her Child Care Centre and although they have mandatory reporting, they did not report. Since then she has clearly and in detail *reported ongoing abuse, both sexual and physical to two doctors, DOCS, a social worker, a psychiatrist, family friends, myself and other family members.* Police in two states were notified but never interviewed her.

She said her father *'had put his sausage in her bottom and put his special milk over her', that he had put a video at her bottom.* She seemed to be *continually disclosing abuse of a sexual nature* and I and others dutifully reported to DOCS – but nothing ever happened.

As a professional working in education we are always advised that this is our responsibility and the correct course of action

She learned to tongue kiss from her father, she constantly sought to understand what was 'right' by comparing what he did with the behaviour of safe men, like her uncles and others.

Through tears she told me he *had pulled down her pants and put his hand in her bottom*". I phoned the Department of Child Safety in Queensland and their response was to interview the perpetrator and ask him if he was abusing his daughter. He denied the allegation so they were satisfied that no abuse had occurred.

The long and the short of this report to the Department of Child Safety was for them to conclude that the child was at risk while in the mother's care and my reporting of the abuse had only made the situation worse. In ignorance I thought the sexual abuse of three year old was illegal.

She has asked me many times to help protect her, but I cannot. How do you explain to a now four year old that all the systems put in place in this country are there to protect the abuser?

I want to know:

- Why the protective parent is subjected to abuse when they try to protect their child?
- Why a small child can so easily be deprived of their basic human rights such as security, freedom, protection, family, a home, education etc?

My daughter and my granddaughter are 'on the run' – at an unknown address.

- It's Australia – yet we have to hide from 'the law' to protect our child/children from sexual abuse.
- There needs to be greater public awareness as to why a parent resorts to extreme measures to try and protect their child/ children.
- It would not happen if the system wasn't broken, and children were protected from sexual abuse by a parent.

How do we get rid of ineffectual and uncaring, secretive, government departments and legal systems and other mechanisms that protect the perpetrators.

Who is looking after the children?