Submission Human Rights Commission.

1. What do you think gets in the way of a fair go?

I think that if a victim did not have support from their family or formal services it would make it very hard for them to get a fair go. My daughter did have support and I think this made all the difference. It would have been so hard on my daughter and the family if she had no support.

1. Did you get help to speak and up and have your say?

Yes we did. During the sentencing the judge read out the entire document of the Victim Impact Statement. I believe this is very important and it is a must for everybody to hear my daughter’s side of the story. My daughters said she wanted the perpetrator to hear how the crime has affected her.

The fact the judge read the whole document out loud meant a lot to me daughter and my family.

1. What would help people with disabilities?

I think it would be helpful if the victim had support when they are reporting, and giving statements and affidavits. My daughter did get support from a social worker when the case went to court; however I think it would have been more helpful if somebody has referred us to some support earlier; so she could have emotional support while working with the police.