

All names used in the following article have been changed to protect the individual's identity!

Andrew is a man in his sixties whose son, a young man in his thirties, was assaulted severely by three Maori men in New Zealand about 5 months ago.

His son's injuries included a fractured skull, severe bruising, hemorrhaging and damage to both front lobes of the brain resulting in severe and permanent injury to his brain.

Andrew was not the direct victim of this crime.
It happened in another country.
BUT he is severely traumatised by it.

He has had to witness the total transformation of his beloved son's character - the son he knew is no longer there.
He has had to stand by helplessly as his son's brilliant career has disintegrated.

From having a wonderful future mapped out for him as a result of his hard work and intellectual ability - he is now severely limited in what he can do and what he can expect to achieve in the future. The recovery of his physical and mental abilities has been, and will continue to be, painfully slow.

All of this has taken a great toll on Andrew's health - not only does he have the heartbreak of seeing his son so changed, so unhappy, so devastated by the loss of his future prospects - he also has had to cope with great outbursts of anger and frustration from his son that seem to be directed at him personally - sometimes for 3/4 of an hour.

We can only imagine what a helpless and hurtful experience that must be - and this has happened - not just once - but has been repeated many times.

To add to all the frustration for both Andrew and his son, the police in New Zealand did very little to bring these men to justice in the first 2 or 3 months. There was talk of the file being lost and no-one seemed to be very interested.

Andrew has spent a fortune in phone calls both to New Zealand and to the Australian Embassy.

The men have now been caught and the original police involved in the case are now also being investigated - but as many of us are aware the legal process can be exasperatingly slow.

Before the attack on his son, Andrew was a successful businessman, recently retired, who had had his share of life's difficulties but had always been able to do something about them - to have some control.

A major part of the trauma for Andrew is his lack of control - this feeling of total helplessness.

He says he is frustrated and appalled by the inaction of government departments, of the police and the justice system.
He is extremely bitter and says - there is no justice!

The continuing waiting for his phone to ring to hear what is happening from the police in New Zealand has caused his anxiety levels to increase to the extent that he is now on medication.

When speaking with him last week he said he is also very worried about his son who used to ring twice a week - now he's not speaking to anyone including his father who he has not contacted for weeks ...

Posted: 4 May 2006