

Case Study

Family

- Mother: Ann 34
- Child: Tarryn 8
- Child: Jasmine 14
- Father: Jace 36
- Child: Ryder 8
- Child: Jaxson 2

Background:

Ann and Jace have been in a relationship since 2020, Jaxson is their shared child and Tarryn and Ryder are Ann's twins from a previous relationship also live in the home. Jace works full time in mining and has a child, Jasmine from a previous relationship he sees periodically. Ann works part time at a grocery store, mostly nights. She doesn't have many friends and doesn't have any current supports except occasional visits to the GP.

Jace can be emotionally manipulative towards Ann, and often uses threats and intimidation to get what he wants. He owns the house they live in and the cars they drive.

Tarryn has been described by her teachers as opinionated and loud, but very intelligent and has a large group of friends and is always active. Ryder, enjoys reading, does better in math than other subjects and likes to stay close to his sister, and is more reserved and has few friends, but appears to be liked by peers.

Jaxson doesn't attend no daycare, but is occasionally cared for by his maternal grandmother, who is worried that he only just started walking and only has a few words. He tends to cry uncontrollably when his mother isn't in sight.

Referral from the Orange Door outlines:

Jace had a recent L17 where the police were called by a neighbour after a prolonged disturbance. When Vic Pol attended, Ann reported emotional abuse and threatening behaviour. Jace was issued a safety notice, which stated he cannot threaten family members, but was allowed to remain in the home at Ann's request.

A Risk Assessment conducted by TOD with Ann indicates that Jace has:

- Physically hurt Anne, including physical assaults on 4 occasions over the last 6 months, involving pushing, punching, kicking and slapping. Resulting in a black eye, sprained wrist, split lip and bruising to arms and legs. The most recent assault was 2 weeks ago where Jace pushed Ann over and kicked her in the stomach and legs.
- Verbal and emotionally abused Ann throughout their relationship by calling her names, including regularly swearing at her (several times a week) saying that she is a "stupid bitch" that she's "useless", that she is "crazy" and that "no-one else would ever want her."
- Financially abused Ann by controlling her access to money, giving her an allowance each week of \$250 for food and all other needs for her and the children. Jace requires Ann to provide receipts demonstrating how she has spent the allowance, which he then reviews and criticises.
- The children have witnessed and been exposed to much of Jace's abuse of Ann and are frightened of Jace. Jace favours Tarryn who likes to kick the ball and play video games with Jace. He struggles to connect with Ryder, and regularly says things such as 'your such a girl' and 'sissy' to him.

Ann's assessment of her own risk is that she is frightened of Jace but feels like she can manage Jace and protect the children. Ann always tells the children to go to their rooms when they're fighting and tries to keep them quiet while Jace is at home.

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Service history Ann:

In 2018 Ann had been referred to family violence case management previously after a child protection report had substantiated abuse by her now former partner. History indicated that Ann was diagnosed with bi-polar and struggles with periods of manic episodes and major depressive episodes and was diagnosed during first pregnancy. Ann's symptoms are greatly reduced when she is taking her medication, however at the time was reporting she often didn't take her medication as she didn't like how they made her feel.

At the time the case was closed with case management Ann was engaged with a psychologist, and her previous partner had been jailed due to non-family violence related matters and hadn't sought contact with the children.

History does not indicate Ann has sought any other family violence supports in relation to her current relationship with Jace.

Service History Jace:

Jace has a previous SHIP history being the respondent in the following incidents:

- L17 in 2017, with the affected family members (AFM's) listed as his mother and aunt, after his grandfather's funeral. Behaviours listed were verbal threats of violence and intimidation including throwing a cup full of hot coffee in the direction of his mother. Jace was issued a Safety Notice, with exclusion from the family home.
- L17 in 2018 with the affected family members listed as previous partner. Behaviours included physical and verbal assault, including a broken arm and fractured eye socket Jace was issued with Safety Notice.
- L17 in 2019 affected family members listed as previous partner and his child. Behaviours included physical and verbal assault and financial abuse. Jace was issued an Interim Intervention Order.

Jace to date has declined all attempts by the Orange Door/Men's Service to make contact.

Service History Children:

Tarryn: Child protection report in 2018. Report made by childcare, with concerns of signs of child neglect and possible assault with bruising on children's leg. Cause of bruising couldn't be substantiated. Dual referral was made to Child First and Family Violence Case Management.

Service history showed the family did not engage with family services, case was closed, with confirmation sent back to child protection.

Ryder: Child protection report in 2018. Report made by childcare, with concerns of signs of child neglect and possible assault with bruising on children's leg. Cause of bruising couldn't be substantiated. Dual referral was made to Child First and Family Violence Case Management.

Service history showed the family did not engage with family services, case was closed, with confirmation sent back to child protection.

Jaxson: None listed

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Background:

Jace's child from a previous relationship, is a 14-year-old female, Jasmine who has been living with her mother.

She was recently removed from her mother's care after repeated incidents with an older male child who was the son of her mother's new partner. Child protection removed her after allegations of abuse were substantiated.

She has been placed with her father, Jace, which she only has had periodic contact with up to this point.

Upon entering the home, Jasmine has gotten along well with Ann, who she hadn't met previously. She is sharing a room with Tarryn and after a few disagreements over space and privacy has seemingly settled in well.

Jasmine's teachers would describe her as relatively disconnected from her peers, she doesn't make many attempts to engage and prefers to spend her spare time in the library reading and is overall a good student.

Jasmine is hyper aware of her father's behaviour towards Ann and has become protective of the children. She has become fearful of Jace and has taken to gathering the children in her room while he is at home and keeping them entertained. Jasmine has been providing a lot of care for Jaxson, who has also warmed to her and is the only other person he will go to without crying. Tarryn has often become frustrated at her, as she doesn't enjoy spending time in the bedroom.

