

To Whom it May Concern:

On Tuesday 3rd November 2020, Melbourne Cup day I attended the peaceful rally (protest) and what I witnessed from the police force was very disappointing. I was appalled by their behaviour and the brutality used on innocent people.

I witnessed a gentleman possibly in his early thirties, standing alone not causing any trouble attacked by 4-5 storm troopers/police officers from behind, they took hold of his neck and dragged him to the ground and handcuffed him for no reason, it was the police who were causing strife while we just wanted to attend a peaceful assembly.

I also noticed that the hundreds of police officers began to slowly encircle us to a point where we were kettled in so tightly and then detained for up to 3 to 4 hours for no reason. While we were detained, women were having anxiety attacks and difficulty in breathing, some needed to go to the toilet as I could hear they had women issues but the police officers wouldn't release us. It was a warm day and people within the circle requested water and eventually after an hour or more we were given some water from a bucket.

During that time an elderly man within the circle, approached the police officers encircling us asked to go to the toilet, immediately they head locked him and hauled him off in such a terrible manner it was horrifying to see, the elderly man needed to go to the toilet, he had been detained for more than 3 hours! I eventually saw him later sitting on a chair with his shirt unbuttoned with two police officers attending to him as he had two stickers on his chest with wire coming out of him, the brutal attack obviously affected him. Why would they drag and wrestle an elderly man for requesting to use the toilet??

If the Victorian police joined the force for the people of Victoria, it certainly does not appear to be the case.

I was also arrested, my first time, along with hundreds of other people. Reason - I didn't comply with a health direction. This particular day was obviously planned by the police force to kettle us, detain, intimidate and arrest.