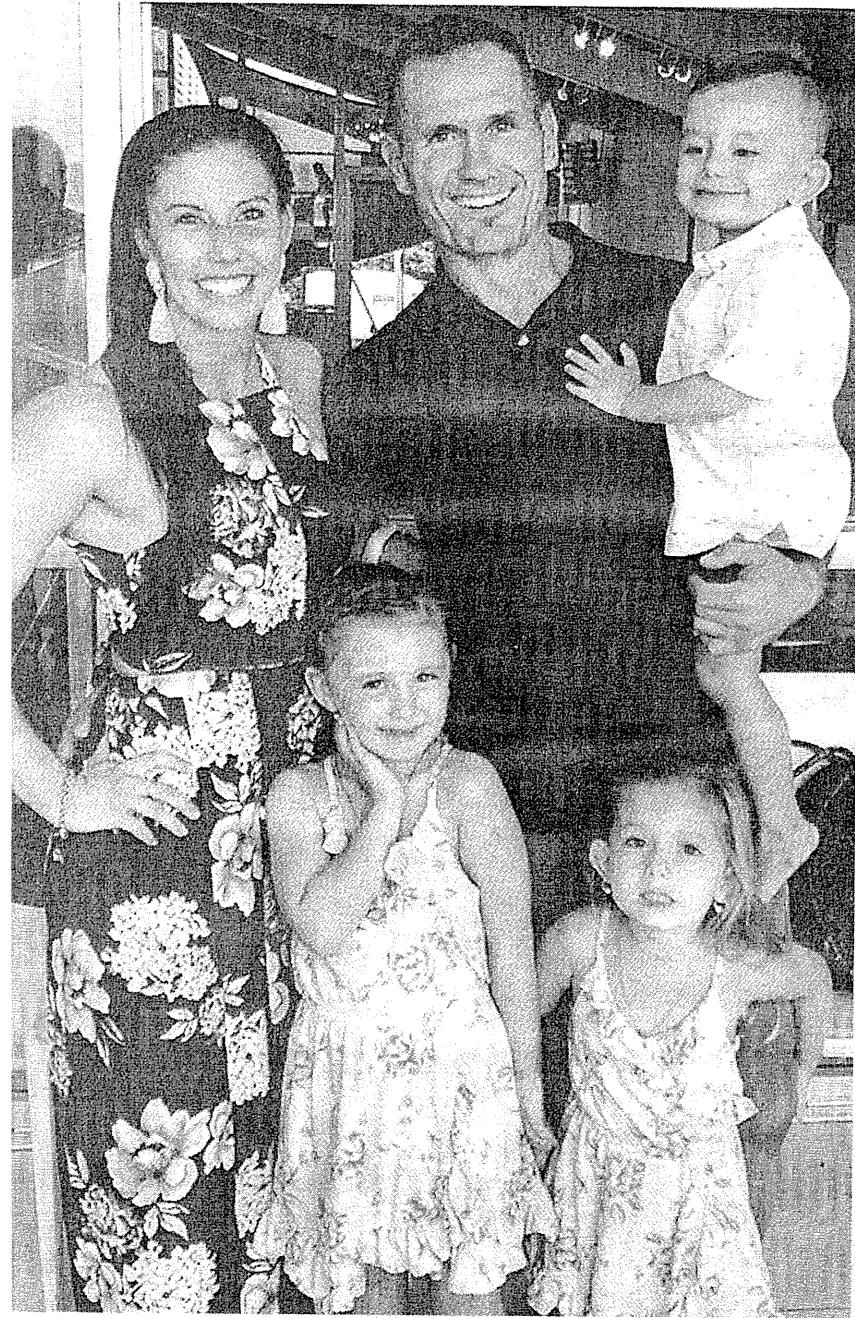


Fury as Carr & Co. cut grim D.V. probe short



1 Baxter with his eventual victims Hannah Clarke and Aaliyah, Laianah, and Trey.

JANET FIFE-YEOMANS

AN UPPER House inquiry into domestic violence sparked by the horrific murders of Hannah Clarke and her three young children has been lashed after revelations it held no hearings, did not seek submissions, heard no witnesses and made no recommendations.

The individual committee chaired by controversial Labor senator Kim Carr (inset) was slammed for the added insensitivity of tabling its report on the same day Ms Clarke's family marked the three-month anniversary of the deaths of the Brisbane mum and her kids at the hands of estranged husband Rowan Baxter.

The horrific attack on Ms Clarke, Aaliyah, 6, Laianah, 4, and Trey, 3, who were burnt to death on February 19, prompted what was supposed to be a six-month inquiry by the upper house's Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee. Instead the inquiry took just three months and ended by asking 13 questions which critics said it should have been answering, including whether Australia's data was reliable and if all states and territories were "pulling their weight" on the issue.

Law Council of Australia president Pauline Wright said the committee had let down all victims of domestic violence.

"This was a lost opportunity for decision makers to get proper and informed comment from people on the ground about strategies that will

work to stop domestic violence," Ms Wright said. "The report amounts to little more than a literature review, posing a number of obvious and often stated questions."

Eleven Australian women have been killed in domestic violence incidents since the coronavirus lockdown in March, said Helen Campbell, executive officer of Women's Legal Services NSW.

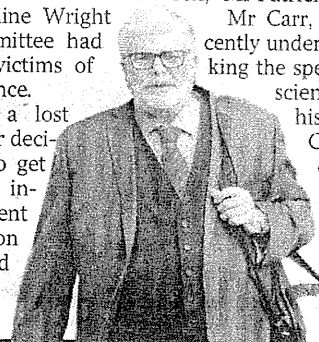
"When Hannah was killed, everyone wanted to do something," Ms Campbell said. "Given that, we just feel like we are rolling the boulder up the hill every day and it keeps rolling back down again."

The Clarke family held a virtual memorial for the slain mum and her kids on Tuesday.

Crossbench senator Rex Patrick, who initiated the inquiry, issued a dissenting report with one recommendation: the committee take a hard look at itself.

He said he referred the matter to that particular committee because it dealt with legal matters and expected a thorough examination. He said it was "unprecedented" for a committee not to seek submissions. "They have let down domestic violence victims and they have let down Hannah and her three children," Mr Patrick said.

Mr Carr, who was recently under fire for invoking the spectre of "anti-science" Nazis in his defence of Chinese scientists, said the terms of reference were only to review other reports.



Two legends of fire frontline lost

MITCHELL VAN HOMRIGH

THE state's firefighting fraternity is mourning the sudden loss of two esteemed veterans who served the community for the past 40 years.

Senior instructor Brian Aubusson, the father of NRL players Mitch and James, had a distinguished 41-year career with Fire and Rescue NSW.

Shaun Donato paid tribute to an "excellent instructor with an awesome sense of humour" while others remembered Mr Aubusson as a larrikin.

"He invented the fake phone call walkout from meetings — when he wanted a smoke, he would pick up his phone that didn't even ring, and walk out talking on it. Wouldn't be back for at least half an hour."

White of St Marys, has been remembered by friends and colleagues as a humble man who created one of the country's finest firefighting museums.

The senior firefighter and Museum of Fire executive chairman died on Tuesday.

"Mark White spent most of his life helping others and his passing will leave a big mark on the firefighting community."



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