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**From:**  
**Sent:** Sunday, 25 October 2015 5:27 PM  
**To:** Advocacy and Support  
**Subject:** therapy for secondary victims

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a Clinical Psychologist and a member of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists. I have just perused the latest newsletter from the APS and am responding to the call for responses to various questions with respect to redress for victims of institutional child sexual abuse.

It is with some great relief that I have read that the term 'secondary victim' has been invoked. This term applies to myself and to my husband, who is a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] my husband and I have suffered the most unimaginable traumas; traumas which I would not wish on any parent. We have watched our son deteriorate from being the brightest and the best in his School to becoming an alcohol and drug addicted person whom we had to repeatedly rescue from serious and repeated suicide attempts. He has now died and we believe he is finally at rest. However, his perpetrator is still at large. After 20 years, we continue to work in our respective professions, but we are silently broken, with no support. I have tried to instigate a group for parents in our situation but this has proven too difficult as I have encountered only inertia and I have not the stamina to push. I am three quarters through my first draft of a book outlining our experiences [REDACTED] [REDACTED] which I hope will be of some benefit to all parents, but we all desperately need high quality therapy. I have had two sessions with a local provider but I have felt as if the person has no understanding of my horrendous trauma and grief. As a practising Clinical Psychologist I implore the Commission to use whatever power it has to provide ongoing experienced Psychological/Psychotherapeutic services NOT only to the direct victims but to PLEASE consider those of us who have suffered and continue to suffer the tortures of the damned with them.

Yours truly,