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P Doneman and M Ware, ['Men's agency tracks beaten wives'](#), *Courier Mail*, 17 August 1996,

p 1:

*THE controversial Men's Rights Agency is to be investigated and new legislation introduced by the State Government to protect victims of domestic violence following evidence uncovered by The Courier-Mail in a seven month investigation.*

*The investigation revealed that:*

- *the MRA arranges for private investigators to track down members' spouses hiding in secret women's refuges - under the protection of domestic violence orders.*
- *the MRA is involved in a network of fundamentalist, right-wing family law and pro-gun organisations operating throughout Queensland on a "pro-family, pro-gun" agenda.*
- *the MRA tried to use a private detective to spy on Family Services Minister Kevin Lingard to gather evidence for a smear campaign as part of a vendetta against Mr Lingard for his failure to fund the MRA.*
- *A prominent MRA co-ordinator and counsellor, Keith Shew, is a convicted gun runner and drug dealer with a history of violence and psychiatric instability.*

*The MRA, founded by Reg and Sue Price in 1994, is a family law action group that assists men facing the Family Court and lobbies for improved services for male victims and perpetrators of domestic violence.*

*The MRA last night denied engaging investigators to spy on Mr Lingard but did not respond as to whether they attempted to engage such an investigator.*

*The Courier-Mail investigation followed the murder by Peter May of his estranged wife, three children and parents in law, at Hillcrest in January this year.*

*May then shot himself.*

*A month before the shootings May, who had a domestic violence order against him, had gone to the MRA for advice.*

*Mrs May was living at a secret address after leaving him following years of physical abuse.*

*Relatives believe MRA may have prompted May to use a private investigator to track down his wife.*

*The MRA denied referring members, including May, to investigators to track down their spouses.*

*The agency said The Courier-Mail was trying to paint them "as some extreme right-wing organisation".*

*It said The Courier-Mail was "fishing" for information in a list of questions sent at their request.*

*Following the Hillcrest killings, The Courier-Mail placed private investigator Mark Kelly within the organisation.*

*Mr Lingard, in consultation with Attorney-General Denver Beanland, will be introducing new domestic violence legislation to prohibit the use of private investigators, as employed by the MRA, to track down women and children hiding in secret domestic violence refuges.*

*The legislation will also secure greater protection of the location of women's shelters.*

*Police Commissioner Jim O'Sullivan and Mr Beanland have been consulted on the investigation into MRA.*

*And Mr Lingard has also referred a range of issues raised by The Courier-Mail to the domestic violence legislation review body, the Domestic Violence Council, which is currently examining an overhaul of the legislation.*

*Serious allegations have been made about MRA members intimidating women and children in women's refuges, and MRA co-founder Sue Price has boasted her organisation has a list of the secret locations of the shelters.*

*The Human Rights Commission has received a complaint from domestic violence workers after they discovered Mrs Price had revealed confidential commission documents detailing the Brisbane Domestic Violence Resource Centre's financial records.*

*The organisation refers men to qualified specialists to assist them with Family Court matters and boasts from 950 to 2000 members.*

*Mrs Price told Mr Kelly she needed evidence to implicate Mr Lingard after an alleged letter concerning proposed funding arrangements was not honoured.*

*Mr Kelly was contracted in writing by Mrs Price to investigate a possible familial relationship between the chairwoman of the Domestic Violence Resource Centre and the DVRC's accountant.*

*Members of the network are supporters of the radical League of Rights and extremist pro-gun organisations who have advocated the burying of weapons to circumvent national gun laws.*

*At least one member of the network has been questioned about a suspected right-wing guerrilla organisation, known as the Christian Patriots Society, alleged to have threatened to sabotage telecommunication lines, railways and automatic teller machines.*

*Mr Lingard said the State Government and Mr O'Sullivan will further examine The Courier-Mail's evidence with a view to prosecuting the organisers of the MRA and any private investigators allegedly used to hunt down women in shelters.*

*"I have had discussions with the Attorney-General and the Police Department, and there is no doubt in my mind that any person or organisation that obtains information about residents in a refuge centre and uses that information to aide or enable a breach of the Domestic Violence Act is guilty under the Criminal Code," he said.*

*Mr Lingard said he never intended to fund the MRA because it was a private company and because of a "personal value judgment" about Mrs Price's aggressive nature.*