



CRIME AND JUSTICE

Yarrabah man eligible for parole next month after attack on pregnant girlfriend

Pete Martinelli, The Cairns Post

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DOMESTIC violence in Yarrabah has been placed under the spotlight yesterday with a father of three convicted of choking and bashing his

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“Domestic violence is a terrible problem in the communities, especially Yarrabah,” Judge Fantin said.

“Your violence against the mother of your child shows a deep disrespect to her and the law ... you assaulted her when she was six months pregnant with your own child. She tried to tell you to stop but she couldn’t speak.”

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Cairns District Court yesterday heard Creed had a history “littered” with violence. Crown prosecutor Aaron Dunkerton said Creed argued with his partner on the beach at 2am on December 15, 2017, before choking her for five seconds, spitting in her face and punching her in the head twice. The pregnant woman fell to the ground under the weight of the blows.

The court heard Creed hauled the woman to her feet by her hair and dragged her to her aunt’s house.

Mr Dunkerton said Creed had also assaulted a former girlfriend — also pregnant — in 2014, when he threw a bag of clothes at her and tried to kick in the door of the bathroom where she was hiding.

Two years later he assaulted the same woman in front of her toddler.

Creed was arrested four days after the most recent assault and has been held in custody since, missing the birth of his third child.

“He is hoping to meet his child upon his release,” Defence barrister Michael Dalton said.

“He realised he should have walked away from the situation, that he should have been a better man.”

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Creed — who still had four days to serve in jail on other matters, was sentenced to two years in prison and subject to a five year protection order.

Last month Yarrabah was again mentioned in a domestic violence case when a 53 year old man was jailed for breaching a domestic violence order.

Cairns Magistrates Court heard he had regularly beaten his de facto partner and in one instance had flown into a rage, tore the door from a freezer and threw it to the ground before threatening to beat his partner with a didgeridoo to keep her quiet.

The North Queensland Women's Legal Service and indigenous womens' welfare service Mookai Rosie Bi-Bayan have been asked for comment.

