

# CDFWR@der

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Correlations between sexual abuse histories, perceived danger, and PTSD among intimate partner violence victims

Addressing the silence on sexual violence: Why we must act now

The abuse of older people in Queensland: a snapshot





# Director's message

Each time I come to write the Director's report I reflect on the last three months and each time I am struck by how busy the Centre has been and the months of July to September have been no exception.

Many of you will have heard the commentary following the announcement by our new Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and the Hon Michaelia Cash about the investment committed to domestic violence interventions and resources. Some of the observations from domestic violence service providers have highlighted that there are still gaps in service provision and that some victims find it very difficult to access housing and support services. It appears that further Federal funding is to come and we hope that this will help to ensure that all victims in all states and territories have appropriate support at the time that they need it most. You can listen to some of the commentary [here](#).

In early July I attended the Department of Communities Child Safety and Disability Services Stakeholder Advisory Group which was established in July 2014 to support the Department in providing advice on the development, implementation and monitoring of the Queensland Child and Family Reform policy and programmes. My role is to specifically contribute input on domestic and family violence matters as they intersect with the child safety reforms. Many readers will no doubt know about how the reforms are being rolled out in their communities with the goal of effectively supporting families in responding to domestic and family violence, a reflection of a growing partnership between domestic violence expertise and child safety supports.

Later in July I attended the Queensland Police Service conference in Brisbane and presented two papers – one concerning best policing practice in responding to domestic violence and the second about gender and homicide. This was based on the latest work of Dobash and Dobash (2015) "When Men Murder Women", which involved interviews with perpetrators of homicide in England and Wales. There is insufficient space here to provide a full review of this book but one of the major findings I took away with me was the fact that society incarcerates men who have committed violence against women in prison environments- an approach which fails to challenge offending behaviours and provides men with the opportunity to be 'model' prisoners. It is not surprising that in a predominantly male environment where women are usually in subordinate positions, men are unlikely to have their issues of power and control challenged in any way.



L to R: Associate Prof. Annabel Taylor and Professor Leigh Goodmark, 2015 Fulbright Fellow.

I also participated in the Australian Winter School, through a panel discussion which had a focus on domestic and family violence and alcohol and substance use/abuse. This was an opportunity to highlight recent research which has shown a link between the number of liquor outlets in a community and domestic violence, so raising questions about effective community prevention and the responsibilities of city and town planners (Waller et al. 2013).

During July, the CDFVR Team also saw the completion of the report: *Judicial education for domestic and family violence: State of knowledge paper* for ANROWS which can be accessed [here](#). Senior Research Officer Shellee Wakefield led this piece of work and congratulations must go to her for her efforts during the time that she spent working for the Centre.

Thank you to Professor Heather Douglas and University of Queensland staff for inviting us to partner with them in August to host Professor Leigh Goodmark, a 2015 Fulbright Fellow, to present a seminar in Brisbane on Criminal Justice Responses to Domestic Violence. You can access this presentation [here](#). Again I was reminded of the need for ongoing evaluation of prevailing justice responses for domestic violence victims and consideration of how best to achieve justice in our legal system for women. The risk of re-traumatisation of victims from the experience of having their matters dealt with in the courts has to be weighed against the goals of the legal system.

Throughout the period from July to August, and while we engaged with our research seminars and conference activity, CDFVR staff were designing a suite of domestic and family violence education Postgraduate Courses in partnership with CQUniversity. As well, we were pleased to learn that CQUniversity has now joined Save the Children to become the second Registered Training Organisation in the state to have the accredited 'Course in Responding to Domestic and Family Violence' (30629QLD) in scope. Thank you

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to Betty Taylor and the many people associated with CDFVR who helped to develop this course and to those in the sector and CQUniversity who have supported CDFVR staff on the journey to enhance education and training options in Queensland.

The Diploma in Domestic and Family Violence Practice) will be delivered in 2016. These offerings are aimed at supporting those who encounter domestic and family violence as part of their work who would like to develop specialist knowledge about this field of practice. There will be some flexibility in entry requirements as we recognise the skills and abilities that people acquire in the workplace and the qualification will offer the opportunity to move into research or policy domains or specific areas of practice. With the help of various CQUniversity staff and the encouragement of our Head of School Professor Leone Hinton these were approved in July. You can access further course information [here](#).

Our national research efforts with ANROWS have continued throughout this last quarter and there has been much progress on our research on the enforcement of protection orders in Australia. You can read more about this research on page 3. We have recently completed another State of Knowledge report entitled: *Domestic and family violence protection orders in Australia: an investigation of information sharing and enforcement with a focus on interstate orders*. This report will be available on the ANROWS website in due course. It provides a comprehensive overview of the different jurisdictions in Australia with analysis of protection order legislation along with a scope of mainly recent Australian research on enforcement issues.

The last and most recent activity I have been involved with was to make a submission to the Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee's inquiries into the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill 2015 and the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill 2015. Our submission emphasises the importance of research support for the proposed Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board and also the need for the Board to be able to influence policy and practice changes.

During this period there have been some staff

changes. Senior Research Officer Shelley Wakefield left us to return to QPS. She will be remaining in touch with us and contributing to our research in a smaller role and we are very pleased that we can continue to benefit from her skills. Heather Lovatt, who was the Interim Director in 2014, is back with the team in the Post-doctoral position. I am so pleased that Heather is able to join us and that she managed to submit her doctoral thesis! What an achievement and like you I'll be looking forward to hearing more about her research in the months ahead.

Otherwise Nada, Colleen, Lauren, Clinton Jan, and Margaret continue to provide the centre with their skills and abilities for which I am continually grateful.

In closing, I make reference to a Maori proverb which goes like this:

*Te toia, te haumatia* meaning "Nothing can be achieved without a plan, workforce and way of doing things". Perhaps this nicely represents the need for a domestic violence strategy and I look forward to engaging with this in the months to come. Meanwhile, please enjoy this edition of the Re@der which brings into one edition a diverse range of domestic and family violence themes and highlights sexual violence, on the eve of October Sexual Violence Awareness Month.

Kind regards,

*Annabel Taylor*

P.s For those of you who are interested in our front cover image, refer to page 9 to read more about CDFVR's work with CQUniversity Digital Media Students.

### References:

- Dobash, E.R., Dobash, R. P. (2015). *When men murder women*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Waller, M. W., Iritani, B. J., Christ, S. L., Halpern, C. T., Moracco, K. E., Flewelling, R. L. (2013). [\*Perpetration of Intimate Partner Violence by young males: The association with alcohol outlet density and drinking behaviour\*](#). *Health & Place*, 10-19.



# Research in brief

## **Heather Lovatt, Senior Researcher CDFVR**

Allow me to introduce, or re-introduce, myself as the case may be. I previously had the privilege of working in the Interim Director position at CDFVR in 2014, after which time I exited to complete my PhD. With my study '*Unravelling foster care and finding family support*' duly submitted I am thrilled to re-join the CDFVR research team as a Senior Research Officer, a position funded by CQUniversity. I will be based in Mackay which somewhat returns me to my roots, having lived here from 1977 to 2005. It was in Mackay I raised a family, worked in the child care, group home, neighbourhood centre and disability sectors, as well as working in the (then) Department of Communities. I moved to the 'south east corner' post-2005 and was employed in the Department's program and policy areas in Brisbane until leaving to complete my doctoral study. You may have ascertained that my 2014 'stint' as Interim Director somewhat delayed the completion of the seemingly never-ending PhD, but it also greatly added value in terms of new insights into a range of tragic social issues. *The Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry*, the *Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland* and the *Finance and Public Administration References Committee Inquiry into Domestic Violence in Australia* reports and recommendations all enriched my thesis.

Now to my new role: one of my first, and most exciting tasks, is to support the research CDFVR is conducting under the ANROWS (Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety) Research program. The three areas of interest underpinning CDFVR's work are exploring the enforcement of protection orders, information sharing regarding protection orders, and cross-border issues related to the enforcement of orders. The particular component of the research in which I am currently involved is planning for qualitative interviews to examine victims'/survivors' experiences of the enforcement of cross-border protection orders.

The interviews will have four aims:

1. Exploring the lived experiences of women with cross-border protection orders
2. Identifying the facilitators of, and barriers to, cross-border protection order enforcement in four jurisdictions in Australia



CDFVR Senior Researchers: Heather Lovatt (left) and Nada Ibrahim

3. Understanding the existing knowledge on information sharing related to cross-border protection order enforcement
4. Exploring cross-border protection order enforcement issues that may be specific to women from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, remote and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities.

I am approaching legal centres, and women's services in Victoria, Queensland, Northern Territory and New South Wales for their assistance in identifying, and supporting, woman who have, or have had, cross-border experiences to share. We hope to interview these women over the next three months. So, if on reading this you know of a woman who has had cross-border protection order experience and is prepared to speak with us, please contact me at CDFVR on (07) 4940 3322 or 0409 623718. In subsequent Re@ders I will update you on the status of this research, and also provide some of the findings from my PhD study.

## **Nada Ibrahim, Senior Researcher CDFVR**

As well as contributing to the completion of the state of knowledge report about the enforcement of protection orders, I have been immersed in the pilot of the survey design, finalising the national online survey and the recruitment of magistrates and lawyers across jurisdictions to participate in our online survey. This component of our research will canvass the views of a range of professionals, including police, legal personnel and domestic violence advocates, who are involved with the enforcement of protection orders.

# Correlations between sexual abuse histories, perceived danger, and PTSD among intimate partner violence victims

*A precis, by Colleen Gunning, CDFVR*

This paper (Brown, Burnette & Cerulli, 2015) explores the complex relationship between childhood abuse, intimate partner violence, and sexual assault in adulthood, all of which are significant public health concerns; particularly for women. Sexual assault often occurs in intimate relationships in which there is concurrent intimate partner violence (IPV); likewise, many victims of IPV have experienced childhood abuse.

The authors recognise that the “intersections of these struggles” can lead to posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms and examine the contributions of childhood abuse histories and sexual assault to PTSD symptoms among women experiencing IPV. The paper presents findings from a study conducted within an upstate New York Family Court, where women petitioning for a protection order against an intimate partner were approached to participate. Ultimately 162 (less than half of those approached) completed a demographic survey and a series of questionnaires, including measures of PTSD and violence. As well, the Traumatic Life Events Scale was used to identify potentially traumatic life events, such as witnessing violence as a child, physical punishment resulting in injury, and unwanted sexual contact prior to the age of 18 years. Responses on this scale were used to separate the cohort into those who had experienced childhood sexual abuse and those who had not.

This paper re-visits the evidence that women who experience IPV and sexual assault in adulthood are more likely to have a history of childhood trauma than those who do not- “childhood physical and sexual abuse independently increase the likelihood of re-victimisation in the future, and work synergistically in combination”. Childhood sexual assault rarely occurs in a vacuum- other forms of abuse, such as physical abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect generally accompany it. In other words, adults who were sexually assaulted as children were probably abused in multiple ways and have a greater, compounded risk of suffering adverse psychological effects from their traumas.

According to the authors, physical and sexual intimate partner violence (IPV) and rape outside of a relationship are “potent causes of PTSD in women”. As well, depression, anxiety, and suicidal

ideation are mental health consequences of IPV. One factor within a violent relationship that has been shown to predict the severity of the victim's PTSD symptoms is her fear and perception of danger and the authors note the suggestion that fear of the abuser and feelings of being unsafe may correlate better with the prevalence of PTSD in the victim than the experience of violence itself.

There is little literature on IPV accompanied by sexual assault which, the authors contend, compounds “two independent causes of PTSD into a single abusive relationship”. They highlight that for women experiencing sexual assault in marriage or dating relationships

- the effects on their physical and mental health are as detrimental as rape by an unknown perpetrator
- there may be increased psychological distress (living with a perpetrator could result in continuous levels of stress and increased dissociation)
- there is likely to be more severe concurrent physical violence, with the severity of violence exposure correlating with the severity of PTSD symptomatology.

## **Findings**

The research did not find a significant relationship between childhood sexual abuse and adult sexual victimisation in this particular group of women. The authors had hypothesised that women who had experienced sexual victimisation in their intimate relationship would be more likely to experience PTSD, and that a woman's perception of her danger in these situations would play a central role in determining her PTSD symptomatology. Yet although the results of this study did not support the hypothesis that women who were sexually assaulted within an intimate relationship would have increased PTSD symptoms, results did indicate that women's *perceived level of danger* affected PTSD symptoms.

## **Implications**

As with any study, the authors acknowledge its limitations (self-reported data, relatively small sample size etc.), but they argue that this work has implications for the ways in which women are screened for potential abuse and PTSD symptomatology. Service providers in a range of care settings may believe that because a woman is separated from her partner, she should be safe. However, when clients still perceive danger, even if their perpetrator is incarcerated, these fears must be explored and addressed.

## **References:**

Brown, J., Burnette, M.L., & Cerulli, C. (2015). *Correlations Between Sexual Abuse Histories, Perceived Danger, and PTSD Among Intimate Partner Violence Victims*. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 30 (15): 2709–2725



# Addressing the silence on sexual violence: Why we must act now

by Stephanie Anne, Zig Zag Women's Resource Service

Stephanie Anne is the Manager of Zig Zag Young Women's Resource Centre Inc, a specialist support service for young women aged 12 to 25 years. Zig Zag services include sexual assault support and prevention, and supported accommodation and youth homelessness services. Stephanie is also the Secretariat of the Queensland Sexual Assault Network (QSAN), and has over 16 years' experience in specialist NGO services with a focus on sexual violence, domestic and family violence, women's and youth homelessness, women's health, and refugee health, settlement, and torture and trauma services in Australia.

Sexual violence continues to be a prevalent and significantly under-reported crime that has, to date, not attracted the same level of attention, research, funding or commitment by Governments as domestic and family violence. For instance, key policy documents produced by the Queensland Government in recent years have made little or no mention of sexual violence:

- Queensland Domestic Violence Taskforce Report: *'Not Now Not Ever – Putting an End to Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland'* 2015, of the 140 recommendations outlined in this Report only three recommendations mention sexual violence and only one recommendation (No.130) specifically sets out an action to improve responses to sexual violence;
- *Draft Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2015 – 2025*;
- *Queensland Strategy to Reduce Domestic and Family Violence 2009 – 2014*;
- *Towards Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland* (with targets to 2020);
- Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry Report: *'Taking Responsibility: A Roadmap for Queensland Child Protection'* 2013;
- *Strategic Policy for Children and Families 2007 – 2011*; and
- *Queensland Health Strategic Plans 2007 – 2012 and 2014 - 2018*.

As well, actions developed by the Queensland Government in the implementation of the *National Action Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children* have largely addressed

domestic and family violence without specific and considered attention to sexual violence.

There are terminology issues at play too- the term "violence against women" is often used to refer only to domestic and family violence in both language and practice, and sexual violence is erroneously perceived as only a subset of other forms of violence namely, intimate partner sexual violence. Consequently this has had significant negative implications for state-wide policy development; and reduced levels of dedicated funding specifically to prevent and respond to sexual violence in Queensland.

This enduring silence towards sexual violence extends also to the lived experiences of women and children who face multiple barriers in disclosing and accessing appropriate levels of support following their experiences of sexual assault. Data indicate that sexual violence is endemic: one in five women in Australia report, they had experience sexual violence since the age of 15 (Australian Bureau of Statistics [ABS], 2012). Sexual violence is a largely hidden crime that often occurs within the family and other private contexts; it is primarily perpetrated by males who are known to the victim such as family members, intimate partners, friends, colleagues, neighbours, and acquaintances (Quadara, Nagy, & Higgins, 2015; Stoltenburgh, Ijzendoorn, Euser & Bakermans-Kranenburg, 2011)

There are significant barriers for victim / survivors in disclosing and reporting experiences of sexual violence and for victims of intimate partner sexual offences a range of factors deter reporting (including safety concerns and fear of further violence; stigma and shame; limited understanding as to what constitutes 'consent'; lack of recognition of sexual assault as being a crime; and lack of trust in police and/or service responses). Many women who are experiencing intimate partner sexual violence may have difficulty identifying the experience as sexual assault or rape as male partners who engage in domestic violence may apply a range of subtle, coercive and/or violent behaviours to deny their partner capacity to voluntarily consent to sexual activity (Duncan & Western, 2011).

Although the proposed *Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill 2015* does not identify the need to ensure specialist sexual violence expertise, there is substantial evidence that sexual violence is a significant risk factor for intimate partner homicide (Braaf, 2011). This is crucial information for emergency services and support service providers when undertaking risk assessments with women who are experiencing domestic violence. It also highlights the nature and severity of crimes being committed against women experiencing domestic violence and the need for more

responsive policing and justice systems to hold perpetrators accountable.

Clearly sexual violence remains a significant issue that requires unique and specific strategies for policy development, prevention and community education, research, and resource development, in addition to specialist models for service provision. We cannot respond appropriately to one form of violence (i.e. domestic and family violence) without acknowledging the other (i.e. sexual violence). Male violence against women and children in *all* forms is unacceptable and intrinsically linked to a patriarchal culture that maintains unequal power and entrenched gender inequality.

In closing, it is essential to acknowledge some key initiatives and opportunities for Queensland to break this silence on sexual violence and to consider the development of more comprehensive responses to address all forms of violence against women:

1. Sexual Assault Support and Prevention Services now sit alongside Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Services within the Violence against Women Commissioning Team, Office for Women and Domestic and Family Violence Reform, Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. This new funding arrangement increases the joint capacity to develop and deliver state-wide policy, research, community education resources, and prevention initiatives.
2. Ending Violence Against Women and Children Queensland (EVAWQ), Queensland's new peak body, is the first of its kind in Australia to bring together Sexual Assault Support and Prevention Services, Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Services (including Refuges/Shelters), and Women's Health Services.
3. The Queensland Government's *Violence Against Women Prevention Plan 2015* is expected to finally provide the necessary policy framework to respond to sexual violence, in addition to domestic and family violence.
4. *The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee Report: Inquiry on Strategies to Prevent and Reduce Criminal Activity in Queensland 2015* made a total of 88 recommendations, of which a quarter were specific to sexual violence.

Finally, in Queensland, specialist Sexual Assault Support and Prevention Services are highly equipped to respond appropriately to sexual violence and complex trauma. These specialist services have demonstrable expertise to deliver client-centred, trauma-informed responses to

women, children, and men who have experienced sexual violence. Early intervention and access to specialist counselling following sexual assault has been shown to decrease the long term impacts and also the likelihood of women re-entering or having long-term engagement with primary health care service delivery such as mental health, drug and alcohol, and other intensive family support services.

October is Sexual Violence Awareness Month and this year the theme is 'Breaking the Silence on Sexual Violence'. This is your chance to join in and speak out!

### References:

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2012). *The Personal Safety Survey 2012* (cat. no. 4906.0).

Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Braaf, R. (2011). *Preventing Domestic Violence Death - Is Sexual Assault a Risk Factor?*. ADFVC Research and Practice Brief, No 1. University of New South Wales, Sydney.

Duncan, J., and Western, D. (2011). *Addressing 'the Ultimate Insult': Responding to Women Experiencing Intimate Partner Sexual Violence*. ADFVC Stakeholder Paper, No 10. University of New South Wales, Sydney.

Laing, L. (2003). *Domestic Violence in the Context of Child Abuse and Neglect*. ADFVC Topic Paper. University of New South Wales, Sydney.

Quadara, A., Nagy, V., Higgins, D., & Siegel, N. (2015). *Conceptualising the prevention of child sexual abuse: Final report* (Research Report No.33). Melbourne: Australian Institute of Family Studies.

Stoltenborgh, M., van IJzendoorn, M. H., Euser, E. M., & Bakermans-Kranenburg, M. J. (2011). *A global perspective on child sexual abuse: Meta-analysis of prevalence around the world*. *Child Maltreatment*, 16(2), 79-101.

### Queensland Sexual Assault Network:

The Queensland Sexual Assault Network (QSAN) is a State-wide network of 20 non-Government services that provide specialist Sexual Assault Support and Prevention Programs in Queensland. QSAN is committed to working collaboratively towards ending sexual violence.

Although most Sexual Assault Services are funded by the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services there are six Services provided through Queensland Health (in Brisbane, Ipswich, Longreach, Mackay, Mount Isa and Toowoomba).

# The abuse of older people in Queensland: a snapshot

by Les Jackson Coordinator, Elder Abuse Prevention Unit

UnitingCare Community has operated the Elder Abuse Helpline (the Helpline) since 1999 through the Queensland Government-funded Elder Abuse Prevention Unit (EAPU). The Helpline offers support, information and referrals for anyone who experiences, witnesses or suspects abuse of an older person by someone they know and trust. The Helpline is also a means of collecting non-identifiable data which EAPU reports on to provide a better understanding of the issues surrounding elder abuse. Whilst the EAPU acknowledges it has limitations, the Helpline data collection remains the only known ongoing data collection in Queensland specifically around elder abuse.

In the 2013 - 2014 financial year the elder abuse Helpline recorded:

	2013	Increase	2014
<b>Abuse notifications</b>	990	+ 19%	1183
<b>Victims*</b>	1070	+ 20%	1288
<b>Elder Abuse Victims</b>	897	+ 21%	1092
<b>Non-trust Victims</b>	167	+ 20%	201
<b>Perpetrators*</b>	1110	+ 22%	1351
<b>Elder Abuse Perpetrators</b>	957	+ 20%	1150
<b>Non-trust Perpetrators</b>	153	+ 31%	201
<b>Abuse Relationships/ Cases</b>	1204	+ 23%	1481
<b>Elder Abuse Relationships/ Cases</b>	1027	+ 23%	1266
<b>Non-trust Abuse Relationships/ Cases</b>	177	+ 21%	215

\* Some victims and perpetrators may be recorded as experiencing or perpetrating both elder abuse and non-trust abuse

While social, sexual and psychological abuse types have remained stable; neglect has decreased as a proportion of all abuse types recorded and physical and financial abuse have increased substantially.

The number of abuse types per abuse situation has risen slightly, from 1.64 types of abuse per abuse relationship in 2012-2013 to 1.71 in 2013-2014.

## Abuse type and gender

The pattern of proportions of each abuse type by gender of victim or perpetrator looks similar overall, though some differences exist.

In 2012/ 13 males were more often perpetrators of physical abuse than women; physical abuse accounted for 4.58% of primary abuse type for female perpetrators and 10.13% for males.

### 2012/2013 Financial Year

	Elder Abuse Victim		Elder Abuse Perpetrator	
Gender	Records	Percent	Records	Percent
Female	639	71.24	446	46.6
Male	257	28.65	507	52.98
Unknown	1	0.11	4	0.42
Totals	897	100	957	100

However in the 2013-2014 financial year this gap was narrowed, physical abuse accounted for 12.01% of primary abuse type for male perpetrators, but also 9.28% of female perpetrators.

In 2012/ 13 males were more likely to experience and perpetrate financial abuse than females.

### 2013/2014 Financial Year

	Elder Abuse Victim		Elder Abuse Perpetrator	
Gender	Records	Percent	Records	Percent
Female	740	67.77	568	49.39
Male	352	32.23	573	49.83
Unknown	0	0	9	0.78
Totals	1092	100	1150	100



In 2013/ 14 the gender difference for perpetrators disappeared, with financial abuse reported as the primary abuse type for perpetrators in around 43% of cases for both genders.

The gender gap for victims also narrowed, with 46% of male victims and 42% of female victims experiencing financial abuse as a primary abuse type (in 2012/ 13 40.05% for males and 34.34% for females).

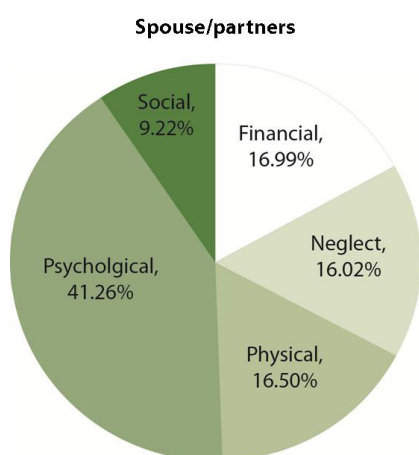
Further gender differences found were that:

- Women were reported to experience and perpetrate social abuse more often than men
- Men were reported to experience slightly less psychological abuse than women, but men and women were equally likely to perpetrate psychological abuse
- Males were the only reported perpetrators of sexual abuse, and women the only reported victims
- Men were more likely to experience neglect, but less likely to perpetrate neglect.

### Who perpetrates what?

One way of looking at the data is examining the breakdown of abuse types for different victim-perpetrator relationships. This allows a view of the abuse patterns that isn't impacted by the overwhelming number of adult children perpetrators in the dataset.

Although the patterns of abuse are identical for sons and daughters, there is a stark difference between adult children and spouse/



partners. Spouse/partners perpetrate proportionally much less financial abuse, and are the only perpetrator group where financial abuse was not the largest or equal largest abuse type. For spouse/partners neglect and physical abuse took up a greater proportion of all abuse types compared with adult children.

Informal carer abuse patterns showed a higher proportion of neglect than any other perpetrator group though this was not greatly different to that of spouse/partners.

Grandchildren, other family, and friend perpetrator group patterns were dominated by financial abuse.

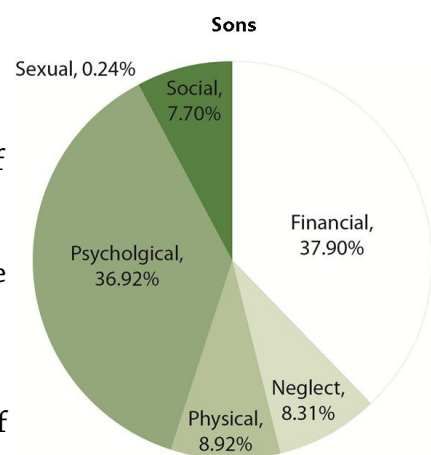
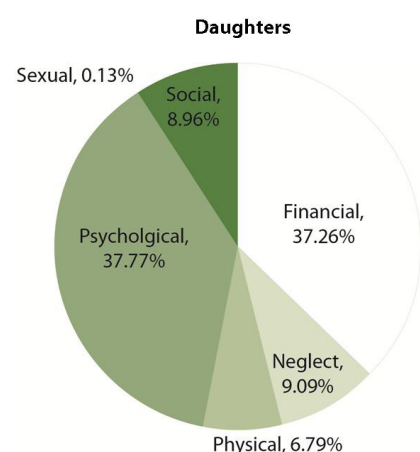
14.5% of all reported abuse during the 2013-2014 financial year were classed as non-trust abuse situations, (i.e fell outside of the definition of domestic violence), such as neighbours and accommodation managers.

### Combined abuse types

While social, sexual and psychological abuse types have remained stable; neglect has decreased as a proportion of all abuse types recorded and physical and financial abuse has increased substantially. The number of abuse types per abuse situation has risen slightly, from 1.64 types of abuse per abuse relationship in 2012-2013 to 1.71 in 2013-2014.

This could be a result of a greater emphasis on data accuracy during the reporting period. The marked increase in financial abuse of the 2013-14 year could be explained by a number of factors including increased awareness of financial abuse in the community and an actual proportional increase in financial elder abuse occurring.

**Source and further reading:** [Elder Abuse Prevention Unit Year in Review 2014](#)



# Respectful relationships

*Contributed by YFS*

YFS Ltd has initiated a meeting to bring together those with an interest in respectful relationships education. This will be an opportunity to share ideas and resources for program delivery and evaluation in Queensland.

"We also hope that this could be a chance build interest in the formation of a community of practice in this area. The benefit of violence prevention education is increasingly being recognised. For example, the Prime Minister announced in late September that the Safer Schools website will be expanded, to provide resources for teachers, parents and students on respectful relationships," said YFS CEO Cath Bartolo.

"Other national initiatives, including Our Watch and The Line, complement school programs such as NAPCAN'S Love Bites, and the Breaking the Silence program which is run by White Ribbon. We believe that it is important that this work is resourced and evaluated, and there needs to be greater continuity in program delivery and funding. It would be great to see a well-developed empirical base to know what works best with young people to improve the values and attitudes required for more respectful relationships. We also think that this evaluation work needs to be much more inclusive of culture and diversity in all of its forms," said Ms Bartolo.

## Sincere thanks

CDFVR would like to extend our thanks to The Digital Ink team consisting of four students completing their Bachelor of Digital Media with CQUniversity – Madelyn Holmes, Spencer Harding, Jonathan Favari and Caroline McDougall.

The team have demonstrated enthusiasm, dedication and care in their project engagement with CDFVR. Through the efforts of Dr Ashley M Holmes (Senior Lecturer, Digital Media, School of Education and the Arts, CQUniversity Mackay) this talented group has been working to create a portfolio of images and updated logo for the centre to use in their communication resources.

Up to this point, Digital Ink has explored three themes in their

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YFS Ltd has been providing respectful relationships education programs with young people for a number of years. Its work was formally evaluated in 2012 where positive impacts were reported as well as recommendations to improve the cultural relevance of YFS work and its level of youth engagement. YFS has now initiated a youth-led R4Respect -awareness program which features digital media resources (including the use and future development of social impact games, apps and more).

The November meeting is a means to network with others and to strengthen and sustain work in the respectful relationships domain the future. All interested providers of respectful relationships awareness and education programs are welcome. While the initial location for the meeting is Logan, it is anticipated that future meetings may use technology and other means to enable greater access for people outside of south-east Queensland.

### DETAILS:

Date and Time: Wednesday 11 November, 9.30-11.30 am

Venue: Griffith University, Logan Campus, University Drive

Meadowbrook Conference Room 4.07., Building L07

RSVP: Friday, 6 November, 2015 by phoning 3826 1500 or emailing [annaa@yfs.or.au](mailto:annaa@yfs.or.au)

images - environmental symbolism, contrast and relationship portraiture- to share the values and aspirations of CDFVR.

In the words of Project Manager Madelyn Holmes "We have found working for CDFVR both challenging and exciting, providing us with valuable real-world experience and opportunities for professional development. On a more personal level, we have also been made aware of the extent and depth of valuable research being put into removing the culture of abuse."

CDFVR would like to acknowledge Madelyn Holmes in particular, for her work as Project Manager and for supplying the cover image for this edition of the Re@der. It has been a privilege and pleasure working with Digital Ink and readers can expect to see more of the group's work in the coming months.

**The Queensland Government is taking action to end domestic and family violence and is seeking community collaboration.**

They want to hear your views and feedback about the draft Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy .

You can have your say online, make a formal submission or do both:

To see the draft Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy or to have your say online, [click here](#)

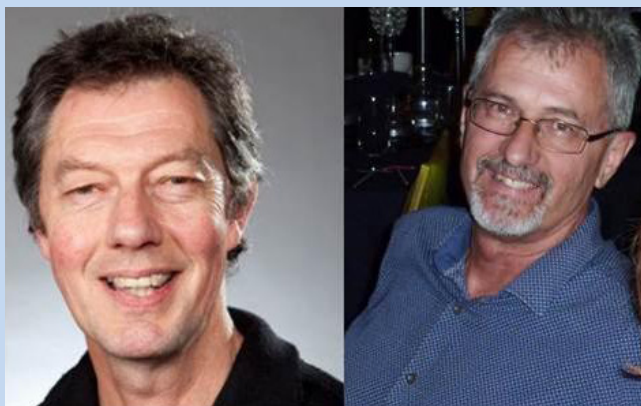
**Community feedback closes Monday 16 November 2015.**



# Date claimers

**13-14 October 2015**

## **Working With Men Masterclass/ Groupwork Skills Workshop**



The Masterclass on Working with Men who use violence considers where, why, and how this reluctance might be transformed into acceptance of the need for change.

Harnessing the power of the group to engage, perform, and transform is the theme of the Groupwork Skills Workshop the following day.

Learn more about these professional development opportunities [here](#)

### **10-12 November 2015** FRSA National Conference

Brisbane Convention Centre  
Future of Families: Preparing for Change  
Family and Relationship Services Australia is hosting this conference and a series of workshops.

Associate Professor Annabel Taylor will lead a Pre-Conference Workshop Shaping appropriate responses to the presence of domestic and family violence (Tuesday 10 November).

To learn more about this conference [click here](#)

### **17-18 November 2015** The Prevention of Violence Against Children: Research, Policy and Practice Symposium

Gardens Theatre Foyer, QUT Gardens Point Campus, 2 George St, Brisbane, 4059  
Register: by 16 November (Registration is free but numbers are limited)

To register for this event [click here](#)

### **7-9 December 2015** ANZMHA Australian Stop Domestic Violence Conference

Rex Hotel, Canberra  
The Australian and New Zealand Mental Health Association (ANZMHA) is hosting the inaugural 2015 Australian STOP Domestic Violence Conference.

The Conference theme Connecting the Dots will look at domestic violence holistically and developing collaborative approaches within the sector.

Associate Professor Annabel Taylor is a member of the Conference Program Committee.

To learn more about this conference [click here](#)

## **CDFVR Practitioner-led webinar 2015**

**30 October**

*The language of accountability*

**Presented by:** Mark Walters,  
Mensline Coordinator, DVConnect

The webinar will discuss engagement as the key determinant of change and the value of targeted and strategic language while working with perpetrators of violence.

Find more information or register [here](#)

## **4-5 May 2016 Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum, Mackay**

**Mark your diaries for the 12th Forum!**

Before December we'll be inviting potential presenters to share their achievements at this annual event.

Keep up to date as the Forum develops, visit the CDFVR website in the coming months by clicking [here](#)

## Contact Us

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We encourage readers to contribute to the CDFVRe@der. If you have any information or articles you wish to publish, please contact Centre staff.

### HAVE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS CHANGED?

We have become aware that some recipients of the CDFVRe@der have relocated or changed contact details, including email address. To enable us to update our records and ensure that you receive our quarterly publication, please contact us at the listed phone, fax or email address with your change of details. Please be assured that the Centre does not release your details to any third parties without your permission.

If you would like to be included on, or removed from, the Centre's mailing list, please ring us on (07)4940 3320.

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