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CDFWR@der

Distinguished visitors:
Randal Ross and Tom Powell
Red Dust Healing



Northern Territory Emergency Response:
Summary of NTER Review

Database Highlights: Torres Strait Islanders

Australasian Policing Strategy



www.noviolence.com.au

Director's message

What a difference a year can make! It appears that domestic and family violence prevention is well and truly back on the agenda at both the Commonwealth and State Government levels, and across a wide range of portfolios. As discussed in previous editions, the Australian Government has established the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children and the 11 member Council, established in May this year, will present its plan to Minister Plibersek in December. The Council has conducted extensive consultation across the country, including rural, remote and isolated communities such as Torres Strait, Fitzroy Crossing, Alice Springs, and Mt Isa. Further details of the Council's work to date can be found at

<http://www.ofw.facsia.gov.au/nationalcouncil/consultations/index.htm>.



Also previously reported were the steps being taken by the Australian Government to consult on its proposal to formally move to become a party to the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). On the 24th November, the eve of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the Attorney-General Robert McClelland and Minister for the Status of Women Tanya Plibersek jointly announced they would formally move to be a party to the Optional Protocol. Under the Optional Protocol, and where domestic legal options have been exhausted, women in Australia will be able to make a complaint to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, and have the complaint investigated through a UN process, about alleged violation of Australia's obligations under CEDAW.

The 25th of November is also known as White Ribbon Day, which focuses attention on men taking action to end men's violence against women. With the slogan "not violent, not silent" over 400 men across Australia have signed on as White Ribbon Ambassadors, including our Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, and the Attorneys-General of each State and Territory.

Other good news from across the country includes the launch on 25th November of the Australasian Policing Strategy on the Prevention and Reduction of Family Violence; and the commitment of funds from the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department for new research on the impact of family violence during relationship breakdown. Further details on the Australasian Policing Strategy on the Prevention and Reduction of Family Violence can be found at page 12 of this edition. The purpose of the new research on the impact of family violence during relationship breakdown is to inform decision making and advice by courts and family dispute resolution practitioners, respectively, in matters relating to family violence. Specifically, the research is to consider the effect that a history, or existence of violence within a relationship has on: the decisions people make about accessing the courts and dispute resolution services; the decisions people make while they are at courts and at dispute resolution services; and on post separation parenting arrangements.

At a state level, the Victorian Government announced on Sunday 23rd November the establishment of its family violence death review initiative, to systematically review family violence deaths in Victoria. Announcing the initiative, Victoria's Deputy Premier and Attorney-General, Rob Hulls, explained that the "aim is to identify prevention strategies and contribute to a reduction of preventable deaths". The review will "complement new laws in Victoria that better protect victims of family violence, help prevent family violence and hold perpetrators to account for their actions" he said. The initiative involves a \$3.6 million four-year pilot to be led by the State Coroner's Office, Victoria.

In Queensland, a proposed Government strategy to target domestic and family violence has been released for consultation, with consultative meetings conducted across the State. Further details of this initiative are provided on p 8.

Heather Rancarrow

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Centre News

Farewell to Michelle Bradford

With great sadness we say good-bye to Michelle Bradford who has been CDFVR's Education Officer since January 2003. Michelle has achieved much for CDFVR in that time, including the development, co-ordination and editing of the CDFVRe@der (formerly the 'newsletter'), which has proved to be highly valued by our stakeholders. Michelle has given nearly six years of dedicated service to CDFVR and its stakeholders and has recently decided to return to clinical Social Work practice. Michelle has a well-deserved reputation for her commitment to excellence and we trust that Queensland Health will recognise and appreciate that our loss is their gain! We wish you every success Michelle.



Research into practice

Course in Responding to Domestic and Family Violence (30629QLD)

By Annie Webster, Education Project Officer, CDFVR.

Participants in the pilot of the accredited Course in Responding to Domestic and Family Violence (30629QLD) reconvened with trainer, Betty Taylor in October and again in November to complete the Course's second and final units: *Referring appropriately and effectively in response to domestic and family violence (DFVR1A)*; and *Reflecting on work practice when responding to domestic and family violence (DFVR2A)*.

As mentioned in the September issue of the CDFVRe@der, the pilot is being delivered in partnership with the Queensland Health and Community Services Workforce Development Council, and boasts 26 participants reflecting diversity of workplaces, cultural backgrounds, and years of experience in responding to women subjected to domestic and family violence. Feedback from participants will contribute greatly to an evaluation of the Course in Responding to Domestic and Family Violence (30629QLD), which will help to further refine Course content and assessment activities. The March issue of the CDFVRe@der will feature a summary of evaluation results.

For people eagerly awaiting the Course in their region, we are pleased to announce its delivery in Mackay and Townsville, commencing in February 2009.

Mackay
Unit 1 February 17-19
Unit 2 March 17-19
Unit 3 April 21-23

Townsville
Unit 1 February 24-26
Unit 2 March 24-26
Unit 3 April 28-30

Unit 1 - Recognise and Respond to Domestic and Family Violence, (CHCDFV1B) .

Unit 2 - Referring Appropriately and Effectively in Response to Domestic and Family Violence, (DFVR1A).

Unit 3 - Reflecting on Work Practice when Responding to Domestic and Family Violence, (DFVR2A).

The Course will again be delivered in partnership with the Queensland Health and Community Services Workforce Development Council and the Skills



Participants attending training pilot.

Development Networks located in the Mackay and Townsville regions. Queries and registration for the Course will be managed by the Workforce Development Council. For further information about the Course please contact Annie Webster on (07) 4940 7838 or a.webster@cqu.edu.au.

CDFVR is also pleased to announce that consultant, Tracey Acton, has been engaged to develop a Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) toolkit and assessor network for the Course. This project is due for completion at the end of January 2009. The RPL toolkit will enable assessment of participants who wish to have their prior learning and existing knowledge acknowledged in lieu of completing some or all of the units contained in the Course. The Assessor Network is intended to enable support and information for assessors and trainers delivering the Course.

The assessor network will be comprised of:

- people with experience in the domestic and family violence sector who are, or may become, assessors for this Course and other community service qualifications;
- those considering gaining their assessor qualifications and who wish to use this process to support their assessment;
- people with sector expertise who wish to support quality course development but do not wish to deliver the Course or become a workplace assessor; and
- trainers who have already purchased the Course.

If you would like to contribute your expertise to the assessor network or the RPL toolkit contact Tracey at traceyacton@iprimus.com.au.

Research Summary

Northern Territory Emergency Response: Report of the NTER Review Board Peter Yu, Marcia Ella Duncan and Bill Gray, Commonwealth of Australia 2008

Summary by Heather Nancarrow, Director, CDFVR.

Less than 18 months after the announcement of the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER) the findings of the NTER Review Board ('the Board'), commissioned by the Rudd Government were released in mid-October. This article presents a summary of key findings, following a brief background about the NTER.

Background

On 21 June 2007, the then Federal Government announced a range of measures comprising its 'emergency response' to the *Little Children are Sacred Report*¹, which documented the appalling abuse of Aboriginal children in the Northern Territory. The Northern Territory Emergency Response (more commonly known as "the intervention") was formed around seven 'measures', each with several sub-measures.

NTER Measures

- Welfare reform and employment
- Law and order
- Enhancing education
- Supporting families
- Improving child and family health
- Housing and land reform
- Co-ordination

The NTER encompassed more than 500 Aboriginal communities, including 73 larger settlements targeted for intense application of the measures, in 'prescribed areas'. More than 70 percent of the Northern Territory's Aboriginal population was subject to the intervention.

Given the haste with which the response was developed and implemented, and the lack of community engagement, the initial reaction of many Aboriginal people was fear. Some women fled into the bush with their children to avoid what they suspected would be a repeat of the historical use of government forces to remove children from their

families and communities. While the then opposition Labor Party supported the NTER it also pledged, if it won government later that year, to evaluate the extent to which the intervention was meeting its immediate goal of protecting children and making communities safe; as well as achieving long term progress towards a better future for Aboriginal communities. The Report of the NTER Board is the outcome of that commitment.

The review

Noting that there was little to no baseline data available to specifically evaluate the impacts of the NTER, the Board relied largely upon face to face discussions with Aboriginal people and the 200 submissions it received during the review process. The Board states that the lack of empirical data was a major problem for the review and recommended the establishment of an authoritative database 'as a single integrated information system that enables regular measurement of outcomes of all government agency programs and services that target Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory'. The Board also commissioned independent research for its review, including research on child and community safety within an Aboriginal context and the legal implications of the amendments to the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975*, which enabled the Howard Government to specifically target Aboriginal communities and individuals with its raft of interventions. The following is a brief summary of some of the Board's key findings under each of the NTER measures. A copy of the Report of the NTER Review Board is available at:

http://www.nterreview.gov.au/docs/report_nter_review.PDF.

Key results

Welfare reform and employment
Income management

The Board found evidence that the blanket imposition of income management was inappropriate and increased racism against some people. Some Aboriginal women, as well as a range of service providers reported benefits of income management

¹ Rex Wild and Pat Anderson, Ampe Akelyernemane Meke Mekarle: "Little Children are Sacred": Report of the Northern Territory Board of Inquiry into the Protection of Aboriginal Children from Sexual Abuse (2007).
http://www.nt.gov.au/dcm/inquiryasaac/pdf/bipacsa_final_report.pdf

for a substantial number of families and children. However, there was agreement that income management should, in general, be voluntary with compulsory income management only applied to those who failed to meet family responsibilities, or whose alcohol or substance use was negatively affecting the community. This indicates support for a model similar to Queensland's *Families Responsibilities Commission*, discussed in the September 2008 edition of the CDFVRe@der.

The Board recommends the maintenance of the system of licensing community stores but calls for a six-monthly audit to ensure good governance and financial management, a range of good quality products at a reasonable price, appropriate health standards, and the implementation of strategies to increase Aboriginal employment in the stores. The Board also recommended reformation of the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP), with a greater emphasis on training for CDEP workers and Community Employment Brokers to focus on mentoring and training, workplace assessments and co-ordination between education and training providers and Job Network Providers.

Law and order

Alcohol and pornography bans

Despite evidence of a range of problems with the alcohol bans in prescribed areas, the Board recommended that the alcohol restrictions should remain in place. The Board heard evidence from a range of organisations about people travelling outside prescribed areas to drink, taking families with them and then requiring support services when the money ran out; and it also heard reports about increased concern for children left alone for longer periods of time with parents travelling further away to drink. The Board was of the view that an additional 12 inspectors for regional and remote work would assist with policing the alcohol bans and recommended that greater support be given to the implementation of the restrictions through demand, supply and harm reduction strategies, urgently required to ensure the success of the alcohol restrictions.

The Board found that the NTER legislative changes to stop access to pornography were difficult to enforce and had resulted in only five matters being referred to Northern Territory Police, with only one having gone to court at the time the Board reported. Signs posted outside communities about alcohol and pornography were also found to be offensive, because of the labelling and shaming of Aboriginal people, and ineffective because the complex information on the signs was not in appropriate languages.

Increased police

The increase in police numbers in the Northern Territory was found to be welcome but it needs to be permanent; police must be based in communities, rather than fly-in-fly-out and policing arrangements need to be 'normalised', with Northern Territory police undertaking policing in remote areas. There was also evidence that the increased police numbers had led to increased inappropriate policing, including that: young Aboriginal women reporting domestic violence were being questioned about their sexual histories; some police were over-focused on driving and licensing offences; and that Aboriginal cultural strengths were not being respected. Advocacy for increased capacity for communities to manage minor disturbances, leaving police to deal with more serious issues, accompanied support for increased permanent policing on remote communities. While Night Patrols were to be expanded to cover all 73 communities targeted for intensive intervention, this had been delayed for a range of reasons including the NTER leading to uncertainty about the future of the CDEP initiative and the absence of appropriate infrastructure in some of the communities. The Board emphasised that the success of the Night Patrols is dependent upon community control of them.

Enhancing education

The Board was advised that of the 8000 children enrolled in schools across the 73 communities targeted for intense intervention at least a quarter were not attending school regularly and it was estimated that another 2000 were not enrolled at all. The NTER was to address the 'education system failure in Northern Territory Aboriginal communities' (p.30) through a memorandum of understanding between the Northern Territory and Australian Governments, requiring new Social Security legislation to compel school attendance. However, due to complex legal and administrative issues, including difficulties in holding parents responsible for non-attendance by adolescents, the provisions of the legislation were never implemented. The Rudd Government has devised an alternative plan to be trialled in eight locations across three jurisdictions, commencing in 2009.

The Board warns of the need for 'focus on both sides of the principle of reciprocity: obligations on parents and families to compel their children to attend school matched by a major investment by governments to ensure that children receive high quality instruction when they attend school' (p.31). In spite of its concerns about the education failure, the Board makes a relatively vague recommendation that the 'Australian and Northern Territory Governments acknowledge and ... urgently address the serious crisis in education ...' (p. 32).

Supporting families

Child at risk workers for Northern Territory Child Protection Services

The NTER has funded the enhancement of the Northern Territory Government's 2003 commitment to reform its child protection services and legislation, primarily through the establishment of a mobile child protection team (MCPT) based in Darwin. Aimed at alleviating the backlog of child protection investigations in remote communities, the team comprises 10 child protection practitioners, a co-ordinator and an administrative officer. As with other initiatives, the effectiveness of this initiative was compromised by the difficulties in recruiting and retaining suitably qualified and experienced staff.

Safe place for families escaping family violence

Funding of \$11.83 million was allocated to establish or expand 22 women's safe houses and 'cooling off' houses for men in 16 communities, and to increase capacity of shelters in Darwin. Due to the shortage of funds available for this initiative, most of the new facilities consisted of steel shipping containers, mostly arranged to form a quadrangle where meetings could be held. The Board heard that there was little consultation on the design or location of these facilities which, in the main, were thought to be inappropriate. None of these safe houses or 'cooling off' houses was operational during the Board's consultations².

Funding for these facilities had been made available for 2008-09 only, with no further commitment from either the Australian Government or the Northern Territory Government. There had also been no apparent thought given to the training of staff in regards to their duty of care towards people staying in these facilities, although there was widespread anticipation that they would be used by people with a heightened risk of self-harm.

Remote Aboriginal family and community workers

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) funded 13 remote Aboriginal family and community workers to facilitate access for families and children to safe and secure support services and to support the work of child safety workers in Aboriginal communities. While these positions were not fully operational at the time of the Board's evaluation, recruitment and training activities had commenced.

Youth alcohol diversionary services

This initiative provided funds totalling \$8.5 million for a Northern Territory Regional Youth Development Network; the Alice Springs Town Camp Youth Diversion Project and Central Australian School Holiday Program; and the Indigenous Youth Flexible Funding Component for youth diversionary projects. The Alice Springs Town Camp Youth Diversion Project did not go ahead because of a lack of capacity and the funds were redistributed to the Indigenous Youth Flexible Funding Component. The main problems with implementation of these initiatives were identified as the ongoing lack of youth workers, although sporting and recreation facilities had been expanded or up-graded, and the challenge of getting teenagers, the intended target group, to participate. However, it was noted that young children were using the facilities.

Child abuse

Most communities reported little or no change in the safety and well-being of children as a result of the NTER. Based on its consultations and the assessment of the Northern Territory's Children's Commissioner, the Board concluded that the 'focus on the sexual abuse of children obscures the reality of the crisis of child abuse in Northern Territory Aboriginal communities which concerns serious neglect within the context of developmental trauma' (p. 35). Here, the Board is referring to the prevalence of developmental trauma disorder, which results from a series of traumatic events during a child's early years and impairs neurological development. The effects include anger, defiance and the inability to form trusting relationships. The Board recommended that priority be given to enabling Aboriginal communities to build community integration and ownership of a child and community safety system that engages with government agencies and includes highly visible and transparent community safety plans as a core element of place based agreements.

Improving child and family health

Child health checks

Of 8324 child health check cases analysed for the review, 43.6 percent of the children checked had oral health problems, 29.8 percent had ear disease, 15.8 percent had anaemia and 10.2 percent had skin disease. The Board's major concern in relation to this measure was that there had been insufficient resources made available for follow-up for children

² This was, in part, because the containers had to be tested for, and cleared of, chemical residue prior to occupancy.

with identified health problems, and it estimated that, at September 2008, some 60 percent of such children were still waiting for follow-up medical treatment.

Child special services

The NTER established an Aboriginal Mobile Outreach Service, extending the Northern Territory Sexual Assault Referral Service. The staff of five provides information, support, assessment and therapeutic interventions for victims, suspected victims and those deemed at risk of child sexual assault and their families. It also has responsibility for education and training on preventing and responding to child sexual assault, liaison between service providers and capacity building in Aboriginal communities. In addition to concerns about the small number of staff to cover the entire Northern Territory, and the diverse range of functions, the Board is also concerned that the focus on responding to children's trauma is limited to sexual assault. It notes the broad range of traumatic experiences many remote Aboriginal children are exposed to, and their needs for therapeutic intervention.

Housing and land reform

Five-year leases

Perhaps the most controversial aspect of the NTER was the Commonwealth Government acquisition of five year leases over Aboriginal land, involving 64 specified communities in the first instance, which was facilitated by the suspension of the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975*. The purpose was to 'improve living conditions; reduce overcrowding; and build more housing by providing for Australian Government control of the land with unfettered access' (p. 39). The Board notes that the intention of the five-year leases and the link between control of land and the stated objectives was never clearly articulated to, nor understood by, those affected. Further, no compensation or rent had been paid in regard to the land under five-year leases. The Board recommended immediate payment of just terms compensation from the date the land was acquired.

Permits

The permit system enabled traditional owners of Aboriginal land to restrict entry to their land to those they deemed appropriate and welcome, excluding others. This system was lifted under the NTER legislative package to enable government workers, contractors and NTER volunteers to enter and remain on Aboriginal land without a permit for the duration of the five-year leases. This has received much criticism because it has effectively compromised community safety by disabling the capacity of

Aboriginal land owners to exclude those suspected of paedophilia and the sale of illegal substances. Not only did the Board recommend the reinstatement of the permit system, it also recommended that it be effectively policed to ensure its original intent, as part of a community safety plan.

Co-ordination

While this measure had seven sub-measures, the Board has limited its discussion to the two areas raised through community consultations and submissions: the operations centre and the Government Business Managers.

Operations centre

The Board found that the Operations Centre, under the command of Major General Chalmers, was widely acknowledged as an effective mechanism for managing the NTER logistics; however, it notes two major impediments to the functioning of the Operations Centre. First was the lack of community engagement, resulting from the focus on the roll-out of the NTER measures as 'a strictly controlled logistical exercise implemented against non-negotiable timelines' (p. 43). Second was the continued silo approach of many government agencies in spite of the rhetoric of the whole-of-government approach' (p.43). The Board commends the continuation of an Operations Centre, under civilian control, 'to coordinate implementation across both Australian and Northern Territory Government agencies delivering services to Aboriginal communities' (p. 45).

Role and effectiveness of Government Business Managers (GBMs)

Many of the GBMs recruited were senior Australian Government public sector personnel, with very few having any community development experience. The small number who had overseas community development experience showed a marked difference in the way they were able to genuinely engage with the local community, while effectively managing the government investment. A major flaw in the role of the GBMs is that they were established to manage Australian Government business only and have no role in relation to the management of the Northern Territory Government business, nor to co-ordinate non-government organisation activities.

The Board recommends that the GBMs be realigned to strengthen a community development approach and, in keeping with such an alignment, be renamed Community Development Managers and undergo relevant training. Their role will be to rebuild confidence and trust 'that governments can and will work in partnership with Aboriginal people' (p. 45).

Sustainability and the way ahead

The Board opens its final chapter with a discussion on human rights and argues that there is no need to privilege one set of human rights (safety of women and children) over others covered under the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975*. It notes that the process of re-engagement cannot be achieved without acknowledgement of the informed consent principle and human rights provisions' (p. 47) and focuses on the need for re-engagement with Aboriginal people through fundamental change in the way government operates. This necessitates changes in the delivery of services, professional development for GBMs and attention to the way funding is conceived and managed.

Conclusion

To a large extent the report of the Review Board vindicates the NTER critics, particularly in regard to

government imposition of the NTER and its more radical welfare reform and employment measures, the acquisition of five-year leases and scrapping the permit systems. It concludes that success in achieving the NTER goals requires a new relationship between Government and Aboriginal people; a relationship defined by trust and based on community development 'led by the community and partnered by government' (p. 8). This affirms the results of a substantial body of research on addressing Indigenous family violence much of which, as discussed elsewhere³, had been commissioned, and then ignored, by the former government.

The Review Board concludes that the lesson of the intervention is 'you cannot drive change into a community and unload it off the back of a truck' (p. 58). However, the Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin, announced on the 23rd of October 2008 that the intervention would continue in its current form for another year.

³ See Nancarrow, H. (2007) "The Emergency Response to Family Violence in the Northern Territory: Where's the evidence?" in *Indigenous Law Bulletin* November 2007 Volume 7 / Issue 1

Queensland Government strategy to target domestic and family violence

On 26 October, 2008 the Queensland Government announced the release of a consultation paper: "A Queensland Government strategy to target domestic and family violence". While the paper was jointly released by the Minister for Communities, Lindy Nelson-Carr; the Minister for Police, Judy Spence and the Minister for Women, Margaret Keech, a total of 12 government departments will be partners in the implementation of the proposed Government strategy.

The paper proposes two overarching goals: 1) to ensure people, particularly women and children, experiencing domestic and family violence are safe, adequately protected and supported; and 2) to ensure people who commit acts of domestic and family violence are monitored and held accountable and responsible for their behaviour. Five key areas for action are put forward as a possible framework for achieving these goals. These five areas are: prevention (with a focus on healthy relationships); early identification; connected support services; perpetrator accountability; and systems planning and co-ordination. A number of ideas for supporting work under each of those key areas are identified. A key suggestion is the development of Case Co-ordination Teams, comprised of domestic violence specialists and representatives of the Queensland Police Service and the Department of Child Safety working together on a full-time basis.

A series of meetings have been held in 14 locations across Queensland to consult with both government and non-government service providers on whether the areas identified in the consultation paper are those that need action, or whether there are better ideas to focus on. In addition to the consultation meetings, written submissions via www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au or by email: dfvconsultation@communities.qld.gov.au were strongly encouraged, with a closing date of 19 December, 2008.

Database highlights

Domestic and Family Violence Database Snapshot: Torres Strait Islanders

By Heather Nancarrow, Director, CDFVR.

Introduction

Torres Strait Islanders are often subsumed in the term 'Indigenous' in various reports on domestic and family violence. This is in part because research has not separated these two distinct cultural groups that, together, constitute Australia's Indigenous peoples. Research commissioned by the Queensland Department of Communities, and conducted by University of Queensland's Professor Paul Memmott, is a very good start to addressing this and his report, when released, will be an extremely valuable addition to the literature on family violence. Inter-cultural unions and strong identification with more than one culture, is another complexity associated with trying to understand the unique experiences of Torres Strait Islanders. Some identify as both Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal, and some identify as being both Torres Strait Islander and Australian South Sea Islander (for discussion of this distinct cultural group see

http://www.multicultural.qld.gov.au/community/australian_south_sea_islanders/recognition.html).

CDFVR's Domestic and Family Violence Database includes the cultural identity categories 'Torres Strait Islander'; 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander' and 'Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and/or Australian South Sea Islander', with clients nominating their cultural identity. While this is an advance on most data collections, it also presents some challenges when seeking to separately analyse

new client matters for Torres Strait Islanders, Aboriginal Australians, and Australian South Sea Islanders. For this descriptive analysis of new client matters recorded for Torres Strait Islanders in the CDFVR database, the categories 'Torres Strait Islander' and 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander' have been merged. Therefore, some Torres Strait Islanders who identified as 'Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and/or Australian South Sea Islander' will not be included. The data are provided by 29 domestic and family violence support services across the State of Queensland, some of which provide services both for victims of violence and those who use violence. The data cannot be used to generalise beyond the population of people for whom new client matters were recorded in the Domestic and Family Violence Database.

Torres Strait Islander new client matters

The total number of new client matters recorded in the Domestic and Family Violence Database for the period 1 January, 2007 to 30 June, 2008 was 46,433. Of these, 495 (1.1%) were matters involving a Torres Strait Islander client, while 7.5 percent identified as Aboriginal. The majority (76.8%) of new client matters, in general, are seeking assistance in relation to 'spousal' domestic violence, which holds true for the matters recorded for Torres Strait Islanders (75%). This is also the case for intimate personal relationships (engaged to be married, betrothed or 'promised' under traditional cultural practice, and 'enmeshed' dating relationships). Overall, 8.1 percent of recorded new client matters concern intimate personal relationships, with 7 percent of Torres Strait Islander new client matters in this category. As with

Table 1: Client situation by gender

	Female		Male		Total
	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	
Experiencing violence current relationship	279	71.3	15	15.3	297
Experienced violence from past relationship	47	12	5	5.1	54
Previously experienced violence	44	11.2	3	3	47
Using violence in current relationship	14	3.5	62	63.2	76
Used violence in a relationship	3	0.8	7	7.1	11
Using violence in a past relationship	2	0.5	4	4.1	6
Total	391		98		495

Aboriginal client matters, Torres Strait Islander matters indicate a higher rate of seeking help for sibling violence (5.2% for Torres Strait Islanders and 4.1% for Aboriginal matters) compared to the total number of new client matters recorded (2.1%).

Gender differences

Overall, 78.3 percent of all new client matters over this period related to women and 21 percent to men. Similarly, within the Torres Strait Islander population of the database, 79 percent of new matters related to women and 19.8% to men as shown in Table 1, below.

The data show that 83.3 percent of the Torres Strait Islander women were seeking help because they were currently experiencing violence from a current or former partner, and a further 11.2 percent were seeking help because they had previously experienced violence. On the other hand, 67.3 percent of the men sought assistance in relation to their current use of violence against their partner or

former partner, and another 7.1 percent sought assistance in relation to their past use of violence. Accordingly, a greater proportion of the women, compared to the men, sought counselling and crisis intervention; while a greater proportion of the men sought court support, advocacy and other services (such as information and referral). This is illustrated in Table 2, below.

The data collected over this 18 month period reflect strong similarities of service seeking and usage across the populations of Torres Strait Islander, Aboriginal, and non-Indigenous. That is, proportions of Torres Strait Islander women and men seeking services for domestic and family violence was similar to those identifying as Aboriginal or non-Indigenous. This similarity extends to the types of relationship most frequently identified (ie spousal and intimate partner), with Torres Strait Islander service users identifying sibling violence slightly more frequently than non-Indigenous clients.

Table 2: Type of service used by gender

	Female		Male		Total
	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	
Counselling	41	10.5	5	5.1	48
Court support	166	42.4	49	50.0	216
Crisis intervention	166	42.4	21	21.4	190
Advocacy	5	1.2	5	5.1	10
Other	13	3.3	15	15.3	28
Total	391		98		495

NB: Totals do not add to 100% because type of service primarily sought was not known in a small number of cases.

DATE CLAIMER

2009 Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum

Forum will be held on May 11 and 12

Forum workshop will be held on May 13

Further details will be published in the March 2009 edition of the CDFVReader

If you'd like to receive further updates and advice regarding program and registration, contact Annie Webster at a.webster@cqu.edu.au.

Service Spotlight

Community Connections: Relationship violence prevention and young people

By Cate Ryan, Youth and Family Worker, Guest Contributor.

Community Connections is based in Nundah, Brisbane, and works alongside young people and families where there are issues that could lead to early home leaving and/or early disengaging from school. Using an early intervention and community development framework, our work also encompasses group and project work and creating links with the school and wider community.



The service has two programs, Reconnect (funded by Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs), and the Youth Support Co-ordinator initiative (YSC), funded by Department of Communities. The team operates as “Community Connections”, in the role of Youth and Family Workers. We work with young people, their families, important others, schools and the community.

Our practice acknowledges that the reasons young people may need support are diverse and varied, and may include issues such as conflict with peers, relationships, isolation, abuse, substance use/misuse, family conflict/breakdown, mental health issues and so on. Our Program Areas include Building Relationships, Accessing Income, Accessing Accommodation, Engaging in School, Ensuring Health, and Ensuring Safety. A focus within the Ensuring Safety program area is Addressing Relationship Violence.

Addressing Violence in Relationships

This year, Community Connections workers created a program that can be delivered to entire year levels in high schools, that unpacks the patterns and impact of violence in relationships. This project was developed in response to an increasing number of reports from young people supported by Community Connections, of relationship violence between young people and seeks to decrease the acceptance of violence in their lives and school communities. The workshops aim to create an environment in which young people can access support and information safely and share this with family members and peers in the community. A pilot of this program was facilitated at Everton Park State High School with approximately 40 Year 11 students. Workshops were held with young men and young women separately and the interactive activities explored the dynamics of power and control in relationships, the escalation of violence and the various ways behaviour (physical and non-physical forms) can be violent if it intends to provoke fear.

Young people expressed a high level of satisfaction about the workshops with the majority stating that they would recommend the workshops to their friends. A school safety statement was drafted by the workshop participants, and a sample bag of resources around relationship violence/safe relationships was distributed to workshop participants.

During the course of this pilot, a need for skill development opportunities (eg Peer Skills Training) for young people in these workshops was identified. The young men's feedback also highlighted the critical need for male facilitators to engage with topics and activities addressing relationship violence. To respond to the young men's requests for mentoring from male workers and/or community members, Community Connections is keen to link with other agencies working on this issue with young people and families.

Everton Park State High School and Community Connections have committed to running the relationship violence prevention workshops with young people again in early 2009 and build on the skills of initial participants with Peer Skills Training. Community Connections invites interested agencies or male workers available to collaborate on future workshops, or link and build the project in north Brisbane to contact Cate Ryan on phone: (07) 3266 5199 or email: cryan@communityliving.org.au.

Policy initiatives

Prevention and Reduction of Family Violence: An Australasian Policing Strategy

Summary by Heather Nancarrow, Director, CDFVR.

On 25 November, White Ribbon Day, Australasian Police Commissioners jointly released their strategy to prevent and reduce family violence across Australia and New Zealand. In a joint leadership statement, the Commissioners commit to

‘preventing and reducing family violence through strong, consistent and compassionate responses ... sharing information, research, experiences and knowledge to continually improve our response and knowledge base...(and) to delivering evidenced-based strategies that reduce and prevent family violence at all levels’ (p. 1).

Underpinned by a set of four outcome measures and three process measures for success, the strategy sits within a framework of 10 priority areas for action, each identified as ‘a strategic pointer for each jurisdiction, enabling a common platform for identifying best practice protocols’ (p.5). The outcome measures are: an increase in reported incidents of family violence; a decrease in the number of repeat police attendances to the same victim or offender; an increase in the amount of family violence cases successfully prosecuted; and an increase in the number of offenders completing behaviour change, or similar, programs. Process measures relate to better working relationships between police and child protection services, police and family violence support services and integration of case management systems that reflect best practice.

Priorities for action

1. Education and training
2. Research and knowledge base
3. Policy and legal response
4. Incident response
5. Early intervention
6. Communication and information sharing
7. Diverse and emerging communities
8. Indigenous family violence
9. Children at risk
10. People affected by family violence

For each priority for action, the strategy identifies the desired outcome and the means by which it

intends to achieve these outcomes. The following summarises these elements of the strategy.

Education and training

The aim of this priority is to improve the knowledge and understanding of all police in the investigation and management of family violence. Actions focus on ensuring the provision of training incorporating ‘technical, conceptual and interpersonal skills including appropriate behaviours, cultural awareness and attitudes’ (p. 6). Joint training between police and other agencies to facilitate a shared understanding of roles and responsibilities is also a feature of this priority area.

Research and knowledge base

With the aim of improving the Australasian police response to family violence, this priority focuses on undertaking and keeping abreast of the latest research on policing family violence. Actions include conducting research audits by jurisdiction, evidenced-based audits and evaluations of programs, policies and practices and sharing information through a central repository, as well as contributing to and utilising the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse and the New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse. It also envisages an accessible online capability for a centralised knowledge base, incorporating examples of good practice, a comparison of what is happening in jurisdictions in regard to the priority areas for action, a common risk assessment framework, and external and academic research.

Policy and legal response

Ensuring a strong basis for effective investigation, management and prosecution of family violence this area for action involves an audit of current policy, legal systems and processes with identified gaps to be addressed. Key areas for consideration within this priority include identification of privacy barriers and limitations, determination of the impact of the Federal Family Law with regard to the Family Violence Strategy to be referred to the Australasian Police Ministers’ Council, identification of areas for improvement within civil responses and criminal investigations, and confirmation of the roles of specialist courts, prosecutors and other response units.

Incident response

To achieve greater consistency in the level and appropriateness of police responses the strategy will include an audit of risk assessment processes,

integrated case management practices between police and other agencies, and uniformity in the definition and measuring of repeat attendances to victims and offenders.

Early intervention

Aiming to achieve a measurable shift from reactive to preventative police responses, actions include identification of points for collaboration with others such as joint investigations, case management and conferencing, the tailoring of early intervention strategies to specific target groups and joint training for police and other agencies on best practice models in early intervention.

Communication and information sharing

The goal of this priority is to remove barriers to effective information sharing between police and other agencies. Actions centre on the establishment of practice and protocols between police and other agencies, which is dependent upon the success of other actions related to the resolution of issues such as privacy legislation and information technology systems that impede sound information sharing between the police and partner agencies.

Diverse and emerging communities

The actions identified in this priority aim to increase confidence in police across diverse groups and emerging communities. Again, effective communication and inter-agency collaboration is seen to be a key to the achievement of this goal. Actions include the development of education and cultural awareness programs for police, building awareness within diverse and emerging communities about family violence and confidence in reporting and building the capacity of services to respond.

Indigenous family violence

The desired outcome of this priority is a measurable reduction in the over-representation of Indigenous people as victims and offenders of family violence. Actions involve the encouragement of community engagement and community ownership of the problem, appropriate resource deployment and culturally relevant responses, and an examination of alternative diversion practices.

Children at risk

Aiming to achieve greater protection of and support for children affected by family violence, priority will be given to actions such as the development of models to identify and respond to risks and needs of children, including specialised responses for unborn children, infants, children with disabilities, and adolescents; and the development of co-ordinated case management practices, and particularly positive working relationships between police and child protection agencies.

People affected by family violence

The emphasis of this area for action is meeting the needs of victims of family violence. Actions include improving the front-line police response to victims, developing strategies to reduce the need for victims to repeat their stories multiple times, and increasing support, safety and access to services for victims. In regard to offenders, the strategy focuses attention on directing offenders to diversion and treatment programs and developing specific strategies to identify and manage repeat offenders.

Although the Australasian Policing Strategy for the prevention and reduction of family violence is indeed commendable, and an indication of how far the cause has come, there is no timeframe for its implementation and its actions are couched in such broad terms it resembles a framework, rather than a strategy, for action. Some of the actions are so vague as to be open to wide interpretation and, therefore, minimal exposure to performance monitoring against specific actions. This is implicitly acknowledged in the Australasian Police Leadership Statement, signed by the New Zealand Police Commissioner and the Police Commissioners of all Australian jurisdictions. The Statement says, in part, 'this Strategy document signals the commencement of a comprehensive and coordinated response to identify best practice and ensure consistency amongst jurisdictional approaches to reducing and preventing family violence' (p. 1). And it is a very good, strategic starting point.

It is particularly encouraging to see the commitment to training, professional development and inter-agency collaboration to improve police performance. Without such improvement across the board police cannot achieve their goals of increased confidence for diverse communities, including Indigenous communities, in the ability of police to respond appropriately to family violence. The emphasis on inter-agency collaboration is also critical to the achievement of a number of other actions, and therefore, outcome measures, as they fall outside police control; either because responsibility for the likely policy or legislative reforms required sit within other portfolios, or because there are insufficient resources in terms of victim and offender services to achieve their objectives. However, all of these aspirational goals are central to improved police performance towards the prevention and reduction of family violence, and should be supported by other agencies committed to the outcomes sought by the Strategy.

CDFVR extends its congratulations and best wishes for success of the Strategy to all those involved in its conception and implementation.

Evidence based practice

Red Dust Healing

By Michelle Bradford, Education Officer, CDFVR.

On October 31st, CDFVR was very pleased to host a seminar presentation by Randal Ross and Tom Powell titled: "Red Dust Healing". Randal is a Bindol, Juru and Erub descendent from Queensland and also James Cook University's 2008 Rowan Nicks and Russel Drysdale Fellow, and Tom is a Warramunga man and a consultant with Spread Out and Stick Together Consultancy, based in New South Wales. Randal and Tom's seminar was video-linked to nine sites and over 250 people in Queensland.



Originally designed by Tom and further developed in partnership with Randal, Red Dust Healing is a specific cultural healing program that has been delivered to groups in both New South Wales and Queensland. The program is "based on a cultural belief that we are one

people, one mob who do not own but belong to this land" with a firm perspective that "when the dust is settled on our lives, all we get to keep and take with us is our dignity, our integrity and the love and respect we shared with people". Randal began the seminar with an image of the Wisdom Tree, and explained how this image is used with program participants as a powerful metaphor for demonstrating alternative perspectives to issues and struggles.

Red Dust Healing is a group program for Indigenous men and women that examines the intergenerational effects of colonisation on the mental, physical and spiritual well being of Indigenous families and encourages individuals to confront and deal with the problems, hurt and anger in their lives. More than simply the physical acts of invasion and building colonies, colonisation incorporates an internalised process that valorises the coloniser's culture and denigrates the colonised culture (Muller 2007, p.2). As such, Red Dust Healing recognises that colonisation stripped Indigenous men of three central values: a) identity (became distorted through harsh practices of assimilation); b) responsibility (removed traditional roles that once saw men respond with

the ability); and c) relationship (forced disconnection from kin, community and country has led to difficulties in building relationships and showing emotion).

The program targets "the heart and not the head", hence Red Dust Healing examines rejection, grief and loss as the foundation of all hurt, and encourages participants to address family and personal relationships, and what might be lifelong patterns of violence, abuse and neglect as a means of recognising, examining and healing their own personal hurt. Within this approach, experiences and positions of victim and perpetrator are explored, the tactics described in the Duluth Power and Control Wheel are examined, and participants are challenged to consider whether they are repeating the same tactics that may have hurt them.

Traditional practices, morals, values and principles are examined and explored for how they fit into today's society. For example, Red Dust Healing examines the perspectives of LAW and LORE. LAW is framed as originating from non-Indigenous culture and operating across all cultures in Australian society.

Legalities
Attorneys - General
Westminster

By contrast, Red Dust Healing acknowledges the ancient and sacred Aboriginal practices and customs that underpin traditional LORE and extends this understanding to incorporate related concepts that are easily understood by young people and those attending the program. The program refers to LORE in terms of four interdependent elements.

Land and language
Origin
Respect
Elders

As Randal explained, "You cannot have one without the others. You cannot be an Elder if you do not know where you come from, or if you do not have respect, or your land or your language".

"Under this lore, we have our freedom as a person, our individual freedom, however it's when we become involved with other issues and we get in trouble with domestic violence or crime, this is when we come into the other law... we teach them, if we give *our* lore up, then it's this [other] law that will take control of us. We already have our freedom, but it's what we do with our freedom, our choices..."

A key focus of the program relates to rebuilding and healing families and communities through restoring Indigenous men's identity, responsibilities and relationships. "Healing" is identified and explored as "a spiritual understanding of self, identity, love, belonging, family, security, hurt, heartache, good times and laughter"; and "a grasp for hope based on love and respect and understanding of ourselves and our supports and being able to tell 'our' stories".

In terms of the program's structure and content, Red Dust Healing comprises both individual and group sessions. Each participant is invited into a process in which an individual case management plan is negotiated to respond to their goals and personal needs for healing. This personalised plan can incorporate referral to (and follow up with) relevant services and also draws on the support and wisdom of a "buddy" or "mentor" who has already completed the program. The program is designed to be delivered to groups of 8-10 participants in two separate blocks. Each block requires a 3-4 day period; and the 4-6 week space between the blocks is intended to enable the participants to follow through with their case plans and relevant service providers in preparation for the next block.

Local Indigenous service providers and Indigenous Elders, and mainstream service providers are invited to participate in the delivery of relevant modules in the Red Dust Healing program. For example, relevant Elders provide input regarding cultural and traditional ways, Aboriginal health workers are invited to give input on healthy lifestyle and diet; and workers from Sexual Health and Drugs and Alcohol services are approached for assistance with case plans as necessary. The program's modules examine a breadth of issues, including: identity; family roles and structure; relationships; Elders; men's business; Indigenous history and the impacts of colonisation; drug and alcohol issues; family violence; grievance and loss; stress and mental health issues; anger management; education and employment; housing issues; meetings and community contribution; and governance.

At the program's conclusion, participants are presented with a toolkit, which draws on the numerous visual aids used during the program. This toolkit is intended to equip and support participants when encountering crises or challenging situations when they return to their communities or living situations.

Red Dust Healing's commitment to empowerment for individuals and communities, self determination, sustainability and autonomy is also demonstrated through key partnerships, some of which promote employment opportunities. These partnerships

include North Queensland Water; two Indigenous men's organisations, TTRIMA (Townsville/Thuringowa Regional Indigenous Men's Association) and BARK (Brothers Act of Random Kindness); James Cook University's Indigenous Health Unit and Dispute Resolution Program; and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service NQ.

Randal and Tom shared details about a broad range of organisations and groups in Queensland and New South Wales that have undertaken the Red Dust Healing program, including young people detained in a juvenile detention centre; high schools; men's groups; community-based support services; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services and legal services. They also described great success with accommodating participant diversity in terms of age, gender and cultural background in a number of groups. For example, Randal and Tom referred to mixed groups of Indigenous men and women, as well as non-Indigenous participants, and reported strong outcomes in relation to the participants' completion of case plans and other program performance measures. The Cultural Awareness modules contained in the Red Dust Healing program have also been completed by 35 non-Indigenous General Practitioners, medical interns, solicitors and legal service staff.

Randal outlined 14 outcome and performance measures for the program and an evaluation methodology that involves interviews, self-reporting, reports from family members and local organisations, participation and attendance, tracking case plan completion and engagement with services. A formal evaluation of the Red Dust Healing program is being planned, which will be implemented and guided by a reference group with expertise in Indigenous men's health research.

Randal and Tom reported that over 156 people have now officially completed the program with some outstanding results. For example, of the 41 young people, aged 15 to 18 years, who have completed the Red Dust Healing program, only eight re-offended in the subsequent 15 month period. The seminar concluded with a video clip of numerous and very powerful testimonies from men who have completed a Red Dust Healing group. Without exception, each participant referred to heightened insights into past destructive beliefs and behaviours and experiences of liberation through healing, consciously nurturing relationships and taking responsibility for choices.

Randal and Tom's PowerPoint presentation from the Red Dust Healing seminar is available for download from the Centre's website at www.noviolence.com.au. CDFVR is also producing a DVD of this seminar presentation and will be distributing this free of charge in mid-January, 2009. If you'd like to receive a copy of the DVD, please contact the Centre with your postal details at enquiries@noviolence.com.au.

Resource Review

‘Share our Pride’ – a website for developing Indigenous understanding

By Leda Barnett, Guest contributor, Psychologist-Intern, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service, Mackay.

I acknowledge the Yuibera people – the traditional custodians of the country that encompasses Mackay.

As an Aboriginal woman I am often asked questions about Australia’s Indigenous people that, although asked in endearing ignorance, urk me to the core. Such questions tap into wells of emotion I prefer to keep out-of-bounds, consequently my response often requires a well thought out diplomatic reply. It is an enduring sense of duty to educate others that overrides these emotions and drives me to continue what is seen by many as a lifetime responsibility (i.e. to educate others about Indigenous Australia). Although this responsibility takes its toll, there is strength in community and ongoing opportunities to accumulate the skills and resources needed to do the job. The ‘Share our Pride’ website is another resource to add to the toolkit.

Appropriately titled ‘Share Our Pride’ the homepage presents as an invitation to embark on a journey of cultural knowledge acquisition. It is a website resource developed by Reconciliation Australia in response to industry’s request for information for a non-Indigenous audience about Indigenous people and their culture. Any information sanctioned by the remarkable people from Reconciliation Australia has undoubtedly come from integral sources and has strong cultural validity. For those non-Indigenous people wanting to know more, those too embarrassed to ask, those who are curious or for those Indigenous people feeling periodically exhausted, this resource provides information about Indigenous Australia with the goal of developing people’s understanding of the diversity and richness of our country’s Indigenous people. Notably the information is predominantly about Aboriginal people, but the homepage states the next priority is to add specific Torres Strait Islander content.

The homepage has an obvious Reconciliation theme from the outset and is somewhat visually uncomplicated, compared to other Indigenous websites that are steeped in cultural aesthetics. An underlying message is that this website is more concerned with content than bells and whistles. It could be suggested this is a reflection of budget, but whatever the reason I applaud the Westpac Foundation and the Coles Group Community Fund for providing the initial funding.

The purpose of the website and its audience is clear from the outset. I felt a sense of cultural comfort as

I read the acknowledgement of traditional owners and recognition that Indigenous people throughout the country have contributed to the content. This instantly feeds the cultural validity required by the Indigenous community to endorse such a product. I am particularly fond of the way the website introduces the idea that the benefits of developing a richer understanding of Indigenous culture contributes to what has the potential to be a life-changing experience. The notion that interacting with the website is no substitute for living amongst Indigenous people is one I and many people I know wholeheartedly agree with. The following reflection questions on the homepage add the dimension of accountability for what is learnt on the journey.

- **What might I do differently and what might my organisation do differently to build better relationships with Indigenous peoples?**
- **What might I do differently and what my organisation do differently to have and show respect for Indigenous Australians?**
- **What might I do differently and what might my organisation do differently to create opportunities for Indigenous peoples to help close the life expectancy gap and build a stronger Australia?**

I have to admit, after reading these questions I felt some weight lift off my shoulders. The inclusion of Grant Paulson’s seemingly jazz-inspired song ‘See the World (through my eyes)’ added another dimension to the experience of this website resource.

The greeting from Matilda House (the traditional owner who featured in the parliamentary ceremony for the government’s apology on 13 February this year) contributes to the underlying warmth of the experience and reflects a generosity of spirit. Additional information about Reconciliation Australia including its vision, ambition and purpose is only the next hyperlink away.

The set-out of the website is user-friendly in that you can immerse yourself or just delve into the information you need at the time. Following you throughout your journey are the links to the five sections of the website on the left-hand side. These are titled 'Indigenous Australians', 'Culture', 'Our shared history', 'Beyond the Myths', 'Respectful Relationships' and 'Success Stories'. Included in these sections are answers to questions and comments I sometimes balk at such as "How much Aboriginal blood do you have in you?" and "It's all in the past, just forget about it and move on." There is a history lesson for everyone in the timeline – a timeline that acknowledges Australia's history prior to 1788 (schools could use this!) and stories shared that develop your understanding of past policies and practices. These stories provide explanations of how lives continue to be affected (i.e., transgenerationally) by Australia's governmental practices. The website provides up-to-date information on current issues and events and pledges to continually provide updates.

'Share our Pride' is an apt description of what Reconciliation Australia and this website is all about. Any valid attempt to make community endorsed cultural awareness more accessible to the masses is applauded by me. There are many non-Indigenous people who could clearly benefit from developing their understanding of other worldviews. Being understood and appreciated is a very basic human need that is difficult to establish without adopting an open heart, a desire to learn and a willingness to embrace the change and growth that comes with a journey of personal development. As an Aboriginal woman 'Share our Pride' is a greeting I extend to those Australians who, for a myriad of reasons, do not have access to the understanding of how culture contributes to one's being. For me, my culture is a tremendous source of pride.

The website address for Share Our Pride is <http://www.shareourpride.org.au/>

The Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research welcomes articles from guest contributors. Publication of the articles will be at the discretion of the Director of the Centre. Views expressed in published guest contributions are not necessarily the views of the Centre.

New CDFVR research subject of public seminars

Intimate partner abuse of women in the Bowen Basin and Mackay region of central Queensland

The results of research on intimate partner abuse of women in the Bowen Basin and Mackay region were presented by CDFVR Director, Heather Nancarrow at public seminars in Rockhampton and Clermont in Central Queensland, in November and December and will be the subject of a further seminar in Mackay in 2009. The Mackay seminar will be broadcast via video-conference throughout Queensland.

The research, funded by a \$30,000 grant from the Criminology Research Council, was conducted by Heather, Professor Stewart Lockie of CQUniversity's Centre for Social Science Research, and Dr Sanjay Sharma, a former CDFVR Postdoctoral Research Fellow. It examined the nature and prevalence of intimate partner abuse in the region; statistically significant associations between such abuse and various socio-demographic, relational and behavioural factors, as well as the women's health status; the most influential reasons women remained in abusive relationships; and their use of specialist services.

Details of the Mackay-based video-conferenced seminar will be made available via email, and posted on the CDFVR website as early as possible.

Workshops, conferences and date claimers

22-23 January 2009

NZ Early Childhood Research Conference
Wellington, NZ

<http://www.childforum.com/symposium.asp>

26-30 January 2009

23rd Annual San Diego International Conference
on Child and Family Maltreatment
San Diego, CA

<http://www.childforum.com/symposium.asp>

Email: ChadwickCenter@chsd.org

03 February 2009

Understanding and Trying to Prevent Parents from
Killing or Seriously Injuring their Children
London, UK

<http://www.baspcan.org.uk/events.html>

05 February 2009

Understanding and Trying to Prevent Parents from
Killing or Seriously Injuring their Children
Glasgow, UK

<http://www.baspcan.org.uk/events.html>

17-19 February 2009 (Unit 1)

Course in Responding to Domestic and Family
Violence (30629QLD)

Unit 2 17-19 March

Unit 3 21-23 April

Mackay, QLD

See page 2 for more details

18-19 February 2009

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research 40th
Anniversary Symposium
Sydney, NSW

[http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/bocsar/ll_bo
csar.nsf/pages/bocsar_symposium](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/bocsar/ll_bo
csar.nsf/pages/bocsar_symposium)

24-26 February 2009 (Unit 1)

Course in Responding to Domestic and Family
Violence (30629QLD)

Unit 2 24-26 March

Unit 3 28-30 April

Townsville, QLD

See page 2 for more details

05-07 March 2009

Australian and New Zealand Association for the
Treatment of Sexual Abuse (ANZATSA) 5th
Conference 2009 - Responses to Safeguarding
Human Rights
Sydney, NSW

<http://www.anzatsa.org/conf/conf.html>

04-06 May 2009

VIth African Regional Conference on Child Abuse
and Neglect

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

<http://www.anppcan-eth.org.et/>

11-13 May 2009

CDFVR Indigenous Family Violence Prevention
Forum

Mackay Entertainment Centre

Mackay, QLD

Email: a.webster@cqu.edu.au

18-20 May 2009

2009 Anaheim International Conference on Sexual
Assault, Domestic Violence & Stalking
Anaheim, USA

<http://www.evawintl.org/conferences.aspx>

15-18 June 2009

11th European Conference on Traumatic Stress
Oslo, Norway

[http://www.nkvts.no/Konferanser/ECots/FirstInvita
sjon_ECOTS_2009005.pdf](http://www.nkvts.no/Konferanser/ECots/FirstInvita
sjon_ECOTS_2009005.pdf)

07-10 September 2009

Children and the Law: International approaches to
children and their vulnerabilities

Prato, Tuscany

[http://www.med.monash.edu.au/socialwork/confer
ence09/](http://www.med.monash.edu.au/socialwork/confer
ence09/)

13-16 September 2009

BASPCAN 7th National Congress - Changing
Landscapes, Emerging Challenges: Contemporary
Issues in Safeguarding Children and Young People
Swansea,
Wales, UK

<http://www.baspcan.org.uk/congress.html>

28-30 October 2009

Victorian Offender Treatment Association 2009
Conference

Melbourne, VIC

[http://www.vota.org.au/conference09/conference.
html](http://www.vota.org.au/conference09/conference.
html)

15-18 November 2009

2009 ISPCAN Asia Pacific Regional Conference on
Child Abuse and Neglect
Perth, WA

[http://www.ispcan.org/ConferencesSupportedByI
SPCAN.htm](http://www.ispcan.org/ConferencesSupportedByI
SPCAN.htm)

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 7834.



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The Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research (CDFVR) is located within the Centre for Social Science Research, in the Faculty of Sciences, Engineering and Health at CQUniversity. It is physically located at CQUniversity's Mackay Campus, and is a key research group within CQUniversity's Healthy Communities Research Flagship.

CDFVR receives triennial funding from the Queensland Department of Communities to undertake research, evaluation, sector development and community engagement on issues pertaining to the prevention of domestic and family violence in Queensland.

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the Queensland Government, CQUniversity or Centre for Social Science Research.

Whilst all reasonable care has been taken in the preparation of this publication, no liability is assumed for any errors or omissions.