

CDFWR@der

Volume 10 No. 2
December 2011



The National Council to Reduce Violence Against
Women and their Children - panel discussion

Preventing violence against immigrant and refugee
women in Australia: where do we start?

2011 Domestic and Family Violence Prevention
awards



www.noviolence.com.au

Director's message

I've recently had the pleasure of reading the manuscript for Suellen Murray and Anastasia Powell's forthcoming book "Domestic Violence: Australian Public Policy". Drawing on the work of Michel Foucault and Carol Bacchi, the book analyses the way that the problem of domestic violence has been represented, and consequent proposed solutions, in public policy under various governments in Australia over the past 30 years. The book is the result of extensive research involving analysis of policy documents from all states and territories and in-depth interviews with 60 key personnel whose work within and outside government has contributed to the development and implementation of domestic violence policy over these years. The book highlights the relationship between values, analytical frameworks and programs of action and, thus, the importance of transparency in the process of developing public policy. It draws on key documents from all Australian states and territories but for practical reasons it is focussed on Western Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and the Northern Territory.

It also serves as a timely reminder that there have been several attempts at national co-ordination of efforts to address domestic violence. These include the *National Agenda for Women* and the *Violence against Women Strategy* under Hawke and Keating respectively; the Howard era *Partnerships Against Domestic Violence*; and the current Council of Australian Governments' *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children*, initiated under Rudd's leadership and followed through by Gillard. Suellen and Anastasia's concluding comments in the book draw attention to the promise of the National Plan, noting that it addresses key challenges: the need to "involve multiple policy domains and levels of Government ... (and) a comprehensive combination of strategies ...to respond to, reduce and prevent domestic violence". As they say, the National Plan "...just needs to be followed through". As I've said elsewhere, that will require sustained commitment over four political cycles, and this can only be achieved if the plan is embraced by the broader community and consecutive governments held to the COAG commitment.



I've also recently had cause to reflect on the last three decades of advocacy on the prevention of violence against women in Queensland. For the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Migrant Women's Emergency Support Service (which operates under the name "Immigrant Women's Support Service") I was asked to reflect, as a founding member of that organisation, on its creation and achievements. As I said in the piece I wrote for the 25th anniversary annual report, if I had known as a 20-something then, that I would be asked to recall such things as a 50-something now, I would have kept more notes! I was so pleased to be able to attend the celebration and share recollections with friends and colleagues. I was delighted, and very much surprised when I, along with Lesley Hunt and Mythiley Iyer, were announced the inaugural recipients of lifetime membership for the years of voluntary work and commitment to the organisation. Thank you IWSS/MWESS and congratulations to all who have provided much needed support and assistance to some of the most marginalised women, and their children, in our state.

Finally, I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to reflect on the work of the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children at the recent panel discussion convened by CDFVR as reported on pages 11-12.

I look forward to working with you all again in 2012 and wish you all a safe and happy festive season.

Heather Nancarrow

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Centre News

New minimum domestic violence dataset for Qld

CDFVR has been collecting data for the Department of Communities, as part of their funding agreement, for the past eight years. The data was originally collected to monitor the inclusion of non-spousal 'domestic' relationships to the domestic violence legislation and to evaluate the implication of changes to the Act.

After the evaluation was completed, CDFVR commenced negotiations with the Department to discuss amendments to the current minimum dataset which would increase its value to the domestic violence sector. CDFVR then consulted with their Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research Advisory Group (CDFVRAG) database sub-group and attended meetings with the Homelessness and Domestic and Family Violence SEQ Pathways Data Working Party about a Queensland-wide minimum data set for the domestic violence sector. In September 2011, CDFVR received permission from the Department to form a data advisory group made up of representatives from the domestic violence sector and the Department of Communities to discuss what the new minimum dataset for Queensland would look like.

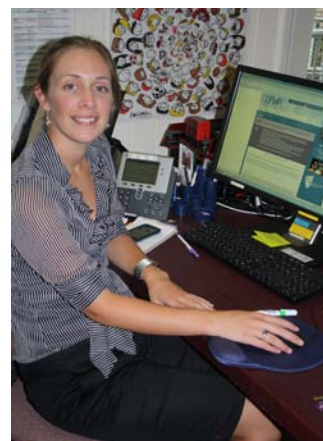
Initial discussion with the Data Advisory Group has led to the following decisions about the new minimum dataset:

- Data should be collected over a two-week period twice a year to place less demand on domestic violence services.
- Participation of services should be voluntary.
- Participation should be broad and state-wide.
- As well as a continuing minimum data set, there should be the opportunity to include a 'snapshot' of additional questions which would change each data collection to respond to current needs within the sector.

The first draft of the minimum dataset has now been completed and circulated to the Data Advisory Group for their further input and discussion. CDFVR anticipate the final minimum dataset to be completed by December 2011. In early 2012 a data collection form, code book, protocol/guide and web interface will be completed, as well as training to support workers using the database.

CDFVR is hoping to be collecting the first round of data by May 2012. If your Queensland domestic violence service wishes to be part of this data collection strategy or you would like further information, please contact Annie Webster on (07) 49407838 or email a.webster@cqu.edu.au.

A fresh contribution to our CDFVR team



Lauren Pattie has recently joined our team as Administration Officer.

Hailing from country town Monto, Lauren has completed a Bachelors Degree in Leisure Management. With a background in Community Development, Lauren has a keen interest in the work being done at CDFVR and the positive impacts it is having on the sector and Domestic and Family Violence Strategies state wide.

Approaches to primary prevention of violence against women

by Renette Viljoen, CDFVR

Service providers and agencies have a history of addressing domestic and family violence, working with affected individuals and families, as well as advocating for civil, criminal, and social service system reforms. Although these efforts resulted in more appropriate and humane responses to the needs of victims and holding perpetrators accountable that benefited large numbers of individuals and families (Stout & McPhail 1998), no social problem has ever been eliminated by treating its after effects. Social problems are eliminated by preventing them from initially occurring.

A regular oil change can put off costly engine troubles; regular dental checkups can help avoid expensive and painful dental surgery; wearing a seat belt can limit the harm caused in the event of a crash; respecting other people's values and boundaries can prevent domestic and family violence.

In 2008, the Australian Government set up an 11-member national council charged with leading a national conversation about violence against women and identifying what needed to be done. They set out six areas of action for the next 12 years, with priority and longer-term goals identified in the National Plan (COAG 2011). The National Plan's vision is for Australian women and their children to live free from violence in safe communities with specific focus on preventing violence from happening in the first place. Agencies and society as a whole are called on to focus on the primary prevention of violence against women, which would prevent it from initially occurring and spare millions of families from ever having to deal with its immediate and long-term effects (*Read more on page 11-12 in this Re@der*).

Prevention can be regarded as investing in future outcomes by influencing current behaviour or conditions. Money spent, if it changes conditions or behaviour, may ward off future problems that cost more than the prevention efforts, even when future costs are discounted (Stagner & Lansing 2009).

The table below distinguishes between the three levels at which strategies to prevent violence against women can be implemented:

Primary prevention (prevent violence before it occurs)	Secondary prevention (take action on early signs of violence)	Tertiary prevention (intervene after violence has occurred)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stop the violence before it occurs - remove the underlying causes/determinants of the violence to prevent the development of risk factors associated with the violence, and/or to enhance factors that protect against violence.• Focus on changing behaviour and/or building the knowledge and skills of individuals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respond to the violence after it has occurred to deal with the short-term consequences.• Focus on early identification and intervention - identify the problem before it becomes evident and intervene as soon as possible to prevent the problem from occurring or progressing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respond after the violence has occurred to deal with the lasting consequences.• Focus on responding to or treating the problem by minimising the impact of violence, restoring health and safety, and preventing further victimisation and perpetration.

(This table briefly summarises the accounts given by Chamberlain (2008, p.3) and VicHealth (2007, p.8-9))

Although it is not always possible to draw clear boundaries around the three levels of prevention, each of these levels is most effective as part of an overall strategy across the whole spectrum of prevention approaches and each can be mutually reinforcing (COAG 2011; VicHealth 2007). The long-term objective of primary prevention is to increase the community's intolerance of violence against women (COAG 2011). The most well-documented determinants of violence against women can be found in gender norms and gender relations (Flood 2011). Gender stereotyping, sex discrimination and unequal power relations between men and women are significant factors contributing to the prevalence of violence against women and children. Achieving gender equity and addressing violence against women are issues which are fundamentally connected. Not only does positive and respectful community attitudes, social norms, cultural values and beliefs shape *how* violence can occur, it also make a difference to how *often* violence against women can occur.

Primary prevention work takes optimism and patience. Seeing what a tenacious hold domestic and family violence's root causes have on society and individuals, it is easy to become discouraged when trying to create change. Successfully implementing prevention requires clearly identifying and defining the social problem to be prevented. It also requires accurately calculating the costs of the social problem and comparing it with the costs of preventive action. It requires establishing a clear linkage between the causes of the social problem and the behaviour or condition change that can prevent the later problem (Stagner & Lansing 2009).

Primary prevention approaches

Several broad categories of primary prevention approaches exist, including: early childhood, family-based, school-based and community-based approaches; public information and awareness campaigns; and structural and policy approaches:

- *Early childhood, family-based, and school-based approaches*

During the early years of life, children learn from their immediate family and community environment how to interact with the world and how to relate to other people. They learn problem-solving, emotional management and social skills that form the basis of their relationships later in life. It is also the time when children form views on gender roles, relationships, and the acceptability of aggression and violence (Guttman, Mowder & Yasik 2006). Although few early childhood development programs have the prevention of domestic and family violence as an explicit goal, approaches that aim to develop physically, emotionally and socially healthy children and reduce exposure to violence and other adverse events, have the potential to significantly reduce the prevalence of all forms of violence (Harvey, Garcia-Moreno & Butchart 2007). Some promising strategies include home visitation programs; parent training programs; cognitive-behavioural skills training for children, social development programmes to reduce antisocial and aggressive behaviour, and multi-component programs with a combination of training for parents, children and teachers (Harvey et al 2007). The strategies can take various forms, from face-to-face education in schools to social marketing campaigns and efforts at community development. It may include enhanced teacher training; implementing school wide reforms to promote a non-violent culture; and attempts to promote social and emotional learning through restorative practices and structured programs related to respectful relationships and learning to deal with others.

- *Community-based approaches*

Local educational strategies, such as 'social norms' and 'bystander intervention' campaigns are promising strategies for community-based primary prevention. These approaches deal with the community as a whole or with multiple subgroups of the population (can include organisations, institutions and other workplaces), have several components, and are designed to effect social change by creating an environment for changing individual attitudes and behaviour (Harvey et al 2007). The success of these strategies are highly dependent on the involvement of community leaders; community ownership; the formation of coalitions and networks to improve collaboration on interventions; and mobilisation of communities through events, networks, campaigns and the media (Flood 2011; Harvey et al 2007).

- *Public information and awareness campaigns*

Public awareness campaigns are a common approach to the primary prevention of domestic and family violence to inform, to try to influence individuals' attitudes and social norms about its acceptability, and to build political will to address the problem (Harvey et al 2002). These campaigns not only disseminate messages to inform, but also seek to develop persuasive messages by understanding the behaviour of the intended audience and involve them in program development.

- *Structural and policy approaches*

Violence prevention requires collaboration across the whole service delivery system, including a whole-of-government approach with a national funding base, involving integrated prevention plans at national and state levels; and the community service sector. To harness the fruit of these plans, policy and legislation can assist in establishing particular strategies of primary prevention as it has an important role in shaping community perceptions of violence against women (Flood 2011).

"All forms of violence against women are unacceptable – in any community and in any culture – and it is everyone's responsibility to reject and prevent violence"

Ms Kate Ellis MP, Minister for the Status of women

To enable individuals and communities to take action, they need to understand the severity and extent of domestic and family violence and *know what to do*. The lessons learned from existing approaches yield some clear directions about what is required for future success in the prevention of domestic and family violence. To achieve and sustain large reductions in these rates, social attitudes, norms and behaviour must be changed. Our society needs to move from a focus limited to reacting to violence, to a focus on changing the social, behavioural and environmental factors that cause violence.

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Preventing violence against immigrant and refugee women in Australia: where do we start?

by Carolyn Poljski, guest contributor

Violence against women is a significant public health issue that impacts negatively on women's and children's physical and mental wellbeing, and limits their access to human rights. Violence against women is multi-dimensional, occurring in the home, general community, workplaces, educational institutions, or at the hands of the State. In the Australian context, violence against women occurs among all cultural, religious and socio-economic groups, but women marginalised by age, culture, ethnicity, sexual identity and visa status are more vulnerable to violence and are less likely to have the resources to act to report it.

Violence against immigrant and refugee women in Australia can be prevented, but these women are not a homogeneous group. Whilst there are similarities across this population of women, there is significant diversity in women's life stages and circumstances which make a difference to their exposure to situations in which violence is more likely to occur. Thus, there is a need for culturally-appropriate violence prevention strategies that recognise the complex dynamics of violence perpetrated against different groups of immigrant and refugee women, such as those who are newly-arrived on permanent and temporary visas (including refugee and humanitarian, skilled migration, family, student, subclass 457, bridging), from well-established communities, in precarious employment, or from visible minority groups.

The Multicultural Centre for Women's Health (MCWH) is a Melbourne-based organisation committed to improving the health of immigrant and refugee women across Australia. The Centre is for all women from new, emerging and established immigrant communities, including refugees and asylum seekers. In September 2011, MCWH launched a comprehensive and ground-breaking publication *On Her Way*. This publication presents a framework for the primary prevention of violence against immigrant and refugee women in Australia. Primary prevention targets whole populations and/or high-risk groups with the aim of preventing violence before it occurs. This approach is the ideal form of prevention—albeit the most challenging and time-consuming—as it cultivates a safe environment for women, a world where violence against women is not an option because women are valued, respected and treated equally.

Changing long-held attitudes, beliefs, policies and practices that maintain the oppression of immigrant and refugee women will not occur overnight. Consequently, long-term stakeholder commitment, particularly from governments, is essential to generating and maintaining social

and cultural change. Additionally, significant and continuous investment—time, money, human resources—is required for violence prevention efforts to be effective and their outcomes to be sustainable in the long-term. Without continued investment, violence against immigrant and refugee women is expected to cost the Australian economy in excess of \$4 billion by 2021-2022. Investment in several actions is required to prevent violence against immigrant and refugee women in Australia.

Research, monitoring and evaluation

Violence prevention actions depend on research findings which comprehensively document the extent and dynamics of violence against women and that critically highlight strategy effectiveness. However, the evidence base on violence against immigrant and refugee women in Australia is seriously lacking. In particular, consistent, accurate and up-to-date data on the prevalence of violence against these women is limited, as is quality evidence on the effectiveness of violence prevention strategies focused on, or involving immigrant and refugee communities in Australia.

A solid evidence base on the prevention of violence against immigrant and refugee women needs to be developed. More specifically:

- High-calibre research which provides an overview of the prevalence and dynamics of violence against immigrant and refugee women is required;
- High-quality and in-depth formative research into effective violence prevention strategies, underpinned by well-designed evaluation frameworks, is necessary, but strategies require long-term funding to ensure comprehensive evaluations are undertaken. Evaluation should be mandatory and not tied to competitive funding processes. The evaluation capacity of agencies and organisations engaged in violence prevention efforts also needs to be developed to enable thorough evaluation of strategies;
- A comprehensive mapping exercise designed to collect information about previous or existing violence prevention strategies across Australia would enable greater understanding of the extent and dynamics of violence prevention efforts;
- A central clearinghouse which collates and maintains evidence on violence prevalence and effective prevention strategies would reduce the need to locate data from a variety of sources, allow for the wide dissemination of research findings to agencies and organisations involved in violence prevention efforts, and ensure future strategies are evidence-based.

Advocacy and community strengthening

Advocacy involves the identification and support of community leaders to call for an end to violence against women. This topic remains taboo, sensitive and hidden in many immigrant and refugee communities. The success of violence prevention strategies requires community participation, but this will only occur if there is acknowledgement from within these communities that violence against women does occur and needs to be addressed. Recognition of the issue and the call to action requires influential and respected community leaders from a range of professional backgrounds to publicly denounce violence against women and to contribute to community education programs. Consultation with individual immigrant and refugee communities is essential in the identification of appropriate leaders within each community to participate in violence prevention efforts.

Genuine leadership is fundamental to violence prevention efforts and should involve the identification and support of a balanced representation of persuasive and respected leaders—female, male, youth—from immigrant and refugee communities. However, immigrant and refugee women and their representative groups and organisations need to be the instigators of cultural change and be at the forefront of these efforts, whilst collaborating with all identified community leaders to collectively advocate for gender equality and an end to violence against women.

The involvement of youth leaders from immigrant and refugee communities in violence prevention efforts is also crucial. Changing the attitudes and behaviours of young people is integral in generating social change, as it is in adolescence that attitudes on many issues, including violence-supporting attitudes in men, are formed. Young people may also be in a position to challenge violence-supporting beliefs of parents and community elders.

Immigrant and refugee men's involvement in violence prevention is also paramount. Whilst most men do not perpetrate violence against women, it is mostly men who do. Consequently, gender-specific strategies for men, implemented by a variety of influential and respected male leaders, need to challenge violence-supporting attitudes and behaviours, as well as promote positive expressions of masculinity, including respect for women.

Communities need to be supported in addressing violence against women. Leadership development programs, with a specific focus on violence prevention, are needed to support and enable community leaders to: publicly acknowledge the occurrence of violence against women in their communities; encourage their communities to respond to the issue; promote equitable gender

relations and healthy family relationships; and demand respect and equality for women.

Communication and social marketing

Communication and social marketing campaigns employ various media strategies to increase community awareness about violence against women. Utilisation of a range of strategies, such as community forums, electronic media, printed communication materials and multi-media communication campaigns, is essential in consideration of the diversity within and across immigrant and refugee communities, and thus would ensure increased access to significant proportions of these communities.

The community forum is a worthwhile awareness-raising strategy for immigrant and refugee communities, but these forums need to be conducted on a regular basis to reinforce key messages. Community forums could also be implemented in conjunction with, or as part of other communication and social marketing strategies, such as multi-media campaigns.

Ethnic media is the primary source of information for many immigrants and refugees and so should be a vital communication tool in violence prevention efforts that aim to raise and reinforce awareness of the issue. However, a range of ethnic media options—such as radio, television, newspapers—need to be utilised collectively to capture all immigrant and refugee communities: new, emerging and well-established.

Given the popularity of the internet (especially social networking websites) with young people, communication and social marketing campaigns utilising these strategies are increasingly being applied to increase youth awareness of violence-related issues. Internet-based initiatives suggest that raising youth awareness about violence against women needs to be innovative and utilise media acceptable to young people, but these strategies may only be suitable for immigrant and refugee youth with a reasonable level of English proficiency, computer literacy and access to newer technologies. Ideally, interactive web-based initiatives should provide information in a range of languages.

The effectiveness of the Internet as a communication strategy for immigrant and refugee adults in relation to violence against women is variable. Internet use is non-existent in people with low levels of literacy and English proficiency, or limited education. Violence prevention efforts could include internet-based communication strategies to reach immigrant and refugee women and men, but would only reach the better educated members of this group. Information provided should be available in a number of languages. Visual communication tools, such as simple, concise multilingual DVDs, would be more culturally appropriate for all immigrant

and refugee adults, especially those who are illiterate or semi-literate.

Print communication strategies can provide multilingual information to sufficiently-literate members of immigrant and refugee communities. Generally, printed information materials, such as booklets and guides, are only worthwhile in contained formats, but only for people with sufficient literacy. Large resources may only be suitable for people with the ability, time and interest to refer to them. It is also imperative that printed information materials be directly distributed to intended recipients.

Multi-media campaigns can also be used to increase awareness in ethnic communities of family violence. However, a one-size-fits-all approach to these campaigns, and to violence prevention initiatives overall, do not work, so these campaigns must be culturally tailored for each immigrant and refugee community.

Direct participation programs

More intense than communication and social marketing campaigns, the focus of direct participation programs is to provide children, young people, men and women with the knowledge, skills and resources required to develop and maintain respectful relationships. Education and mentoring programs for children, young people, women and men are examples of direct participation programs that could be included in violence prevention efforts.

The development of positive and negative attitudes and practices occurs in childhood and adolescence. Accordingly, targeting children and young people is essential to prevent the attitudes that may result in the perpetration of violence against women. School-based programs that focus on positive development and engagement with others (for older children) and respectful relationships (for young people) would be beneficial. Youth mentoring programs could also be implemented to educate young people, particularly those who are newly-arrived, about respectful gender relations.

Bilingual health education should be used to deliver gender-specific education to women and men from immigrant and refugee communities. This model of education is culturally appropriate as trained bilingual health educators or facilitators deliver education sessions to participants in their own languages in familiar settings. Gender-specific education programs for women need to inform them about respectful gender relations and healthy family relationships, highlight that violence is always unacceptable, empower women to prevent violence against them, and build their capacity to prevent violence against other women in their communities. Gender-specific education programs for newly-arrived immigrant and refugee men need to be delivered during

settlement to provide men with the knowledge and skills to adapt to changing gender and family roles in their new country. Education programs for all immigrant and refugee men need to positively challenge traditional notions of masculinity.

Parenting programs are yet another education strategy, delivered to women and men together, which represent an additional approach to the prevention of violence against immigrant and refugee women. These programs need to be delivered to newly-arrived parents during settlement to support child-rearing in a new culture. These programs should focus on constructive parenting practices that cement messages about healthy family relationships and the equal importance of female and male children.

Organisational and workforce development

Organisational and workforce development refers to the strengthening of agencies and organisations to promote and model non-violent and equitable relationships. This may also involve building the capacity of workplaces to engage in violence prevention efforts. Organisational capacity to address violence prevention could be achieved through the delivery of professional training and resources, and through collaborative networks, to facilitate dialogue about strategies and lessons learned from violence prevention efforts.

Efforts designed to prevent violence against immigrant and refugee women should be the responsibility of, or greatly involve multicultural and/or ethno-specific agencies and organisations. These agencies and organisations: possess greater understanding of the impact of immigration, including visa status, on women's vulnerability to violence as well as other cultural issues; possess specific expertise in the development and implementation of culturally-appropriate strategies; hold stronger links with, and have better access to different cultural groups; enjoy credibility with ethnic communities; and employ bilingual employees with whom immigrant and refugee young people, women and men would better relate. Mainstream agencies and organisations seeking to engage in violence prevention efforts targeting immigrant and refugee communities must be required to do so only in equal collaboration with multicultural and/or ethno-specific counterparts.

Workplace interventions, such as greater workplace regulation and monitoring, training for employers and information sessions for employees, are also needed to prevent workplace violence against immigrant and refugee women.

Legislative and policy reform

A broad view in legislative and policy reform, considering laws and policies directly and indirectly related to violence against women, needs to be assumed. Relevant legislation and

policies that may affect immigrant and refugee women's experiences of violence need to be identified, reviewed, amended, created or ratified.

Good practice principles for culturally-appropriate violence prevention efforts

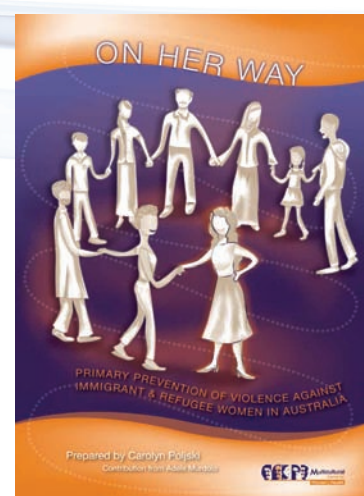
Adherence to good practice principles will ensure culturally-appropriate violence prevention efforts that are effective in the long term. These principles include: balanced and representative leadership, with immigrant and refugee women at the forefront of violence prevention efforts; regular community consultation; specifically tailored messages, visuals, language and strategies for each individual community; positive messages, visuals and language focused on healthy relationships, families and communities; message reinforcement via different mediums; extensive involvement of female and male bilingual community workers in violence prevention strategies; recognition of all facets of social diversity; and ongoing improvement of strategies.

Primary prevention of violence against immigrant and refugee women will involve major cultural and social change. A significant challenge is meeting the diverse needs across and within immigrant and refugee communities. The level of understanding about violence against women and the ability and willingness of individual communities to engage in dialogue about, and to address this issue, differ significantly. Violence prevention efforts must consider this disparity if they are to be effective and will most likely begin at different points and progress at different rates across communities. In time, it is imperative that all communities possess

the same level of understanding about violence against women and have equal ability to engage in discussion with the whole Australian community, not only their own communities, about violence prevention strategies.

On Her Way is a step towards major cultural and social change. It is a work in progress, and is by no means complete, exhaustive or prescriptive. Violence against immigrant and refugee women is a multifaceted and complex issue. Only so much could be covered and included in the publication, but what is encompassed is substantial and provides the start needed to create momentum. Please treat *On Her Way* as a living, breathing document. Use and act on it, contribute to it (more evidence is very much needed), discuss it, tell others about it. There is a lot of work to be done, but we all need to work together to prevent violence against immigrant and refugee women.

On Her Way is available on the MCWH website from www.mcwh.com.au/healthprom/onherway.php



Disclaimer: 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.

Australian workplaces say no to violence

extracted from media release by Jamila Rizvi, Minister's media adviser

On the 25th of November 2011, the Minister for the Status of Women, Kate Ellis, launched a \$1.1 million workplace program combating violence against women – the **White Ribbon Workplace Program**.

The *Workplace Program* is an awareness, early intervention and prevention program specifically for workplace settings. It is structured around three key elements - the appointment of ambassadors for positive workplace cultures; the accreditation of workplaces that are safe places for women; and awards for workplaces that introduce prevention strategies and speak out about violence.

The Australian Government is dedicated to promoting a zero-tolerance policy on violence and urge all workplaces to get involve and take part in this program in building cultures of violence prevention in both the professional and personal lives of their employees.

For further information about the White Ribbon Foundation and the White Ribbon Workplaces program, please visit <http://www.whiteribbonday.org.au>.

"We need to pull the issue of family violence out of the shadows and challenge the notion that this is a 'private' issue. And this means standing up against violence in all spheres of our lives whether it be at home, in our schools, neighbourhoods or workplaces"

(Ms Kate Ellis 2011)

2011 Domestic and Family V

Primary Prevention Award and **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Award** recipients **William Conlon**, Charleville and Western Areas Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Health & **Senior Constable Michael Maguire**, Charleville Police District.



The Charleville Police District, in collaboration with community agencies won both the **Primary Prevention Award** and the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Award** for their Australia Day spectacular - Hit DV 4 6. The event, co-ordinated by the Charleville Police District, brought the community together in a fun family-oriented environment to educate people and reinforce the message that domestic and family violence is unacceptable.

It received the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Award because of its success in engaging the local Indigenous community and for the support it received from Indigenous organisations. The Hit DV 4 6 event helped improve relationships between the local Indigenous community and Charleville police whilst encouraging a zero tolerance for domestic and family violence.

The **Government Award** recognises an exceptional policy, project or activity by local or state government that increases awareness of and/or community safety from, domestic and family violence.

It was won by Warwick Police District in collaboration with Australia's CEO Challenge, Warwick Domestic and Family Violence Strategy Group, for their White Ribbon Domestic Violence Awareness Project. The project utilised vehicles from police, ambulance, fire and rescue service, council and also interstate trucks and taxis to display 450 white ribbon stickers on their windcreens. This project demonstrated how effective partnerships between government, business and community can increase awareness and present a united front against domestic and family violence.

Government Award winner
Senior Sergeant Shane Reid,
Warwick Police District



Individual Award recipient
Society and Minister for Co
Minister for Women, **The H**



The **Individual Award** reco
contributed to the preventio
is a well-respected member
Ribbon ambassador, membe
Group and a previous winne
raise funds and awareness a

John has used his position a
educate his staff and raise a
violence in the Toowoomba



Violence Prevention Awards

at **John Minz**, CEO Heritage Building Community Services and Housing and **Ion Karen Struthers MP**.



The **Partnership Award** was won by Caboolture Police District in partnership with Caboolture Regional Domestic Violence Service, Caboolture Child Safety Service Centre, Probation and Parole Service, and Caboolture Magistrates Courts, as part of a co-ordinated response to domestic and family violence.

Their winning project, the PRADO project, provides proactive, timely support and referrals to services for people experiencing domestic and family violence in the Caboolture region. It helps people who are experiencing domestic and family violence plan for their safety and ensure they engage with appropriate services early.



Partnerships Award recipients, former Project PRADO worker **Jo McKelvey** & Senior Sergeant **Pat O'Loughlin**, Caboolture Police

recognises individuals whose work has been an example of domestic and family violence. John Minz, CEO of the Toowoomba community, White Ribbon Day, and CEO of Australia's CEO Challenge Race to End Domestic and Family Violence.

John Minz, CEO of Heritage Building society to raise awareness about domestic and family violence in the area.



Detective Senior Sergeant Kelly Harvey of Mt. Isa Police District was **highly commended in the individual category** of the Domestic Violence Prevention Awards for 2011.

She was nominated for the award by a community-based organisation in Mt. Isa, reflecting the high esteem in which she is regarded by agencies involved in responding to domestic and family violence. Kelly was recognised for going above and beyond her professional duties and for her ongoing commitment to raising awareness and supporting people experiencing domestic violence.



ABC Southern Queensland radio presenter, **Belinda Saunders** was the recipient of the **Media Award** for 2011 for conducting interviews that raised public awareness about domestic and family violence in south-west Queensland.

Belinda interviewed Dr. Michael Kaufman, the Canadian co-founder of White Ribbon Day; and domestic violence survivor Lani Brennan. Both interviews raised awareness for listeners and provided encouragement for those seeking a life free from domestic and family violence.

The National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children - panel discussion

by Terese Kingston, CDFVR

On the 26th of October, the Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research was privileged to host a panel discussion between seven of the eleven members of the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children (the Council) at the Conservatorium of Music on the Mackay Campus of CQUniversity.

The members of the Council in attendance were the Panel Chair, Libby Lloyd AM, Board member of the White Ribbon Foundation, ACT; Deputy Chair, Heather Nancarrow, Director, Qld. Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research; Melanie Heenan, program and research development consultant on preventing violence against women, Vic; Vanessa Swan, Director, Office for Women, SA; Pauline Woodbridge, Manager, North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Service; Maria Dimopoulos, Legal Advisor, Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre, Vic; and Dorinda Cox, Manager, Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault, WA. The remaining members of the Council - Moira Carmody, Rachel Kayrooz, Andrew O'Keefe and Lisa Wilkinson, were unfortunately unable to attend due to prior commitments. The discussion was facilitated by Amanda Lee-Ross, Manager of the Cairns Regional Domestic Violence Service.

Established by the Australian government in May 2008 in line with one of its 2007 election commitments, the members of the Council were 'selected for their extensive knowledge, expertise and networks in the fields of sexual assault and domestic and family violence' (The National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, 2009). At the first meeting, the Council was charged by then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and the Honourable Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for Housing and Minister for the Status of Women, with the task of developing a plan aimed at reducing the incidence and impact of violence against women and their children in Australia (The National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, 2009).

The completed plan would include expert advice to the Australian Government, through consultation with governments and communities; and through the provision of leadership on matters of best practice policy, program and service development in the prevention of violence against women (The National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, 2009).

The Council presented its recommendations to the government in 2009 in *Time for Action: The National Council's Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, 2009-2021* along with four companion documents (Council of Australian Governments 2011). *Time for Action* was subsequently referred to the Council

As a nation, the time has well and truly come to have a national conversation—a public national conversation, not a private one—about how it could still be the case that in 2008 so many Australian women could have experienced violence ...

(Rudd 2008)

of Australian Governments (COAG) where the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children* was developed and released in 2011 (COAG 2011).

Time for Action: A reflection on the process

The discussion began with Amanda Lee-Ross inviting the panel to reflect upon their experience as a Council member in developing *Time for Action* and on COAG's National Plan. Libby Lloyd responded first, and spoke about the political context in which the Council was established; citing its inclusion in the Australian Labor Party's (ALP) platform, and one of their pre-election promises. She also spoke about the replacement of one of the Council's six outcomes; 'Systems work together effectively' with the COAG outcome 'Indigenous communities are strengthened'. Libby argued that the intersectionalist approach taken by the Council – an approach which recognises 'gender, race and other aspects of identity that are sources of systematic discrimination' (Riley 2004); negated the need for a specific focus on Indigenous communities. Maria Dimopolous spoke about her passion in working through the Plan's development in immigrant communities, linking it with ideas about inclusion, citizenship and community. Vanessa Swan shared her enthusiasm about the Plan being embraced at a community level and through COAG, pointing out that this is the first time in Australia's history that a 'violence against women' policy has been given such prominence.

These sentiments were echoed by the remaining panel members - Pauline Woodbridge reiterating the importance of the involvement of all levels of government; Melanie Heenan viewing the Plan as a chance for long-term political commitment; Heather Nancarrow speaking about the Plan as a 'lifeboat' – an opportunity to move forward, but only if all involved cooperated and 'rowed together'; and Dorinda Cox spoke of how access to the process allowed her to facilitate appropriate

consultation which she felt resulted in *Time for Action* being inclusive of Indigenous issues. Vanessa elaborated on the challenge of translating the blueprint and policy into cultural as well as political change, with Libby further highlighting the importance of linking domestic and family violence with sexual assault to create an overarching 'violence against women' approach to research and policy.

The Panel then discussed how the Council approached the task with a symbolic 'her' in mind – how each step of the way, the Council members remained conscious of how the policy would look, and be experienced by women from a wide range of diverse backgrounds. This conceptualisation made the difference, Heather said, between a sterile bureaucratic process and the human lived experience. The Plan therefore represents much more than a political process, with the symbolic 'her' a means for engaging and mobilising communities.

Primary Prevention: Changing attitudes culturally, institutionally and individually

The panel members then spoke about the National Plan's strong focus on primary prevention, and how such a focus underpins addressing the root causes of violence against women. Thanks in large part to the groundwork performed by activists in the women's movement over the last four decades, bodies such as the World Health Organisation have begun to perform some critical research into the subjects of violence against women and one of its fundamental causes; gender inequality. Melanie asserted that research such as this helped to both identify the social norms which supported violence against women, and to assist in changing these attitudes to ones of mutual respect. This research, she argued, must be put into practice in schools, local councils, sports clubs and in workplaces. Developing an open dialogue within communities and a willingness to address capacity and consciousness would be key elements in rolling out the primary prevention strategies contained in the National Plan.

Equally important as this grassroots activism is the ongoing need to collect evidence and to reflect on practice. Panel members cited the Australian Bureau of Statistics' surveys on community attitudes towards violence against women as a means for registering and measuring change. Melanie also drew attention to research and literature produced by Dr Moira Carmody at the University of Western Sydney on a set of National Standards for best practice in Australian sexual assault prevention education in schools.

Dorinda spoke about the importance of primary prevention in Indigenous communities, and the human rights implications embedded in achieving these goals. She argued that the 'Indigenous communities are strengthened' outcome could

only be achieved by harnessing community leaders, utilising a strengths-based approach and by working with local Indigenous men.

Overall there was consensus among the panel members regarding the view that for primary prevention strategies and programs to be effective, they needed to be taken up by local communities at a grassroots level. Perpetrator accountability was of particular significance in embedding primary prevention strategies within local contexts. Panel members agreed that a cultural shift was necessary in order to foster attitudes of non-tolerance of violence at a community level.

Sustaining commitment to the Plan

The final point discussed during the forum was how to sustain commitment to the National Plan, and the Council members addressed the question by referring to a range of strategies. These included lobbying government at a local, state and federal level and supporting the community and Plan. Melanie particularly encouraged workers in the fields of domestic and family violence and sexual assault to utilise the National Plan by contextualising their work in submissions and applications.

The discussion closed with Libby reiterating the serious and widespread nature of violence against women, pointing out that one in three women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime, one in five will be a victim of sexual assault and one in four children will witness domestic violence.

The Council members emphasised the evidenced nature of the Plan, and their view that the issue was too important to be treated in a bi-partisan manner. Heather spoke of how vital it was to keep an eye on the Plan's ultimate goal - a future where women and children are safe and free from violence. The Panel also drew attention to the role of women's leadership in the fight to end violence against women.

The passion and wealth of experience the members of the National Council brought to the process of developing *Time for Action* was clearly evident throughout the panel discussion, as was their enthusiasm for continuing the work that will be necessary to take advantage of this groundbreaking new policy in fostering social, cultural and political change.

References

Council of Australian Governments 2011, *National plan to reduce violence against women and their children*, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.

The National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2009, *Time for Action: The National Council's Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, 2009-2021*, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.

Riley, J 2004, 'Some reflections on gender mainstreaming and intersectionality', *Development bulletin*, 64, 82-86.

A DVD covering the panel proceedings will be available from CDFVR in January 2012.

The Line campaign – an update

by Annie Webster, CDFVR

The Line, a web-based campaign funded by the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) is aimed at young people on the cusp of developing relationships (generally aged between 12-20 years). It provides information, resources, comics, plays, interactive drawing opportunities, video clips and much more to help young people recognise and understand what respectful behaviour looks like. The Line campaign, which was launched in June 2010, was a recommendation from *Time for Action: the National Council's Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and Children*. Since we last reviewed *The Line* website in 2010 [see <http://www.noviolence.com.au/public/reader/readersep2010.pdf>] there have been many new innovative additions.

The *Follow the Line* forum provides four YouTube-style animations using *The Line's* artistic trademark of pencil-drawn images. It provides set scenarios that young people may encounter with a range of three options on how you might respond in each situation. The best part of this forum is that it lets you explore the three options to see where your decision might take you; and the unintended consequence of the choice you make. The content talks to young people on a mature, intelligent level using clever, creative and contemporary artwork.

The *Music & More* section is also new. It introduces a range of musicians who support respectful relationships and features music videos (which cleverly include *The Line* drawings throughout), transcripts of songs and free music downloads.

There has been an enormous amount of work put into the Indigenous link of this website. It is designed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, their parents, relatives and other community members. Resources include plays, lesson plans, comics and community champion stories which tackle issues such as bullying behaviour, family relationships and behaving respectfully toward others. Most of the plays are made into comics, which would help the age group

they are targeted at (years 6 & 7) conceptualise how they would perform the plays. The comics are colourful, clear, and easy to read. The plays and comics come with lesson plans which can be used over a range of subjects. Using these resources teachers can explore issues such as positive and negative language use, what makes young people feel safe in their community and the differences between respectful and disrespectful acts and how it impacts on people's lives. This web page includes radio-styled interviews with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 'community champions' such as Auntie Mary and Uncle Benny Hodges who have been in a relationship together for 31 years and believe that the basis for a happy and healthy relationship is communication and sharing. These beautiful, down-to-earth, heart-felt interviews talk about honesty, respect, boundaries, trust and working together toward shared goals.

Importantly, the information on the *Help* page has been expanded. Additional information includes links to sites such as the Raising Children Network, Youth Beyond Blue and the National Binge Drinking Campaign. And just when you think you can't be impressed further, there is a legal website link called 'Lawstuff' which includes personal information such as where to get your birth certificate; to information on sex, love and health which includes facts about child abuse, pornography, tattoos and piercings. Links to online counsellors are also clearer and compartmentalised so that young people can go directly to the specific area they need help in, such as relationship violence; crisis support, suicide and mental health; online safety and cyber bullying; or relationship advice.

The Line website continues to impress. Its aim to increase young people's knowledge about respectful relationships has not been complacent. Recent additions to the website indicate that the team responsible for this resource are working with young people, for young people - producing resources that are targeted and relevant. We look forward to following *The Line's* continued progress.



Artwork by Maggie Webster

Kids' Business

reviewed by Terese Kingston, CDFVR

Kids' Business is an award winning documentary based on the school-based program *Solving the Jigsaw*. The aim of the program is to change the culture of violence and bullying and build a culture of wellbeing, by giving children both a voice and a safe place in which they can express their thoughts and emotions. *Kids' Business*, filmed over the course of a year by People Pictures, intimately charts the progress of grade five and six students as they develop skills and knowledge to cope with the pressures of modern life, including issues of domestic and family violence.

Solving the Jigsaw is designed to help children feel safe and develop trust. This process is movingly captured in the documentary, as the filmmakers follow *Jigsaw* facilitator, Bernadette Wright, and the classroom teacher as they help the class create a set of group rules, set and maintain boundaries and reinforce a clear stance against bullying and violence by assisting the children in exploring a range of other options. The film clearly portrays the unique elements in concept and delivery of the *Solving the Jigsaw* program; namely the identification of bullying as a form of violence linked to violence in broader society and the role of secrecy and power misuse in its perpetration. The program is based on the theory that bullying is best managed within a group setting, as behaviours learnt and reinforced by group dynamics are best addressed and changed within the same structure. The fact that the program does not apportion blame is demonstrated in the way the film depicts a class member taking responsibility for his behaviour, and the group supporting him in making positive changes in his life.

The film similarly illustrates the way in which the program bridges the worlds of school and home, with no topic being off limits for group discussion. The facilitator's fostering of a safe environment allows the children in the film to discuss a range of issues, and to share their concerns about things that have happened both at school and at home.

"I yelled at him (Dad) and then he yelled back at me and then he picked up a knife." *Casey*

"(Dad's) been away for a fair lot of weeks and I haven't seen him in a while and I want to see him... I really miss him and he's not calling... (Mum) said that he might not want to see us because he hasn't called us." *Jacob*

"One of the people in my group here has said they're not happy because she feels that people don't like her very much." *Bernadette (Facilitator)*

"My Mum and her boyfriend had a fight last night ... Mum's boyfriend held her down and my Mum asked my brother to help, and I'm really upset because he grabbed my brother around the throat." *Kacee*

The value of the program in helping the children negotiate their feelings and think of strategies to deal with their problems is thus clearly articulated by the children themselves and movingly captured on film. Film-makers, Stewart Carter and Cath South, have done an excellent job in revealing the complexities embedded in the participating children's lives and relationships, demonstrating an ability to present some very confronting and sensitive material. Although at times the film presents a challenge to watch, by the end it is clear that the children have learnt how to deal with their problems more effectively, how to better understand their lives and their relationships and better ways to treat each other. The children are also happier at the close of filming at the year's end.

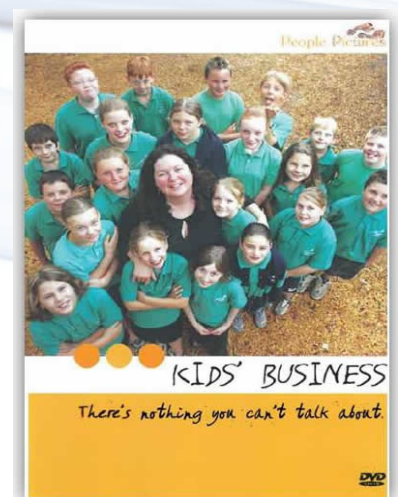
"I'm not so angry." *Casey*

"I'm happier than I used to be and more confident." *Vanessa*

One in every six children in Australia is bullied each week, with these children experiencing higher levels of anxiety, stress, depression and suicidal thoughts. Former bullies are more likely to drop out of school, use drugs and alcohol, and take part in serious crime. Equally disturbing are statistics relating to the effects of domestic violence on children, with up to twenty-five percent of young people between the ages of twelve and twenty witnessing violence against their mother or stepmother each year (*Solving the Jigsaw*, 2011). *Kids' Business* clearly illustrates how early intervention programs such as *Solving the Jigsaw* can have significant short and long term benefits for the children involved. It is a compelling and moving documentary.

The Kids' Business DVD is available from
<http://www.peoplepictures.com.au/kids-business.html>

Solving the Jigsaw 2011, *Solving the jigsaw*, viewed 3 November 2011,
http://www.solvingthejigsaw.org.au/about_us.htm



A People Pictures Production 2008
55 minutes

Respectful Relationships Primary Prevention Program at Youth and Family Service

by guest contributor Megan D. Leitz, Respectful Relationships Project Coordinator

Respectful Relationships is a FaHCSIA-funded program through which Youth and Family Service in Logan, QLD, had been funded to develop and deliver in the 2010/2011 fiscal year. The aim of the program was to “prevent domestic and family violence through education. The strategy focuses on preventing violent behaviour by educating and facilitating young people to develop skills and knowledge on how to behave in positive and respectful ways in intimate relationships” (FaHCSIA, 2010).

The content and client groups being targeted for the program were pre-determined, prior to my employment as the Respectful Relationships Coordinator. In July 2010, I began to develop the content of the *Respectful Relationships* program and began planning how and when my groups would be delivered. I ended up with five distinct projects within the project because the groups were all so very different from each other. Some of the factors that made each group unique were the age, the gender, the English language proficiency, the location, the diversity of cultural background, and the sheer numbers of people receiving service delivery at one time.

Outlined below are each of the five projects in order of occurrence:



Megan Leitz, YFS

A. Indigenous Young Women's Group (Delivered September/October 2010):

The first of the projects was a 6-week group for Indigenous young women aged 16-19 and was held at the local PCYC in Logan. The group was facilitated with an Indigenous worker from Youth and Family Service, myself and an Indigenous worker from the PCYC. The content for the group was developed with the Indigenous worker's own cultural input which included Aboriginal spirituality; Family of origin; Identifying abusive behaviours; Aboriginality and respect; Intimate relationships; Sexual health; and Building self-esteem. This group had its difficulties in that the group participants were high needs clients and many of them had weekly crises to deal with that kept them from consistently attending the group. The group was not able to gain much momentum and the intent of the group content became disjointed due to the inconsistent attendance.

B. Youth and Family Service Young Men's Group (Delivered October/November 2010):

The second project was a 10-week group for young men aged 16-19 and was held at our youth space at Youth and Family Service. This group was meant to be an early intervention for young men who had already been exhibiting violent behaviour. The curriculum for the group sessions included topics such as Investigating family history; Identifying emotions; How to manage difficult emotions; Developing effective and non-violent communication skills; and Building self-esteem. This group started with 10 participants, but dwindled in its members by the end of 10 weeks. The few remaining participants gave great feedback about how the group helped them become more self-confident, become better communicators and to find ways to manage their anger.

C. MultiLink CALD Group:

The third project was originally designed to be delivered separately to five specific cultural groups at the MultiLink facility in Logan, QLD. MultiLink was a partner in this project and the organisation was to provide the group facilitation as well as the venue for the groups. After several meetings with the group facilitators at MultiLink it was decided that the groups would be delivered at a school during school hours for maximum participation. This created quite a large change in the original organisation of the group project. Woodridge State High School was chosen as the venue, based on the current school's needs for the program and the good relationship that the group facilitators already had with the school. It was also decided that the students involved in the program would be from the five specific cultural groups which hold a large representation of refugees or a large amount of immigration visas approved. These groups were of Samoan, Sudanese, Burundi, Afghani and Maori backgrounds and participants would range from years 9-12. They would be of mixed gender, and they would be a combination of students who were natural leaders amongst their peers as well as students who were already exhibiting less desirable behaviours. We decided to mix the students based on their “good” and

“not good” behaviours so that the students would not be targeted as “bad” students that needed to attend a group, but that the more well-behaved students would be able to provide some peer modelling of the more desirable behaviours as well as be able to lead some mature discussions in their groups around relationships and respect.

Group 1 (Delivered October/November 2010):

The groups were split into their five respective cultural groups with a MultiLink facilitator of the same cultural background. This was meant to help with language difficulties and to help the students feel more comfortable working with others from similar backgrounds. Each group consisted of 8-10 students and the group sessions were only an hour a week on a Tuesday for eight sessions. The topics included Cultural identity; Identifying violent behaviours; Identifying and managing difficult emotions; Effective communication skills; Sexual health and emotional readiness for intimacy; Identifying conflict between cultural groups; and Resolving conflict between cultural groups. We added the topics on resolving conflict between the cultural groups based on student and school staff requests. The feedback from this group was extremely successful in creating more understanding between cultural groups that previously had quite a bit of tension between them.

Group 2 (Delivered April 27-29 2011):

The second part of the group was arranged slightly differently. The students were selected from the English Second Language program (ESL) at Woodridge SHS and from years 8 and 9 so that any student from the ESL program, that had not attended in 2010, would have the opportunity to participate in the project. The group sessions consisted of the same group facilitators from MultiLink and were delivered as ½-day workshops over 3 days. This proved to be a very effective way of delivering the program as the students consistently attended and the trust and safety within the groups developed quickly. The curriculum changed slightly from the delivery in 2010's MultiLink group in two ways: (i) the sexual health component was eliminated since the school staff were concerned about the age of the participants and their readiness for these discussions; and (ii) the topic on addressing conflict between cultural groups was also eliminated to keep the purpose to a more individual skills-building focus.

D. Loganlea Institute of TAFE Group (Delivered February/March 2011):

The fourth project was a six-week group held on Tuesday mornings at the Loganlea TAFE for two classes of ESL students. These two classes participated because of teacher interest in trialling the *Respectful Relationship* project. The curriculum was psycho-educational and covered topics such as Cultural identity; Healthy relationships and respect; Gender; Power and control; Identifying violent behaviours; Identifying and managing difficult emotions; Effective communication; and Sexual health. Within the curriculum I added much more visual activities and tried to simplify the concepts in order to help convey the information and to help facilitate discussions due to limited English language skills.

E. Marsden High School Group (Delivered May/June 2011):

This covered three classes and had a total of nine group facilitators from the Youth and Family Service. This was a six-week group with two out of the six sessions on sexual health to satisfy the school's requests to combine sexual health information along with the respectful relationships discussion. Topics covered were Relationships and respect; Identifying violent behaviours; Managing feelings and effective communication; Sexual health and emotional readiness for intimacy; Handling bullying and peer pressure; and Creating healthy relationships.

These are just basic summaries of the five projects within our *Respectful Relationships* program. The project officially finished in July 2011, but Youth and Family Service had the program professionally evaluated and are now continuing to support it to continue, based on requests from the community. I will continue in my role as the coordinator and make changes to the program's curriculum and delivery model based on the recommendations of the evaluation.

If anyone has any questions about the work that has been done already or that is being planned in this next year, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at meganl@yfs.org.au or on (07) 3826 1500. I currently work two days per week - Mondays and Tuesdays.

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Disclaimer: 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.

Taking action to prevent violence against women before it occurs – what resources are available and where to find them?

Children and young people/Parents/Educators/Schools	
Bursting the Bubble (2003) ¹	16-page booklet aimed at children and young people with information on happy families, what to do if your home is not happy, a quiz on warning signs that things are not right at home, abuse, dealing with feelings, and getting safe.
Relationships the good the bad and the ugly ¹	15-page booklet discussing what a good relationship looks like; including a checklist, a quiz and service contact details.
Website links table ²	4-page table with website links to support services, i.e. <i>Lifeline</i> , <i>Kids Helpline</i> , <i>Relationships Australia</i> .
Building better relationships ²	2-page factsheet covering issues related to communication between parents and children.
TXting/SEXTing ²	2-paged factsheet on textual harassment and sexting.
Plays to be performed for and by children ²	Serpent Tales, Bully Boys, Stinky Wind, Jack and the bird, and Learning to fly - play scripts about bullying.
White Ribbon Day Schools Kit (2010) ⁵	A kit to inspire schools with ideas for action to raise awareness and engage in the prevention of violence.
Government/Researchers/Service Providers	
Australian Prevention programs for Young People ³	21-paged report with an overview of programs, initiatives and resources that have been developed and/or implemented with young people in Australia.
Violence Prevention and Respectful Relationships Education in Victorian Secondary Schools (2009) ⁴	This report is the outcome of the Violence Prevention, Intervention and Respectful Relationships Education in Victorian Secondary Schools Project, undertaken by the (VicHealth) on behalf of the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD).
General community/Women/Practitioners/Government	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General community (see Sections A,B,F-H); Women (see Section C); Practitioners working with children and young people (see Section D); Practitioners working with perpetrators (see Section E); Government (see Section F) 	101 Ways to Prevent Family Violence (2004) ¹ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section A: 20-page booklet on the fundamentals of family violence. Section B: 16-page booklet outlining a range of community campaigns and projects. Section C: 10-page booklet outlining a range of projects specifically targeting women. Section D: 16-page booklet outlining projects that target children and young people. Section E: 10-page booklet outlining projects aimed at perpetrators of DV. Section F: 12-page booklet with information on networks and group efforts to effect wider societal change. Section G: 12-page booklet with suggestions for project design, planning and implementation. Section H: 24-page booklet listing web resources and references.

¹Domestic Violence Resource Centre, Victoria at <http://www.dvrcv.org.au/prevention/resources/>

²Australian Government, 'The Line' at http://www.theline.gov.au/parents_and_teachers/faq

³ADFVC at <http://www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au/research.html>

⁴Victorian State Government at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/wellbeing/respectrel.htm>

⁵White Ribbon Foundation at <http://whiteribbondayqueensland.com.au/resources>

For resources specifically addressing primary prevention of violence against women in rural, regional and remote areas, follow the news on the CDFVR-AWAVA-NRWC project on page 18 in this CDFVRe@der.

Conferences and Date Claimers 2012

16-17 February, Los Angeles, USA

Cultivating Connections - Empowering youth and Adult Allies to End Relationship Violence
<http://peaceoverviolence.org/calendar/2012/2>

9 March, Melbourne, VIC

Identifying the Hidden Disaster: The 1st Australian Conference on Natural Disasters and Family Violence

The Australian Domestic & Family Violence Clearinghouse is partnering with Women's Health In the North and Women's Health Goulburn North East to host this conference. Hear from leading international disaster and gender researcher and practitioner from the US, Elaine Enarson, and learn about the findings and practice recommendations from the first Australian research to identify and examine family violence after the Black Saturday bushfires.

<http://www.adfvc.unsw.edu.au/PDF%20files/DisasterConferenceDateClaimer.pdf>

5 April, Mackay and videolinked, QLD

CDFVR's Free Research Seminar with Associate Professor Myrna Dawson (Centre for the Study of Social and Legal Responses to Violence, Canada)
(More information will be available in the 2011

March issue of the CDFVRe@der and will be distributed to CDFVR's subscribers)

19-25 April, Melbourne, VIC

Homelessness Research Conference

<http://www.cvent.com/events/homelessness-research-conference/event-summary-1e0bf5850d614e6887b05bc21f13bee7.aspx>

23-25 April, San Diego, USA

International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence and Stalking
<http://www.evawintl.org/conferences.aspx>

9-10 May 2012, Mackay QLD

8th Annual Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum

The hard yarns – culture and healing

Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre, Alfred Street, Mackay

Ph: (07) 4940 7838 or
email a.webster@cqu.edu.au

www.noviolence.com.au

CDFVR and AWAVA join NRWC to address domestic violence in rural, regional and remote areas.

by Annie Webster CDFVR

In June 2011 CDFVR agreed to collaborate with the National Rural Women's Coalition (NRWC) and Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA) in a project which aims to support women from rural, regional and remote Australia to implement strategies outlined in the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children. Funding for the project was obtained by the NRWC from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Service and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) to produce two products:

1. A toolkit of existing material on addressing violence against women, compiled for the purpose of empowering rural women to seek help; and
2. A guide for women on ways to implement the primary prevention focus of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their children.

These aims will be achieved through the following processes:

- Consultations held in rural South Australia with Indigenous women, led by an Indigenous member of the NRWC; and another in rural Queensland with women impacted on by recent natural disasters, led by CDFVR. Discussions will provide consultative and mentoring opportunities as well as contribute to product development.
- Three on-line sessions (webinars) with local government councils to share ideas on ways to create positive change within communities.
- Engaging communities through links with the National Rural Women's Coalition to address issues of violence against women.
- Piloting the products in both rural South Australia and rural Queensland.

Draft resources will be returned to the community consultation groups for feedback, discussion and advice on what will and will not work in each community. Community training, launch of the two products and evaluation will complete the project in June 2012.

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ISSN 1836-9847 (Print)
ISSN 1836-9855 (Online)

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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 7834.

The Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research (CDFVR) is located within the Institute for Health and Social Science Research, in the Academic and Research Division at CQUniversity. It is physically located at CQUniversity's Mackay Campus.



The Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research receives defined term funding from the Queensland Department of Communities to undertake research and develop educational resources pertaining to domestic and family violence in Queensland.

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