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Director's message

The last quarter has seen some very significant developments in our collective efforts to stop domestic and family violence. On the 29th April, the Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, in the presence of the Minister for Women, Tanya Plibersek and the Attorney-General, Robert McClelland, was presented with *Time for Action: The National Council's Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children*. The National Council's vision for Australia is that women and their children live free from violence, within respectful relationships and in safe communities. The plan was developed within a human rights framework and incorporated an intersectional analysis, recognizing that women's experiences of violence are shaped by gender and other factors, such as racial oppression, which must be considered in addressing the violence. The PM responded to the presentation of *Time for Action* with:



- a commitment to take the National Council's Plan to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to enlist the support and collaboration of the states and territories to develop the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women, for release in 2010;
- agreement to immediately implement eleven of 20 urgent priorities identified by the National Council, consult with the states and territories on seven and consider the remaining two in the context of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women; and
- funding of approximately \$42 million to implement a number of initiatives identified by the National Council as urgent priorities.

This is not the first attempt at national collaboration, across federal, state and territory governments, to address violence against women. In 1992, Paul Keating, then Prime Minister, was presented with the National Strategy on Violence against Women, developed by a national committee comprised of community members and government officials from the commonwealth and every state and territory. Although the 1992 strategy was not used directly as a resource for producing *Time for Action*, the broad similarity on issues to be addressed is not at all surprising. These include re-constructing notions of masculinity, enabling women's economic independence, collective community responsibility, ensuring justice responses are accessible and equitable and an implementation process to involve COAG. *Time for Action*, however, has had the benefit of an additional 17 years of sector activity resulting in a broader base of awareness about, and willingness to act on, violence against women; a stronger evidence base to draw from; and substantial resources enabling extensive research and consultation to develop 25 strategies and 117 actions to achieve six outcomes. There has also been a substantial increase in the number of grass-roots activists in this field who have taken positions in parliaments across the country, including in Canberra. *Time for Action: The National Council's Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children* is discussed in more detail on page 5.

In 1992, when the National Strategy was presented to Paul Keating, the current Queensland Minister for Communities and Housing and Minister for Women, Karen Struthers, was the director of the state-wide Domestic Violence Resource Centre. The Queensland Premier, Anna Bligh, was a senior policy officer in the Women's Policy Unit, Office of Cabinet, responsible for developing the Queensland Government policy: *Stop violence against women*. Now, 17 years later in a joint statement on the 25th May, the Premier and the Minister announced the establishment of an expert Death Review Panel to identify gaps in services for victims of domestic and family violence and to prevent further deaths in the future. This announcement came after a number of years of dedicated work by the Queensland Domestic Violence Death Review Action Group (DVDRAAG), which is discussed by Betty Taylor on page 15. CDFVR congratulates the DVDRAAG and the Queensland Government on this announcement.

Heather Rancarrow

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Centre news

6th Annual Indigenous family violence prevention forum - The big picture – Putting the pieces together

By Annie Webster, Education Project Officer, CDFVR

A record 160 participants attended the 6th Annual Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum at the Mackay Entertainment Centre from May 11 to 13. The forum, CDFVR's contribution to Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month, also included an optional third day of skills development workshops this year, attended by 107 participants. In response to the 2008 forum evaluation, this year's forum had a strong emphasis on healing, leadership and community information sharing. Information on drugs and alcohol, perpetrator programs and men's groups were also included in the program which included keynote speakers, plenary panels, yarning circles and film presentations. The increasing numbers of interstate participants over the years prompted CDFVR Director, Heather Nancarrow, to announce the introduction of a national forum to be held triennially, commencing in 2010, in partnership with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and others.

Keynote addresses:

Keynote addresses were presented by Stephen Hagan, 2006 Naidoc person of the year, academic and social commentator; Peter Buckland, Regional Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnership, Mackay/Whitsunday Region of Department of Communities; and Kerrie Tim, Indigenous Leadership and Engagement, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.



Stephen Hagan

The controversial title of Steve's presentation 'Are Indigenous men homogeneous?' was designed to challenge societal positioning on domestic and family violence. Steve discussed the power of observational learning and the importance of role models within families. To

demonstrate his commitment to this stance, Steve recounted a story of his decision to stop letting extended family stay in his home to assure his own family's safety. He talked about the failure of political figures to adequately address the plight of Indigenous women and challenged the forum to prioritise the 12 Critical Areas of Concern for Women, identified in the Plan for Action adopted at the fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. Steve dismissed violence perpetrated in communities under the guise of traditional lore as "conveniently misinterpreted" and maintained it should be replaced with the "full weight of Western law." Steve concluded his presentation with the hope that the National Council's Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, *Time for Action* will help Indigenous women and their children who suffer from abuse to find peace and happiness in a violent free and loving home environment.



Peter Buckland

Peter's task was to explain the Queensland Government's alcohol reforms within Indigenous communities. In response to insufficient improvement in relation to alcohol-related harm, the government reviewed the need to strengthen: supply and demand reduction, individual,

family and community, and service provision. The rationale for imposing restrictions was based on "where there are high levels of harm there should be alcohol restrictions." The decision-making process took into account a range of input from communities both formal (through councils and community justice groups) and informal (from community visits). It also included feedback from stakeholders and key departments (for example, Queensland Police Service). In early 2009 carriage limits were tightened in Hope Vale and Yarrabah and in response to community proposals, in Pormpuraaw and Doomadgee. After considerable consultation, carriage limits were also introduced in Cherbourg in March this year. Over \$100 million has been committed by state and federal governments over the next four years to support the implementation of alcohol reforms. Alcohol restrictions in communities will be monitored for effectiveness by quarterly ministerial discussions, reports, and review triggers such as a reduction in violence, child protection substantiation and improved school attendance. Peter ended his presentation by saying that "The right to drink is not a United Nations enshrined right, but the rights of women and children to be safe are."



Kerrie Tim

Kerrie spoke about leadership and the importance of facing up to violence and doing something about it. She talked about the leadership program that she manages and the broad definition of what leadership is, giving the example,

"Leadership is about making the decision to send your children to school." The leadership program employs a model that works on all levels. It is sustainable because it fosters a lifetime commitment to getting the best life possible. Men were asked to bring their skills from the world back into the family

– to build their families and their communities. She spoke about the widespread mistruths about how boys are best raised – messages from influential arms of society – armed forces and criminal justice systems and asserted, "If we want big lives for our men and boys, we have to change, to change the voices." Kerrie closed by advising her audience to, "Take the smallest amount of encouragement, and use it."

There were three plenary panels at this year's forum. The first panel, *Working toward healing* included speakers **Tom Powell** from Red Dust Healing and **Dorinda Cox** from Aboriginal Healing Project in Western Australia. Tom stated that it was now men's turn to stand up – to stop the violence and lead the healing. Dorinda outlined her pilot project which aims to decrease violence in Aboriginal communities. The project uses a community development model based on collectivism – using expertise from within the community, rather than bringing in experts.

The second panel, *Community perspectives on the alcohol management plan* was designed to give participants some feedback on how the Alcohol Management Plans are working in communities such as Pormpuraaw and Fitzroy Crossing. **Kurt Nobel**, from Pormpuraaw Healing Centre discussed the effects of the Alcohol Management Plan on his community. His community imposed the alcohol restrictions themselves in 2003 so used funding for new restrictions to establish a rehabilitation centre, which will be opened in July this year. Kurt talked about the need for a raft of measures when imposing alcohol management plans, not just the removal of alcohol.

June Oscar from Marninwarntikura Fitzroy Women's Resource Centre in Fitzroy Crossing, WA discussed the opposition and stress suffered by her and her friend Emily Carter as they led the campaign for a ban on the sale of takeaway alcohol that has dramatically cut health and social problems in Fitzroy Crossing. The campaign, which was community driven, has led to a 43% reduction in the incidence of alcohol-related domestic violence, a reduction in foetal alcohol spectrum disorder and a halving in the number of people seeking emergency health assistance due to alcohol related injuries.

Leadership – journeys and aspirations was the third panel of the forum and followed Kerrie Tim's leadership address. **Jackie Huggins**, from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit, University of Queensland, and a member of the CDFVR Reference Group led this panel with **Karen Woodley**, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and **Bill Lowah**, Queensland Shelter. Themes arising included: the importance

of self-care; the need to prioritise when demands exceed time available; the importance of serving an apprenticeship as a leader; the requirement for hard work; sacrifice and talent; the need to stay connected to your mob; role models to ensure a progression of leaders; the courage to make a difference; creativity, enthusiasm and passion to embrace change. Details of the two yarning sessions convened at the forum can be found on CDFVR's website www.noviolence.com.au.

The optional third day of skills development workshops included two half-day presentations. *H.E.L.P.P.* (Help Ease Life's Parenting Pressure) was adapted from the Parents Under Pressure program by Gindja Substance Misuse Aboriginal Corporation in Yarrabah as a more culturally appropriate model for Indigenous communities. It was presented by Thelma Richards, from Gindja, Moana Harlen from Griffith University and Paul Harnett from University of Queensland. The second workshop, Red Dust Healing, a specific cultural healing program based on ancient and traditional philosophy, was delivered by Randal Ross and Tom Powell.

Other forum highlights included: Chris Cunneen's paper discussing recommendations and findings from recent research into the use of domestic violence protection orders by Indigenous women in

Queensland, particularly in rural and remote communities; Heather Nancarrow and Dorinda Cox's overview of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children; and filmmaker Vincent Lamberti and film participant and researcher Audrey McCormack's screening of 'Intervention', a short film about the impact of the Northern Territory Intervention.

This year's forum dinner and karaoke had the highest attendance rate of our six forums with 130 participants. There was much dancing and queuing up to sing! Liz and Shirley from Mt. Isa showed what consistent karaoke attendance can do for your singing standard and Deon made sure that none of the men missed out on contributing to the celebrations. Once again Lillian Gray was not to be outdone with her rendition of 'These boots are made for walkin'.

Thank you to all who travelled from around Australia to contribute their stories, ideas and hopes for a future free from domestic and family violence. We look forward to an even bigger and better national forum next year so please keep May 18, 19 and 20 in 2010 free.

A detailed report of the forum, including the evaluation is available on CDFVR's website www.noviolence.com.au.



Policy initiatives

Time for Action: The National Council's Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children.

By Heather Nancarrow, Director, CDFVR

Introduction

The Australian Government established the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children (the Council) in May 2008, fulfilling one of its 2007 election commitments.



The Council was established for a one-year term to: provide expert advice and direction to the Australian Government on measures to reduce the prevalence and effect of sexual assault and

domestic and family violence on victims; consult widely across government and the community in the development of the plan; and provide leadership for sustaining change in the identification of best practice policy, program and service development which will prevent violence against women and their children.

The Council comprised the following 11 members from across Australia, selected for their collective expertise and networks relevant to the prevention of domestic and family violence and sexual assault: Libby Lloyd AM (Chair), Heather Nancarrow (Deputy Chair), Assoc. Prof. Moira Carmody, Dorinda Cox, Maria Dimopoulos, Dr Melanie Heenan, Rachel Kayrooz, Andrew O'Keefe, Vanessa Swan, Pauline Woodbridge, and Lisa Wilkinson.

In developing its plan of action, members of the Council consulted over 2,000 Australians. The Council:

- conducted interviews, on-line surveys and community meetings with a range of stakeholders in all state and territory capital cities, and some regional and remote centres, including the Torres Strait, Fitzroy Crossing, and the five communities at the tip of the Cape York Peninsula
- commissioned a desktop analysis of key Australian and international research on sexual assault and domestic and family violence

- commissioned research, through the Department of Families and Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, to support:
 - a comparative analysis of sexual assault and domestic and family violence laws across jurisdictions, and
 - a projected economic analysis
- reviewed the 370 public submissions to the Council
- undertook preliminary research to identify current major initiatives to address sexual assault and domestic and family violence across Australia
- convened six expert round-table forums
- delivered presentations to key government and non-government fora, and
- briefed a number of federal, state and territory ministers, and representatives of the federal opposition.

Policy context

While women and girls experience violence in a wide range of contexts, it is intimate partner abuse (also referred to as domestic and family violence) and sexual assault that are the most prevalent and pervasive human rights abuses against women in Australia. Approximately one in three Australian women will experience physical violence and almost one in five will experience sexual violence over their lifetimes. This violence has serious consequences for the health and well-being of women and their children and serious economic and social costs for the broader Australian community.

An economic analysis commissioned for the work of the National Council found that the cost of violence against women and their children will be \$13.6 billion in 2009 and, without appropriate remedial action this figure will climb to an estimated \$15.2 billion per annum by 2021.

As discussed in the Director's Message of this edition, *Time for Action* has the benefit of many years of advocacy in this area, including the 1992 National Strategy on Violence against Women.

This advocacy has led to very substantial developments in every jurisdiction across the country. The Council's work to identify current major initiatives

to address sexual assault and domestic and family violence across Australia found that all states and territories have implemented, or are in the process of implementing cross-department, inter-agency responses to domestic and family violence and sexual assault. However, they vary in regard to the inclusion of non-government partners in these responses. Some have specific actions and assign particular agencies as drivers, while others are less structured and operate within broader parameters encompassing a shared intent. Currently, there appears to be no mechanisms in place for monitoring and evaluating these developments.

The National Council notes that funding, service provision and legislation varies considerably across jurisdictions. It also notes, however, that policy commitments are reasonably uniform and there are many similarities in the way jurisdictions respond to violence against women. This suggests there is ample scope for increased collaboration between the Commonwealth, states and territories to implement a truly national approach to reducing violence against women and their children.

As a result of its research and consultation, the National Council found that the major constraints on achieving a significant reduction of violence against women and their children are: fragmented systems, gaps between policy intent and implementation, a failure to invest in primary prevention, inadequate funding for services, services not tailored to client needs, continued lack of evidence for what works in preventing and responding to violence against women, and inadequate or inconsistent monitoring and reporting.

***Time for Action* framework**

The National Council's vision for Australia is that women and their children live free from violence, within respectful relationships and in safe communities. Based on this vision and its collective expertise, extensive consultation, and research, the Council is resolute that the following six outcomes are necessary for any significant reduction in violence against women.

These outcomes are:

1. *Communities are safe and free from violence*
2. *Relationships are respectful*
3. *Services meet the needs of women and their children*
4. *Responses are just*
5. *Perpetrators stop their violence*
6. *Systems work together effectively*

To achieve these six outcomes, *Time for Action* identifies a total of 25 strategies, and 117 actions to be implemented by 2021. The fundamental approaches upon which *Time for Action* is built include:

- focus on primary prevention, through respectful relationships education beginning in early childhood and social marketing to change attitudes and behaviour
- building the capacity for prevention education
- enhancing women's economic independence
- strengthening service and workforce capacity
- undertaking specific responses to ensure equitable access to services including accessible and equitable justice for women and their children
- ensuring just civil remedies operate in parallel with the criminal law and prioritise safety
- ensuring judicial officers, law enforcement personnel and other professionals within the legal system have appropriate knowledge and expertise to respond effectively to violence against women
- changing behaviour to stop men's violence through appropriate programs
- ensuring governments deliver what communities need, rather than communities trying to fit their funding needs into government guidelines
- coordinating responses across all levels of government, as well as across agencies at a local level, and
- continuing to build the evidence base to support the achievement of each of the six outcomes.

In addition to its proposed 25 strategies and 117 specific actions, and in support of its plan, the National Council made 11 recommendations directly to the Australian Government. Within these, and noting that 20 actions are identified as requiring urgent implementation, the National Council recommends that its plan of action be implemented through a series of three-year implementation plans to 2021. These implementation plans are "to be developed in partnership with government, business and the community, built on research and evaluation, and that will incorporate the outcomes of measures already implemented" (p. 25). The Council further recommends "that the Australian Government recognise the critical role of state and territory governments in reducing violence against women and their children; that it refer the Plan of Action to COAG (Council of Australian Governments); and request that COAG develop an integrated,

comprehensive response endorsed by all levels of government by early 2010" (p. 26).

The Australian Government's response

Time for Action was presented to the Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, in the presence of the Minister for Women, Tanya Plibersek; the Attorney-General, Robert McClelland; members of the National Council; and staff and students of Narrabundah College in Canberra. In response to the recommendations and urgent actions identified in *Time for Action*, the Prime Minister announced that the Australian Government will, from 2009:

- Fund a \$42 million package for urgent priorities
- Take *Time for Action* to COAG and work with state and territory governments to develop a National Plan by 2010
- Work through the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General to establish a scheme for national registration of domestic violence protection orders, and to identify the most effective methods to investigate and prosecute sexual assault
- Develop a multi-disciplinary training package for lawyers, judicial officers and others in the family law system
- Ask the Australian Law Reform Commission to work with state and territory law reform commissions to examine the inter-relationship of federal, state and territory laws and ensure they prioritise safety for women and children
- Establish a Violence Against Women Advisory Group to advise on the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women

- Work with states and territories to establish a National Centre of Excellence for the Prevention of Violence against Women; and
- Consider the place of violence in the National Research Priorities.

The \$42 million comprises \$12.5 million for a national telephone and on-line crisis service, \$17 million for social marketing to change attitudes and behaviours, \$9 million for respectful relationships education for young people, and \$3 million for research on perpetrator programs and harmonised laws.

Conclusion

Within a period of less than one year since its establishment, the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children delivered a thoroughly researched, comprehensive, strategic and sustainable plan of action and the Australian Government responded with an unprecedented level of commitment to its implementation. However, much more needs to be done and we all have a role to play. The first step is to read *Time for Action* and think about what you and your colleagues can do, individually and collectively, towards achieving the Council's vision. Further, state and territory governments need to get on board through COAG to enable the promise held within the National Council's plan and the Australian Government's initial response, to be fully realised. Talk with your local member of parliament and let relevant ministers and the premier know it is time for action.

A copy of *Time for Action* can be downloaded by visiting http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/women/pubs/violence/np_time_for_action/national_plan/Pages/default.aspx

Evidence based practice

Recognition of prior learning: Course in responding to family and domestic violence (30629QLD)

By Tracey Acton, RPL Consultant to CDFVR

A new and innovative recognition of prior learning (RPL) toolkit will soon be available for the *Course in Responding to Domestic and Family Violence (30629QLD)*. The RPL toolkit has been designed to support both assessors and students with a thorough but user-friendly approach to the entire RPL process. It is hoped that the RPL toolkit will become the tool of choice for registered training organisations (RTOs) and assessors throughout Queensland, resulting in consistency between those completing the course and those receiving recognition for prior learning.

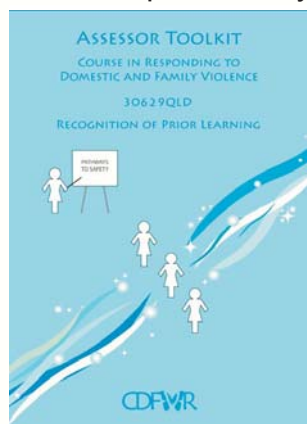
Research into existing best practice approaches to RPL in Queensland and beyond (Spencer 2006; NCVER 2003; Cameron & Miller 2004; Hargreaves 2006; Spencer 2009) indicates that the intention of providing a way for people to gain recognition for existing skills and knowledge is often undermined by a generic or underdeveloped approach to RPL. This approach places burdensome evidence collection on the student, and is undirected or not clearly connected to what it is the student is trying to demonstrate. The process at best becomes meaningless and at worst alienates the student from completing the RPL application.

Current practice promotes the use of a variety of assessment tools including conversations or interviews to provide valuable evidence, supplemented by other documentation. The challenge in developing an RPL tool is to adequately capture the process of evidence collection. This toolkit meets that challenge by being a well directed resource that maps evidence to competencies and provides mechanisms for assessors to document evidence collection and assessment decisions in a rigorous way.

The toolkit has been developed through consultation with members of the domestic and family violence prevention sector as well as those with a vocational education and training perspective. Industry consultation provided the opportunity to engage with the sector through identification of possible forms of evidence typical to the sector and allowed participation in the development, moderation and validation of the first version of the RPL toolkit. Ideas generated through this process were also validated against the Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) requirements and the rules of evidence. The resulting RPL toolkit has been divided into two sections: one for the assessor and one for the student.

The assessor toolkit

The assessor section contains information, tools and resources to enable the assessor to judge the evidence provided by the student and determine if the criteria are met for one or more of the units in the course. The assessor can adapt the resources for use in specific circumstances where flexibility is required to offer a relevant approach to each learner, while still providing full documentation of the assessment process as the assessor compares evidence against the criteria and comes to a decision.



For each unit of 30629QLD, the Assessor Toolkit contains:

- An *Assessor Evidence Mapping Guide* where evidence is mapped directly against elements and performance criteria for each unit.
- Based on current best practice RPL across Australia, an *Assessment Conversation Table* is included which will allow the assessor to identify gaps in evidence where a structured conversation with the student may be able to provide the additional evidence required. To give rigour to this process, evidence provided by students can be matched against assessment criteria to provide an accurate record of the basis on which RPL decisions are made.

- A list of *Assessment Questions* has been developed for the assessor to use in evidence-gathering conversations.

The student RPL toolkit

Students are given information about the RPL process as well as evidence gathering tools. There are questions to assist students determine if they have enough evidence to seek RPL. Once students have made the decision to apply for RPL for one or more units of the course, the toolkit provides students with the resources they need to guide their evidence collection.

Students undertaking an RPL process can sometimes struggle to make links between what is described in the unit of competency and what evidence may demonstrate this sufficiently. The student section of the RPL toolkit provides suggestions of potential evidence, sourced from the sector, mapped against what this evidence is likely to demonstrate so students can see the link between what they provide and how it can demonstrate that they are competent. This is combined with a series of evidence gathering assessment tools which includes: a general portfolio, an assessment conversation, a reflective practice journal, a practice framework statement, workplace scenarios and third party reports, all of which supplement documentation provided by the student.

The RPL toolkit will be integrated into the existing course materials which are available from the Centre for Training Materials for purchase by trainers and registered training organisations. Once the RPL toolkit is in use, it will be reviewed and updated as required to ensure a dynamic and useful resource for the sector. We expect the toolkit to be available very soon.

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Database highlights

Children exposed to domestic violence

By Liane McDermott (PhD), Education Officer, CDFVR

Background

The Research Summary in this edition of the CDFVReader, summarises O'Brien's (2008) literature review on problem sexual behaviour in children. One of the many factors contributing to problem sexual behaviour in children is the exposure to family violence, with links between children being exposed to various forms of violence and enacting violence themselves. More commonly, domestic and family violence affects children's development and their emotional well-being, even from infancy (Jaffe et al, 1990). Continuing tension, fear and aggression in the environment can interfere with babies' and toddlers' development of trust and independence, and affect their brain development. For pre-school and primary aged children, ongoing domestic or family violence can also affect their brain development, as well as contribute to a range of behavioural difficulties, and for young people, domestic and family violence often interferes with their ability to progress into healthy adult relationships (Perry, 2001).

Here, we consider new client matters recorded in CDFVR's Domestic and Family Violence Database where children aged 0 to 5 years, 6 to 11 years and 12 to 18 years are living in the household. Comparisons are also provided for Indigenous and non-Indigenous client matters. The database includes data provided by 29 domestic and family violence support services across Queensland, some of which provide services for both victims of violence and those who use violence. The data do not represent the incidence of domestic and family violence in

Queensland, but they do provide some insights into the nature of domestic and family violence for new client matters recorded in the database.

Children/young people living in the household

During the period 3 October 2003 to 31 March 2009, a total of 137 860 new client matters for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians were recorded in the Domestic and Family Violence Database. Of the Indigenous client matters (n=12 327), 39.4% had at least one child aged 0 to 5 years living in the household, 27.1% had at least one child aged 6 to 11 years and 14.9% had at least one young person aged 12 to 18 years living in the household. For non-Indigenous client matters (n=125 533), these figures were 32.3%, 25.4% and 15.2% respectively.

For new client matters with only children aged 0 to 5 years (n=25 396) living in the household, the primary reason for contact to the service was most commonly 'experiencing violence in a current relationship' (Indigenous - 59.5%; non-Indigenous - 56.8%), followed by 'experiencing violence from a past relationship' (Indigenous - 15.4%; non-Indigenous - 19.5%). 'Experiencing violence in a current relationship' was also the most common primary reason for contact to the service for households only with children aged 6 to 11 years (n=10 229) (Indigenous - 54.6%; non-Indigenous - 52.1%) and households only with children aged 12 to 18 years (n=7 895) (Indigenous - 58.4%; non-Indigenous - 60.4%).

Table 1 **Type of service provided: households only with children 0 to 5 years**
(column per cent)

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Total	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Counselling	424	16.5	5 503	24.1	5 927	23.3
Court support	794	30.9	10 110	44.3	10 904	42.9
Crisis intervention	1 011	39.3	5 179	22.7	6 190	24.4
Advocacy	165	6.4	733	3.2	898	3.5
Other	166	6.5	1153	5.1	1 319	5.2
Missing	11	0.4	147	0.8	158	0.6
Total	2 571		22 825		25 396	

More Indigenous domestic/family violence matters were reported to the police than non-Indigenous matters, irrespective of the age of the children living in the household: Indigenous children 0-5 – 65.2%; 6-11 years – 58.4%; 12-18 years – 63.7%; non-Indigenous children 0-5 – 55.2%; 6-11 years – 53.1%; 12-18 years – 52.0%.

Differences were also reported in the primary type

of service provided for Indigenous and non-Indigenous new client matters. As shown in Tables 1-3, a higher percentage of Indigenous clients sought crisis intervention: 37-40% across households with children in all age groups compared to 20-23% among non-Indigenous clients. Non-Indigenous clients were more likely to seek court support: 42-44% across all households compared to 30-31% among Indigenous clients.

Table 2 Type of service provided: households only with children 6 to 11 years (column per cent)

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Counselling	152	21.4	2 826	29.7	2 978	29.1
Court support	211	29.8	3 991	41.9	4 202	41.1
Crisis intervention	263	37.1	1 938	20.4	2 201	21.5
Advocacy	18	2.5	245	2.6	263	2.6
Other	62	8.7	452	4.7	514	5.0
Missing	3	0.4	68	0.7	71	0.7
Total	709		9 520		10 229	

Table 3 Type of service provided: households only with children 12 to 18 years (column per cent)

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Counselling	95	18.7	2 179	29.5	2 274	28.8
Court support	157	31.0	3 146	42.6	3 303	41.8
Crisis intervention	202	39.8	1 492	20.2	1 694	21.5
Advocacy	19	3.7	233	3.2	252	3.2
Other	31	6.1	297	4.0	328	4.2
Missing	3	0.6	41	0.6	44	0.6
Total	507		7 388		7 895	

There were some slight differences in the reporting of new domestic/family violence matters across households with children from the three different age groups. However, there were more notable differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous new client matters, irrespective of the age of the children living in the household. This was particularly so for the reporting of domestic/family violence to police and the primary type of service sought by the client.

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Research summary

Problem sexual behaviour in children: A review of the literature

Dr Wendy O'Brien, Australian Crime Commission

Summary by Liane McDermott, (PhD), Education Officer, CDFVR

The Inquiry [Northern Territory Board of Inquiry] was told of a range of juvenile offending, including a 12-year-old boy allegedly interfering with a three-year-old, a 13-year-old boy allegedly interfering with a five-year-old, a 15-year-old boy who had interfered with a three-year-old and an eight-year-old, a 15-year-old girl who allegedly interfered with a group of younger boys, and a 14-year-old girl who allegedly interfered with girls and boys... (Wild and Anderson, 2007, p. 65)

Recent reports and national media attention have raised public awareness about problem sexual behaviour among children in Indigenous communities. However, concerns regarding sexualized behaviours among Indigenous children have been cited since 1990, with reports of rapes by boys as young as 10; young girls being traded for sexual misuse by their older brothers to pay gambling debts or to purchase alcohol; and children sexually abusing younger siblings and other children. Yet to date, the provision of culturally appropriate and locally delivered prevention and intervention programs has been remiss.

O'Brien's (2008) literature review on problem sexual behaviour in children, produced as an initiative of the National Indigenous Violence and Child Abuse Task Force, is one step forward to understanding the complexities of problem sexual behaviour in children and the urgent, critical need for an Indigenous-focused and long-term, multi-systemic response.

Ideologies of childhood innocence and the reluctance to admit that children are capable of sexually abusing another child have contributed to the slow response in confronting the issue. While defining problem sexual behaviour in children is difficult...there is some agreement among scholars that coercion, consent and equality are central concepts.

Childhood problem sexual behaviour is broadly defined as acts of aggressive or coercive sex by children towards other (usually younger) children.

There is very limited research on young children engaging in problem sexual behaviour both internationally and in Australia, which highlights the urgent need for research across all sectors of Australian society, including Indigenous communities.

Difficulties in researching children with problem sexual behaviour

Problem sexual behaviour in children is a far greater issue than has been publicly acknowledged either internationally or in Australia and the continued failure to confront this issue in an honest and systematic way seriously jeopardizes effective preventative and rehabilitative response. (O'Brien, 2008, p. 5)

In addition to the ethical considerations which place restrictions around the research of children with problem sexual behaviours, historical and ideological factors have also been cited as contributing to the difficulties in researching this issue. Historically, problem sexual behaviour in children was often explained as "normal experimentation or developmental curiosity" (Veneziano and Veneziano, 2002, p. 247). Ideologies of childhood innocence and the reluctance to admit that children are capable of sexually abusing another child have also contributed to the slow response in confronting the issue. These historical and ideological barriers have played a part in the paucity of research and the inadequate and inconsistent understandings of what constitutes *normal* childhood sexuality and *problem* sexual behaviour.

A contextual understanding

While defining problem sexual behaviour in children is difficult due to the complexity of childhood behavior the varying interpretations and, social, cultural and judicial factors, there is some agreement among scholars that coercion, consent and equality are central concepts. The Australian Childhood Foundation (ACF) further include in their conceptualisation of problem sexual behaviour, sexual behaviour that contravenes family and community values, or that takes place out of context (i.e., in public):

There are three ways behaviour can be problematic. Firstly, the behaviour puts the child at risk, interferes with his or her development and relationships, violates rules, is self-abusive and/or is defined by the child as a problem. Secondly, the behaviour causes others to feel uncomfortable, occurs at the wrong time or place, conflicts with family or community values, and is abusive. Thirdly, the behaviour can involve coercion and unequal power. (Staiger et al, 2005b, p. 3).

While this present report aligns its conceptualisation of problem sexual behaviour in children with that of the ACF, it also strongly positions this behaviour as contextual or situational. O'Brien's report highlights the general consensus that the vast majority of children engaging in problematic sexual behaviours are not motivated by a pre-existing sexual preference for children, but rather their behaviour is a result of their context or situation. For instance, children with problem sexual behaviour are more likely to have experienced trauma, loss, alienation, physical and/or sexual abuse and to have witnessed family violence, illicit drug use and alcohol abuse by parents or caregivers (Staiger et al, 2005b). Commonly, early life experiences for these children, are filled with anger, confusion, sadness and fear (Staiger et al, 2005b).

These correlatives to problem sexual behaviours in children are evident, and often characteristic of life, in some Indigenous communities. Prevention and intervention programs need to address the contextual factors of systemic disadvantage in these Indigenous communities in order to destabilise the culture where aggression and harmful sexual behaviours have been normalised. As stated by Stanley et al (2003, p. 14), "... The abuse and neglect of Indigenous children needs to be understood within a framework that acknowledges the contribution of multiple societal, community, family and individual factors."

Risk factors and pathways to problem sexual behaviour in children

There are a number of commonalities in the circumstances of children and young people engaging in problem sexual behaviours. These children have "particularly troubled backgrounds with a history of physical and sexual abuse, substance misuse, emotional victimisation or abandonment, and ... high rate[s] of psychiatric, learning or medical problems" (Cavanagh Johnson, 1998; Lane with Lobanov-Rotsovsky, 1997, cited in Lovell 2004, p. 4).

Prior traumatisation has been repeatedly cited as a risk factor, particularly sexual abuse, which places the child at risk of acting out what they've been taught by someone else (Dalton, 1999).

Structural disadvantage in Indigenous communities and the impact on problem sexual behaviour in children

"The dire situation of Indigenous children must be seen as inextricably linked to extreme poverty, the breakdown of traditional family obligations and the immeasurable loss of connection to the land and cultural fragmentation" (Robertson, 1999, p. 186). The deleterious effects that social dysfunction has on behaviour patterns in children was identified in the National Crime Prevention report on violence in Indigenous communities: "considerable research has shown an association between stressful, negative community conditions, and maladaptive coping behaviour and social dysfunction" (Stanley et al, 2003, p. 8). Historical factors of violence, colonial dispossession, alcohol, welfare dependency and isolation have all been theorised as causes of social dysfunction in Indigenous communities. While alcohol is most commonly blamed for Indigenous violence, it is the interconnected layers and complex contexts of systemic disadvantage that need to be understood and addressed.

In this present report, O'Brien (2008) summarises a number of these aspects of systemic disadvantage that contribute to risk pathways to childhood problem sexual behaviour in Indigenous communities.

Inter-generational normalisation of violence

Violence of all types is disproportionately higher in Indigenous communities than the Australian population as a whole (Memmott et al, 1991, 2001). Concerns about the normalisation of both physical and sexual violence in some Indigenous communities and the impact of this violence as a learned behaviour have been described in numerous studies and reports (Thorpe, 2004; Robertson, 1999; Blagg, 1999; Memmott et al, 1991, 2001).

Silence, fear and shame: impediments to addressing violence

Major impediments to reporting domestic violence and sexual abuse include the complex interplay of psychological responses, fears for personal safety and the trauma of recounting events in clinical and judicial settings. For Indigenous victims, disclosure is often prevented by fear, intimidation, the risk of inter-familial retribution, fears about families being torn apart and the shame associated with the revelation (Mulligan, 2008). For some communities there is a sense that disclosure is pointless given the insufficient services to provide a necessary response (Mulligan, 2008).

Child sexual abuse, physical abuse and neglect

The extent of family violence and sexual assault of women and children in Indigenous communities has been termed an 'epidemic' (Gordon et al, 2002) and a 'crisis of frightening magnitude' (Crime and Misconduct Commission, 2004). Indigenous children are nearly five times more likely to be the subject of a substantiation for child abuse or neglect than non-Indigenous children, and the number of Indigenous children in out-of-home-care is over seven times that of their non-Indigenous counterparts (AIHW, 2006). Neglect and abuse in the family home, as well as out-of-home placement creates an unstable home environment, which is a known correlative to problem sexual behaviour in children.

Family and community violence

Witnessing family violence is cited as a risk factor to children engaging in problem sexual behaviour. Links have been made between children witnessing various forms of violence and then enacting forms of violence themselves (Atkinson, 1996).

Familial disruption – loss of role models – adult responsibility at a young age

Loss of family role models, familial disruption, a profound lack of parental supervision, and circumstances where young children are required to assume parental or caregiver responsibilities for younger siblings are risk factors for problem sexual behaviour in children. These are characteristic of life for many Indigenous children.

Household and individual income

Children with problem sexual behaviour are more likely to come from very low income households (Staiger et al, 2005b). There is a much higher extent of poverty in Indigenous communities compared to the broader Australian population (Altman and Hunter, 1998), and subsequently, these communities are at increased risk of compromised health and life expectancy, poor educational outcomes, increased substance abuse and participation in crime and violence (SCRGSP, 2007).

Housing conditions and infrastructure

In addition to an unstable home environment, homelessness is also a risk factor for problem sexual behaviour in children. 2006 data from the Kids Help Line showed that Indigenous young people were more likely to seek help with issues of homelessness than non-Indigenous young people. Overcrowded housing has also been cited as a contributing factor to the overt sexualisation of Indigenous children (Wild and Anderson, 2007), with the suggestion that shared sleeping areas increase the risk of children's exposure to pornography and sexual activity by adults or other children.

School engagement and performance

The compromised educational outcomes for Indigenous children also place them at increased risk of problem sexual behaviour. The NT Inquiry shows "a correlation between school non-attendance and criminal activity, poverty, unemployment, homelessness, violence and sexual abuse" (Wild and Anderson, 2007, p. 155). The lack of effective engagement at school may also compromise children's socialisation and skills development which are crucial in preventing delinquency, apathy, anger, substance abuse and sexual activity.

Substance use and misuse

Substance abuse is a chronic problem in many Indigenous communities, which contributes to the risk of family disruption, neglect and physical and sexual abuse. While substance abuse by children with problem sexual behaviour has received less attention than that of their parents, it is still an issue of major concern for Indigenous children, with indications that some Indigenous children consume alcohol on a regular basis from a much younger age than their non-Indigenous counterparts.

Health and wellbeing

While the poor health outcomes of Indigenous people are well documented, two that are particularly relevant to contributing to problem sexual behaviour in children are severe hearing impediments and foetal alcohol syndrome (FAS). This is mostly attributed to the subsequent learning difficulties and compromised social skills associated with both hearing impairments and FAS.

Imprisonment and juvenile detention rates

Parental criminal activity is a risk factor for problem sexual behaviour in children, as it results in familial disruption caused by the incarceration of parents, caregivers or familial role models. Additionally, childhood delinquency is a strong risk pathway to problem sexual behaviour.

Pornography and other factors of socialisation

There is very little research and understanding about the role that pornography may play in contributing to problem sexual behaviour in children. However, concern has been expressed in some Indigenous communities about the extent to which children are being exposed to "inappropriate sexual activity, such as pornography, adult films and adults having sex within the child's view" (Wild and Anderson, 2007, p. 65).

Child sexual exploitation

Compounding the crisis of problem sexual behaviour among Indigenous children is the evidence of child sexual exploitation in some communities. Vulnerable

children (particularly girls) are being sexually exploited by both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal men, with girls consenting to sex in exchange for goods or favours (Wild and Anderson, 2007). Such informal prostitution is an act of survival for the children involved (CMC, 2004).

Conclusion

While the phenomenon of children engaging in problem sexual behaviour is not exclusive to Indigenous communities, this report mainly attends to the urgent need for a culturally appropriate response aimed at addressing the context and consequences of structural disadvantage that increase the risk of childhood problem sexual behaviour. In conclusion, O'Brien states (2008, p. 48):

The familial breakdown, poverty, educational difficulties, violence, prior victimisation, homelessness, isolation

and child sexual abuse suffered by some Indigenous children describes, in complete terms, the risk scenarios and pathways to both child sexual exploitation, and problem sexual behaviour in childhood. The fact that these precursors and correlatives are both disproportionately evident and often normalised in Indigenous communities significantly increases the risk that Indigenous children will become involved in childhood problem sexual behaviour and/or sexual exploitation. Scholars cite crucial knowledge gaps in these two areas, and the service provision is clearly lacking. There can be no question that serious attention to these issues, and their devastating effects, is urgently required if the next generation of Indigenous children are to be spared.

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Policy initiatives

Dying to be heard

By Betty Taylor, Founding Member, Domestic Violence Death Review Action Group

Are domestic violence deaths a reality we have all come to accept or are they something that we can and should work to eliminate? The Domestic Violence Death Review Action Group (DVDLAG) is of the opinion that many of these deaths are preventable with predictable traits to them. Most domestic violence related fatalities arise from a history of abuse and violence with many warning signs present prior to the death – they are not caused by a ‘brain snap’. As violence escalates, many victims themselves have often sought a variety of unsuccessful interventions often warning of the risks posed to them.

Are these deaths preventable?

International experience would indicate they are, with the Domestic Violence Fatality Board of Toronto declaring that domestic violence homicides are the most preventable of all homicides. With the introduction of domestic violence death reviews across many communities in the USA and Canada, there has been a significant reduction in domestic violence fatalities within those communities. Death reviews allow for the identification of prior risk indicators, patterns and trends, gaps within service systems including points at which safe intervention could have occurred. In addition, reviews identify shortcomings in legislation, policy, staff induction and training, as well as collaboration and interventions to perpetrators.

Placing domestic violence related deaths on the public agenda has been at the forefront of the work undertaken by DVDLAG since it was established in 2004. Central to their work has been the lobbying of the Queensland Government for the establishment of a Domestic Violence Death Review Board. This multi-disciplinary team would examine available public records and other documentation relative to domestic violence deaths, to determine systemic and service gaps and missed opportunities for safe and timely intervention.

DVDLAG welcomes the recent announcement by the Queensland Government that a death review panel will be established. Premier Anna Bligh, in announcing the establishment of a domestic violence death review panel stated:

It will go further than investigate why these deaths occurred in the past and convene to investigate the reasons behind any deaths as they occur in the future –

including what more could have been done to prevent a death and identifying any gaps in services for victims.

Welcome news indeed

The Queensland announcement follows the release of *Time for Action*, the National Council’s Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children. Of specific note is the recommendation to establish domestic violence death review processes in each state and territory.

4.3.2 Establish or build on emerging homicide/fatality review processes in all states and territories to review deaths that result from domestic and family violence so as to identify factors leading to these deaths, improve system responses and respond to service gaps. As part of this process ensure all information is, or recommendations are, centrally recorded and available for information exchange. (Time for Action 2009, p. 120)

The federal government will play a critical role in the development of a national framework, protocols, and benchmarks for best practice.



Left to right Pam Godsell, Shirley Slann, Diane Mangan, Betty Green and Betty Taylor attending the Domestic Violence Death Review Forum in Mt Isa

The important work of DVDLAG has benefited from the receipt of a grant from WESNET (Women’s Services Network) which has allowed for the progression of work on several issues. This has included the completion of a discussion paper on domestic violence deaths, hosting community awareness forums across Queensland as well as the development of an educational media kit and proposed forum specifically for media professionals.

The discussion paper, *Dying to be Heard*, presented to the Queensland Government in December 2008 by members of DVDRAg outlines international experiences of death reviews, a proposed model for a death review board, key recommendations and draft terms of references.

Some of the other recommendations contained in *Dying to Be Heard* include:

- That the feasibility of allocating a Domestic Violence Death Review Board within the state coroner's office be explored including issues associated with legislative powers, funding and staffing.
- That the Queensland Government incorporates the establishment of a Domestic Violence Death Review Board into a whole of government framework.
- That the Queensland Government allocates the necessary resources to allow for the development of a Domestic Violence Death Review Board and its function for a 3-year pilot period.
- That a reference group be convened to oversee the development of a Domestic Violence Death Review Board with membership drawn from both government and non-government sectors. This group will develop terms of reference, membership criteria, case review processes, board functions and evaluation processes.
- That a separate process be developed to allow for the employment of an Indigenous worker/consultant supported by an Indigenous reference group who will consult with Indigenous organisations and community on the way forward for the development of a Domestic Violence Death Review Board that is appropriate for them.

To progress community understanding of domestic violence death reviews as well as to seek feedback on the discussion paper, community forums were held across Queensland. This included forums held in Brisbane, Mt Isa and Townsville. The forums included a panel of expert speakers including Carolyn Johnson from WA, Dr Elspeth McInnes from SA Julie Stewart and Betty Green, both from New South Wales, who travelled with DVDRAg members to Mt Isa and Townsville. Queensland speakers at the forums included Michael Barnes, State Coroner; Snr. Sgt Mark Lance and Sgt Rohan Manning-Jones, Queensland Police Service; Shirley Slann and Pauline Woodbridge from North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Service; Katrina Finn and Pam Godsell, Women's Legal Service; Tracey French DVDRAg, and *Dying to Be Heard* author Betty Taylor. Di Mangan, Director dvconnect, played

a crucial role in organising and supporting the forums. Thanks to all who contributed to the success of these events. There was strong support for domestic violence death reviews and the information gained provided added insights and issues to be considered.

DVDRAg welcomed the attendance and feedback from Indigenous participants and reinforced the opinion of DVDRAg that the development of a domestic violence death review would need to be inclusive in its development and implementation.

Another aspect of the work currently being undertaken by DVDRAg is the development of a media kit aimed at informing media professionals and media students on domestic violence. The media plays a critical role in informing the general public on domestic violence. The way in which domestic violence is reported can either challenge accepted stereotypes and myths or reinforce them. The media kit is designed to engage media in meaningful dialogue as well provide information aimed at assisting with the reporting of these tragic stories. The media kit will be launched in the near future at a specific event in Brisbane.

Domestic violence deaths are tragic for all concerned – most of all for surviving families and friends. Through our combined efforts in addressing domestic violence related deaths in a considered and purposeful manner, we are sure that we can make a significant difference to those lives which are most at risk from serious injury or death. We appreciate all the support from the community and invite you to continue supporting the campaign. DVDRAg has joined with colleagues in other states to begin a national campaign: *Not One More*.

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.

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Resource review

Putting youth in the picture

By Adair Donaldson and Peter Shannon, with Brendon Busby
Summarized by Deborah Balmer, Education Officer, CDFVR



Putting Youth in the Picture is an education resource designed to prevent young men and women “turning up on lawyers’ doorsteps” (2008b, p. 9) through making poor split-second errors of judgement concerning alcohol use, drug use, driving behaviour, sexual behaviour, texting behaviour and other issues relevant to the lives of emerging adults.

The resource is scenario-based, confronting, engaging, and takes a problem-solving approach, designed to allow the audience to suggest harm minimisation strategies. *Putting Youth in the Picture* has been developed and funded by Peter Shannon and Adair Donaldson, Toowoomba lawyers and winners of the 2005 Queensland Civil Justice Award. The resource was recently shown on ABC’s Four Corners programme (Ferguson, 2009) being used with NRL players as a tool to educate players on the meaning of consent.

Shannon & Donaldson have about 30 years experience between them in helping young people through the court system. A commonality in all of these cases according to Donaldson (2008) has been that:

They all made a poor split second decision...they didn’t set out to cause anybody harm...they then made this fateful decision and then they find themselves before the courts and find that their lives have changed dramatically.

The resource outlines the legal consequences of breaching the law surrounding six real-life scenarios. The legal ramifications of an offence on your record for employment, travel, and life are made very plain. The resource does not make explicit the theory underpinning its approach, but does draw on feminist and deterrence approaches. Its central focus is to be a resource, able to be used in its entirety as a program, or as the raw materials for a course with a differing conceptual approach. There are two DVDs. The first has five scenarios which are aimed at the 15-25 year-old audience. The scenarios deal

with sexual assault, victims of sexual assault (both hetero- and homosexual), motor vehicle accidents (non-alcohol related), bar room brawl/assault, and illicit use of drugs. Each scenario is authentic, being based on court cases the two lawyers have been involved in. The approach is no-nonsense, teaching students accurately where the line is, and what happens if you cross it, as a deterrent. Ethical considerations are raised, but are not the central approach.

The resource has grown organically and has been grounded in much community and end-user support, benefiting the final published iteration. What began as a ‘one-off talk’ at a local high school has developed into a 10-module (1 x 1.5 hours & 9 x 40minutes) training package. There is also an additional (eleventh) module written especially for parents (the second DVD) which tells the story of responsible parents hosting an under-aged party that gets out of control.

Users can choose to watch each scenario with a commentary by Adair Donaldson, or not. As previously mentioned, delivery strategies are very flexible – it gives outlines, suggestions of delivery, but leaves wide scope for the resource to be adapted and suited to different audiences. The situations are largely designed for Australian urban populations and are focussed around the problem-scenarios being portrayed.

Donaldson himself has presented the resource to more than 4,500 students, athletes, health workers, and police and believes the resource is working in achieving the learning goals. Evaluation of the programme is undertaken by end-users. High schools, sporting clubs, a church, police, youth organisations and clubs, liquor industry groups, and parent groups are amongst the current users. CDFVR commends the authors for their initiative and vision. Go to www.puttingyouthinthepicture.com for more details.

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Workshops, conferences and date claimers

26 June 2009

Best Practice for Working with Adults Surviving Child Abuse

Brisbane, QLD

<http://www.asca.org.au/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=114>

1 July 2009

CDFVR Distinguished Visitor Seminar

Eddie Gallagher

Child to Parent Violence: Who, what & why?

Email: enquiries@noviolence.com.au

8-9 July 2009

The Australian and New Zealand Critical Criminology Conference

Melbourne, VIC

<http://arts.monash.edu.au/psi/news-and-events/critical-criminology/index.php>

8-10 July 2009

Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Prevention of Abusive Behaviours in Childhood and Adolescence

Bundaberg, QLD
<http://www.psychology.org.au/Events/EventView.aspx?EventID=4740>

15-17 July 2009

Disability and Justice: Many Faces, Equal Rights?

Melbourne, VIC

<http://www.acso.com.au/docs/ACSOConf.pdf>

29 July 2009

Challenging Childhoods: Responding to Children who Engage in Problem Sexual Behaviour in the out of Home Care Environment

Brisbane, QLD

<http://www.childhood.org.au/training/event.asp?story=15031>

10-12 August

Building Safer Collaborative Community Responses
TAVAN Institute in partnership with Domestic Abuse Intervention Project Duluth Minnesota

Trainer and Presenter: Graham Barnes, Minnesota
Gold Coast

Further Information: tavaninstitute@gmail.com

23-26 August 2009

Sixth Women and Policing Conference – Making it Happen

Perth, WA

<http://www.acwap.com.au/conferences/conf09.html>

2-4 September 2009

Is Prison Obsolete? Conference

Brisbane, QLD

<http://www.sistersinside.com.au/conference2009.htm>

2-4 September 2009

Transforming Australia for our Children's Future:
Making Prevention Work

Melbourne, VIC

<http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/en/Seminars-and-Events/Conferences-and-Symposia/ARACY-Conference-2009---Making-prevention-work.aspx>

7-8 September 2009

1st National Cannabis Conference

Sydney, NSW

<http://ncpic.org.au/workforce/cannabis-conference/>

7-10 September 2009

Children and the Law: International Approaches to Children and their Vulnerabilities

Prato, Tuscany

<http://www.med.monash.edu.au/socialwork/conference09/>

11 September 2009

Same Sex Domestic Violence Conference

Kings Cross Sydney, NSW

<http://ssdv.acon.org.au/providerinfo/documents/SDVConference.CallForAbstracts.pdf>

8-10 October 2009

National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence

New Orleans, USA

<http://www.fvpfhealthconference.org/>

21 October 2009

National Conference on Australian Prison Issues
Melbourne, VIC

<http://www.prisonissuesconference.webs.com/>

28-30 October 2009

Victorian Offender Treatment Association 2009 Conference

Melbourne, VIC

<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/ConferencesSupportedByISPCAN.htm>

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