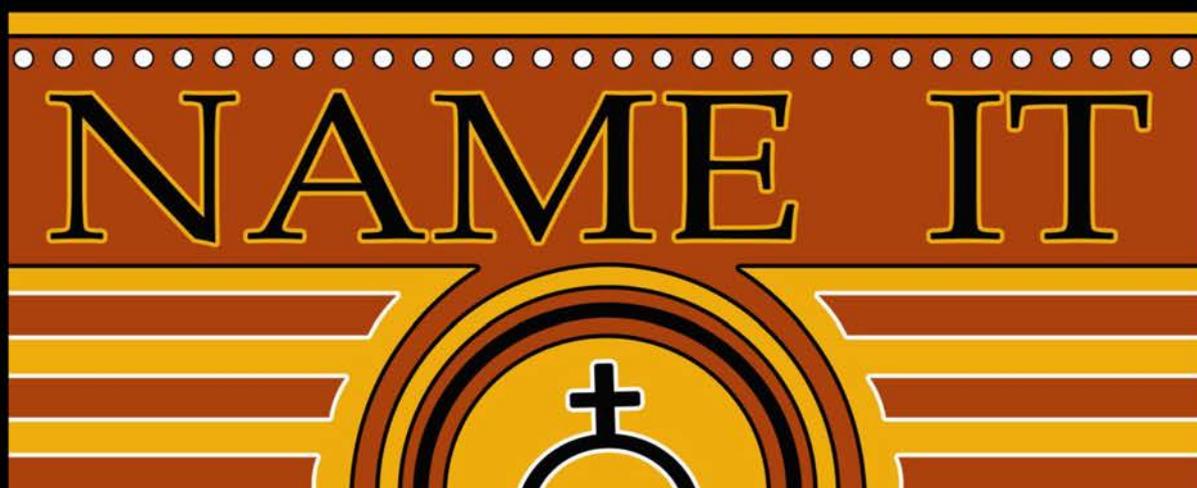


CDFV Reader

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Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum 2015

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Director's message

Welcome to the Autumn Re@der! You'll note that it's "slimmer" than usual, electronic and back to being a quarterly publication. We hope you enjoy this approach.

Whenever you start a new position there is a period of adjustment and intense learning to begin with and I am just emerging from this phase (of course there's lots more to learn). I have to thank all the centre staff and others who have supported me through this process. I am struck by the fact that my experiences of researching domestic and family violence that have occurred in a different country and a different context have a great many similarities with victim/survivors' experiences here in Australia. I have reflected that this may be because abuse of power looks very much the same wherever it happens – whether it is between intimate partners or between family members, when you are on the receiving end it looks and feels very similar. That said, there are differences in how different states and countries respond to domestic and family violence and that is where my learning has been.

There are many exciting things happening for the centre and one of the first things I need to do is to thank the Sidney Myer Fund for its \$10,000 contribution towards five scholarships to support domestic violence service providers to come to the Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum in May.

At the start of the year, I began with attending the first Ending Violence Against Women Queensland (EVAWQ) meeting in Brisbane. This is a milestone achievement for violence against women and children that offers an avenue for both domestic violence providers and sexual assault services to work together to eliminate violence. The hard work of DVConnect and other key services has led to this network developing. Another meeting first for me was with the Queensland Domestic Violence Services Network (QDVSN) which was held in Toowoomba and here I learned much about how services operate and some of the challenges

they face in maintaining high quality support for victim/survivors of abuse. Other memorable events that occurred in February were meeting with Professor Liz Kelly and listening to her presentations in Brisbane, meeting Dame Quentin Bryce again and meeting with the Queensland Coroner and the Domestic Violence Death Review Unit. The report on the role of domestic violence fatality review teams in this issue of the Reader was one of the outcomes of this last visit.

As some of you will know the centre is now positioned in the School of Nursing and Midwifery in CQU and the School is offering support to CDFVR in the development of a Graduate Certificate in Domestic and Family Violence Practice. This is another exciting innovation that we are planning to launch later in 2015 and we hope that this will be of interest to many of you. The second year of the program involves selecting electives of 'working with victims', 'men's behaviour change interventions' and 'child safety and domestic and family violence'. We are endeavouring to keep the costs down for this course as much as we can. There will be lots more information on our website in the months to come on this qualification.

In relation to research, our contribution towards national research for ANROWS (Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety) continues at a pace. Another wonderful development is that CQU has offered to provide the centre with a Post-doctoral position for a period of twelve months. This is going to assist us in our research work enormously and we are very grateful to the Pro Vice Chancellor of Research Professor Grant Stanley for this contribution to the centre.

Finally, I think Nelson Mandela's thoughts about education which many of you may be familiar with might be a good way to end this message for the reader. Mandela said "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world". This seems particularly applicable while planning for Domestic Violence Prevention Month in May.

Annabel Taylor



Mrs Julieanne Gilbert, Member for Mackay, Ms Patricia Corrie (Yuibera representative), Professor Pierre Viljoen, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Engagement, Campuses and North Queensland Region), Associate Professor Annabel Taylor, Professor Leone Hinton, Dean, School of Nursing and Midwifery

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Research Update

Ms Shellee Wakefield and Dr Nada Ibrahim

Under the in-kind arrangement for the Queensland Government's contribution to ANROWS (Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety) research projects and activities are negotiated between CDFVR and ANROWS in accordance with the national research program. On this basis, CDFVR is working on two pieces of research, regarding judicial education issues and investigating the enforcement of protection orders in Australia.

The former project hopes to provide a 'state of knowledge' on judicial education about domestic and family violence, providing insight for organisations and judicial colleges to enhance their processes. An important part of the research explores the views of magistrates who are in a key position to respond to people experiencing domestic and family violence. It is hoped that informing and improving judicial education on domestic and family violence will better support these officers in their role.

Earlier this year a number of magistrates in Victoria and Queensland volunteered their time to participate in the research. Participants were asked a series of questions regarding domestic and family violence education. Topics canvassed included:

- training they had previously received
- training platforms they find most beneficial
- the most appropriate length of time spent on training
- their views on contemporary initiatives such as online training and
- responding to contemporary issues (eg risk factors for future violence).

It is anticipated that the findings from this research will be released later this year.

The second research project, on the enforcement of domestic violence protection orders, explores perspectives of police, magistrates, lawyers, victims' advocates and victims/ survivors in Australia. There is little known about what facilitates or hinders the enforcement of domestic violence protection orders and this project will provide an evidence base on this topic and draw valid conclusions.

The project aims to:

- investigate the experiences of professionals on enforcement of existing domestic violence protection orders, thereby identifying factors that influence enforcement;
- investigate the similarities/ differences in protection order enforcement across jurisdictions;
- explore the existing knowledge on information sharing related to protection orders, within and across agencies and across state borders;
- explore the lived experiences of women with protection orders registered interstate; and
- explore protection order enforcement issues that appear to be specific to Indigenous and remote communities.

The research project incorporates
 (a) an online national survey with professionals to solicit their views on enforcement of protection orders, and
 b) interviews with victims/survivors of domestic and family violence on cross-border issues pertinent to enforcement of existing protection orders in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and the Northern Territory.

The expected outcomes of the research project include a 'state of knowledge' report on enforcement of protection orders; a detailed report on the findings of the research project; and a research-to-practice report on implications of findings for researchers, service providers and/or policy-makers.

This research project is currently undergoing the ethics process before field work can proceed. Field work is expected to begin in May 2015. If you would like to participate and provide your valuable insights into either of the two research phases, please contact Dr Nada Ibrahim (n.ibrahim@cqu.edu.au) for further information or to express your interest.

Congratulations to CDFVR Senior Research Officer Shellee Wakefield on her recent publication:

Wakefield, S.J., Kebbell, M.R., Moston, S., & Westera, N, (2015). Perceptions and profiles of interviews with interpreters: A police survey. *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology*, 48(1), pp. 53-72.

Domestic and Family Violence Fatality Review Teams Overview

Associate Professor Annabel Taylor

There are growing expectations at both national and state levels to increase scope and capacity of domestic violence fatality reviews. The *National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children* (2010) has recommended ongoing development of domestic violence fatality reviews across Australia in order to share and learn from outcomes and the recent Queensland Domestic Violence Taskforce report *Not Now, Not Ever: Putting an End to Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland* (2015) has recommended the establishment of a domestic violence death review board.

Watt (2008) provides an excellent overview of the history and development of domestic violence fatality review teams and what follows is a summary of her key points. Watt offers four typologies for homicide reviews and these are:

- Agency reviews: Instituted by a government department and usually focussed on system failure and problem solving
- Judicial reviews: Formal legal processes to determine the cause of death
- Public inquests or inquiries: Government-led and deemed to be in the public interest and which may invite public submissions
- Fatality review teams: Proactive in their conception, aimed at investigating the complex interplay of factors leading up to a death and with a goal of systemic change

This article focuses on fatality review teams: a model which opens up the possibility of a stronger social science/legal science partnership and stands to strengthen both conceptual frameworks and analytical methodologies.

Judicial reviews:

The primary focus of judicial reviews and public inquests is to investigate the context and processes of a particular domestic violence fatality. A secondary goal is to make recommendations that may prevent future deaths. The procedures for conducting investigations come under administrative law and all relevant information is regarded as part of legal evidence and as such is subject to the laws of evidence. The outcomes of the reviews have limited authority where findings are not binding and there is no authority to enforce recommendations. Their strengths lie in their judicial neutrality, and their objectivity, which carries through into reports

and recommendations. They can have broad scope, receive into evidence virtually anything relevant and require both production of relevant documents and witnesses to testify. They are often well resourced.

Public inquests and inquiries:

Governments can order a full and open investigation of a death when this is deemed to be in the public interest and usually after a death that may represent factors that have particular implications for the wider community. Officials have broad discretion with determining terms of references and the scope of the investigation. There are usually public notification and submission processes with deadlines for the length of the inquiry. The goals are fact finding, determining culpability, and making recommendations. The process is similar to judicial reviews in terms of administrative law but enquiries are more likely to involve legal counsel. While more comprehensive than judicial reviews, they are more time-consuming and costly. They have similar investigative rigour and depending on the Terms of Reference may have considerable influence. However they can be limited by being presided over by people who lack expertise. The recommendations may lack relevance, pay little attention to contributing processes and so have little impact on interested parties.

Domestic and family violence fatality review teams (DFVFRT):

Approximately 22 years ago and partly spurred on by the domestic violence movement which advocated for specialist understanding of the complexities of domestic and family violence to be reflected in all response measures, a movement began to involve key stakeholders in domestic violence fatality reviews. This was underpinned by a desire to focus on prevention and to analyse the findings of fatality reviews to better understand systemic implications arising from within case analyses and across case comparisons. It was thought that a focus on prevention rather than blame would lead to more frank and open testifying and information giving by participants to an investigation. Early conceptualisations of DFVFRT were influenced by child death review committees that were established with a primary focus on prevention rather than apportioning individual blame.

DFVFRT have now been introduced in many states in the US and in other countries, for example the UK, Canada and New Zealand. The terms of references of the committees have recurring themes reflecting their process of evolution out of the domestic violence movement and focus on prevention. The majority of the review teams have been established under specific legislation or executive orders in order to facilitate access to information and to address confidentiality,

liability and immunity issues (Wilson & Websdale, 2006; Websdale, 2001; Websdale, 2003). Those set up under a particular Ministry (eg the police) may struggle with key stakeholders refusing to attend or to give information on the basis of personal liability risks, and this can significantly hamper the integrity of the review committee's findings (London Metropolitan Police, 2003). Clear provisions for information gathering protocols preferably include protection from subpoena, or review and discovery. Review teams optimally require protection also from civil or criminal liability while acting for the committees.

Review panel members may be selected from a broad range of disciplines and agencies with specialist knowledge in public health, criminal justice and advocacy/social services. The majority of review panels are supported by domestic violence researchers and have data gathering and access capacities. It is recognised that linking the findings with wider literature and research is essential for maximising the learning from both individual cases and cross-case comparisons. Some may involve a member of the public and will have formal nomination or selection processes while others will always involve victim/survivor advocates. The teams tend to uphold a principle of inclusiveness in order to reflect the complexity of factors involved with domestic violence incidents while others will have capacity to co-opt specific specialists to contribute to particular cases.

Various tiers of committees have been developed at regional, state and national levels. The establishment of regional committees sitting under state or national auspices is a more recent development and these have local regional representatives. The rationale for more localised committees includes the desire for reviews and findings to relate to a specific group of stakeholders, to be responsive to specific local conditions and to be able to apply systemic recommendations with their own regional services.

Various models of management and support structures exist which may involve a secretariat that provides practical support, a coordinator with overall process responsibility and a research resource. Committee members are paid allowances although some members may participate within the scope of their own government designated positions for example, police representatives.

The goals of the review teams are similar internationally with the previously mentioned overriding emphasis on prevention and systemic implications of comparative findings. Many teams/committees identify recurring risk factors and recurring themes and issues in a process which incorporates learning from wider domestic violence research (Chief Coroner Ontario, 2008).

Whereas traditional approaches to domestic violence fatality reviews have tended to lead to a culture of blame, review teams are concerned primarily with promoting a culture of safety. Rather than placing blame on agencies for risk and error these are viewed as inevitable facets of coordinated service delivery in complex cases. At all times review teams do not lose sight of holding perpetrators accountable for the lethal harm they have caused.

Outcomes of the reviews are reported publicly by way of reports, which may be circulated to relevant stakeholder organisations in the criminal justice and domestic violence sectors. Recommendations are provided in terms of prospective policy changes and improvements in service delivery. The strength of the teams is that the relevant organisations of police, health, child safety and victim/survivor services which are usually represented on the teams are able to disseminate findings to their own organisations and implement necessary improvements.

Weaknesses

There are a number of potential weaknesses of DFVFRT, some of which are contingent on the legal framework of the committees and the auspices under which they may operate. Potential lack of conceptual clarity regarding what constitutes a domestic homicide may result in inconsistent reporting by the relevant authorities and inaccurate estimates of prevalence. The London Metropolitan example, set within the police, illustrates the difficulties that can be encountered when neither giving testimony nor information provision was enforceable. The standard of data collection and access to wider research are dependent on review teams having adequate resources and, where these are inadequate, limited findings may result. Restricting the data sources also stands to limit the scope and breadth of potential findings and risks the exclusion of vital evidence. A focus confined to the individuals involved in the event will similarly limit the scope of findings and may not necessarily allow for contextual factors that may also be critical contributing factors. A heavy reliance on static factors will also limit the scope of enquiry and will potentially ignore dynamic factors such as substance dependency which are more amenable to intervention.

Evaluation of the role of DFVFRT in contributing to violence reduction

Evaluation of the effectiveness of DFVFRT in reducing or preventing domestic violence is beset by methodological and conceptual challenges due to the complex interplay of contributing factors that may be identified in relation to a particular case or across cases. David's review (2007) of DFVFRT identified a number of outcomes from the teams including the increased ability to

identify risk factors. As a result of the London Metropolitan multi-agency domestic violence murder reviews a six point risk assessment was developed by Stanko (London Metropolitan Police, 2003). Other teams have identified similar lists of factors pertinent to their particular socio-cultural contexts (David, 2007). The Queensland Domestic Violence Taskforce, in its recently released report, recommends that an offence of strangulation be introduced as a criminal offence- to reflect strangulation as a key risk factor in domestic violence homicides. Teams have identified weaknesses or failures in service delivery systems which have led to improvements; particularly in regards to increased coordination and information sharing. More significantly perhaps teams have also identified systemic failures or gaps particularly in relation to the legal system and the enforcement of legal protections for women and children (David, 2007; Jaffe & Juodis, 2006).

The prevailing model of constantly reviewing domestic violence research alongside fatality review findings has created the potential for an ongoing interface between research, practice and policy change. The teams can act as a conduit by which homicide evidence connects with wider research which may reinforce some findings or may lead to identification of research gaps. Depending on the composition of the teams, they can facilitate greater interagency cooperation and coordination which occurs at senior management levels for national or state-wide review teams or at regional level. The advantage of involving senior officials is the authority and weight such members of a team may have in terms of prospective legislative and policy reform. There is a risk that unless team members have influence within their own service areas at senior levels of policy change, DVFRT findings may be ignored in practice.

The State of Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (2010) conducted an extensive review of the Washington Domestic Fatality Review Team from the period of its inception in 1997 to 2010. The report has taken a longitudinal analytical approach to the total number of domestic homicide cases and the findings of each review team over this period of time. The report contains much valuable and detailed information and its strength is that the longitudinal view has led to a set of 11 overall recommendations that instrumentally contribute to the state's overall policy and practice in addressing domestic violence well into the future. The report offers an overview with key recurring themes identified in relation to which changes are recommended as necessary in order to reduce domestic violence. Interestingly the report findings resonate with the recent Queensland Domestic Violence Taskforce recommendations indicating what appear to be similar challenges in responding to domestic violence effectively in western

jurisdictions internationally. The implications of both the Washington State and Queensland reports are for systems changes, high level government and community action, and a range of particular interventions shown to hold promise. The remaining question is the degree to which DVFRT may influence such changes.

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Measurements of success

During her recent visit to Queensland, Professor Liz Kelly (London Metropolitan University) delivered a [public presentation](#) and participated in a [“round table” conversation](#) with stakeholders. More details are at: www.noviolence.com.au.

Professor Kelly spoke of her work in Project Mirabal, research which investigated the extent to which perpetrator programs reduce violence and increase safety for women and children, and the routes by which they contribute to coordinated community responses to domestic violence. Two conferences, *Domestic Violence Perpetrators-Changing the Story*, were held in January to mark the end of the research. To date, a number of publications have been forthcoming from Project Mirabal, including “*Why extending measurements of ‘success’ in domestic violence perpetrator programmes matters for Social Work*”. Selected extracts from this article follow.

This paper presented findings from seventy-three interviews with men on perpetrator programs, their partners/ex-partners, program staff, funders and commissioners to explore what ‘success’ meant from their perspectives. The authors concluded that ‘success’ needs to be redefined and connected not just to criminal justice (measured by police callouts or incidents of physical violence) but also to health and social care agendas.

There was great recognition that it is possible for physical violence to stop but women and children could continue to live in unhealthy atmospheres “laden with tension and threat”. Across the interviewees, the process revealed “nuanced understandings of success in which more subtle, though ultimately life-enhancing, changes were recognised”. Six broad areas of success emerged from the data analysis and they were, in order of frequency:

1 An improved relationship between men on programs and their partners/ex-partners which is underpinned by respect and effective communication.

Having an improved relationship was the most frequently noted and valued outcome for women partners and ex-partners.

2 For partners/ex-partners to have an expanded ‘space for action’ that empowers through restoring their voice and ability to make choices, whilst improving their well-being

Partner/ex-partner interviewees talked about being able to enter the house without being scared, stay out late without feeling she would have to ‘walk on eggshells’ the next day, choose to spend time with family and friends without being challenged: all are examples of what the authors termed ‘expanded space for action’.



Professor Kelly, Dame Quentin Bryce and Annabel Taylor met in Brisbane in February.

3 Safety and freedom from violence and abuse for women and children

Partners and ex-partners identified wanting the men to be less obsessive and controlling by, for example, sending them fewer and less-harassing texts and not subjecting them to interrogation about where they had been and with whom.

4 Safe, positive and shared parenting

Positive parenting, for the women ex/partners, refers not only to the fact that children benefited from the changes noted above, but also that parenting the children together was enhanced, with family activities more frequent, men being more attentive to the needs of the children and/or access no longer something to be dreaded.

5 Men’s enhanced awareness of self and others, including an understanding of the impact that domestic violence has had on their partner and children

This was the theme most frequently mentioned by the men on programs in talking about: emotional self-awareness; self-control; empathy; and responsiveness.

6 For children, safer, healthier childhoods in which they feel heard and cared about

This was talked about primarily by practitioners and funders/commissioners rather than by the women and men, and although this overlaps with the third theme here the focus was on children themselves rather than parenting.

The authors concluded that “social workers need to develop skills and practices that contribute to female empowerment... alongside behaviour changes in men” to contribute to safe parenting and improved well-being for children. Furthermore, the authors argue, if perpetrator programs are successful in changing men’s ways of engaging with others, through self-reflection, more open and honest communication, this in turn removes some of the barriers to social work engagement with perpetrators. “If social work is to forge alliances with both victim-survivors and community-based perpetrator programs, violent men have to become visible within policy and practice.”

Reference:

Westmarland, N. & Kelly, L. (2013). Why extending measurements of ‘success’ in domestic violence perpetrator programmes matters for Social Work. *British Journal of Social Work*, 43 (6), pp. 1092-1110.

The Duluth Model

Contributed by YFS



YFS is a not for profit organisation that delivers a range of services to the people of Logan and beyond. YFS caters to people who are disadvantaged, vulnerable, or want to improve their circumstance. The organisation started in Logan in 1983 to provide support to at-risk young people and families, and since then YFS has evolved into a very diverse organisation, with a multitude of services delivered in Logan and surrounding areas, including Redlands.

Scott Croyden has been part of the YFS Domestic and Family Violence program since 2012. He recently returned from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where he learnt more about Men's Behaviour Change programs. Whilst there, Scott completed the Duluth Model Training, gaining insight into how Men's Behaviour Change programs operate in a different country, and about diverse practices to apply when working with the men- individually and in group settings.

The targeted training went over three days, and of the 35 participants, Scott was the only attendee from Australia. The Duluth Model was originally referred to as the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project when it was developed in the early 1980s. It is "a feminist, psycho-educational approach" composed of several components, including identifying behaviours that men use to create power and control, presenting options other than dominance and control, promoting behavioural and attitudinal changes, and confronting denial of violent behaviour (Herman, Rotunda, Williamson and Vodanovich, 2014).

The Duluth model continues to be widely applied in programs across the US and because it has "clinical value to its advocates as well as... research support" it has been possible to track participant outcomes over a long period of time, so providing information that aids in programmatic and community-level planning (Herman et al 2014). Data from the DAIP Men's Non-violence Classes in the United States reveal that seven out of 10 men who complete the program are not arrested again for domestic violence. DAIP research also suggests that a similar proportion of offenders who move through Duluth's criminal justice system and men's non-violence classes have not reappeared in the system eight years post-intervention.

As a Counsellor, Scott works with clients to introduce an understanding of domestic violence, assess motivation and manage risk while identifying the beliefs that drive behaviour. He then challenges these beliefs, evaluates the individual client's behaviour and works with them to effect change. Scott is also a Facilitator of the YFS Responsible Men program for men who are perpetrators of domestic violence. The YFS program uses components of the Duluth Model to facilitate change in men- moving them to realise their accountability, learn responsible behaviours and increase the safety of women and children.

"Understanding the Duluth fundamentals has been invaluable for my facilitation when working with men who use violence", Scott says. He added that the Duluth Model Training provided a genuine appraisal of its core principles, and focused on deconstructing men's beliefs along with their historical and socially formed entitlement to be violent to women. The training incorporated other discussions including:

- The reference point for understanding domestic violence is the experience of women who have been abused.
- An ongoing, formal relationship with shelter/ court advocates is a critical part of providing safety for women and children.
- Critical dialogue is central to creating an educational process of change for perpetrators.
- The men's non-violence program champions the advocacy and safety of the women whose partners are in the program.
- The program is a component of a larger interagency response to male violence against women.

Scott also identified that the effectiveness of these programs is also reinforced by a number of key factors including:

- Identifying partner and child impact/s
- Utilising the male participant's 'actual' experiences rather than hypothetical situation
- Accessing an experienced Partner/ Women's Advocate worker
- Maintaining an effective Integrated Community Response

References:

Herman, K., Rotunda, R., Williamson, G. & Vodanovich, S. (2014). Outcomes From a Duluth Model Batterer Intervention Program at Completion and Long Term Follow-Up. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, 53 (1), pp. 1-18.

Home of the Duluth Model: Social Change to End Violence Against Women: Why the Duluth Model works: <http://www.theduluthmodel.org/about/why-works.html> Retrieved March 23 2015

Home of the Duluth Model: Social Change to End Violence Against Women: Men's Nonviolence Classes: <http://www.theduluthmodel.org/change/mens-nonviolence.html> Retrieved March 23 2015

Home of the Duluth Model: Social Change to End Violence Against Women: Coordinated Community Response: <http://www.theduluthmodel.org/change/community-response.html> Retrieved March 23 2015

White Ribbon: diversity in action

Contributed by White Ribbon Australia

White Ribbon is Australia's only national, male led Campaign to end men's violence against women. The White Ribbon vision is that all women live in safety, free from all forms of men's violence. The campaign works through primary prevention initiatives involving awareness raising and education, and programs with youth, schools, workplaces and across the broader community.

White Ribbon is enhancing engagement with Australia's many culturally and linguistically diverse communities through the White Ribbon Diversity Program. The Diversity Program will focus on making the White Ribbon Campaign more inclusive; build on existing strengths of the Campaign and progress through meaningful and respectful collaboration with groups across Australia.

The Diversity program will focus on:

- engaging culturally diverse, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women as White Ribbon Ambassadors and Advocates
- community engagement activities to enhance understandings and action to prevent men's violence against women
- developing culturally accessible and appropriate resources to support community engagement
- eLearning and face-to-face training for men to build capacity to prevent men's violence against women.



In 2013 White Ribbon Australia partnered with the Migrant Resource Centre of South Australia and MyriaD Consultants to deliver a pilot training project **Engaging Men to Prevent Gender-based Violence in their New and Emerging Communities**. Forty five males from a range of *diverse communities* took part in the training that aimed to work with men on how better to actively advocate for the prevention of men's violence against women. The training is unique

because it established an innovative and culturally responsive model for engaging men *within diverse communities*. It also recognised the positive and necessary role male leadership can play in *new and emerging communities*. This training has enabled these men as leaders to identify opportunities and develop key messages for engaging other men within their communities in preventing men's violence against women.

The White Ribbon Diversity program will build on this pilot training and seek to create and strengthen collaboration with men and communities. Future training in *engaging men from diverse communities* as leaders in preventing men's violence against women will take place across Australia over the coming year including Queensland.



The increased active representation of White Ribbon Ambassadors from *diverse communities* will reflect the cultural diversity of Australia. Mick Dodson AM is a White Ribbon Ambassador who explained: "I became a White Ribbon Ambassador because it is important for men to speak out against all forms of violence but in particular violence against women and children. White Ribbon raises awareness of this issue in the community. By coming together, people can tackle these difficult issues".

White Ribbon advocates for community action and suggests this could be in the form of:

- hosting, supporting and participating in White Ribbon events in your community
- becoming a White Ribbon Ambassador or Advocate
- encouraging local schools and education departments to become involved in White Ribbon's Breaking the Silence Schools Program and Workplace Accreditation Program
- promoting and engaging the Campaign through social media
- promoting the Campaign through personal and professional networks and fundraising to support White Ribbon's ongoing success.

For more information: www.whiteribbon.org.au

Connecting with Community

Dr Nada Ibrahim

2015 Brisbane Refugee Welfare and Advocacy Conference:

I was invited to present at the Engaging faith-based groups workshop at the *2015 Brisbane Refugee Welfare and Advocacy Conference* on the 7 March 2015. The session was well attended with 80 participants registering. My presentation provided a brief overview of Muslims in Queensland, an introduction to Islam and some suggestions on how to engage with Muslims on refugee and asylum seeker matters. A number of questions were raised that were pertinent to the challenges that refugee/asylum seeker advocates face in engaging with Muslim organisations on refugee/asylum seeker issues. I highlighted the common error that advocates make in approaching the Muslim communities: being judgemental.

Depending on their approach, advocates can either 'make or break' engagement. A positive strengths-based non-judgemental approach, based on the protocols of each community, facilitates the engagement process and achieves success. Establishing trust wins you half the battle where faith-based community engagement is concerned. Many members of the Muslim community see the label that is given to asylum seekers as a very negative one and an accumulation of negativity shrouding the issues repulses people. The barrage of negative media coverage clouds perspectives further, and is not helpful to anyone wanting to be engaged, or engage meaningfully with others, in that space.

For those who do engage, this tends to happen under the banner of mainstream organisations. A number of people are engaged through their professions in this arena- lawyers, social

workers, community workers, etc and these individuals are crucial in advocating for refugee/asylum seekers rights. On the issue of receiving services, a person's faith is irrelevant, but when interacting with refugees/asylum seekers from a Muslim background, having some understanding about their faith helps in engaging them. This requires a nuanced understanding. For example, a thoughtful refugee/asylum seeker advocate wouldn't direct a shia Male to a predominantly sunni-based mosque for Friday congregational prayers given the variation in their practices. Thus, engaging with faith-based communities requires basic humane attributes of duty of care, respecting their dignity and working with them collaboratively.

Community Engagement Luncheon with Shannon Fentiman MP:

On the 14 March, I was invited by Galila Abdelsalam, Director of the Islamic Women's Association of Queensland for a luncheon with Shannon Fentiman MP, the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Multicultural Affairs. The lunch was attended by approximately 30 Muslim women who are involved in leadership roles through various organisations or who have expertise in a range of fields. This was an opportunity for Muslim women to raise issues that were pertinent to the Queensland Muslim community with the Minister. I raised three issues for consideration: (a) the needs of refugees/asylum seekers in the Muslim community; (b) the discrimination of Muslim nursing students at universities; and (c) domestic violence issues particular to Muslim communities (that are based on my research). I identified the requirement for funding to support initiatives that address the needs of victims/survivors and perpetrators and community-based responses that are strength-based and incorporate the terms of reference of Muslims.



Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum 2015

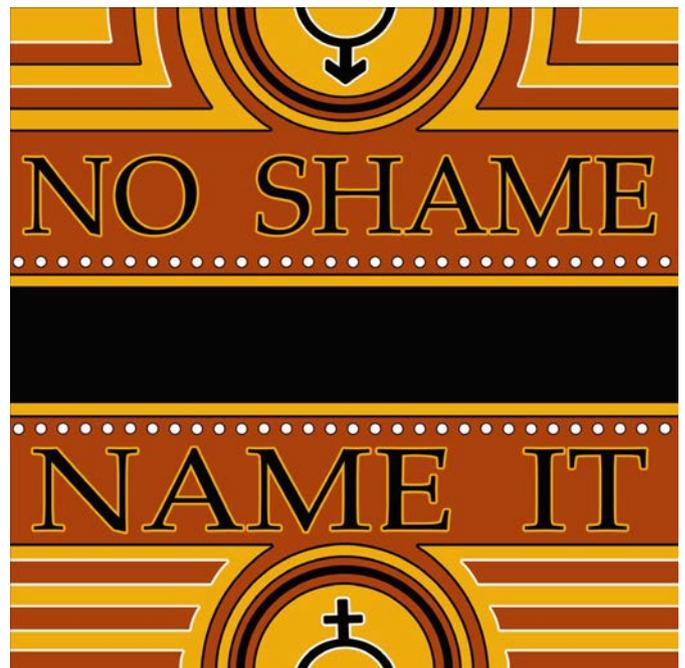
1. Earlybird registration: Register and pay before Friday April 10 and you'll receive a free Forum 2015 t-shirt
2. The latest information is on www.noviolence.com.au so remember to visit regularly!
3. Will you need something to show your manager/ supervisor to help explain why you should attend the Forum? Check out the [Useful downloads](#) and print the letter for your manager/ supervisor.
4. The Forum Dinner is included in your registration. Great food, great company- and no extra charge!
5. Registration fees (which include the forum dinner and entertainment) haven't changed. Fees for 2015 are:
\$450 for Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants; and
\$500 for all others.

THERE ARE STILL REGISTRATIONS AVAILABLE!

11th Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum: NO SHAME: NAME IT
Wednesday May 6 and Thursday May 7, 2014,
Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre

DAY 1 – Wednesday May 6, 2014

- 8.00 a.m. Registration
 - 9.00 a.m. Welcome to Country
 - 9.10 a.m. CDFVR Director: Welcome
 - 9.15 a.m. KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
 - 10.00 a.m. KEYNOTE SPEAKER Q AND A
 - 10.30 a.m. Morning tea
 - 11.00 a.m. Skilling Circle 1
- CHOOSE ONE SESSION FROM OPTIONS
1. SNAICC: Trauma Training
 2. SNAICC: Safe for Our Kids
 3. Queensland AIDS Council: Creating inclusive services for people who are same sex attracted
 4. DVConnect: Working with men- the language of accountability
- 12.30 p.m. Lunch
 - 1.15 p.m. DFV PRACTICE: 20 MINUTE PRESENTATIONS
 - 2.15 pm Q AND A WITH THREE SPEAKERS
 - 2.45 p.m. Afternoon tea
 - 3.00 p.m. Hard Yarns
 - 4:00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. End of Day One
 - 6.00 p.m. Domestic Violence Prevention Month Community Candle Lighting Ceremony
 - 6.30 p.m. Forum Dinner



DAY 2 – Thursday May 7, 2014

- 9.00 a.m. Skilling Circle 2
- CHOOSE ONE SESSION FROM OPTIONS
1. SNAICC: Trauma Training
 2. SNAICC: Safe for Our Kids
 3. Queensland AIDS Council: Creating inclusive services for people who are same sex attracted
 4. DVConnect: Working with men- the language of accountability
- 10.30 a.m. Morning tea
 - 11.00 a.m. DFV PRACTICE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: 20 MINUTE PRESENTATIONS
 - 12.00 p.m. Q AND A WITH THREE SPEAKERS
 - 12.30 p.m. Lunch
 - 1.30 p.m. Not now, not ever: our response
 - 2.30 p.m. Questions, discussion
 - 3.15 p.m. Close

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

HAVE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS CHANGED?

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

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

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