

# CDFWR@der

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# Director's Report

Those of you who are regular readers will know that we are about to embark on our next five year contract with the Queensland Government, so it is a time for reflection at CDFVR as we draw to the end of this quarter and the closure of our 2013-16 Service Agreement. The months since our previous Re@der have been eventful:

- wonderful times with our guests at the annual Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum,
- visits to stakeholder groups in various parts of the state,
- research deadlines to be met,
- staffing changes,
- developments in the education domain of our work, and
- finalising our plan for the next year of Queensland-Government funded activities.

There are many highlights from the past three years- the sustaining of the Indigenous Family Violence Forums, the inspirational international and national experts who have visited with the Centre, the series of dissemination events across the state and the ongoing relationship CDFVR has with all of our stakeholders. In the ANROWS domain the completion of two large studies: domestic violence education and the judiciary, and the enforcement of protection orders across Australia will be informing policy and practice for some time to come. In addition we have completed two Fast Facts and two Compasses and most of these will become available later in the year.

Since its inception in 2002 CDFVR has been concerned about education and training in domestic and family violence. It is more than ten years since CDFVR developed the accredited 'Course in Responding to Domestic and Family Violence' (Course Code: 30949QLD) and recent national and state policies recommend investment in education and training for all frontline services that encounter domestic and family violence. In 2015 the Centre embarked on a partnership with CQUniversity to design and deliver a suite of education and training and currently CQUniversity has courses relating to Domestic and Family Violence Practice offered from VET Certificate to Postgraduate Diploma levels with the support of the School of Nursing and Midwifery. We are now developing a Graduate Certificate in Facilitating Men's Behaviour Change which we hope will be introduced in 2017. Readers may not be aware that I supervise the lecturing staff



and research by higher degree students, with support from CQUniversity. As well the School of Nursing and Midwifery recognises the Centre's contribution to the education programs.

The major Queensland policy shift in the period of this 2013-16 Service Agreement has been brought about by the Queensland Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence and the release of its *Not Now Not Ever* Report with which I am sure you are all familiar. The challenge for CDFVR with the publication of the report lay in how the Centre might respond to this and what role it might play in supporting the Queensland Government in applying an evidence base to the recommendations. As a consequence CDFVR began discussions with the Queensland Government about the evaluation research and data gathering necessary for a planned investment and renewal in domestic violence services across Queensland. The announcement by the Hon Shannon Fentiman that the Centre would be funded for five years from 1 July 2016 evidences the future direction for CDFVR which from this time will take up an integral role in providing the evidence for key policy directions emanating from the *Not Now Not Ever* Report.

As you are all aware, CDFVR has an Advisory Group and our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group. The Advisory Group continues to provide invaluable advice and support on specific areas of CDFVR activity and the Reference Group has

## COVER

*Speakers from the recent Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum held in Mackay. From left to right: Devon Cuimara, Liz Kennell, Shirley Slann, Charles Passi and Les Stewart.*

provided sterling support for the Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum for many years now for this we have been very grateful. We are conscious that members of both groups have been indicating that with the expansion of their horizons into other fields of activity they are ready to 'transition' and we are liaising with our stakeholders about future governance structures. By the way, thank you to Advisory Group members Professor Heather Douglas and Betty Taylor for their contributions to this edition on pages 3 to 5.

### *Looking forward*

As I write, the Department is negotiating a new Work Plan with us, with an emphasis on applied research, specifically evaluating, auditing and reviewing. The current draft suggests we shall be evaluating integrated response trials and we are commissioned with maintaining our interactive website, resources, webinars and ongoing research dissemination/knowledge translation. The changes to our Service Agreement, and diversification of funding sources, have been catalysts for staffing changes, and you can read more about these developments on pages 7 and 8 of this Re@der.

With respect to research, we acknowledge the contribution made by CQUniversity to our research capacity. This funding will be used to amplify what we can achieve with the state funds and should enable us to mount grant applications in partnership with both the sexual assault and Domestic Violence sectors. Specifically, the next year will have a strong research focus on supporting frontline workers in Domestic and Family Violence. Associate Professor Hillary Haldane, whom some of you have met, was successful with a Fulbright application and she will be a Visiting Scholar with us from January to May 2017 and based in Mackay. Hillary will undertake a keynote presentation or two and a piece of research related to our expertise and within scope of CDFVR goals.

It is exciting to report that CDFVR has been approached by Queensland Police Service to audit their education and training in domestic and family violence. This project commenced in early June and will run until at least May 2017. As always, we are open to approaches from services that may have an interest in investigating aspects of their service delivery.

Meanwhile, we are planning to organise a state-wide research symposium in February 2017.

The aim of this will be to provide an opportunity where researchers may meet to share their interests and to workshop various strategies for filling research gaps, and enhancing research collaborations. It will also be an opportunity to showcase thesis research underway in universities and it would be our aim to encourage participation by higher degree students (e.g through student registration etc.) You can read more about this on page 10.

Of note, too, is that we are reviewing our approach to the Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum in response to evaluation feedback and are exploring how this event can be flexible in terms of its timing and location. This is an attempt to enable more services to access this event through reducing travel costs. We will keep you posted as details for 2017's Forum emerge. Meanwhile you can read more about the 2016 Forum on page 9.

The third event we hope to initiate in 2017 is a Practitioners' Forum whereby domestic violence and sexual assault services across the state have an opportunity to showcase their innovations and their practice experience. We think this is an exciting possibility and as above 'we'll keep you posted' as this event emerges.

Finally, a very heartfelt "thank you" and "best wishes" to the staff who are leaving us. I've very much enjoyed working with Clinton and Nada and hope the next chapters of their lives are rewarding. I welcome new team members and look forward to working with you all as we continue on our journey of preventing and responding to domestic and family violence in our communities.

*Annabel Taylor*

**At the annual Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month Breakfast held in Cairns.**



*Amanda Lee-Ross, CEO of Cairns Regional Domestic Violence Service and Associate Professor Annabel Taylor, Director of CDFVR.*

# What would a feminist judge do?

## Considerations in sexual offence cases.

by *Professor Heather Douglas*

**One of the enduring problems with the legal process identified by feminist legal scholars is the way women's evidence of sexual violence is excluded, marginalised and disbelieved. Myths and stereotypes have developed around 'real rape' and legal rules were developed, initially by judges, which reflected and sustained these myths and stereotypes. Scholars have speculated on whether a feminist judge might be able to make a difference in such cases. Interviews conducted with judicial officers provide an opportunity to further explore the question of whether, and how, a feminist judge might be able to make a difference. Our study drawing on 41 interviews was conducted with Australian judicial officers to consider how, as judges with a feminist worldview, they might approach their role in sexual violence cases.**

The presumption that rape victims are a class of particularly unreliable victims was developed by male judges centuries ago. Research has challenged many of these beliefs demonstrating for example that false reports of sexual offences are rare and that these offences are often perpetrated by people well-known to the victim (Belknap, 2010, p. 95). However despite legislative and procedural advances in rape law reform, which have been led by feminist scholarship and activism, there does not appear to have been any perceptible increase in successful prosecutions for rape and sexual assault (Larcombe, 2011; Hester, 2013, p. 3). In Australia and the United Kingdom few sexual assault charges make it to court and when they do they have the highest rate of acquittal of any crime (Heath, 2010, p. 89; Hester, 2013, p. 3). Victims continue to report that they are often inadequately prepared for and supported during the trial (Konradi, 2007, p. 200). Studies continue to reveal that the legislative reforms have often been very loosely managed or interpreted 'generously' by judges. For example in her study of rape trials in the United Kingdom, Kelly and colleagues (2006, p. 77) found that legislation aimed at reducing sexual history evidence has been 'evaded, circumvented and resisted.' In Australia one study found that despite the abolition of the

corroboration warning, they were still given in 80 per cent of trials (Temkin, 2002, p. 66).

According to some scholars (Temkin, 2010, p. 714; Well, 2004, p. 92) part of the reason for the persistence of these issues, is an enduring problem of attitude among judges, and legal advocates, who continue to be influenced by outmoded assumptions about rape. As Heath points out, if the relevant evidence laws are not enforced and rape myths remain unchallenged, low conviction rates are likely to persist as will traumatic experiences for victims in the court room (2010, p. 93).

Many significant legislative and procedural reforms have been introduced in an effort to counter rape myths and improve the experience of complainants in sexual offence trials. For example reforms to evidence rules in sexual offence trials include changes to corroboration warnings, delayed complaint and sexual history evidence (Heath, 2010, p. 88). The use of screens, the facilitation of evidence-giving via closed circuit television and video-recorded evidence were procedural changes introduced to shield victims from the secondary victimisation that might occur in the cross-examination context and are now available in many trials (Ellison and Munro, 2014). Despite these developments convictions for sexual assaults remain extremely low and the experience of complainants extremely poor (Kelly et al., 2005). Writing over ten years ago Celia Wells (2004, p. 91) recognised that the change in language and the concepts that inform many areas of criminal law can be attributed to the political influence of feminist writers. At the same time she identified that the translation of legislative reform and procedural change into practical effect was 'another thing altogether' and that 'a gendered understanding of criminal law and justice [had] yet to be fully realised' (Wells, 2004, p. 100). On this point Temkin has identified the resilience of judges and lawyers in maintaining their attachment to outmoded stereotypes and their adherence to rape myths (2010). This may be where a feminist approach to judging might make a difference.

Throughout 2012-2013 judges were approached who had publicly identified themselves, or been

identified by their judicial colleagues, as ‘feminist’, for an interview. The participating interviewees came from a range of different courts and places in Australia. The interviews covered questions such as what feminism means to the interviewee; what it means to them to be a feminist judge; what scope they have had for feminist decision-making; how, if at all, feminism has influenced their decision making and to what extent they have drawn upon feminist theory in their decision-making. Although specific questions about sexual offences or gendered violence were not asked, unsurprisingly many discussed the issues they face in such cases and how they have responded to the challenges they raise.

Clearly the adversarial system creates a very stressful environment, particularly for vulnerable witnesses. Some judicial officers identified that they tried to promote a supportive environment in order to get the best evidence from the parties. While there is arguably less scope to facilitate a more relaxed court room than, for example, in a tribunal setting, judges in trial courts suggested there is still scope within more formal court settings to support vulnerable witnesses. For example one judge explained that her feminism was reflected in the way she managed the examination of vulnerable witnesses (although at the same time she recognised that both men and women judicial officers may take this approach). She said: ‘I’m very careful and conscious of the need to manage a court and a trial fairly when it comes to women who are complainants for example...it’s how I’d do it but I’m sure that generally speaking all judges do that’. Others identified analogous strategies as part of their feminist contribution to

their judicial practice: ‘I’m thinking about women as complainants ...I think I try and make people feel comfortable.’ Another pointed to ‘acknowledging victims ... making them feel comfortable and encouraging them to give their evidence in a relaxed fashion. Making the experience less oppressive for them’. Another judge described the difficulties for women who often come to court as victims of crime, she commented: ‘they come to the court with a disadvantage. It’s difficult to correct that, I think. All you can do is be alert to that’.

This study concludes that the judges interviewed reported that they draw on their feminist worldview to challenge assumptions and stereotypes, carefully consider context in order to better understand behaviour and work to ensure that women’s voices can be heard. What also seems clear from many of the judges’ comments is that they are careful to ensure that the current law is rigorously applied both according to its letter and its spirit. It is relevant that this article was concerned primarily with feminist judicial practices around sexual offences law, an area of law that has been the subject of extraordinary levels of legislative reform largely driven by feminist scholarship and activism over the past fifty years (Heath, 2010). It is not surprising then that judges who identify as feminist were keen to give full effect to those reforms.

***This is an abridged version of an article awaiting publication. The interviews were conducted as part of the Australian Feminist Judgments Project: <http://www.law.uq.edu.au/the-australian-feminist-judgments-project>.***

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# Domestic violence deaths: let's work to change the ending

by *Betty Taylor*

**The appalling cost in human lives lost to domestic violence is a national tragedy of crisis proportions.**

Domestic violence results in the deaths of far too many Queenslanders, and these lost lives were the focus of a Domestic Violence Homicide Forum held recently in Brisbane. This important event, hosted by the Queensland Domestic Violence Death Review Action Group (DVEDRAG), was attended by over 100 people from a range of backgrounds including police, front line services, researchers, policy makers and importantly family and friends of those killed.

Since the foundation of DVEDRAG in 2004, 256 people have been killed in Queensland. Of these homicides, the DVEDRAG was able to specifically identify and name 181 people, including 140 women, 21 children and 40 men. The names of the unknown were either withheld by courts or families.

Those who have died and those who continue to grieve were at the forefront of the Forum's discussions. They were acknowledged through a moving tribute, and twenty-three chairs draped in black were a stark reminder of the deaths which had occurred in the past year alone. These symbols reminded all to look beyond statistics to the reality of the end result of domestic violence.

The Hon. Shannon Fentiman, Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence opened the Forum, which was chaired by Zoe Rathus and featured a diverse range of inspiring speakers.

The central theme emerging from the Forum was that many of these domestic and family violence deaths were preventable. The work we do collectively needs to remain focused on safety, risk management and responses which are delivered in a timely, appropriate and ethical manner.



## Red Rose Foundation

Another important activity of DVEDRAG has been holding Red Rose Rallies following confirmation that the death of a woman, child or man is domestic violence-related. These rallies have been held in Brisbane continually since 2008 and are now also held in Cairns, Townsville and Mackay (organised by domestic violence services in these communities) and the Gold Coast (organised by the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence).

To continue the work started by DVEDRAG, the Red Rose Foundation has been established to focus on addressing the issues surrounding domestic violence deaths. These deaths may be homicides, suicides and accidental deaths arising from incidents and/ or histories of domestic violence.

We know from research that the majority of domestic violence related deaths are preventable. We can and must ***change the ending.***

The Red Rose Foundation aims to work towards the elimination of domestic violence related deaths by:

1. Monitoring the outcomes and recommendations of Domestic Violence Death Review Boards across Australia to ensure that systemic responses to domestic violence are as safe as possible.
2. Highlighting domestic violence related deaths through:
  - Red Rose Rallies to honour and remember those killed.
  - Engaging with media around domestic violence-related deaths.
3. Undertaking community activities and other events which generate awareness and provide training on the issues surrounding lethal domestic violence.
4. Providing specific focused training on risk management.
5. Forming collaborative research projects.



**Further Information: Diane Mangan and Betty Taylor: [Redrosefoundation1@gmail.com](mailto:Redrosefoundation1@gmail.com)**

# “Recognising and Responding to Intimate Partner Sexual Violence” a two day training opportunity for professionals.

by *Di Macleod*

## “Recognising and Responding to Intimate Partner Sexual Violence” a two day training opportunity for professionals

Intimate Partner Sexual Violence (IPSV) has become an internationally recognised term for sexual violence occurring in a broad range of intimate relationships including married, unmarried, dating, hetero and same sex relationships (Winters, 2008).

Intimate Partner Sexual Violence is perhaps the least reported, but most dangerous type of abuse within intimate relationships. Intimate partner sexual abuse co-occurring with physical violence is a leading indicator of femicide. A physically-abused woman also experiencing forced sex is over *seven times* more likely than other abused women to be killed (National Judicial Education Program, 2002).

Intimate Partner Sexual Violence exists in the ‘overlap’ of Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence. Unfortunately, to date, this overlap has not resulted in dual service provision; instead it has often produced a gap where both the domestic violence and sexual violence sectors have believed that the other will address the issue.

Various gaps in IPSV service delivery have been identified by International and Australian researchers in speaking to both survivors and service providers. Research has found that a lack of awareness and understanding of IPSV reduces the capacity to effectively respond to victim/survivors. (Bergen, 2003; Heenan, 2004; Parkinson & Cowan 2008; Parkinson & Reid, 2014).

To acknowledge the seriousness of this issue and to address the identified gap in service delivery for victims of crime, Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence (GC-CASV) received a grant from Victim Assist Queensland under the Victims Services Building Capacity Funding Program to develop and deliver training on IPSV.

The **result is an innovative specialised two day training** program “Recognising and Responding to Intimate Partner Sexual Violence”. This program includes sessions on Myths and Realities; Legal Options; How to ask about IPSV; Impacts of IPSV; Facilitating and Responding to Disclosures; Cultural Considerations; Impact of Pornography; Identifying and Managing Risks; Safety Planning; and Worker Self Care.

In June 2016, three facilitators – Di Macleod, Louise McOrmond-Plummer and Betty Taylor delivered the program to 48 community workers in North and South-East Queensland. The goal of the training was to increase workers’ knowledge, skills, confidence and capacity to provide trauma informed safe interventions

to victim/survivors of IPSV.

Through pre-test/post-test questionnaires 100% of participants reported increased knowledge, confidence and capacity to respond to IPSV.

The feedback from both sessions was very positive and included:

*“One of the best training sessions I have ever attended”*

*“I wish I had been able to access training like this at the beginning of my career”*

The “Recognising and Responding to Intimate Partner Sexual Violence” workshop can be adapted to meet the time/content needs of specific workers or organisations. If you would like to discuss the possibility of training in your area please contact Di Macleod director@stopsexualviolence.com



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## Welcome . . .



### **Dr Liane McDermott: Senior Research Officer**

Liane McDermott has a PhD in population health and re-joined CDFVR in June- some Re@der readers will recall Liane's name from her 2009 work with the Centre. Liane has worked for a number of years as a researcher in population health, with a focus on health behaviour change in communities. As well, throughout her research career, Liane has taught health behaviour and health promotion courses at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and co-supervised Masters and PhD students. With a professional background in community development, Liane has a broad range of experience in community engagement and consultation, and in the development and evaluation of services and resources that best meet community and service provider needs. Liane's research role with the Centre will include evaluating the training provided by the Queensland Police Service to its staff in relation to domestic and family violence.

### **Dr Nicola Cheyne: Research Officer**

Nicola Cheyne joined the Centre in mid-May and has quickly become ensconced in research around integrated responses to domestic violence and police education about domestic violence. Nicola was recently advised of the conferral of her Doctor of Philosophy Degree- congratulations Dr Cheyne! Her previous research has included stalking victimisation and reductions in culpability for homicide due to the use of the provocation defence. She is looking forward to working on research projects with the team within the Centre and to expanding her research experience in the area of domestic and family violence.



### **Dr Anne Butcher: Postdoctoral Research Fellow**

We welcome Anne from the Queensland State Government where she has been a leader in the practice areas of youth development, funding and contract management, youth justice, child protection and disability services. Anne's doctoral research thesis was "Enhancing Foster Carers' Training and Professionalism" and she has published articles in Australian journals, presented key note addresses, and presented her own research findings at various Australian conferences. Anne has supervised undergraduate and research students at the Masters and Honours levels; and has been the Mackay-based Adjunct Senior Lecturer with JCU for the past several years. Anne has also held the positions of Director of the North Queensland Branch of the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) and Director of Families Australia.

## Dr Andrew Frost: Senior Lecturer

We extend a warm Queensland welcome to Dr Andrew Frost who joins us from Christchurch. New Zealand Re@der readers may remember that Andrew co-presented a Masterclass in Working with Men for CDFVR last year and this year he returns to teach into the Postgraduate Domestic and Family Violence Practice Program at CQUniversity. Andrew has been involved in the human services field for about 30 years, working and researching in offender rehabilitation since 1993. At Kia Marama, a prison-based program for sexual offenders with the New Zealand Department of Corrections, he was involved in the provision and supervision of group therapy, and the establishment of a forensic therapeutic community. These areas remain central to his research interests. Prior to his CQUniversity appointment Andrew was a senior lecturer in Human Services and Social Work at the University of Canterbury, the Director of Te Awatea Violence Research Centre and program coordinator for the Bachelor of Social work program.



## Farewell . . .

### Clinton Rawsthorne: Multimedia Officer

If you've ever browsed through a Re@der or visited the CDFVR website, you've encountered the work of Clinton Rawsthorne. Clinton has been the Centre's Multimedia Officer since 2002 and has seen many changes at CDFVR over the years. In more recent times, particularly as Heather Nancarrow and Annie Webster moved to new life chapters, Clinton and Lauren have been the "go to" people for new staff as they adjusted to working within the Centre. Clinton has developed countless resources for CDFVR's stakeholders and spent many hours editing footage from research seminars. He has been patient and persevering as versions are bounced back and forth between staff and stakeholder advisors in an effort to ensure all Centre products are of the highest standard. With CDFVR's new Service Agreement, the Multimedia Officer position will be based in Mackay taking on a new focus in providing project support, particularly as it relates to the delivery of research and professional development events.

### A note from Dr Nada Ibrahim: Senior Research Officer

*I have been with CDFVR for 18 months now and it has been great working with an all-women research team. I've learnt a massive amount about how the domestic violence sector works and the staff at CDFVR have been like a family. This was especially so during my research visits to Mackay. I have thoroughly enjoyed the moments of pressure, calm and everything in between while working through the deliverables for our main research project. The experience has illustrated that anything is achievable and together we work well as a team, despite the geography between us.*

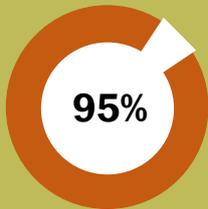
*I would like to thank all the staff at CDFVR and especially Annabel Taylor; Heather Lovatt, Shellee Wakefield, Colleen Gunning, Silke Meyer; Lauren Pattie, Petrina Frankham, Jan Willis, Mellisa Taggart and Katrina Finn for all your support. Welcome to all the new staff at the Centre – I am sure you will enjoy the experience. It has been an absolute pleasure working with you all and I take lovely CDFVR memories with me. I would also like to thank ANROWS and the Advisory Group for our research project- your time, feedback and support was invaluable.*

*My next journey is a move to Adelaide to take up a Senior Research Fellow position at the University of South Australia and my new email address is [Nada.Ibrahim@unisa.edu.au](mailto:Nada.Ibrahim@unisa.edu.au).*

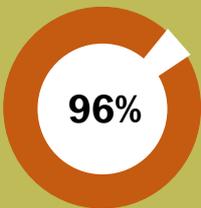
*I wish you all success in your endeavours and am sure our paths will cross again.*



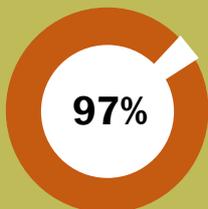
# Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum 2016 at a glance...



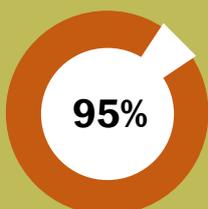
of respondents were from Queensland.



of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they “learnt new things” at the Forum.



of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they could use what they learnt at the Forum in their own work.



of respondents indicated that they would attend next year’s Forum.



Above: Speakers from this years Forum.

Last month Mackay hosted the 12th Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum *Family matters: community business*.

Presentations and Yarning Circles engaged participants and

Wendy Watego and Vicki Scott (Stars Institute of Leadership and Learning) delivered the Keynote Presentation. Their ‘Out of the Box’ thinking session was a provocative and empowering way to start a great event! You can read more about the Forum here.



Above: Wendy Watego & Vicki Scott



Above: The team from Helem Yumba CQ Healing Centre, Rockhampton.

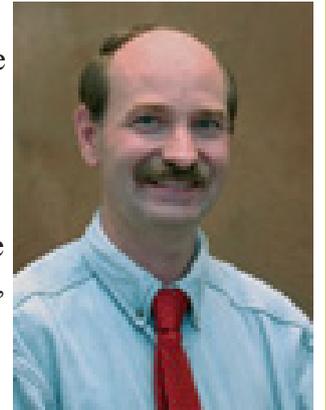
# Upcoming Events

The Red Rose Foundation is arranging the visit to Queensland of two representatives from the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention (the Institute), San Diego with the support of the CDFVR. The Institute was developed in response to the increasing demand for Intimate Partner Violence Strangulation Crimes training and technical assistance from communities across the world. It provides training, web-based education programs, a directory of national trainers and experts, and a clearinghouse of all research related to domestic violence and sexual assault strangulation crimes. To learn more about the Institute, visit their [website](#).

**Gael Strack, Esq.**, is the CEO of Alliance for HOPE International and oversees the Alliance's Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention. She is a former prosecutor and the founding Director of the San Diego Family Justice Center. She spearheaded much of the initial work and research on strangulation crimes from a prosecutor's perspective.



**Dr William Smock, MD**, is a member of the National Strangulation Training Institute Advisory Team. He is A Police Surgeon, Louisville Metro Police Department, Louisville, Kentucky.



## **Strangulation Training Brisbane, 20th and 21st February, Venue and Cost to be advised.**

Strangulation has been identified as one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence and sexual assault: unconsciousness may occur within seconds and death within minutes. Strangulation is an ultimate form of power and control where the perpetrator can demonstrate control over the victim's next breath: it may have devastating psychological effects or a potentially fatal outcome. Are you a frontline worker or policy maker with an interest in strangulation in the context of domestic violence and sexual assault? If so, this is training you should not miss! Click [here](#) to register interest.

## **Gendered Violence Research Symposium Mackay, 23rd and 24th February, Venue and Cost to be advised.**

Queensland's policy and practice landscape has changed dramatically in recent months, as is reflected in the *Queensland Women's Strategy*, the *Not Now, Not Ever- Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2016-2026* and the developing *Queensland Violence Against Women Prevention Plan*. It is time to bring together the State's researchers to create a community of scholars who are "building (the) evidence base" to prevent and respond to domestic and family violence and sexual assault. The Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence, CQUniversity is partnering with other Queensland universities to convene a Research Symposium featuring keynote speakers, including representatives from the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention; group discussions/ presentations; small group interactions, and one-on-one time with research mentors.

The Symposium is designed for researchers at all levels who are working in the field of gendered violence. Practitioners and policy makers from the range of sectors associated with gendered violence are invited to share in this experience.

Click [here](#) to register interest as a participant or presenter.

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# CDFVR

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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.

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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.

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