

Overview of the 12- Month Evaluation:

Domestic & Family Violence Specialist Court Trial

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Acknowledgements

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- **All staff and stakeholders who participated in interviews and focus groups**
- **All victims and perpetrators who participated in the survey**
- **Domestic and Family Violence Court Reform Team**

- **Purpose of the 12-month evaluation**
- **Defining domestic and family violence specialist courts**
- **Structure of the evaluation**
- **Preliminary findings**

The background of the slide is a dark, grayscale photograph of a stone building facade. The words "SOUTHERN CROSS" and "COURTHOUSE" are visible in large, raised letters on the stone. The image is slightly blurred and has a high-contrast, moody appearance.

Purpose of 12-month evaluation

Court process

Management

Coordination

Information & access

Victim knowledge & assistance

Victim experience

Perpetrator knowledge & assistance

Orders & outcomes

Appropriate orders

Accountability

Minimal inconsistency
(family law orders & DVOs)

state-wide implications

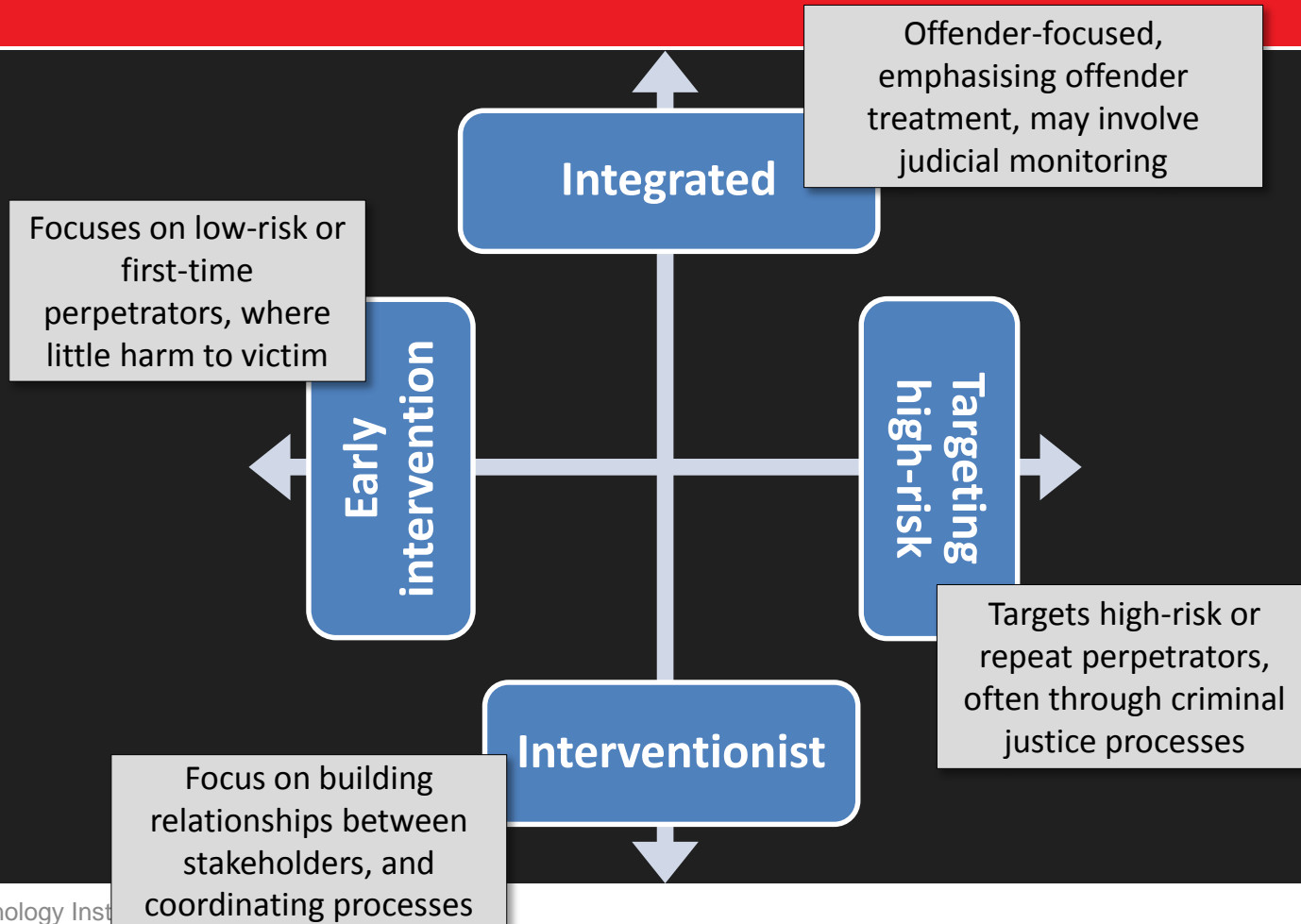
cost effectiveness



Defining domestic and family violence courts

processes domestic violence cases “on a separate calendar or assign[s] domestic violence cases” to a single or group of dedicated judicial officers

engages associated specialists such as dedicated prosecutors and victim advocates



Differences	Similarities
Definition of domestic violence (intimate partner vs family violence)	Some specialisation of staff
Focus (victim vs offender)	Informed, consistent judicial decision-making
Eligibility criteria for inclusion in the court list	Information sharing and coordination of responses
Scope of law (civil/family, criminal, both)	Some type of associated support (victim, offender, or both)
Degree of specialisation of key personnel	Concern with timeliness of processing
Type of judicial role (judicial monitoring vs 'umpire')	
Type of court process (first appearances or applications only, sentencing and so on)	

		Designated court list	Jurisdiction	Designated magistrate	Designated prosecutors	Safe room	Increased victim support & advocacy	Compliance monitoring of orders	Perpetrator programs
ACT	Family Violence Intervention Program	Yes	Criminal	Yes	Yes	Not specified	Yes	No	Yes
NSW	Domestic Violence Intervention Court Model (pilot) (replaced by state strategy)	No	Criminal	Not specified	Not specified	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
SA	Family Violence Court	Yes	Combined	Yes	No	Not specified	Yes	Progress reports (pre-sentence)	Yes
Vic	Family Violence Court Division	Yes	Combined	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Not specified	Yes
WA	Family Violence Courts	Yes	Criminal	Yes	Yes	Not specified	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Family Violence list (pilot)	Yes	Criminal	Yes	No	Not specified	Yes (increased contact & follow-up)	In transition	Yes
Qld	Domestic & Family Violence Specialist Court Trial	Yes	Combined	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

A dark, high-contrast photograph of a stone building facade. The words "SOUTHERN CROSS" and "COURTHOUSE" are visible in large, raised letters on the stone. The image is partially obscured by a red geometric pattern on the right side.

Evaluation design

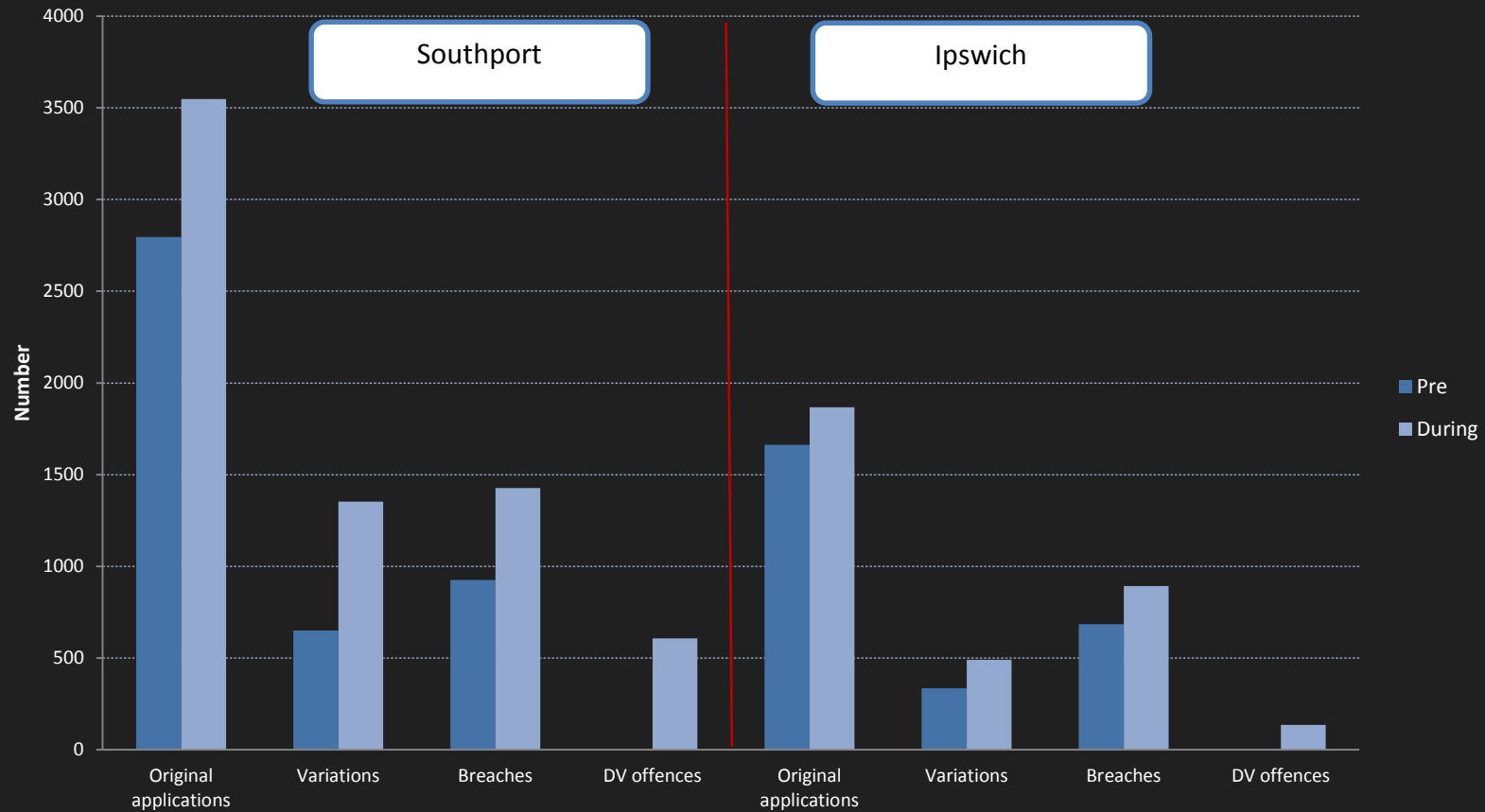
Trial/ comparison group design

Element	Southport (trial site)	Ipswich (comparison site)
Listing	all	applications
Magistrate	specialist	rotating
Courtroom		
Registry	specialist	not separate
Support		
Legal representation	full	advice only (at the time)
Police prosecution	specialist	standard
Information desk	on same floor	none
Stakeholder meetings	weekly	quarterly

	Southport	Ipswich
Number of original civil applications	3,548	1,867
% applications with one party Aboriginal/ Torres Strait Islander	5.5%	12.7%
Number of domestic violence breaches	1,487	892
% matters with offender Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander	4.5%	15.9%
% domestic violence work of total work at Magistrates Court	26.5%	17.5%
Number of specialist magistrates	2	0
Total number of magistrates	11	4
Estimated population (2015)	555,6084	193,015
Estimated population density (2015)	4.17	1.77
% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders peoples (2011)	1%	4%
% female (2011)	51%	50%
% non-English speaking background (2011)	10%	8%
Disadvantage index	1014	966

Key data sources

	Pre	During	At 12 months
Southport (trial)	Administrative data Case file data Financial data	Administrative data Case file data Financial data	Administrative data Case file data Survey data Focus groups & interview data Financial data
Ipswich (comparison)	Administrative data Case file data Financial data	Administrative data Case file data Financial data	Administrative data Case file data Survey data Focus group & interview data Financial data
External stakeholders			Interview data



Key lessons learnt

- **Crucial role of leadership, collaboration and partnerships**
- **Importance of sustained support for victims and perpetrators**
- **Specialisation as a way of managing the complexity of domestic and family violence matters in the courts**

Questions?

Feedback most welcome

