

Integrated Domestic and Family Violence Responses – What works?

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Presentation Overview

- Relevant background of Integrated DFV Responses
- Current Queensland Context
- Key learnings from the literature regarding Integrated Responses (IR)
- Early reflections from current Queensland DFV IR trials

Relevant Background

- The Duluth Model, emanating from the influence of the feminist movement, was established in Minnesota, US, 1970's.
- Established as the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (DAIP)
- Has become an underpinning model for intervention programs across the world (Pence & Shepard, 1999) to varying degrees.

Key features:

- Takes blame off victim
- Places accountability for abuse onto the offender/perpetrator
- Shares policies and procedures for holding offenders accountable
- Keeps victim safe across all agencies in criminal and civil justice systems.
- Prioritises the voices of women/victims in creation of policies and procedures



Key features (continued):

- Believes DFV is used to control or dominate an intimate partner
- Works to change society which supports men's use of power and control over women
- Offers court ordered change programs for perpetrators
- Improves overall community service system to close gaps and improve responses to DFV

Current Queensland Context

- Is set within the broader *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010 - 2022*
- Queensland Government initiated – Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence Inquiry established 2014
- *“Not Now, Not Ever” Report* handed down to Queensland Premier in 2015
- 140 Recommendations made and committed to by the Queensland Government of far reaching reforms to address DFV
- Recommendations 71 – 89 provide the framework for building an integrated DFV service response in Queensland



What the literature indicates forms an IR

- Well planned and funded
- Organised and well coordinated
- Synchronised
- Timely and seamless responses (based on clear, formal coordination protocols)
- Across a range of gov't and non-gov't agencies within a community
- Coordinates support to victims and their children
- Coordinates engagement with perpetrators both through the justice system and programs which facilitate men's behaviour change



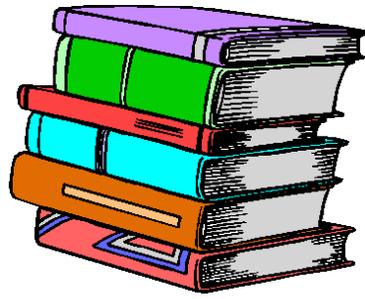
(DAIP, 2016; Allen, 2005; Hague & Bridge, 2008; Brekenridge, Rees, Valentine, Murray, 2016; Polaschek, 2016)

How do they differ from other ways of working together?

- Nancarrow & Viljoen (2011) developed “The Cooperation Continuum”

Autonomy	Co-operation	Co-ordination	Collaboration	Integration
<p>Agencies act without reference to each other, although the actions of one may affect the other(s).</p>	<p>Agencies establish ongoing ties and provide limited support to an activity undertaken by the other agency.</p> <p>Communication and sharing information is emphasised. It requires a willingness to work together for common goals, goodwill and some mutual understanding.</p>	<p>Separate partners plan the alignment of their activities.</p> <p>Duplication of activities and resources is minimised. It requires agreed plans and protocols or the appointment of a coordinator or manager.</p>	<p>Partners put their resources into a pool for a common purpose, but remain separate.</p> <p>Responsibility for using the pooled resources is shared by each of them. It requires common goals and philosophy and agreed plans and governance administrative arrangements.</p>	<p>Links between separate agencies draw them into a single system.</p> <p>Boundaries between the agencies dissolve as they merge some or all of their activities, processes or assets.</p>
	<p>Examples include learning and information sharing networks and open access to each others' facilities and services.</p>	<p>Examples include the appointment of a hub coordinator to provide strong links between existing child care services, or developing joint funding proposals for new co-ordinated programs.</p>	<p>Examples include the establishment of shared service centres or developing joint management structures.</p>	<p>Examples include preventative or community-based place management programs. It can also involve the merger of similar agencies to form a single larger organisation.</p>

Key Points from Literature



- There is a degree of inconclusiveness about the effectiveness of integrated DFV responses within literature (Bennet et al., 2004; Browne et al., 2007; Roussos & Fawcett, 2000; Breckenridge, Rees, Valentine, Murray, 2016) which reinforces the need to evaluate these programs.
- “.... ‘co-ordinated community responses’ are now widely recognised as the best way forward, bringing together all relevant organisations to build proactive, preventative projects with key involvement of women’ domestic violence services”. (Hague & Bridge, 2008:185).

International Literature

Allen (2005) studied 43 DFV Coordinated Responses in the US and found these points to be facilitators of effective Integrated Responses:

Internal Effectiveness:

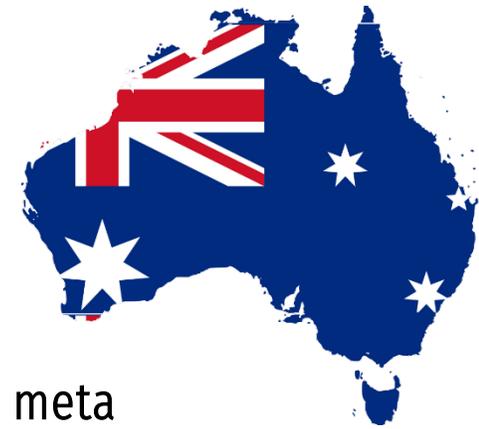
- Having broad membership of key agencies/groups/individuals - i.e. an inclusive climate
- All members being active, engaged, and committed to achieving the goals of addressing DFV in their community
- Overtly and explicitly identifying power imbalances between agencies/individuals and having policies/procedures in place to respond to and resolve conflict
- Shared power in decision making is important and necessary
- Effective Leadership that is organised, efficient and skilled at encouraging input of all stakeholders.

External Effectiveness:

- The extent to which this group effects the desired social change.



Australian Literature



- Identified there is a lack of empirical evaluative research on Integrated responses to clearly provide evidence of effectiveness.
- The Australian National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) undertook a meta analysis of 48 Australian Integrated DFV and Sexual Assault Responses
- Reviewed 33 programs spread across most Australian Jurisdictions
- Promising signs of improved service delivery which is valued by practitioners and clients
- Integration clearly had different meanings across sectors and agencies which can be problematic
- Broad Support that integration is necessary to prevent harms caused by service fragmentation
- Evidence that a rapid, respectful response from police which also facilitates access to support services is highly valued.
- Identified the need for specialist services and housing to meet client needs
- Caution that unanticipated outcomes may result from improved collaboration and identification of service needs

(Breckenridge, Rees, Valentine, Murray, 2016)

Early Indicators of Effectiveness



- Co-location of services
- Mindful of differential philosophical positions across agencies/individuals
- Policies, practices and resources continually monitored and refined to be responsive and maintain victim safety
- Dedicated IR positions
- Information sharing platforms and processes
- Ongoing Risk assessment and management frameworks which maintain victim's safety as central to responses

(Breckenridge, Rees, valentine & Murray, 2016; Finn & Compton-Keen, 2014)

Responding to Perpetrators

A recent excellent review of integrated perpetrator responses in New Zealand found:-

Integrated responses to perpetrators of DFV in NZ included:

- Coordination between crisis response and immediate containment
- Criminal and civil court proceedings,
- Sentence or order compliance
- Risk monitoring and behaviour change components
- Provides services based on risk and need

Necessary components include

- “Best practice” risk assessment and reassessment processes applied consistently with findings well documented
- Providing more dangerous perpetrators more oversight and assistance than less dangerous cases
- Prompt detection of increases in risk status, with corresponding change in response
- Providing case managers for those with high and complex needs, who can coordinate and monitor planned responses



Indigenous Perspectives

- Indigenous research – less punitive responses towards perpetrators and more inclusive family oriented collective response (Davis & Taylor, 2002; Keel, 2004; Nancarrow & Viljoen, 2011)
- Violence broader than non-Indigenous perspectives to include other family members and therefore requires a more holistic response (Anderson, 2002; Cheers et al., 2006; Cripps, 2007).
- Indigenous women often:
 - Do not want to leave family and home
 - Do not want to be isolated from family and friends
 - Do not want to bring shame or disruption to the community
 - Fear losing custody of children
 - Do not want to risk exposure to child protection services, and
 - Want to follow processes which involve sympathy for the perpetrator

(Olsen and Lovett, 2016)



Early reflections from current Queensland Trials:



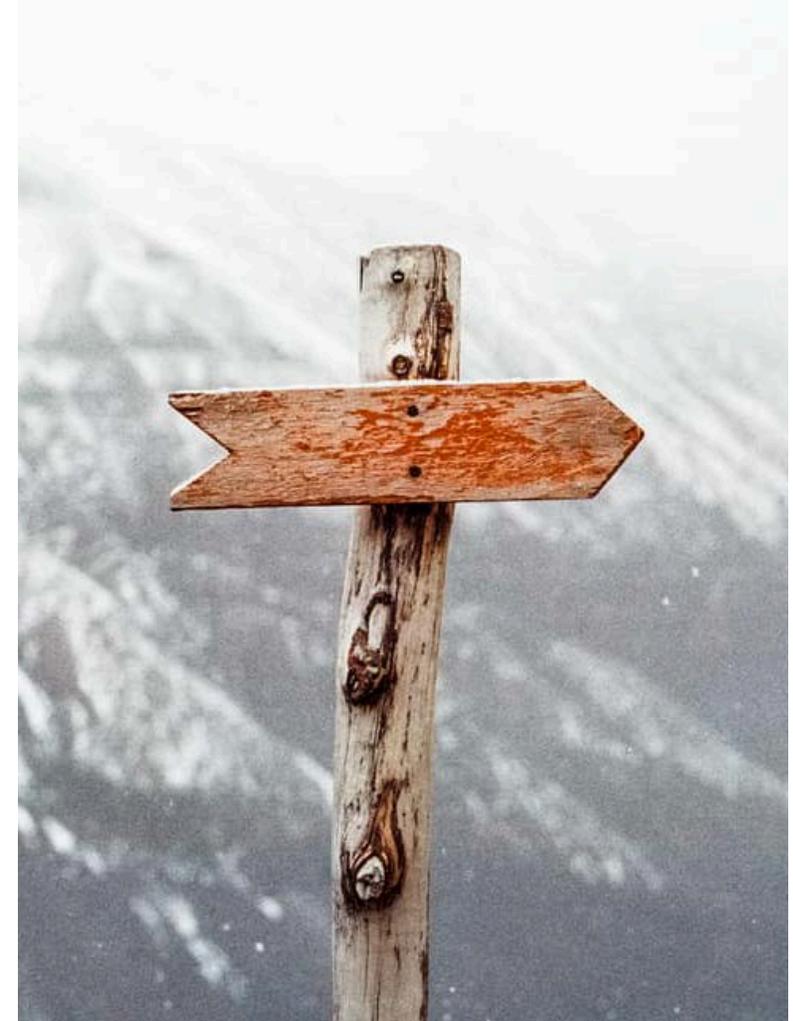
- Instituting an evaluative framework from the outset of any program is generally considered ‘best practice’ – current DFV IR trials subject to both developmental and outcome evaluations.
- Leadership of Integration Managers in each trial site is pivotal to their establishment
- There are dedicated funded resources which have been made available for key stakeholders participating in the DFV trials
- Lead non-government agencies, where identified, are beginning to be established
- We have noted the importance of maintaining key personnel stability and continuity
- We have also identified the commitment to working through complex issues that are inherent in such a new way of working together

Early reflections from current Queensland Trials

- There is a recognition of the importance of establishing timely and accessible responses to women, children and men.
- There is a focus for each Trial of establishing the HRT and broader IRT as soon as possible, where they are not yet in place, to make a difference for the most high risk families
- We have noted the need to take into account the unique, cultural, geographical, socio-economic demographics of each location's trial
- We have also noted the levels of co-design for each location in terms of taking all of these place based factors into account.

The Way Forward

- It is clear that there will be significant importance placed on relationships if the desired outcomes are to be achieved for each of the DFV IR Trials.
- How the differing philosophical intersections are negotiated e.g. between child protection and DFV Services and Police, will be a key factor in the success of these trials.
- The culture of governmentality that prevails, how this intersects with service providers and what it means for service users of Integrated Responses will be key in shaping the way forward in addressing DFV in our communities.



Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research

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