

12th Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum

EVALUATION REPORT



Wednesday May 4th - Thursday May 5th 2016

Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre

Introductions and Welcome to Country

Dr Annabel Taylor welcomed attendees to the forum in the language of her home country (NZ Maori), which translated to “very great greetings to you all”. She expressed her excitement about being at her second Forum and the upcoming proceedings. Annabel then went on to introduce Aunty Pat Corrie, the chairperson of the Aboriginal Corporation in Mackay and representative of the traditional owners to provide delegates with a ‘Welcome to Country’.

Aunty Pat acknowledged the traditional owners, the Yuwi Yuibera People both past and present and wished to encourage the youth to ‘grow... to be leaders of tomorrow’. Aunty then asked that attendees be upstanding for one minute silence to honour the recent passing of a respected Mackay community elder. At the conclusion of the minute’s silence, Aunty Pat welcomed those who had travelled far and wide and those who returning to the Forum

Annabel returned to the stage with thanks, officially introducing herself and explaining that the Forum is about frontline staff discussing difficulties in the work that they are doing, sharing experiences, connecting and supporting one another. Taking this concept into consideration Annabel then asked the delegates to spend two minutes getting to know someone that they did not know. She then moved on to introduce the team from CDFVR, briefly touching on the new service agreement and the opportunities to review and consider new ways of delivering services and activities to support and improve knowledge ad practices in DFV to the Indigenous community. Annabel quoted a Maori proverb and suggested that it may help capture the values that delegates may wish to take into their work while dealing with the struggles of family violence.

‘Ha aha te huarahi – I runga, I te tika, te pono, me te Aroha’, which means What is the pathway? – It is doing what is right, with integrity and honour, and most importantly of all with compassion.

General ‘housekeeping’ information such as fire exits, evacuation points, bathroom facilities, and dinner attendance was advised. Apologies were tabled on behalf of distinguished guests, the Hon. Shannon Fentiman, The Hon Julieanne Gilbert, the Mayor of Mackay Councillor Greg Williamson and the Pro Vice Chancellor (COU Mackay) Professor Pierre Viljoen, formal introductions of the Reference Group (Shirley Slann and Charles Passi) were then made, with Mr Charles Passi introducing the Forum’s Keynote Speakers Wendy Watego and Vicki Scott from the Stars Institute of Leadership and Learning for their presentation, Out of the Box Thinking.

Introduction of Wendy Watego and Vicki Scott

Wendy’s Mother’s Mob are Goenpil, Nughie, Noonuccal people from Minjerribah – North Stradbroke Island – which is part of the Quandamooka Nation in Moreton Bay, off the coast of South East Queensland. Her Dad’s family are Aboriginal and proud South Sea Islanders from New Caledonia.

After graduating as a teacher in 1989, Wendy began her professional life as a pre-school educator in Sarina, Northern Queensland. As her career developed, she took up a variety of educational leadership positions throughout Queensland, the Northern Territory and Malaysia. This included being the first Aboriginal person to chair the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Standing Committee of the Queensland Teachers Union. She says that this position, along with being the first Black woman to be acting principal of Bwgcorman Community School on Palm Island for six months, has been a big influence driving her dedication to the empowerment and transformation of First Nations communities.

After giving birth to her first son Lawson, Wendy left the education system to establish a coaching practice specialising in healing from inter-generational loss, grief and trauma and transformational leadership. She holds a number of qualifications which include Hypnosis, Neuro Linguistic Programming, Reiki, Life Coaching and PSYCH-K.

After a fortuitous meeting with Vicki Scott at an Indigenous Women’s Leadership Conference they realised their common vision of empowering individuals – especially Aborigines and Torres Strait

Islanders – and together in 2008 formed STARS Institute of Learning and Leadership. As national program director for STARS Institute, Wendy designs and delivers the STARS programs and they are mind blowing. The programs are dynamic and you literally shift your thinking and your life out of the box of limitations and into the world of what is possible.

Vicki was born and grew up in Barcaldine Queensland, home of the Iningai People. She now lives on the Sunshine Coast, home of the Gubbi Gubbi people, with Richard, her husband of 40 years.

Vicki is co-author of “Out of the Box Thinking on Indigenous Leadership: simple strategies to create an empowering future” and co-founder and executive director of the STARS Institute of Learning and Leadership, an educational organisation designed to empower people in **Shaping Transforming And being Responsible for Self**.

In this role she coordinates coaching programs and delivers elements focused on the principles of project management and mentoring. It's a role for which she seemed destined after a long career orchestrating major national events.

Vicki's early career included being personal assistant to the Governor-General at the age of 18. Subsequently she became Executive Officer to Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE when she was Chairperson of ATSIC; Project Manager for Corroboree 2000, which included all National and State Leaders, as well as Indigenous Leaders, followed by a Walk for Reconciliation over Sydney Harbour Bridge by 250,000 people; Director of CHOGM Coordination for Queensland Government. Based on the experiences organising CHOGM, Vicki went on to develop a Best Practice Framework for Major Events for Queensland Government, which is still the model for all state emergencies as well as a marketing tool to attract major events.

About a decade ago Vicki was diagnosed with an auto-immune disease around the same time her daughter Beck developed a tumour at age 24. It was during this time that she seriously considered what she wanted to experience in life. This called her forward into conscious choice and powerful action.

Now, as the Executive Director of the STARS Institute, mother of two and grandmother, Vicki is inspired to see the light come on in people's eyes when they "get" they can move their roles in life from passenger to driver.

She is a living example of what STARS delivers to communities, and has a gift in connecting with the hearts of others. She specialises in helping people identify their unique gifts and talents, enabling them to consciously choose to live a life they love.

Vicki has an ability to see the 'big picture' and has a deep appreciation for each individual piece and the role it plays in bringing that picture to fruition.

Out of the Box Thinking

The 'Out of the Box Thinking' presentation was formulated to challenge the way that attendees experience their 'own' personal power and invite them to consider how much of their lives have been constructed by fear and violence, colonisation and the continued legacy of trauma that it brings with it.

In the words of our first Aboriginal Minister in Queensland Government, The Hon LEEANNE ENOCH, 'We want you to test your assumptions about life itself, in this case today'. The keynote speakers conducted this presentation using an interactive approach. Please refer to the presentation slides [here](#).

DFV Practice

After morning tea Shirley Slann introduced three 20 minute presentations from the field, followed by question and answer time. Following are the three topics shared on day 1.

Devon Cuimara – Aboriginal Male's Healing Centre Strong Spirit Families Strong Culture Inc.

A survivor of domestic violence, Devon has lived through the stolen generation and survived child abuse. He has been on a journey of healing over the last 20 years and part of that journey has been working with perpetrators of domestic and family violence. Devon shared his experience of establishing the Aboriginal Male's Healing Centre, Strong Spirit Families Strong Culture Inc in order to help

Aboriginal male perpetrators of domestic violence become accountable for their actions. The Dentre uses the Duluth Model and endeavours to support women and children (and decrease the rates of homelessness) through identification and early intervention of violence. For further information about Devon's presentation please click [here](#). Devon was also kind enough to provide Madolyn Peters from the Daily Mercury with an interview, for further information please view the following [link](#).

Shirley thanked Devon for sharing his practices with attendees and welcomed Liz Kennell and Les Stewart from Cherbourg to talk about the resources that they are developing.

Liz Kennell & Les Stewart - Cherbourg Domestic Violence Resources

Liz has a Diploma in Counselling and currently works as a Domestic and Family Violence Victims Counsellor with Cherbourg. Born and raised in Cherbourg, Les is a Senior Domestic Violence Worker who works predominantly with men. They talked about their new resource a Safety App that is aimed at children between 6 – 18 years of age that are affected by family violence. For more information about this presentation please click [here](#).

Shirley thanked Liz and Les for sharing Cherbourg's new resource, the Safety App and congratulated the team on the song being used to market the app, which was written and sung by the children in the community. Shirley then welcomed Charles Passi to the stage to discuss the Village Concept.

Charles Passi – Village Concept

Charles has been working with the Murri Sisters delivering the 'Village Concept' in south east Queensland. He invited Kym Harrison, manager from the Murri Sisters to talk about her experiences with the program. Kym shared stories about how they use the concept to empower women and to help them connect with their community, their village. Charles thanked Kym for her time and went on to discuss the concept. The three predominant aspects of the model are, response versus prevention, rebuilding the home and empowering cultural family responsibility. The presentation slide show can be viewed [here](#).

Yarning Circle

Upon registration attendees were asked to nominate their chosen yarning circle session. Each session was repeated on the second day. The first yarning circles were conducted after lunch and following is a brief overview.

1. *Shaping Family Violence Training for the Future*

Hosted by David Ellis, Emily Maloney and Clarisse Slater – SNAICC

SNAICC is developing a set of new training responses to working across the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family violence sector including units on working holistically with community, working with children, working with women, and working with men. The approach will also look at developing a Community of Practice Support approach for workers in the sector. This Yarning Circle will explore ideas on working with these target groups and how DVF workers can be supported and share their skills, experience and ideas. For further information please refer to the presentation [slide show](#).

2. *Indigenous Spirituality as A Theoretical Approach: Working With Survivors and Offenders of Domestic and Family Violence in Community*

Hosted by Marilyn Kepple & Joseph Oui – Royal Flying Doctor Service

In this Yarning Circle Marilyn Kepple and Joseph Oui explored and discussed approaches they have been using in their work with the Royal Flying Doctor Service. For further information please refer to the presentation [notes](#).

3. *The Ripple in the Pond*

Hosted by Wendy Watego & Vicki Scott – Stars Institute of Learning and Leadership

Wendy and Vicki explored using people's individual, unique strengths, gifts and talents to build capacity to live longer and lead stronger. This session is an extension of Wendy & Vicki's presentation 'Out of the Box Thinking' where they talked about the ongoing impacts of colonisation and transgenerational loss, grief and trauma... like ripples in the pond. These issues are still showing up today and are evident in the rise of domestic violence.

4. *Community Healing*

Hosted by Kath Lowah – Queensland Police Service

The Community Healing Project is helping to overcome the broad emotional impacts of the deaths of eight children at Manoora in late 2014. Kath Lowah shared her experiences about how a community rebuilds after tragedy. The yarning circle allowed attendees to openly interact in a safe environment.

Hard Yarns

Charles welcomed attendees back after a short afternoon tea break. He explained that the next session 'Hard Yarns' is an opportunity for people to talk, to support one another and to share. Charles asked that people keep the discussion to topics that wouldn't normally be discussed, not workplace issues and to be respectful to one another.

Yarning Circle

Day 2 of the forum commenced with the second round of yarning circles. There were four options and as previously advised David Ellis, Emily Maloney and Clarisse Slater from SNAICC hosted the Shaping Family Violence Training for the future. Marilyn Kepple and Joseph Oui from the Royal Flying Doctors hosted the Indigenous Spirituality as A Theoretical Approach: Working with Survivors and Offenders of Domestic and Family Violence in Community. The third option was the Ripple in the Pond, hosted by Wendy Watego and Vicki Scott and the final option hosted by Kath Lowah from the Queensland Police Service was Community Healing.

DFV Practice

After morning tea Shirley Slann welcomed attendees back to the forum and acknowledged the Yuibera People as traditional owners of this land both past and present, and the elders. Shirley outlined the structure for the DFV Practice session and introduced the first of three speakers, being Phillip Sario and Brett Mooney from the Old Aids Council.

Phillip Sario & Brett Mooney- Creating inclusive services

Brett provided the audience with a brief outline of the session, which included sexuality, inclusive services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBT clients and tools to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBT clients. Phillip then introduced himself and together they presented their session, which they have named 2 Spirits. The presenters discussed sexual identity versus cultural identity and how young people's sexual transition is not only fraught with drugs, alcohol, and suicide and self-harming but the threat of family violence and sexual abuse is also evident. They talked about how being an Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander LGBT person is not only a minority within their cultural community but within the LGBT community as well which is why it is important to be aware and collaborate with service providers that can help. For further information about their presentation please refer to the following [link](#).

Shirley thanked Phillip and Brett for sharing their practices and asked the audience to give a warm welcome Bernadette Anderson from Helem Yumba to the stage.

Bernadette Anderson- Understanding why Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women Stay and Supporting Their Choices

Helem Yumba CQ Healing Centre deliver therapeutic healing services and facilitates healing activities with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Central Queensland, and are based in Rockhampton. Their purpose is to support their communities to recover through therapy, reconnect through spiritual and cultural healing and to reinstate culture and roles within the family unit through acts of advocacy. Bernadette and Caroline explained that often most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander woman stay, in most cases because the men are in jail. Either way, each case is different and needs to be assessed according to the individual experience. They talked about the need for rapport building, connectedness and rapport building when dealing with victims. Refer to their presentation slide for more [information](#).

Shirley thanked Bernadette for her presentation and introduced Thelma Schwartz and Wynetta Dewis from QIFVLS.

Thelma Schwartz and Wynetta Dewis- Law in Practice

QIFVLS is a not for profit legal service that has been operating since 2010 and was formed specifically under the Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Program which recognised a gap in access to

legal services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims of family and domestic violence and sexual assault. They provide a culturally appropriate service to clients that supports and guides them through the legal system. The service includes anything from advice to case work representation throughout court proceedings. QIFVLS is primarily an outreach service that goes out into the communities to meet with clients. Speakers shared recent changes with the audience that included an increase in maximum penalties for breaches of protection orders, victims of domestic violence being considered as a 'special witness', and the term "domestic violence" being defined in the *Criminal Code*. For further information regarding recent changes and changes to be introduced in 2016 please refer to the presentation slide [show](#).

Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services

After lunch Charles Passi introduced Barbara Shaw & Sue Coxon from the Department of Communities who provided attendees with a presentation about Queensland's Domestic and Family Violence Reforms. At the conclusion of their presentation they opened the forum to attendees for discussion.

WEDNESDAY 4th MAY 2016: STATISTICS & ATTENDEE FEEDBACK

Are you from Queensland?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	81	96.4
No	3	3.6
Total	84	100.0

Are you Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	53	63.1
No	31	36.9
Total	84	100.0

Do you or your workplace offer services predominantly to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	57	67.9
No	27	32.1
Total	84	100.0

I learnt new things at the forum.

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	39	46.4
Agree	42	50.0
Don't agree at all	3	3.6
Total	84	100.0

I can use what I learnt today in my own work (paid or voluntary).

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	33	39.3
Agree	48	57.1
Don't agree at all	3	3.6
Total	84	100.0

The best thing/s about today's Forum sessions was/were:

Yarning Circles

- Yarning circle. Guest speakers
- I enjoyed listening & learning the entire day. I really enjoyed the yarning circle – Community Healing

- Yarning Circle & Hard Yarns
- Yarning circle on how to deal with community tragedies & cultural aspects of every different culture
- Sharing, Spirit, Passion, Community hurts, everyone hurts
- Group sessions that gave opportunities to discuss and listen to a range of strategies and ways of working
- Keynote speakers & Yarning Circle (Indigenous Spirituality)
- Yarning circle with Kath Lowah, so emotional hearing Kath & family member speak. Charles Passi so committed to changing communities thinking
- Community Healing workshop was very moving, open & honest

DFV Practice

- Hearing from other service providers
- Guest speakers. Different organisations and the great work they're doing out there
- Hearing other peoples practice knowledge
- Wendy and the two men talking second session from a male point of view
- Listening to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people about their work within the community. Wendy and Vicki's workshop was very encouraging & thought provoking.
- The morning speakers said some things that are very informative
- Wendy and the two men talking second session from a male point of view
- Hearing from the speakers about the different programs in their communities
- The morning presentations were excellent
- The morning speakers said some things that are very informative
- Hearing about the range of community services already in place to tackle this issue
- Listening to the stories & the information given by the different service providers
- Work being undertaken in different communities to strengthen culture, families and community
- Devin Cuimara's program was fantastic, we need to roll out the program all over Australia
- The app presented by Cherbourg mob and Devon Cuimara
- Hearing from other participants of their work in DV
- Meeting new people and listening to their testaments and their field of profession
- The feeling of FEAR and the impact on human beings, Males Healing Circle Safety for me Village model, every speaker imparted words of wisdom which touched and uplifted me spiritually
- Meeting people/networking. Service providers, what other people are doing in their community

Hard Yarns

- Yarning Circle & Hard Yarns
- Hearing the stories from people and the history of indigenous peoples
- Discussion and yarning about an existing, effective model of practice
- Open conversations
- Great. Hard Yarns were difficult
- Overall, good. Thank you for organising today. Hard yarns – good session that gets us thinking about when we should or must be headed
- Hard Yarns

Keynote speakers

- Wendy Watego – Key Note Speaker
- Wendy and Vicki – Thinking outside the box

- Out of the box thinking – Stars Institute
- Keynote Speakers – Wendy Watego & Vicki Scott
- Wendy Watego & Vicki Scott
- Keynote speakers
- Contextualising Australian colonialism with American slave trade. (Wendy)
- Always great. Keynote sisters, Wendy & Vicki – Deadly
- Wendy's account of generational & intergenerational trauma – making more real to understand
- The first session 'Out of the box' was fantastic. Very provocative and informative
- Listening to Wendy Watego
- Wendy and Vicki were great speakers
- Wendy and Vicki, powerful, inspiring, unforgettable, emotional
- All of it
- Being part of a large indigenous network group
- Wendy & Vicki
- Group interactions. Wendy and Vicki
- Having fun
- Great speakers
- Hearing the stories. We are all here for one common cause
- Wendy Wategos's presentation
- All the presenters – especially Stepping Out of the Box
- Vicki and Wendy
- The message the ladies presented. Excellent loved it
- Wendy Watego presentation
- Speech by Wendy
- The very first session with Wendy & Vicki – Outside the box and different areas were mentioned in other sessions – good opportunity for learning new knowledge/information
- The 2 keynote speakers Wendy & Vicki's session
- Listening to the ladies from STARS Institute

General: *networking, presentations, atmosphere etc.*

- Listening to the guest speakers. So motivating.
- Learning, connecting, gathering conversations
- A diversity of people coming together to share information, stories and strategies
- Networking with other services throughout the state and also catching up with family
- Networking
- Better understanding of what indigenous people would like to see happen in response to family violence
- Very relative to my work
- Knowledge, lots of wonderful people making great things happen
- Healing within ourselves so that we can help others
- Meeting other people and sharing information
- Meeting new people – networking
- I felt the entire day was worthwhile
- Looking @ feeling, thought awareness from a different perspective
- Connecting with people and learning from a different perspective
- Opportunity to meet like-minded people
- Very informative
- Entertaining

- All presenters have valuable information for participants to take back to communities. We are all here for Domestic and Family Violence
- Shared passion, shared experience
- Positive speeches
- Was informed "NEVER LET FEAR, STOP YOU"

Further comments about the day

- Great day
- Would like to hear scenarios from real life issues
- Thoroughly thought provoking. Well done!
- Absolutely beautiful
- The opportunity & encouragement to interact with new people was a true blessing
- Thanks to the organiser for bringing this event together
- Thoroughly enjoyed it
- Thankyou
- I have thoroughly enjoyed the journey and being part of this great experience it has been a very emotional experience
- A very informative session, hopefully some of the ideas can be put into practice
- I appreciated the honesty and openness from community
- I felt it was much better than last year
- Food was fabulous
- Great work excellent
- Enjoyed the day
- Wonderful / inspiring
- Too Deadly
- The opportunity for networking was very important
- As a young person, I found this forum very informative and learnt a lot of new things from the Aunties and Uncles
- Thank you for the opportunity, the experience & the sharing of knowledge
- Awesome
- Great first day hearing from people doing great work. The highlight was listening to Wendy Watego
- It was all very beneficial
- Intergenerational – impact on generations as a result of the invasion and colonisation
- Longer sessions
- We need more men's living places for DV perpetrators so women & children can stay in home
- Absolutely loved listening to Wendy Watego speak
- The system analysis, about colonisation & stolen wages, patriarchal cultural principles that endorse violence.
- I would be more interested in new & best practice and therapeutic activities for sector workers

THURSDAY 5th MAY 2016: STATISTICS & ATTENDEE FEEDBACK

Are you from Queensland?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	74	93.7
No	5	6.3
Total	79	100.0

Are you Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	50	63.3
No	29	36.7
Total	79	100.0

Do you or your workplace offer services predominantly to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	55	69.6
No	24	30.4
Total	79	100.0

I learnt new things at the forum.

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	24	30.4
Agree	52	65.8
Don't agree at all	3	3.8
Total	79	100.0

I can use what I learnt today in my work (paid or voluntary).

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	28	35.4
Agree	49	62.0
Don't agree at all	2	2.5
Total	79	100.0

The best thing/s about today's Forum sessions was/were:

Yarning Circles

- Attending the Ripple in the Pond workshop gave me a lot of great information that I can share within our organisation. The presenter also did a great job. I felt comfortable coming back to this forum because I felt safe.
- Yarning Circle
- The approach of Joseph Oui to working with ATSI people
- Engagement / Community talks
- The yarning circle I attended was really good
- Yarning circle – Kath Lowah
- Community healing session
- Attending the Indigenous Spirituality yarning circle
- Participation interaction. Hearing peoples stories
- The yarning circle with Wendy and Vicki guest speakers
- Great yarning circle – The Ripple in the pond
- Wendy and Vicki's yarning circle
- Hearing protocol for working with TSI families, as I have previously had limited involvement with TSI families
- Yarning Circle – Indigenous Spirituality. Networking
- Loved this workshop, made me aware that I needed to spend more positive time with myself. Not to be negative and follow stereotyping. This made me rethink how I think about myself
- The Yarning Circle – Shaping Family Violence
- Learnt to be positive about myself, instead of negative
- The think more out of the box
- The respectful exchange of ideas/strategies and passion in order to promote positive change for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people/families/children
- Realise that services come together after a serious action. When services should pull together to be there or let people know help is available
- The Yarning Circle (Community Healing) and forum discussion
- Yarning Circle (Indigenous Spirituality). Meeting new great people. Great opportunity to participate
- Learning ways and techniques on how to manage your emotional, spiritual, mental, cultural way of thinking to strengthen our community and clients
- Ripple in the Pond. Need sessions like the one today, where workers are supported through "Self-Care"
- The Yarning Circle(The Ripple in the Pond), valuable info and activity today
- The Yarning Circle(The Ripple in the Pond) was so relevant to all aspects of life not just the issue of D&FV
- Ripple in the Pond, loved it
- Ripple in the Pond – Very motivational

DFV Practice

- Conversations/learning what people and organisations are doing to eliminate DV and strengthen families
- 11-12 DFV practice presentation
- The panel

Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Reforms

- Thanks Barb Shaw for listening and answering respectfully
- Getting a broad experience of understanding of issues within the state of QLD
- Overall, all sessions were informative. Last session about government position and proposed steps was really interesting
- Content and policy info from Dept., regarding friends and directions

General: *networking, presentations, atmosphere etc.*

- Most organisations have a view of healing in a holistic way & there is a need for it
- Meeting people and learning from them
- Networks
- Best DV forum I've attended
- Everything
- More legal/on the grand focus-suited to my work
- Integration and Connection
- Ability for more discussions
- Interaction with different workers and also listening to the speakers and presenters
- Acknowledge appreciation of how hard this work can be, its impact on people working to end F.V. Recognition of the structural – systematic oppression and methods that are barriers to change towards a non-violent world
- Cultural knowledge. Honesty. Hearing and discussing about men and DV and relationships
- Importance of recognising the need of the clients to be able to connect to their land while in care
- Enjoyed all the workshops
- To sit and be with likeminded people – Brother's and Sister's all involved with DV
- All sessions
- Not only the content and information, also the willing spirit in which discussions were held. Safe environment
- The enthusiasm of the conference participants
- Two spirits presentation was interesting and needed
- Round the table discussions providing insights to other agencies and their issues and solutions. Having confirmation that the men need inner healing for a life time of trauma and released from the triggers that set them off
- Meeting new people who shared their stories, this was a learning experience, enjoyed it
- All of it. Meeting new people

Would you attend another Forum next near?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes to regional	17	21.5
Yes to state-wide	22	27.8
Yes to Regional & Statewide	36	45.6
No	4	5.1
Total	79	100.0

Why/Why Not?

- To learn more
- Important to get message out
- So more people can participate
- Vital for connecting & staying connected and learning
- Important to keep in touch with what's happening in Family Violence Services, policies and developments
- New initiatives
- It would be good to be able to plan responses to individual families
- So informative
- To mainly network
- Was goodish
- They raise issues that we all face and provide solutions or measures to overcome difficulty
- Beneficial to service providers to discuss what they are doing. Ideally these forums will ultimately lead to meaningful change
- More focused to client support officers, rather than solicitors
- Local level approach/strategies/networking opportunities
- To see what has been achieved in 12mths from various organisations
- Enjoy attending forums
- Regional once a year. State once a year
- Regional Centres – one per year. State wide on the second year, to bring the recommendation from each regional forum
- Deadly networking, Transfer of knowledge, Empowerment
- To keep in touch with the issues, community attitudes to learn
- I want to contribute to change which is driven by communities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- I believe local knowledge/practice does not always apply state wide due to localised needs/issue's
- Not sure, did not learn enough
- Regional would be fantastic
- Regional would be better, so rural people can have a rest from all the travelling
- I found the forum very interesting
- Good networking and learn more about domestic violence
- A real asset to my role to attend, gain new enthusiasm and empowerment and meet new people
- The issues require a collaborative approach from all stakeholders and committed continual improvement
- Unsure – As a non-indigenous person, I felt disheartened by some of the people with the microphone – questions
- Sharing of practiced principles that work. Identifying gaps and shortfalls in service delivery
- Interesting. Imperative. Important to aboriginals and Torres Strait Islander issues
- To network with other services to gain knowledge on how to better our people socially and emotionally
- Good opportunity to network
- Important opportunity for learning
- Invaluable opportunity and bring everyone in this field together and work out current/key issues
- This a good size
- Take back information and use it in my community

- Networking – DV issues and Women’s issues across the board to be included
- Spirituality uplifting. Educational and Motivational
- Keep it regional, it keeps it real

Please name two themes / topics that you would most like to see covered in a Forum.

- Service Responses & Community Responses.
- What is? What is the response? Develop models that work and can be taken to government
- Lateral Violence
- How white and black people can work together, rather than one or the other
- Workers – Therapy for workers
- I would like to see therapeutic activities that can refresh/revitalise workers in the sector, as there is a high risk of vicarious trauma and burn out
- Hard Yarns – Family Violence
- Out of the box ideas being used in practice in community
- Racism in work. Recognition within work
- Relationship/challenges between core and modern definitions of DFV. Trauma informed practice
- Trauma, how does one heal
- Change behaviour programs for perpetrators. Legal issues – best practice
- Early intervention programs. Intervention programs for repeat offenders in jail
- Educating the perpetrator and possible perpetration. Stopping the violence, not simply responding after the fact
- Integration of DV to Family Law and Child Protection
- DV Relationships of young ATSI people/couples
- Cultural traditional practices
- Need a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander DFV Committee
- ATSI community organisations run by ATSI people. Men’s business and Women’s business
- Yarning Circle. Guest speakers
- Disconnect to community in urban years. How to teach children to nurture relationships and resilience
- More discussion on stopping men’s violent behaviour, recognition of violence, community accountability models
- Village model
- Building community capacity. Education/funding to deliver culturally appropriate services by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Keeping families connected to culture when families separate. How to reconnect families after violence has been addressed
- More discussion about service delivery change/practice issues and trends and innovation. Workshopping initiatives. Strategic planning for Me sector
- More focus on SW and SE QLD areas, as the discussion points have no relevance to our areas
- How to reduce DV and FV – what works
- Perpetrator training/trainers
- Family Violence. Community Violence (fighting amongst ourselves)
- Working with child victims in care to avoid cross generational effect
- Young people attend the forum 18yrs up to hear and yarn about indigenous issues
- Yarning
- How we must address the practice of and the acceptance of parents/caregivers abandoning their children and continue making families. Many other issues all a part of this

- How to educate by-standers within communities around ways on how to intervene for DV situations
- Challenges and barriers with service providers and how you overcome
- Interface between DFV and Child Safety
- Experiences of community engaging with govt focus and the individual interaction between indigenous and non-indigenous service providers
- A national approach and response to D&FV
- FV practice issues e.g risk assessment National Perspectives – PM&C and Community
- Ripple in the Pond. Community Healing
- Youth and family responsibility
- Intergenerational issues. Gender and equality issues
- Importance of educating youth, male and female of the important role women play in society. Gender imbalances – Loss of Women's Respect/Rights

Is there any particular speaker (who did not speak this year) whom you would like to hear from at a Forum?

- Dom Shelley – a model that works with families that have been impacted by issues i.e. DFV and others, gambling, D+A
- Nick
- Rosie Batty
- Wendy & Vicki
- Speaker from "Hearing Voices" working with mental health issues
- Rosie Batty
- Red Dust Healing
- Samantha Bliss (QPS Perspective – Indigenous perception in her role and unit she heads) – Community leaders innovative thinker
- Magistrate involved in the Southport DV court trial
- Indigenous child safety rep – Talk about the new 'Framework' being rolled out and how this will impact the AI communities
- Vick Reynolds – Narrative Practitioners – Aboriginal workers at Dulwich Centre, Adelaide
- Dr Jackie Huggins. Marcia Langdon. Aileen Moreton – Robinson
- Maybe some speakers from the lower QLD areas
- People from the South West
- Dr Jackie Huggins. Graceland Smallwood
- Quentin Bryce
- Betty Taylor
- Someone to speak to the National approach
- Commonwealth Government
- Hetty Johnson – Bravehearts. Debbie Kilroy

Further comments about the day

- The venue, food, organisation and speakers were great. Thank you.
- All was great
- Wonderful, a privilege to be here. Special thanks to Wendy and Vicki
- Well done
- Possible name change – QLD INDIGENOUS FAMILY HEALING FORUM
- Most was good. Forum needs to keep focus on DFV
- Bring back Wendy and Vicki

- Venue great. Food excellent. Organisation, very effective. It has been great to connect to so many new people. Thank you. When difficult issues arise are there ways for people to debrief?
- Wonderful thank you.
- Food was great. Dinner with presentation, food and entertainment was awesome. Helpers were lovely
- Loved it all
- Food was excellent. Rooms for the yarning circles would be better if in a closed room as there was a lot of noise when holding the yarning circle
- Great venue. GF food only available on a couple of occasions
- Better coffee
- Excellent, Thank you
- Enjoyed the food, good coffee, very nice venue, good speakers
- Great forum, congratulations, thank you. Food, so much of it, all of it delicious. Venue, great set up. Speakers all worthwhile learning and interesting
- Excellent forum across the board, needs to continue
- Great value. Food excellent
- Fantastic conference. Thank you to the people who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes. "Well Done"
- Well Done, Thank you
- Why was there no ATSI dancers performing at this year's forum? More traditional themes and workshops e.g. Men's Business and Women's Business
- The STARS Institute speakers were great
- It was a good forum. The venue was good. The food was better on day 2. Forum dinner food was average. Excellent work, well done
- The venue was great. Food wonderful. Dinner on Wednesday night was absolutely beautiful. Great time
- Fab, great, informative
- A severe lack of food for vegetarians. Awesome, very well organised. Thank you to everyone who prepared, planned and implemented this forum
- Amazing team, venue and too yummy food, Thank you
- Great venue. Food hot, rice meals. Need more bottled water
- A well organised forum
- Catering staff did an outstanding job and should be told so as they were friendly, helpful and efficiently provided lovely food
- All good. More time should have been dedicated in providing feedback to communities – Barbara Shaw's Address. Important to discuss these issues with the large audience/sector in the room (representation)
- Great as usual
- Very well run
- The A/C was too cold. All else was pretty good
- Thank you and the organisers, presenters and catering, well done for a successful 2016 forum
- All worthwhile
- Great work
- Younger people to attend and gather and yarn about issues such as DFV. Where are the changes going to occur if it stays a talk fest without follow up from forum? Venue great, Food?? Speakers good
- Very good forum, looking forward to next year
- Well Done

- Great
- We were well looked after. Thank you for the fantastic work done
- Great work from the hosts. Great service from everyone involved
- Love it, love hearing from others doing deadly work. Gives me power/energy to continue this important work
- Very good overall. Nice people, Delicious food. Polite and friendly workers @ MECC. Hope to come back in the future #toodeadly
- Good coordination, well prepared. Lovely people
- Food was great, as always. Very well organised
- Thank you
- Food, fantastic. Cannot fault the organisation of conference at all
- You did well to handle logistics – Fire, electricity etc. Strong work yet again really informing best practice, policy and advocacy. Thanks for invite again
- I've been amazed with the hard work and commitment
- Thoroughly enjoyed Vicki Scott and Wendy Watego. Very motivational and informative and positive

MEDIA COVERAGE

7News Mackay report by [Georgia Terry](#)

Daily Mercury Interviews by Madolyn Peters

- *A new service for Men with [Devon Cumaira](#)*
- *Criminal action against violence with [Thelma Schwartz](#).*

ABC Tropical North [Radio Interview](#).



Above: Delegates at the 2016 Qld Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum Dinner – Wednesday 4th May 2016



From left to right: Annabel Taylor, Petrina Frankham, Kym Harrison, Liz Kennell, Les Stewart, Charles Passi, Vicki Stewart, Devon Cuimara, Kath Lowah, Wendy Watego, Joseph Oui, Marilyn Kepple, Emily Maloney, Clarisse Slater, David Ellis, Colleen Gunning and Heather Lovatt.