

Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum 2017

# Our Keys to Healing

## EVALUATION



Sponsors, Partners and Friends



10th & 11th May

Pullman Reef Hotel, Cairns

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

### **Introductions and Welcome to Country**

Dr Annabel Taylor welcomed attendees to the Forum. She expressed her excitement about attending her third Forum, the change of location and the upcoming proceedings. Annabel then went on to introduce Gudju Gudju, a Traditional Owner from the Cairns community and to provide delegates with a 'Welcome to Country'.

Gudju Gudju acknowledged the Gimuy Walubara Yidinji people, past and present, and wished delegates well over the next two days. 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. Annabel then went on to introduce the keynote speaker Aunty Cheri.

### **Keynote presentation: Aunty Cheri Yavu-Kama-Harathunian**

Mrs Yavu-Kama-Harathunian was elected to the Board of IWC in Bundaberg in 2008. She was involved, alongside her husband, in the development of the two historical documents that articulated the aspirations of the Aboriginal and Islander people in the Bundaberg region; 'First Steps - A Blueprint for the Future for 2005 - 2025 and Second Steps - A Blueprint for the Future - Strategic Planning for 2005 - 2025'. Her key expertise lies in policy development; strategic planning; process education; in-house training; capacity building education; Aboriginal Spirituality and Law; Cultural studies; Healing Circle Work and Counselling; Mental Health; Research; Cultural Governance Training; Transformational Management Training; Train-the-Trainer; and staff development. She is committed to the aspiration of Sovereignty for Australia's First Nations Peoples. She is an Elder amongst the Terabalang Bunda and Gooreng Gooreng Peoples and a Senior Elder of her Kabi Kabi clan/family group. She was appointed the IWC's first Chaplain-In-The-Marketplace in October 2012. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Indigenous and Community Health; Masters in Criminal Justice; Certificate IV in Small Business Enterprise and is a Licenced Minister of Religion. She sits as Director on Lonweigh Aboriginal Corporation; Bunya Mountains Elders Council and Director Indigenous Business Institute. She was awarded the International Professional of the Year 2013 by World Wide Who's Who. A copy of Aunty Cheri's presentation can be found on the QCDFVR website or by clicking on this [LINK](#).

### **The state of the State**

#### **Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council Update – Mr Edward Mosby**

Edward was born on Thursday Island in the Torres Strait was raised in South West Queensland and has lived in Central Queensland for the past 20 years, however calls Masig (Yorke Island) in the Torres Strait home. He holds full registration as a Generalist Psychologist working in Private Practice and is the owner of Wakai Waian Healing, and has worked in both State Government Mental Health Services and Indigenous Community based organisations. Edward is a member of Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA), the Australian Indigenous Psychologist Association (AIPA) and the Australian Psychologist Society (APS). He specialises in working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in the areas of, mental health, social and emotional well-being, community safety promotion, trauma, grief, loss and family and domestic violence. In 2015 Edward was appointed to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Advisory Panel on reducing violence against women and children. In February 2016 he was appointed to the Queensland Premieres Domestic and Family Violence Taskforce Implementation Council and currently chairs the associated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group. Over the past several years Edward has been active in sharing understandings around Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander violence and anger, and he currently has the privilege of providing support to communities in regional, rural and remote areas of Queensland including Rockhampton, Gladstone, Woorabinda, Palm Island and Thursday Island in the Torres Strait. A copy of Mr Mosby's presentation can be found on the QCDFVR website or by clicking on this [LINK](#).

## **Integrated Responses: Cherbourg – Mr Clowry Kennell and Ms Cathy Boman**

### **Clowry Kennell**

Clowry is the Integration Manager – Service Integration in Cherbourg. He is a fifth generation Ugaram Le, Torres Strait Islander man. Clowry's father is from Ugar (Stephen Island) and his mother is from Erub (Darnley Island). Born in Mackay, Clowry was the first Torres Strait Islander inducted into the Queensland Police Service. He has been working across Australian Government and Queensland Government agencies for over 27 years. His experience includes time with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), Department of Education Science and Training (DEST) and several non-government organisations. For the past 10 years Clowry has been working as a Principal Project Officer for Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships based in Cherbourg. During his time in Cherbourg Clowry has coordinated Negotiation Tables with government and the Cherbourg community, been involved in the development and implementation of the Cherbourg Alcohol Management Plan, Chair of the Cherbourg Essential Services Group, Chair of the Cherbourg Interagency Group and Chair of the Cherbourg Child and Family Local Level Alliance. Clowry has also been a participant in the Barambah Education Direction Community Engagement team, DET-DATSIP Regional Governance Group and a member of the South Burnett Child and Family Local Governance Group. Along with his extensive experience, Clowry brings to this role a profound knowledge of the strengths and challenges of the Cherbourg community and well developed partnerships with community Elders and leaders, government and non-government agencies who provide services for the people of Cherbourg.

### **Cathy Boman**

Cathy is a non-Indigenous woman who grew up in Rockhampton and is of Swedish, Irish and German descent. Cathy trained as a social worker and has worked in the non-government and government sectors in the areas of community development, housing and homelessness, arts and cultural development, remote service delivery, worked with refugees and asylum seekers, in youth policy, and in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander policy. Cathy commenced with the Office for Women and Domestic and Family Violence Reform in November 2016 managing the implementation of the Integrated Service Response Trial across three locations in Queensland. The trial includes the development of a common risk assessment and safety management framework and tools to support multiagency intervention models responding to high risk cases. Cathy's career spans senior positions in both strategic policy and program management for government and the not-for-profit sectors and she also serves on the management committee of a non-government organisation committed to addressing social justice and inclusion in the inner-Brisbane region. A copy of the presentation can be found on the QCDFVR website or by clicking on this [LINK](#).

## **Change the ending: the Red Rose Foundation – Ms Shirley Slann**

Shirley Slann is an Aboriginal woman from Mount Isa, North West Queensland and has worked in the area of Domestic & Family Violence for over 20 years. In January 2015 Shirley moved to Victoria, and was employed as a Risk Assessment Management Panel Coordinator (RAMP) at EDVOS (Eastern Domestic Violence Service for 17 months and then was appointed as Coordinator of WAYSS Ltd Women's Transitional Services in Frankston working in the area of Family Violence and Homelessness. Shirley has recently taken on the role of Deputy Manager at Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service in Lilydale, Victoria which is a culturally safe service that assists Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men, women and children in their healing journey from the impact of Family Violence. Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service was established through the Victorian Government funding initiatives in 2006 to address the impact of intergenerational trauma associated with family violence in Aboriginal communities. Before then Shirley managed the North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Service in Mount Isa for over 15 years. Shirley was previously Deputy Chair of the Queensland Domestic & Family Violence Ministerial Advisory Council. She was also a member of the Queensland Domestic & Family Violence Implementation Advisory Group; the Queensland Death Review Advisory Group; the Queensland Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Justice Task Force (Just Future Strategy); Australian Government representative on the National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Gathering Working Group; and a representative on the Queensland Women's Health Network. Shirley has attended the First World Conference of Women's Shelters in Edmonton, Alberta in 2008, where she did a keynote address on domestic & family violence in Indigenous communities. Shirley also attended the 2nd World Conference of Women's Shelters in Washington DC. Shirley was the first Indigenous representative to be appointed to the Global Network of Women's Shelters in Amsterdam in 2011. Shirley is a strong advocate in the area of domestic and family violence and believes that assistance should be available for both men and women experiencing or using domestic and

family violence.

Shirley spoke about the work of the Red Rose Foundation which grew from the recognition of the appalling loss of human lives attributable to domestic and family violence, a national tragedy of crisis proportions. The Red Rose Foundation addresses the factors surrounding domestic and family violence deaths including homicide, suicide and accidental deaths. The Foundation believes "We can and must Change The Ending." The Foundation grew from the Domestic Violence Death Review Action Group (DVDRAG) which was established in Queensland in 2004 to campaign for the establishment of a Domestic Violence Death Review Board in Queensland. Since then the group has continued to record, highlight and raise public awareness to the tragic toll of domestic violence deaths. Since 2004, there have been 254 known homicides related to domestic/family violence. The number of suicides, suspicious domestic violence related deaths, deaths from long terms injuries and missing women remain unknown. DVDRAG strived for and has now seen the establishment of a Domestic Violence Death Review Board in Queensland as well as legislative changes to address non-lethal strangulation. A public Red Rose Rally has been held following every domestic violence related death since 2008. The Queensland Domestic Violence Death Review Action Group (DVDRAG) established the national Red Rose Foundation to expand and connect the work undertaken by the group to promote the prevention of domestic violence related deaths. Domestic violence related homicides are often referred to as the most preventable of all homicides and there is much to be done to stop such deaths from occurring.

## **Workshop: Lateral Peace Project**

### **Introduction of Gayle Munn and Richard McCarthy**

Gayle is a Gunggari woman from South West Queensland. Richard has Kamilaroi and Kooma heritage.

Collectively Gayle and Richard have several decades of experience gained from their community involvement and working within their communities in a variety of roles and across sectors. This has involved membership of many groups including Social Justice, Murri Court and Lifeline. Gayle and Richard have been Camp Co-coordinators and Facilitators (Men's, Women's, Youth and Children's Healing); Cultural Heritage Co-coordinators; Cultural Educators; and Youth Mentors in Health Education and Training. They have qualifications and experience in Counselling, Mental Health, Mental Health First Aid, Training and Assessment, Circle Work, Life Coaching, Emotional Intelligence Coaching, Traditional Chinese Medicine, Massage Therapy and Reiki.

Gayle and Richard are two of four founding Members of the Lateral Peace Project, which provides workshops, and soft skill audits that foster cultural capability.

Their achievements include a Presentation on Healing from Lateral Violence at the Seventh Gathering of Healing Our Spirits Worldwide.

Gayle and Richard facilitated a Lateral Peace Workshop for the delegates.

## **Hard Yarns**

After a brief tea break, Uncle Charles welcomed attendees back for Hard Yarns. He explained that the '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. This session canvassed a range of issues pertinent to the delegates including lateral violence, traditional responses and contemporary challenges.

## FEEDBACK FROM DAY ONE

### Are you from Queensland?

Yes	98.5%
No	1.5%
Total	100.00%

### Do you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?

Yes	75.6%
No	24.4%
Total	100.00%

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

Yes	88.5%
No	10.5%
Total	100.00%

### Did you learn new things at today's Forum sessions?

Strongly agree	33.5%
Agree	66.0%
Don't agree	1.5%
Total	100.00%

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

Strongly agree	36.0%
Agree	62.5%
Don't agree	1.5%
Total	100.00%

### The best thing/s about today's forum sessions was/were

- All were great listening to their stories. This is a sensitive subject but most certainly needs to be dealt with.
- The State of the State, Best of all: Hard Yarns
- All the speakers
- Auntie Cheri's speech/address to LV as cause of D&FV. Hard Yarns discussion. Community members/service member's responses to DFVIC/ATSIAG
- Keynote address by Cheri - very interesting +inspiring to hear how culture has such an important + place in addressing DFV. Hard Yarns with Charles Passi very refreshing.
- The flow of the presenters was spiritual. It was such a blessing to hear the wisdom + strength of all the presenters
- Auntie Cheri's perspective, understanding and approach of healing indigenous family's social issues. Gayle and Richard addressing LV in community work.
- Gayle Munn relation meditation as the topic too heavy helps to deal with the DFV discussion
- Meet + Greet with new + old friends from other forums. Also good to know what stats for certain issues.
- Guest speakers are strong speakers with true passion in DFV.
- The cultural and the spiritual connection to the land and ourselves as indigenous people to begin with the healing and working towards peace. And the lateral violence that tis involves everyone around us.
- Listening to Ms Cheri Yavu-Karna-Harathurian. She was an inspiration.

- The discussions about lateral violence its origins and its strategies for healing. What lateral violence looks like (gossip, shame, blame, vindictiveness etc).
- Large knowledge base of speakers and attendees.
- the diversity of participants
- Empowerment, motivational, self determination
- The different views and theories

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

### **DFV Practice 1:**

#### **Introduction to the Far West Communities in South West Queensland – Ms Cheryl Ellery & Ms Donna Enders**

The team from Far West Indigenous Family Violence Service brings a collective 25 years of domestic and family violence experience to this Forum, and they've come from a number of communities to share their story with you. Cheryl Ellery is the Coordinator, based in Cunnamulla, with Community Support Worker, Beverley Mitchell. In Charleville, Donna Enders is the team's Community Support Worker and last but not least Jenny Weatherall provides community support services to St George. The Far West Indigenous Family Violence Service was formerly known as the Far West Multi-Purpose Healing Service and has been operating since 2003 with funding from the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. A copy of the presentation can be found on our website or by clicking on this [LINK](#).

#### **Progress of the Social Justice Interagency Group in the Torres Strait – Sgt Jade Taylor**

Jade is currently located at Thursday Island Station. He has been a sworn officer since September 2001 and has served at Mackay, Clermont, St Lawrence, Gold Coast, Cardwell and Thursday Island. Jade has been a Station Domestic and Family Violence Liaison Officer (DVLO) since 2011 and involved in the Social Justice Interagency Service (SJIS) since 2014. Jade spoke of the work of the SJIS.

#### **What does 'User Choice' really mean for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander users of therapeutic services? – Ms Lyn Anderson & Ms Bernadette Anderson**

##### **Lynette Anderson**

Mrs Lynette Anderson is a Gangaalu/Bitjarra woman from the Central Queensland region. She has been managing Helem Yumba, the Central Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Centre, since 2005. During this time she has taken the organisation from a very small operation that delivered for the most part a very clinical western therapeutic practice to what it is today, a well-recognised and reputable organisation delivering a range of healing modalities that are underpinned by a holistic approach to meet the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Rockhampton, Woorabinda and Mount Morgan. Mrs Anderson previously worked in community engagement with the Fitzroy Basin Elders, taught business studies at the Central Queensland TAFE College and previous to that worked in the tertiary education sector at Central Queensland University first as a Research and Development worker and in her final three years as Head of Department of the Indigenous Education and Student Support. She says that despite the numbers not changing for the better for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in terms of our ratings across all socio-economic indicators, our future is bright, positive and powerful, because we are increasingly taking back the control of our problems and dealing with them in our ways, finding our own solutions and working them into our ways within our communities.

##### **Bernadette Anderson**

Bernadette is originally from Theodore and is currently a female counsellor and is employed with Helem Yumba, working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women ranging in age from 15yrs+ within the Rockhampton, Mt Morgan and Woorabinda areas. She has a strong focus on healing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in culturally respectful ways on individual, community and organisational levels. A copy of the presentation can be found on the QCDFVR website or by clicking on this [LINK](#).

### **DFV Practice 2:**

#### **Whanau Ora Approach to Addressing Domestic and Family Violence – Mr Nick Kautai**

Nick was born in Rotorua, New Zealand and grew up connected to the island of his father the village of Areora the island of Atiu from the Southern group of the Cook Islands and of his mother from the village of Avatiu of Rarotonga the capital of the Cook islands. Nick has been working in Outreach for Relationships Australia in Counselling and mediation and Domestic violence work for the last 12 years. A copy of the presentation can be found on the QCDFVR website or by clicking on this [LINK](#).

### **Aboriginal Women's Experiences of Violence – Ms Marlene Longbottom**

Ms Longbottom is from Roseby Park mission (Jerrinja) a former government reserve established in 1902 as part of the NSW Aboriginal Protection Act. She is from the Yuin Nation of the Dharawal and Dhurga language groups of the South Coast of New South Wales. Her research background has been implementing community based participatory research through critical Indigenous feminism and more recently, critical race theory and intersectionality as it applies to Aboriginal Australians. Her area of interest includes violence and trauma in Indigenous communities, gendered studies, public health, race, political studies and critical Indigenous research methodologies.

Prior to moving into the research and university sector Marlene was employed in numerous Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in urban, rural and remote settings in Australia providing direct service delivery in health and human services. This has provided her with an extensive experience of working with Indigenous Australian communities, translating complex health, policy and research information, to ensure Indigenous communities are active participants of the research process. Due to the research ethics considerations this presentation is not available for dissemination.

### **Workshop: Lateral Peace Project**

Shirley Slann welcomed delegates back from lunch and introduced the second Lateral Peace workshop which provided attendees with an opportunity to further explore lateral violence concepts.

## FEEDBACK FROM DAY TWO

### Did you learn new things at today's Forum sessions?

Yes	88.5%
No	10.5%
Total	100.00%

### How did you hear about the forum?

Don't Know	1.5%
Email	36.5%
Website	5%
QCDFVRe@der	3.5%
Referral	16.5%
Other (network)	33%
Total	100%

### What was your main reason for attending?

New knowledge	61%
Networking	31%
Speakers	6.5%
Other	1.5%
Total	100%

### Did the forum live up to your reason for attending?

Yes, fully	45%
Yes, mostly	52%
No	3%
Total	100%

### Over the two days, which speaker's or sessions did you find most interesting?

- 1st keynote speaker. Sgt Jade Taylor
- the knowledge + positive message from the other DV services + the issues other communities (remote)
- Miss Marlene Longbottom, Mr Nick Kautai, Ms Cheri Yavu-Kama-Harathunian
- I believe that all speakers/sessions was very interesting because of the diverseness about DFV.
- All Q+A sessions = interaction from the floor + breaks for networking.
- Day 1 - sessions 1, 2, 3. Day 2 - sessions 2, 3, 4.
- Edward Mosby, Cheri Yavu-kama Harathuran, Helen Yumba + Marlene
- Marlene's speech was the most interesting as her slide was clearly presented and her explanation was understood clearly.
- Aunty Cherie + Anderson sisters
- Hard yarns - free flowing where issues come out. Relationships Australia presentation. (I missed the keynote address by Cheri but from what people were saying it was a great presentation)
- All of them! Ms Cheri provided a very deep explanation of lateral violence which was enforced by all other presenters. Marleen Longbottom presentation was excellent taking into account race, gender + class to the typologies of violence. Well done!

- All of them. Best forum - have been to the last 3. It made me realise as a non-indigenous person that we are doing all the right things. Listen, Listen, Listen. Holistic each community lateral violence naming it since 2014 education community to become community driven.
- Charles Passi - Hard Yarns
- first sessions about domestic violence issues (1) how problems can be solved (2) Dealing with DFV more through healing process
- Edward Mosby, Clowry Kennell, Shirley Slann, Cheryl Ellen + Donna Enders, Jade Taylor + Nick Kautai, Manley Longbottom
- Every session provides something that were both exciting and challenging
- Charles Passi was very interesting but it all was.
- Hard Yarns, Social justice interagency group.
- Marlene Longbottom - awesome, stopped me in my tracks. Revolutionary - all needed to hear this.
- RA approach/Theories - models and willingness to share.
- I must say every speaker was good. Each had their own perspective that was interesting.
- Lateral Violence - Aunty Cheri's analogy. Other organisations approach to combat FDV.
- Really enjoyed them all. All relevant and very knowledgeable