

# QCD FV Re@der

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# Director's Report

*Kia ora koutou – Greetings everyone – may you be well*

*Nga whakaaro mahana ki a koutou - warm thoughts to you all – especially given the work that you do*

When I talk with frontline staff in the domestic and family violence (DFV) sector, invariably they speak of the year passing quickly and I suspect many of us may be feeling this way across the state due to the number of reforms and new initiatives that have rolled out across Queensland. It remains exciting to see the commitment of services and their communities to exploring new ways of working as the challenges remain considerable in addressing interpersonal violence.

While QCDFVR's focus has been DFV, which includes sexual violence, we are moving to encompass sexual assault in our scope of work. QCDFVR has recently become a member of the Queensland Sexual Assault Network (QSAN) and has learned much from connecting with service providers in this sector. The understanding of the relationship between sexual assault and intimate partner violence (IPV) is growing, and Betty Taylor (training and service development consultant) and Di McLeod (Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence) currently provide professional training in recognising this intersection in a practical way. There is also the evidence base to consider around the co-occurrence of sexual violence and IPV (Breiding, Chen & Black, 2010; Logan, Walker & Cole, 2013) and the increased risk of experiencing repeat sexual victimisation for women who have had an earlier incident of sexual assault (Desai, Arias, Thompson & Basile, 2002). This is a complex field and we are looking forward to working with practitioners to advocate



for effective responses for victims and also for prevention programs and policies. Other work we are undertaking in relation to sexual assault is piloting a survey in the next month concerning the sexual experiences of young people which is based on internationally tested measures. We have very much appreciated the support of QSAN in designing the survey, which will help us to develop greater understanding of the extent of sexual violence in Australia. We are also continuing to work on an aspirational plan with QSAN and you can read more about our evaluation work in the sexual assault field in the Research Update pages.

The Research Update pages also reflect the growth in QCDFVR's research activities, and there has been expansion too in our sector development work. For instance, in the area of sector development we have responded to stakeholder feedback and converted some of our fact sheets into plain English "everyday" versions, reconfiguring their lay out to make the information more accessible. Another important element of sector development is the development of education and training options with the sector and beyond, and this edition presents important news for those pursuing higher education (p. 8), and those interested in other professional development (p. 10).

Following our highly successful Research Symposium in February we are very excited to host our inaugural 'New ways of working: Queensland Gendered Violence Practitioner' Forum on the 1st and 2nd November. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at this event, which will see the presentation of a variety of perspectives and approaches. Keynote speakers include Professor Lori Sudderth, who in a 2006 article

## COVER

Last month the Common Risk and Safety Framework training was delivered by QCDVR in Cherbourg. Cherbourg is home to the Ration Shed Museum which has hosted many projects. This year, with the help of the 'Many Threads' group NAIDOC Week was celebrated with the 'Tree Project'. This is the work of a group of women, from young girls to cherished elders who meet regularly and find that their time together doing art and crafts such as this project helps with their cultural expression. For the QCDFVR visitors to Cherbourg the Ration Shed Museum was a place of learning and sharing for the three days of the training.

in *Feminist Criminology*, discussed the tensions between domestic violence victim advocates and local police in rural locations and offered some suggestions as to how these may be resolved. Among her suggestions were access to cross training so that there is some common understanding of philosophical approaches and also jointly looking at the structural barriers that make it difficult for victims to leave in remote rural regions. A more recent piece of work which demonstrates Lori's breadth of research experience in the domain of gendered violence concerns campus sexual assault. In an article entitled "If they don't tell us it never happened" (Sudderth, Leisring & Bronson, 2009), Lori and her colleagues describe how university students rarely disclose that they have been assaulted by their dating partners, and if they do it is more likely to be to a friend than to the authorities (i.e. the police or university personnel). We know that sexual violence can have long lasting effects on victims in terms of achievement and career development and so improving response services and support is critical for victims.

Besides the research reported in this Re@der, I note a further project that is imminent. This involves Professor Nerilee Hing from CQUniversity's Experimental Gambling Research Laboratory, QCDFVR and others on an ANROWS-funded project to investigate the relationships between gambling and domestic violence against women. This project has been funded for two years and will include a focus on the role of gambling in economic abuse and the use of gambling venues as 'safe spaces' for women experiencing violence. There will be more to report as this project gets underway.

I conclude by mentioning that we appreciate not only the ongoing support that QCDFVR receives from our colleagues in the Queensland Government, particularly the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, but from CQUniversity staff who are too numerous to mention individually. There are some leaders and their business units however that stand out. The Vice Chancellor Scott Bowman and his office provide great support to us, and work with Deputy Vice Chancellor Grant Stanley and the Office of Research staff on our various contracts and financial reporting. Our Head of School (Nursing, Midwifery and Social Sciences) Professor Moira Williamson has been invaluable on resource decision-making and guidance, as has the School's Associate Professor Jennie Barr on research matters. Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Engagement) Professor Bronwyn Fredericks

continues to provide advice and support and our 'local' Professor, Pierre Viljoen who is Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement, Campuses and Mackay-Whitsunday Region) has been instrumental in supporting our facilities resourcing.

In relation to this, QCDFVR will soon be moving to a 'new' office space on the Mackay City Campus. I write 'new', since we are moving into the heritage-listed "Mackay Technical College" which was built during 1911-12 to a design prepared by the Office of Public Works. This building was the first state high school in Mackay and served as the Mackay Technical College and High School until 1959. In some respects this is reminiscent of QCDFVR's original site at the Ooralea Campus, but on a larger scale. That's just as well because as we have grown, our need for office space and meeting rooms continues to expand. We are all looking forward to this shift and CQUniversity is planning an opening celebration in late November. Please feel free to contact QCDFVR if you would like to know more about this event.

As always, I express my gratitude to all of our staff: in Mackay, Rockhampton, Brisbane, Perth and beyond. Our team is not only located in diverse locations, but bring to QCDFVR a range of skills. We now have full-time, part-time and casual research and education staff who are dedicated and passionate about making a difference in our communities, and I'm proud to lead this wonderful team.

*Annabel Taylor*

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# Research Update

## Integrated Response Trial Evaluations

Previous Research Updates have provided background to the Integrated Response Trials (IRTs) in Queensland responding to domestic and family violence. The evaluation team (Dr Heather Lovatt, Dr Liane McDermott and Dr Nicola Cheyne) has completed a developmental report pertaining to the co-design phase, which was primarily from January to June 2017. The evaluation has now moved to 'Stage 2' of the IRTs as each of the three sites (Logan-Beenleigh, Mount Isa and Cherbourg) move to full operationalisation of their High Risk teams (HRTs). While Logan-Beenleigh had activated their HRT earlier this year with great success, this site will now utilise the Common Risk and Safety Assessment Framework (developed by Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) and an Information Communication Technology (ICT) platform incorporating the tools from the framework. With all three sites having developed their models and using a common framework and tools relating to risk assessment, risk management and information-sharing the second stage of the evaluation will identify:

- Strengths and weaknesses of the models,
- Extent to which information sharing mechanisms, risk assessment and management framework and high risk models are achieving the intended result to improve the safety of victims and their children and hold perpetrators to account,
- Any issues that need to be addressed for the state-wide rollout of the HRT model,
- Benefits derived from information technology and communications supporting the model,
- The extent to which the models respond to the perpetrators,
- The extent to which the model addresses and meets the needs of service users from diverse backgrounds, service accessibility and referral pathways,
- Agency and staff adherence to protocols, processes and tools,
- Governance (local, departmental, multi-agency).

The evaluation team is in the midst of visits to each site in this early operationalisation phase to record preliminary perceptions from key stakeholders through a range of mechanisms, along with collection, collation and analysis of documentation relating to the trial from each site. The evaluation team is also working with the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (the Department) to access data from the ICT platform.

## The Townsville Combined Women's Service Sexual Assault Response Evaluation

The aim of this new project is to evaluate the role of the North Queensland Combined Women's Services (NQCWS) in a trial Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) model over two years. With the exception of the statewide Sexual Assault Helpline, delivered by DVConnect, the sexual assault services funded by the Department do not generally provide extensive out-of-hours on-call support. In addition to examining the outcomes of the SART model for the women and men involved, in Townsville and surrounds, the evaluation will provide findings from the trial which may be relevant to promoting evidence-informed, community-based responses to sexual violence more broadly.

The stakeholders in this model are the Queensland Police Service Sexual Crimes Unit, the Townsville Hospital, Queensland Health's Clinical Forensic Medical Unit and NQCWS. With respect to NQCWS specifically, the model involves counsellors from the service providing immediate on-call responses 24 hours per day, delivering outreach to women affected by sexual violence as soon as it is reported – including supporting forensic examinations and reporting to police.

The objectives of the evaluation, conducted by a team including Dr Heather Lovatt, Dr Liane McDermott, Dr Sue Carswell, Dr Nicola Cheyne and Lauren Pattie are to:

- Test the problem definition and logic underpinning NQCWS's participation in the trial,
- Identify valid and reliable findings and learning regarding the implementation, operation and outcomes of the service, especially as a model for Townsville and surrounds,
- Assess whether there are alternative models which should be considered
- Assess the processes used to implement the service,
- Assess the delivery of the service and identify any areas for improvement including potential for innovative practices,
- Examine mechanisms for information sharing and interagency collaboration,
- Outline how the lessons from the SART trial relate to broader sexual assault provision and best practice responses.

## Program Review: Walking with Dads

Dr Silke Meyer is the lead QCDFVR Researcher in this project, funded by the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. Walking with Dads is a domestic-violence informed approach to child protection work, helping fathers who abuse their partners and children to take responsibility for the harm their violence causes. The Walking with Dads program involves placing a specialist worker in Child Safety Service Centres and has been operating in Caboolture, Caloundra and Gympie since October 2016, and Mount Isa since February 2017. The three-year evaluation which will include a strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspective focused on the Mount Isa trial. The evaluation will capture men's engagement as well as the impact the program has on changing Child Safety's approach to partnering with mothers and non-offending parents.

## Evaluation of the Child Protection and Berry Street Joint Initiative

In Victoria, the Berry Street Family Violence Team and the Department of Human Services Central Highlands Area Child Protection initiated an approach in 2015 which recognised that a more 'joined up' service response across family violence and child protection was necessary to support women and children affected by family violence. Innovations developed by these partners include joint assessments and plans, inclusion of a family violence men's worker, and engagement with the Prosecutions Office to enable better flow of information to the Magistrates Court to inform family violence related orders. The program is being evaluated by Dr Sue Carswell of QCDFVR.

## Caring Dads

QCDFVR Researcher Dr Silke Meyer is evaluating Caring Dads, an initiative developed by the University of Toronto, Canada and Changing Ways. Caring Dads is a 17-week group parenting intervention for fathers which involves, systematic outreach to mothers to ensure safety and freedom from coercion, and collaborative case management of fathers with existing service providers and other professionals involved with men's families. It is specifically designed for fathers experiencing alcohol or other drug issues who are at risk or are engaging in behaviours that may not have come to the attention of the justice system.

## Child Safety Practice Paper Review

To align with contemporary evidence and trends a review and update of the domestic and family violence component of the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, Child Safety Practice Manual is being undertaken. Dr Heather Lovatt and Dr Jamilla Rosdahl are the lead researchers in this review.

If you have any questions on our current research or would like to provide any feedback, please contact us via our [website www.noviolence.org.au](http://www.noviolence.org.au).

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

### Review of Domestic and Family Violence Practice Standards (in partnership with Encompass and Griffith University)

The above project is being led by Encompass Family and Community Pty Ltd consultants in child protection and child and family welfare and community services, in partnership with QCDFVR and Griffith University. Recommendation 82 of the 'Not Now, Not Ever' report is a review of the Practice Standards for Working with Women Affected by Domestic and Family Violence, developed in 2002 and the Professional Practice Standards: Working with men who perpetrate domestic and family violence, developed in 2009. Associate Professor Annabel Taylor, Dr Heather Lovatt, Jamie Anderson, Patrice Zarzecki and Colleen Gunning have been engaging with stakeholders in various parts of the state, facilitating consultations with service providers and related organisations that use the standards and/ or work with victims, perpetrators or family members of those impacted by domestic and family violence.

### Mackay Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Domestic and Family Violence Service

QCDFVR staff are currently consulting with service providers in the Mackay Regional Council area regarding a model for a new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Domestic and Family Violence response service for the area. The project team thanks those services and individuals who have already made themselves available. Many important themes are emerging from workshops and interviews. The consultation will close at the end of October.



#### Above (L-R)

Deb Netuschil (Binga Birry Elders Group); Traditional Custodian Patricia Kemp (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service) and Justin Giblett (Yuibera Aboriginal Corporation).

# Domestic violence and animal cruelty: a form of everyday terrorism

By Dr Jamilla Rosdahl

'He told me if I left he would put poison in my cat's milk' (Newberry, 2016).

Intimate partner violence is a daily occurrence within many Australian homes. Contrary to common beliefs, domestic violence does not only or even mostly consist of physical acts. Partner violence or intimate terrorism often includes psychological and emotional tactics by the perpetrator such as threats, isolation and undermining of self-esteem to dominate the partner in the relationship. The severity of its impacts centre on the common operation of control, terror and fear (Dobash & Dobash, 2015). A number of recent studies reveal that domestic animals are often used by perpetrators as another form of coercive control to scare, threaten and maintain power over the victim. Animal cruelty can be described as any behaviour that causes intentional and unreasonable harm, pain, suffering or distress such as beating or torturing an animal. In an Australian study, data showed that approximately 50% of women with violent partners reported that their partner had injured or killed one of their pets (Volant, Johnson, Gullone & Coleman, 2008). Abuse directed against animals as a form of domestic violence often does not occur in isolation. Other strategies include emotional abuse such as name calling, public humiliation and mind games, economic control such as preventing the victim from accessing money and social abuse such as stalking and isolating the victim from family and friends. The absence of threats of physical abuse does not mean that the victim, her family members or animals are safe.

## Research to date

Although a growing body of research has explored the relationship between domestic violence and animal cruelty, studies have mainly focused on the extent to which animal abuse occurs within a relationship, the possible effects of animal abuse on a victim's decision to leave the abusive relationship, and the links between the maltreatment of animals during childhood and risks of abusive behaviors in adult perpetrators (Newberry, 2016). Whilst findings have sparked some international efforts to protect animals such as including animals in protection orders, accommodating companion animals in women's shelters, and increasing reporting on animal welfare, little attention has been paid to the intentional abuse of animals as a method of

control against the victim of domestic violence. Abuse against an animal is often carried out with the intention to scare, threaten and emotionally harm the victim partner. Because it is the partner who is often the ultimate target of abuse, cruelty against an animal takes many different forms. The perpetrator may make the animal suffer in order to scare his victim or make threats about harming the animal to gain compliance over his partner. It is often the depth of the relationship between the victim and the animal that dictates and enables the perpetrator to exploit the animal as yet another device of control. In this way, the abuse, threat of abuse or killing of the animal serve as an effective method for maintaining dominance within the relationship.

## Perpetrator abuse of animals as forms of threat, control and punishment

A growing body of evidence on the relationship between domestic violence and animal maltreatment has been gathered through interviews and surveys by female survivors in community shelters for women who have been subjected to domestic violence (Volant, Johnson, Gullone & Coleman, 2008; Barrett, Fitzgerald, Stevenson & Cheung, 2017). These studies show that threats against and actual harm against companion animals are present in a significant proportion of abusive intimate relationships. Other studies have highlighted that women who reported animal abuse by their partners, also often reported that their partner engaged in multiple forms of violence including physical, emotional and sexual abuse as well as stalking (Simmons & Lehmann, 2007). In a more recent British study, a number of female victims who voluntarily shared their stories through online discussion forums described how



their animals were used by their abusive partner to maintain power and control (Newberry, 2015),

*I was scared of what he would do to my animals if I wasn't there to watch them as I didn't have any family or friends for support.*

*He said 'I've told you you're not going and if you do I will drown that cat, don't think I'm joking' - so I didn't go.*

*Based on previously being raped, he threatened to 'teach the dog' how to rape me if I step out of line again [try to leave].*

*When I threatened to leave after he almost broke my jaw, he tied some string around my dog's neck until the dog couldn't breathe, and wouldn't let my dog go until I promised I would stay.*

*I went to my parents after an argument and he told me to come home otherwise he would hurt my cat. One night he injured me so badly my parents refused to let me go back and he stabbed the cat.*

*He locked my dog in the shed overnight as punishment for me being home late from taking the kids to school.*

*One victim found out that her pet had been killed by her partner as a form of punishment because she had found the courage to escape the relationship.*

*After I left, he took my dog to the vets and had it put down. This has absolutely killed me.*

The most common form of animal maltreatment reported in a similar study was threats by the perpetrator to get rid of the animal (65%), followed by the perpetrator intimidating or scaring the animal on purpose (60%), smacking the animal (56.4%), throwing an object at the animal (50.9%), threatening to harm the animal (47.3%), chasing the animal with the intent of harm (43.6%), refusing to feed the animal (41.8%), and kicking the animal (41.8%). The most common form of serious animal cruelty was direct injury to the animal (20%), followed by the perpetrator killing the animal (14.5%), breaking the animal's bones (10.9%), and drowning the animal (9.1%) (Barrett, Fitzgerald, Stevenson & Cheung, 2017). Several other studies also reveal that domestic animals are often stated as one of the main sources of support for victims and many chose to stay longer within the abusive relationship because domestic violence shelters did not offer facilities to accommodate for their animals. It is important to note here however that because many victims have been exposed to extreme and often prolonged forms

of psychological abuse, shame and humiliation, and many display emotional and behavioural symptoms similar to post traumatic stress disorder, the reasons for staying in an abusive relationship are often complex, varied and many.

It is also important to note that not all perpetrators of domestic violence display aggression towards domestic animals. Perpetrators are often well versed in controlling behaviours such as manipulation and intimidation and regularly exploit and sever any close bonds victims share with their family, friends and companion animals. For example, the perpetrator might threaten to keep the pet from the victim in an attempt to keep the partner from leaving the relationship.

### **Concluding remarks**

The abuse of an animal can be another potent source of harm and control over a victim of domestic violence. Threats against children, family members and animals are often used by perpetrators as a way to diffuse anger and aggression and to coerce the victim partner further. This type of violence involves techniques of power, manipulation and domination. Threats of abuse against animals often act as precursors to physical forms of violence against family members who are living with the perpetrator. These behaviours have severe, negative emotional and psychological impacts on the victim including feelings of terror, guilt, and prolonged levels of anxiety and dread from heightened and intense experiences of fear. Although animal cruelty as a form of domestic violence is a relatively new research area, the common occurrence of animal cruelty in Australian homes plagued by domestic violence have been identified as a red flag for family violence. To better understand perpetrator behaviours in the interest of increased prevention, detection and intervention efforts, the relationship between domestic violence and animal cruelty as a form of everyday terrorism must be explored further.

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# Re-storying lives through creative writing: a client-oriented approach to healing

By Leanne Dodd

Domestic violence survivors often suffer ongoing effects of trauma and struggle with mental health challenges. Symptoms vary from hyperarousal of the nervous system, hypervigilance and sleep disturbances to numbing responses such as addiction, self-harm, detachment and dissociation. Because of the costs of seeking help and the effect of mental health stigma, only one in three trauma survivors in Australia seeks professional help. Psychiatric and medical discourses often locate survivor's trauma as a form of mental illness, favouring psychiatric and medical approaches to recovery. Because trauma can distort memory, with recurrent intrusive thoughts and memories of events interrupting the natural flow of an individual's life-story, alternate forms of therapy using narrative to reshape life-stories following traumatic domestic violence can also be an effective approach.

My PhD study, supervised by Prof Donna Lee Brien and Dr Susan Davis, CQUniversity School of Education and the Arts, investigates the effectiveness of using creative writing to create fictional characters to experiment with a re-imagining of self to redirect survivors' futures.

I recently delivered a workshop at the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board's 'Storytelling for Health' conference in Wales. Developed collaboratively with industry colleague, Pam Blamey, it was one of three workshop proposals selected by conference organisers. Conference convenor, Prue Thimbley, called the workshop "one of their biggest success stories in international collaboration".

Our workshop employed storytelling through fictional tales to recognise tell-tale signs and effects of domestic violence. Applying a narrative therapy framework, it empowered participants to re-imagine their strengths and identity. Participants created fictional characters for experimenting with a new version of self, with opportunities for empathetic sharing and reflection on their stories by the group. They responded positively and many said they would recommend a similar workshop to others who had experienced trauma or domestic violence.

- *This was an excellent introductory workshop to enable participants who have experienced trauma to empower themselves through storytelling, reading subtext and re-write their own story.*
- *I gained an understanding of how stories tell something about ourselves and discovered through this work something very valuable.*
- *This workshop demonstrates that using poetry or creative writing to tell a painful story works to share more easily with others.*
- *Externalisation through folk tales made it less emotionally challenging (for me that's a positive).*

The research utilises a narrative therapy framework, as developed by Australian psychotherapist, Michael White (Dulwich Centre, Adelaide), by externalising symptoms. Some individuals who have been subjected to abuse, see their symptoms as internal personality flaws. The

first step is to ask 'What's happening for you?' rather than 'What's wrong with you?', and then use journaling exercises to help survivors to identify positive outcomes and empowering perspectives they can attribute to their fictional characters. People suffering the effects of violence often get stuck in the story of the traumatic events therefore alternative stories in other realms of life are overlooked or suppressed by this dominant story. The process helps people to begin redeveloping their life stories by elevating the subordinate stories, creating fictional characters and events to explore possibilities for change that they were not able to imagine in their own lives.

Creative writing provides distance - another place to stand to revisit a difficult history - where imagining being someone else is acceptable. Engaging more with imaginative fiction allows people to be more predisposed to reconstruction of their life stories. Fiction calls on us to interpret and fill in the gaps in stories through lived experience. During the writing process, people re-engage with their experiences, including the sequential events and identity conclusions shaped by them. An evolutionary process occurs where writers enter into stories and take them over as their own. Interaction with fictional characters offers benefits, including identification leading to personal change, familiarity with emotional constancy, and strength by example.

This client-oriented approach allows survivors to take agency in re-storying traumatic experiences of domestic violence without underlying stigma that may be involved in writing about real emotional and often hidden subject matter and then exposing it to the world. It avoids potential safety risks for people in exposing their abusers, providing a safe, respectful approach to working with domestic violence victims/survivors.

I am passionate about helping trauma and domestic violence survivors and share enthusiasm with other writers to use writing and storytelling to help people to heal emotionally and mentally. My engagement extends to voluntary community workshops and writing festivals and as a writing mentor and Chair of the Queensland Writers Centre. I plan to use my research to develop further community workshops using writing for health and wellbeing and recently created an online hub with a group of practitioners, **Createplace**, to offer these services to the public.



Leanne Dodd is an author, creative writing tutor, mentor and workshop facilitator with qualifications in arts, education, mental health and communications. She has published and presented nationally and internationally on writing trauma and the therapeutic potential of creative writing. She is completing a PhD in Arts and

Humanities serves as Chair of the Queensland Writers Centre, with whom she is currently collaborating to deliver a series of workshops on Writing for Wellbeing.

# Growing education options

The teams in QCDFVR's education and training domain have had a very productive quarter. In Higher Education there have been two exciting developments. Firstly, for those seeking higher qualifications, CQUniversity has endorsed the offering of a Master of Domestic and Family Violence Practice degree in 2018. This twelve unit course is a first for Australia and full details are available on the CQUniversity website here. If students are unsure about enrolling in this new course, the Graduate Certificates in Domestic and Family Violence Practice or Facilitating Men's Behaviour Change can be "stepping stones" into the Graduate Diploma and/ or Master of Domestic and Family Violence Practice.

Most recently, and of particular relevance to the domestic and family violence sector, is the approval of funding by the Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (the Department) for scholarships for twenty future postgraduate students resident in Queensland. This program aims to further build the workforce capacity and capability of the Queensland sector by supporting students enrolled in one of CQUniversity Domestic and Family Violence Practice Graduate Certificate courses. It will close on the 12th January 2018 and applicants need to fill in an online application form and submit relevant academic documents (such as qualifications/transcripts) and an explanation of how the scholarship would assist them/ in their work (approximately 500 words). All terms and conditions are stated on the CQUniversity's website here.

Meanwhile organisations and communities continue to request and access QCDFVR's vocational accredited training, namely:

- CHCDFV001 Recognise and respond appropriately to domestic and family violence
- CHCDFV002 Provide support to children affected by domestic and family violence and
- CHCDFV004 Provide domestic and family violence support in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities.

These units are not only components of a number of courses and qualifications (e.g. Certificate IV in Community Services) but can also be delivered as non-accredited training. We are grateful to our "sector experts" who have joined our team of trainers and tutors- they make an invaluable contribution in ensuring the integrity of our training options.

In particular, we thank our wonderful trainers Betty Taylor and Mark Walters for their commitment to the development and delivery of training in the use of the

Common Risk and Safety Framework. This is a new project for us, and we acknowledge our colleagues in the Department who are working with us in the shaping of this training, which has been presented in Cherbourg, Mount Isa and Logan-Beenleigh.

Recently we have been approached to design domestic and family violence training tailored to identified organisational needs. With our growing pool of education expertise across the Australian Qualifications Framework, we are able to respond to these requests and look forward to delivering workshops in the coming weeks.



## Above

Associate Professor Annabel Taylor discussing the new scholarship program funded by the Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services with Francois Gallais, Development Manager of CQUniversity's Development and Alumni Relations Directorate in Rockhampton.

Another option for potential students is enrolment in a "single non-award unit". This gives you the opportunity to:

- find out if postgraduate study is for you,
- prepare yourself for the academic requirements of further study, and
- explore a specific area of practice.

This can be helpful if you have had a break between your undergraduate and postgraduate study and would like to trial a single unit before committing to further study, or if you haven't completed tertiary studies but meet the course entry requirements. If this option appeals to you, you will be required to submit an application for the first unit, and any further units you decide to study in subsequent terms.

# Forum Program Launch

It's official! The 'New ways of working: Queensland Gendered Violence Practitioner Forum' program has been launched!

Join us in November at the Hilton Brisbane to hear from four renowned Keynote Speakers in the field of gendered violence and over 20 presenters in toolkit presentations. Learn more about working with women, children, fathers and families in domestic, family and sexual violence practice at this great professional development opportunity.

*Here is a glimpse of what our keynote speakers will be sharing at the forum!*

## Working with Women

Lori Sudderth | Quinnipiac University

Despite the progress in requiring the criminal justice system to address gender-based violence, women around the world face substantial barriers to disclosing their experiences of victimisation. Victim advocates face the daunting task of assisting survivors within a complicated context of individual and structural violence. This task is especially challenging in locations where

- poverty levels are high (e.g. developing countries);
- geographic isolation makes escape difficult (e.g. islands)
- low anonymity inhibits reporting (e.g. college campuses)
- communal identity supersedes individual identity (e.g. tribal communities)

These are contexts in which the classical criminal justice response may be muted or inappropriate, there tend to be low rates of disclosure and reporting, and the impact of multiple layers of structural violence intermingle with the effects of interpersonal violence. The focus of this address will be on the strategies of advocates and activists to support survivors of gender-based violence in these challenging contexts.

## Working with Sexual Violence

Jackie Burke | Jackie Burke Psychology and Consulting

In this interactive workshop, Jackie will explore the impacts of sexual violence on its victims, highlighting common changes to nervous system functioning and cognition following experiences of sexual violence. Recent evidence will be used to question traditional stages of intervention and participants will be invited to consider how best to respond to therapeutic needs in the initial aftermath of assault compared to longer term therapeutic interventions. Discussion will focus on:

- Conceptualising the process of traumatisation
- Comprehending the double bind of traumatisation and associated disrupted

cognitions

- Providing early interventions to halt the development of maladaptive cognitions
- Balancing work to stabilise the nervous system with cognitively focussed work in responding to people who have experienced sexual violence.

## Working with Children/ Families

Carolyn Markey | UCCommunities, St Johns Grammar School & Dulwich Centre

In this workshop Carolyn will present detailed descriptions of conversations she has had in two settings: with students in a school counselling setting, and with mothers attending counselling with their children in a non-government agency. This interactive presentation will invite participants to trial a questioning technique and explore how practitioners:

- have conversations with mothers often shadowed by unhelpful guilt
- start conversations with children and adolescents who are justifiably reluctant to come to counselling
- speak about a family member who is loved and hated simultaneously
- set up a foundation of safety for children to be able to speak of shaming events
- listen for and ask about the "skills and know how" that children act upon in traumatic situations
- ensure enquiries always cognisant of cultural politics

## Working with Fathers

Alan Jenkins | NADA Consulting

This workshop will highlight and illustrate a collaborative process for assisting fathers to address and take account of family violence through engagement with an ethical sense of generativity. This requires a practical engagement with the experiences of children, desired investments in their futures and strivings for a preferred legacy in fathering. Participants will experience engagement practice which promotes:

- the discovery and expression of men's ethical strivings as fathers
- exploring developmental longings and their connection with ethical strivings
- articulating a preferred generative legacy
- practices of restitution and restoration with children
- working productively with shame without shaming

Tickets are limited, if you are interested in attending this inaugural event, hosted by Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research (QCDFVR), you are strongly encouraged to register as soon as possible: early bird registration closes Monday 2nd October – **Register today!**

## Forthcoming Events

### FREE PUBLIC PRESENTATION

#### When the internet becomes a weapon in DFV - looking into the relationship between sexting, revenge porn and stalking

*Presented by Dr Marika Guggisberg*

*Hosted by Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research, CQUniversity*

**Where:** Online  
**When:** 10:00am (QLD), Tuesday 26 September 2017  
**Register:** Register on this **LINK** no later than Monday 25 September 2017

For further information please visit [www.noviolence.org.au](http://www.noviolence.org.au)



### FORUM

#### New ways of working: Queensland Gendered Violence Practitioner Forum

*Hosted by Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research, CQUniversity*

**Where:** Hilton Brisbane  
**When:** 1st - 2nd November 2017  
**Cost:**

Category	Early Bird	Standard
Full Registration	\$650.00	\$750.00
Student Registration	\$500.00	\$600.00



**Inclusions:** Attendance to all Forum Sessions, Forum Handbook, Meals for duration of the Forum, Entry to the Twilight Reception on Wednesday evening and Professional Development Attendance Certificate on request.

**Register:** Early Bird Registration closes Monday 2nd October. Register now on this **LINK**.

For further information please visit [www.noviolence.org.au](http://www.noviolence.org.au)

### EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

#### Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum

The Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research (QCDFVR) is seeking expressions of interest from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners in the domestic and family violence field to join QCDFVR in organising its annual Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum (QIFVP).

##### Who could be involved?

We seek nominations from Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander people who are currently working in, or have experience relating to, providing domestic and family violence services.

For further information or to register your interest, click on this **LINK** or visit [www.noviolence.org.au](http://www.noviolence.org.au)

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We encourage readers to contribute to the QCDFVRe@der. If you have any information or articles you wish to publish, please contact QCDFVR Staff.

### HAVE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS CHANGED?

We have become aware that some recipients of the QCDFVRe@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 number or email [qcdfvronline@cqu.edu.au](mailto:qcdfvronline@cqu.edu.au) with your change of details. Please be assured that the Centre does not release your details to any third parties without your permission.

If you would like to be included on, or removed from, the Centre's mailing list, please contact us on **07 4940 3320**.



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