

2020 Year in Review



Our focus



Our mission is to contribute to the prevention of and response to violence against women (and their children) through research, education and sector support.

Influences

- Fourth Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022
- Queensland Government's Third Action Plan of the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2019-20 to 2021-22
- Prevent. Support. Believe. Queensland's Framework to address Sexual Violence.
- Queensland's Framework for Action – Reshaping our approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander domestic and family violence

*Creating and sharing
knowledge since 2002*

CONTENTS

 **Research** pg 01

 **Sector Support** pg 09

 **Education** pg 15

Welcome



This 2020 Year in Review highlights our key achievements across the last calendar year – a year like no other. The Review is presented in three sections that reflect the areas of our endeavours - research, sector support, and education.

These three domains are interrelated, with each informing the other to ensure true synergies. This enables lived experience and practice to shape research and education; in turn, enabling research and education to shape practice. Our approach delivers a real-world social impact, paving the way across the service system for both potential and current practitioners.

All of us will remember 2020 as the year of COVID-19 and, in many ways QCDFVR encountered similar challenges to those encountered by the stakeholders with whom we worked. The pandemic brought changes to how we approached projects, including the need for heightened agility and receptiveness to connecting differently.

As in previous years, we must firstly acknowledge the sustained funding received from the Queensland Government, specifically the (then) Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women (DCSYW). We also acknowledge the investment and support of CQUniversity, and the wonderful contribution of staff and associate members of the Centre (pages 1 and 2).

The landscape of gendered violence is constantly changing and the need for nuanced understandings of, and responses to, domestic and family violence and sexual assault across the broader service system has never been greater. In 2020, the investment from the Queensland Government and CQUniversity, as well as the securing of commercial contracts, saw us connecting and growing all three domains to develop new and better ways to improve the lives of women and their families.

We must also acknowledge our many valued partners (page 02). Our work cannot, and indeed should not, be done in isolation. Just as we advocate and strive for integrated responses in services, so too we model the same. Our successes are premised on this collegiality whereby we can rapidly adapt to changing environments – bridging gaps without duplication and being responsive to trends, emerging issues, and requests, including those from government.

In conclusion, I take you on a ‘tour’ through this Review, highlighting our achievements across our work. Firstly, our research ‘chapter’ (pages 03-08) provides an overview of our studies and a sample of our research projects. We then showcase the support we’ve provided to the sector. Much of this work was commissioned by DCSYW but because of our unique model, we were able to ‘value add’ and respond to additional government and sector requests. You will gain an appreciation of the diversity of this area in pages 09-14 and see the ways we grew our work, despite the challenges of an unpredictable year.

This Review will also provide you with a sense of the importance of partnerships to which I referred earlier. Of note is our partnership with WorkUP Queensland, where we complemented the activities of this team. WorkUP has a focus on the building of capacity in relation to the specialist sexual assault and domestic and family violence service sector. In our role we were suppliers of training to WorkUP, as well as a range of other stakeholders. Through CQUniversity’s investment, we strive to make education and training available more broadly to enable the development of more effective integrated service responses. Examples of this work in our third domain are presented on pages 15-20, where you’ll see the Centre’s commitment to maintaining a practice-based orientation, particularly for our future workforce.

Our Centre, with its ‘unique model’, occupies a privileged position, and it is one we take very seriously. This Review celebrates and acknowledges the experience and expertise of the networks, services, and individuals who partnered with and advised us in 2020. I hope you enjoy our story of the exhilarating journey of 2020 in this snapshot of our work.



Dr Heather Lovatt
Director, Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research

ABOUT US

Researchers and lecturers

Our successes in 2020 could not be achieved without the commitment and hard work of the members and staff of the Centre. Full-time staff are located in Mackay, Brisbane and Perth, while casual staff are located across Queensland.



Dr Heather Lovatt
Director/ Researcher



Dr Annabel Taylor
Research Professor



Dr Liane McDermott
Senior Researcher



Dr Sue Carswell
Senior Researcher



Dr Emily Hurren Paterson
Senior Lecturer



Dr Nicola Cheyne
Lecturer



Dr Brian Sullivan
Senior Lecturer



Dr Marika Guggisberg
Senior Lecturer



Ms Michaela Pieterse
Research Worker



Ms Suewellyn Kelly
Associate Lecturer



Mr Mark Walters
Associate Lecturer



Ms Colleen Gunning
Lecturer/ Education Coordinator

Our Partners

Thanks to our many partners who are also focused on a world where women and children are safe and have a sense of wellbeing.





Research / evaluation

Dr Heather Lovatt, Director, QCDFVR

Our projects during 2020 continued unabated, despite the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 restrictions. These projects are presented on the following pages. Most of our projects have been, or are, evaluations or have an evaluative component. This work spreads us across Queensland to undertake a variety of studies for government and other commissioning bodies.

Evaluative work is an area in which we are well-positioned, with established researchers skilled in specific evaluation design and execution, such as significant change approach, success case method, and evaluability assessment (Mathison, 2008). Evaluations are often referred to as applied research (Barker, Pistrang & Elliott, 2016; Hakbarth & Gall, 2005; Rallis, 2014). However, the intersect between evaluations and research can be a contested space, given distinct variations in types of evaluations. Yet boundaries can be blurred, with most of our projects in 2020 described as applied research. This reflects our projects' alignment with research methodologies and ethics; their informing decision-making, generating new knowledge, making recommendations based on key questions, recommending areas for further research, reporting to stakeholders, and publishing results. It is an exciting interface - we focus on 'what works', with findings leading to a social impact.

It is beyond the scope of this document to list every literature review underpinning our research, education, and sector support. However, we do want to emphasise the importance we put on this particular research method to systematically collect and synthesise literature and other contemporary evidence as a basis from which to proceed and from which we share knowledge. We also conducted exploratory studies of emerging areas relating to women who use force in a DFV context and research with women who are survivors of strangulation.

In this field of gendered violence, we are also future oriented and developing researchers, through supervision of higher degree students, who are generating new and exciting knowledge. Below is a sample of some of the topics under exploration:

- *CEO or superwoman? Exploring the challenges and incentives of leading non-affiliated domestic and family violence specialist services in Queensland*
- *A historical research approach to discovering the causes and effects of the staggering statistics of rape and sexual violence*

towards women in India and the changes in attitudes towards such violence found in literature

- *Weaponising PTSD*
- *The impact of mindfulness on mental wellbeing of the nurses in hospitals in Bhutan*
- *Australian nurses' and midwives' experiences of providing comprehensive abortion care to women affected by domestic violence or sexual assault*
- *An exploratory study of men who use non-lethal strangulation in the context of domestic violence*
- *Christian women's experiences of domestic violence and the correlation of these experiences with theological doctrines promoted within the Christian Church communities*
- *Exploring characteristics which influence sexual assault perpetration facilitated through online dating apps.*



While we were reliant on technology to progress much of our research in 2020, we were, on occasion, fortunate to be able to undertake fieldwork. We sincerely valued opportunities to conduct our 'real-world research' later in the year.



2020 Projects

Centre researchers have worked on projects relevant to regional, state, and national levels. In addition to literature reviews and practice papers, key projects included:

 <p>Women's Health and Wellbeing Support Service</p> <p>Status: Completed</p>	 <p>Integrated Service Response – Rockhampton</p> <p>Status: Completed</p>	 <p>The Relationship between Gambling and Domestic Violence against Women Study</p> <p>Status: Completed</p>
 <p>Response to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People Experiencing or Using Domestic and Family Violence in Townsville</p> <p>Status: In Progress</p>	 <p>Sexual Assault Survey</p> <p>Status: In Progress</p>	 <p>Response to Female Perpetrators of Domestic and Family Violence</p> <p>Status: Completed</p>
 <p>Evaluation of Uniting Care Queensland Men's Behaviour Change Program</p> <p>Status: In Progress</p>	 <p>Investment Review of Services and Programs to Support Children and Young People who have Experienced or been Exposed to Domestic and Family Violence</p> <p>Status: In Progress</p>	 <p>Review of the Effectiveness of P.R.A.D.O. (Caboolture)</p> <p>Status: In Progress</p>
 <p>A Qualitative Investigation of the Experiences of Female Strangulation Survivors</p> <p>Status: Completed</p>	 <p>Safety and Accountability of a COVID 19 Online Men's Domestic Violence Intervention Program</p> <p>Status: In Progress</p>	 <p>Unintended Consequences of Men's Domestic Violence Programmes: Experiences of Facilitators, Women's Advocates, and Women's Counsellors</p> <p>Status: In Progress</p>



Case Studies

This sample of our research reflects the diversity of our research partnerships. The Red Rose Foundation, DCSYW and UnitingCare Queensland respectively have commissioned/worked with us on these projects

A Qualitative Investigation of the Experiences of Female Strangulation Survivors

Dr Nicola Cheyne

As a type of physical violence, non-lethal strangulation warrants special attention given that victims who have been previously strangled are at higher risk of future serious abuse and more likely to be killed. To date, little research has been conducted on non-lethal strangulation internationally and in Australia there is little existing knowledge of women's experiences of strangulation and service responses to these incidents. To bridge the gaps in knowledge, we undertook a qualitative research study consisting of in-depth interviews with 16 women to ask them about their histories of experiencing domestic violence and non-lethal strangulation; the impacts on their physical and psychological health; and their interactions with services (e.g., police, health, and DFV services) and ongoing safety concerns. The Red Rose Foundation was a key partner in recruitment to the study and served as a support system for the women.

Early indications are that the women experienced:

- strangulation in the context of many other forms of domestic violence; and
- short-term and ongoing physical and psychological impacts from strangulation.

While some women reported positive service engagements, a larger number of women noted system failures that impacted on the assistance they were able to receive in relation to their experiences of strangulation.





Evaluation of the Women's Health and Wellbeing Support Service to support women's long-term recovery from Domestic and Family Violence

Dr Sue Carswell and Dr Liane McDermott

Supporting women's longer-term recovery from their experiences of domestic and family violence (DFV) was identified as a gap in service delivery in the report, *Not Now Not Ever: Putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland*. The DCSYW has been addressing this gap through an additional service response and funding stream for Women's Health and Wellbeing Support Services (WHWSS) across Queensland since mid-2018.

The Centre was commissioned by the DCSYW to evaluate the WHWSS implementation and early outcomes for women across ten sites. We conducted a scoping phase to develop the evaluation design in consultation with DCSYW and the WHWSS providers. The second phase of the evaluation was completed in the latter half of 2020.

The evaluation findings demonstrate the need and value of the WHWSS for women who have experienced DFV. Women's experiences of DFV result in multiple and complex effects such as an increased risk of depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD), substance use, reduced self-confidence, and social isolation. In this WHWSS cohort there were three main service responses: case management; counselling; and facilitation of programs and workshops.

The demand for the WHWSS was very high across the ten evaluation sites, highlighting the need for these types of services. While providers developed a range of place-based service delivery models, there were many common elements of good practice to support women's longer-term recovery. It is important to consider how these practices work together as a system of support and provide mutually reinforcing benefits for women. A key finding was that women required different services at different times, and the WHWSS providers endeavoured to support their needs with a flexible, tailored approach.

The Case Management Officer (CMO) works in partnership with clients and their families to identify issues, some of which may be impacting on their legal matters, and develop a case plan to address these issues. Clients are encouraged to prioritise goals and are supported to take steps to achieve these goals.

Does personal change last the distance? Research with men and their partners/ex-partners 12 - 18 months following a men's behaviour change program

Professor Annabel Taylor

A team from the Centre has been evaluating the effectiveness of men's behaviour change programs (MBCP) in partnership with UnitingCare Queensland (UCQ). At the outset we worked closely with Dr Chez Leggatt-Cook (Principal Advisor, Research and Evaluation at UCQ), program managers, and staff in co-designing, planning, and executing the project which has been conducted over a three-year period. A major focus of the evaluation is to inform practice development for UnitingCare, and we have been involved in sharing our findings with managers and staff through their community of practice forums during the evaluation period.

We are now into our final year where we are focussing on how the MBCPs have contributed towards longer-term outcomes for men 12 months post-program. To further ascertain whether the program has influenced changes in attitudes and behaviours we invited their partners or ex-partners to be confidentially interviewed. The interviews are mainly qualitative, with some short scales to measure women's safety and men's attitudinal change.

As with much longitudinal research it is a challenge contacting all of the participants at this time point, and we are still in the process of data collection. However, early insights into the reflections of the men and their partners/ex-partners regarding the longer term effects of men's behaviour change programs are being ascertained:

- Some men talked about having changed significantly for the better in terms of their partner relationships and relationships with their children.
- At times they reported they were already making changes before they undertook the MBCP and that the programs confirmed for them what they needed to do and gave them the skills and knowledge to put this into practice. This was particularly the case concerning the men's relationships with their children, as they had not appreciated the impact of conflict on their children's development.
- For one of the men, COVID-19 meant that he became the main carer for the first time and he was enjoying time with his children.

- More commonly the partners and ex-partners of these men confirmed that the MBCP had provided men with knowledge and skills that had led to positive behaviour changes.
- Some noted that the man was more aware of the impact of what they were doing to women and children and the MBCP helped them develop more self-awareness, along with practical tools and strategies to manage their feelings.
- Some of the partners/ex-partners interviewed at 12 months post-program, reported short-term improvements in men's behaviour while they were attending the program and then a deterioration over the months that followed. For some, they felt that this was because the men were doing the program to lift a DVO or the conditions of the DVO. In these instances, where the program was reported as a means to an end, women felt increasingly unsafe with an escalation in the control tactics by their partners. The women who felt safe and able to separate, often reported ongoing difficulty with shared parenting or ongoing surveillance by the partner.

A key finding, immediately post-program, was that most of the women suggested there needed to be further follow-up in the form of a course and/or counselling. Emerging findings from the longitudinal phase show that some men have sought additional support since attending the program and this has been beneficial.

Our aim is to complete interviews and analysis over the next few months and then summarise the findings from this longitudinal phase. The final task will be to synthesise the findings overall for the key learnings in relation to MBCP provision.

Throughout the project we have valued the time and effort that program participants and their families, UCQ staff and wider community DFV service providers have given to support this project. Their willingness to share their experiences has provided the foundation for this research.



Support for integrated service responses

Following reforms in Victoria, Dr Lucy Healey and colleagues (2013) developed a Regional Governance Continuum Matrix of Practice for domestic and family violence-sexual assault partnerships. The matrix tool was intended to guide professionals, individual agencies, and the multi-agency committees in which they work, to develop effective partnerships; monitor progress of integrated governance processes; and provide indicators of success framed specifically around system accountability. The Centre utilised the tool in 2019 for a specific integrated service response in regional Queensland through adaptation into an online survey. The indicators contained in the tool were found to be useful, practical, and relevant, with findings supporting the development and progression of the integrated response. The Centre subsequently promoted the tool on our website to support its uptake more broadly. In 2020 the Centre further modified the tool for another regional setting to support integrated service efforts across Queensland.

Reference

Healey, L., Humphreys, C., & Wilcox, K. (2013). *Governance and interagency responses: improving practice for regional governance - a continuum matrix*. Sydney, NSW: Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse.



SECTOR SUPPORT





Communities of Practice

A Project Officer was dedicated to supporting and facilitating two Communities of Practice commissioned by DCSYW:

- the specialist domestic and family violence (DFV) workers employed in the Family and Child Connect (FaCC) and Intensive Family Support (IFS) Services; and
- workers across the Women's Health and Wellbeing Support Services (WHWSS).

The intent of these Communities is:

- building workforce capacity through professional development opportunities;
- enhancing peer support to ensure workers are not operating in isolation;
- enabling connectedness to contemporary practice; and
- creating opportunities for sharing problem-solving and innovative practice.

The FaCC/ IFS Services Community of Practice has been convening for some years, but 2020 was the first full year of operation for the WHWSS Community of Practice. As always, we were gratified by the results from our annual evaluation that revealed practitioners' needs had been met by our work. Contributing to the success of these approaches was the introduction of peer support sessions in response to requests from participants, and a 'member's site' for each group. The latter ensured the groups could access recordings of sessions, along with relevant articles and forthcoming training opportunities. The uptake of the members' sites was pleasing with almost 90% of the FaCC/IFS services identifying they had accessed the site in 2020 and across the board - in both sites, there were 360 member visits over the six-month period post establishment.



OVERVIEW

WHWSS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

A range of topics were covered in the CoP sessions across the year:

- Domestic violence and parenting – healing through attachment: including a presentation by Dave Burck
- Complex trauma and the brain (Parts 1 and 2): including a presentation by Dr Elisa Agostinelli
- Working with women from CALD backgrounds: including a presentation by Marica Ristic
- Vicarious Trauma: including a presentation by Emma Malone

Two peer support sessions were also held with this group.

FACC/ IFS SERVICES COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

A range of topics were covered in the sessions across the year:

- Working with men who use violence: including a presentation by Dr Brian Sullivan
- Reproductive coercion: including a presentation by Stephanie Chen
- Working with couples with intergenerational trauma: including a presentation by Dr Ron Frey
- Workers' worlds on the frontline: including a presentation by Prof. Hillary Haldane

MEMBER SELECTED TOPICS

Member selected topics for peer support sessions were:

- Engaging men who use violence
- Risk assessment: A critical review
- Vicarious trauma and selfcare
- Attachment theory and parenting in DFV

Ingrained in our daily work is an approach of listening to, understanding, and involving the voices of people with the lived experience of surviving and those who respond to gendered violence. Meaningful engagement underpins all of our activity, and the types of support we provide are diverse, including:

- We contributed to Boards, Councils and events, such as the Domestic and Family Violence Virtual Summit, the Australian Institute of Strangulation Prevention, training for the Family Court, the Queensland Community Legal Centre's Conference, and the work of the Australian College of Nursing.
- We engaged with the sector to review and develop resources, as well as training and educational materials.
- At a practical level, our relationship with CQUniversity enabled us to share facilities around Queensland, including videoconferencing mechanisms, with our network partners.

Resources

In 2020 we adapted and extended our ways of sharing knowledge.



READ

Hard copy and digital resources were produced.

ABC

Sexual Violence ‘Being a Friend’ cards are for use by practitioners across settings, including university campuses. The resource was posted to our website and was also offered in hard copy to universities.

Re@der 2020

The Re@ders reflected the emerging practice and research issues of a year that was unprecedented. In particular, the perspectives of frontline practitioners and voices of male advocates for women’s safety were highlighted.

Gendered violence activism: A compendium of Queensland stories

The life trajectories of champions in the field are captured in this unique volume.



LISTEN

The first season of podcasts was released in 2020.

Drawing heavily on the voices of practitioners who respond to gendered violence from across the field, The Bulb is an innovative approach that ‘shines a light’ on aspects of contemporary research and practice wisdom related to the field.

Season 1

- Dr Heather Lovatt – ‘Introducing The Bulb’
- Jamie Anderson and Larissa Fewquandie ‘A yarn with Indigenous social workers’
- Mark Walters ‘Engaging and communicating with men via phone’
- Pauline Woodbridge – ‘Exploring the history of Queensland’s domestic and family violence sector’
- Pauline Woodbridge – ‘In her own words’
- Dr Anne Butcher – ‘On the shoulders of giants’

The second season of The Bulb is in production.



**WATCH**

Practitioner experts and researchers shared their knowledge through a series of recorded presentations in 2020.

- Practitioner's Perspective: Pauline Woodbridge, *Responding to domestic and family violence - Lessons I've learnt (Parts 1 and 2)*
- Research to Practice Perspective: Dr Heather Lovatt, *Responding to Sexual Violence*
- Research to Practice Perspective: Mr Mark Walters, *Techniques to Increase Meaningful Contact with Men Who Use Violence by Phone*
- Practitioners' Perspectives: Dr Ron Frey and Dr Brian Sullivan, *Male Violence: A practitioner's perspective (Parts 1-3)*
- Practitioner's Perspective: Ms Jatinder Kaur, *Culturally responsive practice skills in engaging with migrant and refugee women who experience sexual violence and coercive control*
- Practitioner's Perspective: Ms Katrina Weeks, *Relationship rights and responsibilities: Empowering others to navigate safe and consensual relationships*
- Practitioner's Perspective: Ms Caroline Fitzpatrick, *Supporting women from CALD backgrounds experiencing DFV and sexual abuse*



In 2020, based on a need identified by stakeholders across the state, we produced a video to complement the Domestic and Family Violence Information Sharing Guidelines resource produced by the Queensland Government.

Designed to support workers across sectors and communities, the video is a brief introduction to the Guidelines and encourages workers across sectors to locate and access this resource in order to help them understand who is allowed to share information, what circumstances allow information sharing without consent to ensure the safety of victims and children, and what information can be shared.



Domestic and Family Violence: sharing information.

An introduction for Queensland workers.



University
of Queensland

QCDFVR



Working with First Nations Peoples

2020 Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum

Mindful, in particular, of the health needs and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and those for whom travel may have presented additional health risks, in March 2020 a difficult decision was made. In line with the Government’s advice that non-essential gatherings of large groups should not take place and in consultation with our partners and funders, the Centre postponed the Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention 2020 Forum. At the time we were very disappointed, but the decision to postpone was necessary for the protection of the community and to help reduce transmission of the virus.

We knew that nothing could compare with the experience of personally attending our Forum, but we wanted to ensure our stakeholders had the opportunity to access knowledge. At that stage, attendance at a live virtual event was not possible for many workers, so we recorded shorter format presentations on a variety of topics by key Forum presenters and promoted these as a suite during May.



Understanding Seasons

Mr Randal Ross, Red Dust Healing Co-founder and Manager Cultural and Community Relations NWRH, shared insights about cultural seasons and reflects on the relationship between current restrictions and traditional family roles.



DATSIP’s Role and Investment

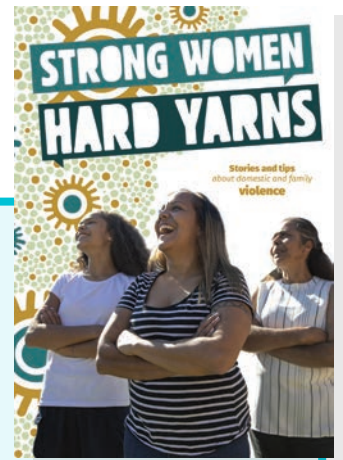
Manager of the Domestic and Family Violence Reforms and Implementation at the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP), **Ms Jo Radke** updated on DATSIP’s work in ensuring Government investments are culturally appropriate and tailored to community needs.



Healing in a Time of COVID-19

Ms Samantha Wild, Senior Consultant, Awakening Cultural Ways celebrated cultural resilience, highlighting the challenges and opportunities the pandemic has brought Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.





Strong Women Hard Yarns

WHWSS Community of Practice

The Centre's much-loved **Strong Women Hard Yarns** resource was refreshed in 2021.

Esteemed colleagues Aunties Bino Toby and Lyn Anderson reviewed and updated the resource. Thank you to Jamie Anderson for leading this and our CQUniversity friends who provided further advice.

A future animated adaptation is in production to ensure maximum uptake of this highly valued resource.



The Bulb

The Bulb Episode 2: A yarn with Indigenous social workers Jamie Anderson and Larissa Fewquandie

In this very popular episode two experienced social workers, Jamie and Larissa, yarned about worker self-care when responding to gendered violence and gave practical tips to those coming into the field.



Jamie Anderson, Heather Lovatt and Larissa Fewquandie

Vocational
education and
training (VET)



Higher
education

Customised
training

Our People

- Two Associate Lecturer positions worked seamlessly and tirelessly to respond to industry demands for the delivery of vocational and customised training.
- Our pool of casual teaching and tutoring staff - who reflect the high value we place on diversity, lived, and practice experience – continued to bring authenticity to our education offerings.
- The post-graduate teaching team's four full-time continuing lecturers, three of whom are Senior Lecturers in two metropolitan locations, maintained their focus on the delivery of practice-relevant, high quality online qualifications.



EDUCATION





Education and training

2020 was a year of growth and transformation in this area of our work as well. Our focus on ‘practice’ and equipping current and potential workers in this field, saw us offering additional opportunities in terms of content and methods of delivery.

The opportunities

The delivery of learning opportunities across the continuum from customised unaccredited professional development to accredited study, including postgraduate Masters and Doctoral qualifications, remained a key feature of our Centre.

While we maintain our traditional focus on Queensland, and the specialist gendered violence sector, we recognise that survivors and perpetrators of domestic, family, and sexual violence may encounter many services.

With that in mind, as in 2019, we demonstrated our commitment to building effective integrated responses - where agencies are violence- and trauma-informed, information sharing occurs, and common language and risk assessment are in place to improve the safety of women and their children.

Because workers from so many sectors need to understand the complexities of gendered violence, our suite of learning experiences is aimed at building the capacity of the broader service system to respond to the needs of families.

We believe this will strengthen and expand the workforce in a field where demand is growing, and ultimately it will contribute to improving the livelihood of individuals and families.

We are proud to be an integral stakeholder in building greater integrated service responses to domestic and family violence in our state.

WorkUP: Collaboration to build workforce response capacity and capability

The Centre is a partner with WorkUP Queensland in the building of a strong and skilled workforce in the sexual violence, women’s health, and domestic and family violence sectors.

This was evident in the development and delivery of professional development in 2020:

- Techniques to increase meaningful contact with men who use violence by phone: Informed by research and built in practice.
- Engagement with men who use violence: An introduction to safety, accountability, and responsibility.
- Foundations of DFV work practices: Delivery on five occasions.
- Supporting safety: Children and young people in the gendered violence context: Delivery on two occasions.



I expected to have a better understanding of the HRT framework, and I certainly have that now. I think overall the training exceeded my expectations, the content and delivery was well structured and it had a good amount of engagement.



Strengthening our state’s High-Risk Teams

In 2020, through our relationship with WorkUP, customised workshops were delivered to Domestic Violence High-Risk Teams (HRT), Integrated Service Response personnel, and key stakeholders in specific Queensland sites in a virtual delivery mode.





Training and support for frontline workers: Churches of Christ Care

Training: Accredited and non-accredited

Churches of Christ Care Queensland continued to avail of the training expertise of the Centre's Associate Lecturers, who have built the knowledge and skills of 'Churches' staff from diverse areas across Queensland for some years. It is an honour to be instrumental in building the capacity of key services to recognise and respond to gendered violence and its impacts.

Some participants completed an accredited unit (vocational training), and others learnt through non-accredited professional development. Through this important area of our work, we embody our commitment to encouraging integrated responses to family violence.

Support: Community of Practice

An innovation in 2020 was the facilitation of a customised Community of Practice. Our long-term and valued partners, Churches of Christ Care, approached the Centre to develop and deliver this unique model for their organisation. Since the Centre had been undertaking similar work through its Queensland Government funding, staff were experienced in such an approach, and drawing on the expertise within our team, and with the input of friends of the Centre from research and practice, we worked with Churches of Christ Care to shape a Community of Practice to suit staff needs.

Training for justice and accountability: Queensland Corrective Services

Queensland Corrective Services engaged Centre staff to develop and deliver five workshops to Custodial, and Probation and Parole Officers as part of their overall training. We are proud to be part of this department's demonstration of its dedication to the safety of women and their children.

Custodial Officers learn about the evidence relating to the gendered nature of intimate partner violence and how developing an analysis of this crime positively influences workplace culture. This discussion-driven workshop emphasises strengthening the new prison officers' commitment to family safety - justice for those affected and accountability to those responsible. It presents the premise that every interaction with an inmate has potential teachable moments.



- I enjoyed the content provided by the trainers as well as them sharing their experiences within the DFV sector and their passion. They really highlighted how diverse and essential DFV knowledge is, and how we can use this in our work.

- Thank you for a great seminar. I was able to retain a lot of information and found it to be very valuable.

- Great energy and very great tools I can use and be more open minded.

- (The trainer) was very knowledgeable and could articulate things well.



Training for behaviour change facilitators:

SAFE Workshop

Dr Brian Sullivan facilitated a face-to-face workshop in the weeks before COVID-19 restrictions took effect. Designed to encourage learners to work with compassion, collaboration, and challenge in facilitating domestic violence intervention groups for violent men. The three-day event brought 27 workers from around the state to CQUniversity Brisbane Campus. The feedback from the group was extremely positive with attendees indicating they found the presenter, and the presentation materials, to be highly engaging.



- The content and facilitation were amazing. I walked away excited to run programs using what I learned and know it has the potential to change behaviours.

- Great workshop. Very informative and insightful.

- Great workshop! Content was well-structured, presenter was respectful and knowledgeable. The real benefit is engaging with likeminded individuals who demonstrate the genuine need for continued work in this field.



- Workshop highlighted areas of improvement needed for the service delivery of DV programs. So grateful to have participated in this course.

- I am very much still building my tool kit of skills. I would welcome any further training opportunities that grow from this training. Thank you.



Training for working with families:

Adolescent-to-parent violence

In response to a high number of requests from Government and a range of services in the state, the Centre engaged leading practitioner and researcher, Dave Burck, to write an accessible short course in responding to adolescent-to-parent violence. Dave has much experience working in domestic violence and child trauma and is the co-facilitator/co-author of a group program for mothers who experienced domestic violence and sons who witnessed domestic violence and used violence against their mothers.

Although developed later in 2020, the microcredential has been enthusiastically received, with around 70 participants enrolled in the online learning platform hosted by CQUniversity. This six-hour Short Course is an excellent professional development option for busy workers, covering both the theory behind adolescent-to-parent violence and the practical skills needed to create a safe and effective case plan. Completing the course gives learners a non-creditable micro-credential and digital badge that can be shared with their social networks and displayed in their professional portfolio.

ADOLESCENT-TO-PARENT VIOLENCE

- » 6 hours
- » \$125
- » Suitable for Everyone

CPD – CENTRE FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



FLEXIBLE ONLINE >>>

CQUniversity AUSTRALIA

CRICOS: 00219C | RTO: 40929



Training in primary health care settings

We continued to work with Brisbane South Primary Health Network (BSPHN) to improve health responses to gendered violence.

Since 2018 we have been building the capacity of general practices to positively respond to those experiencing family violence - to Recognise, Respond, Refer.

In 2020, a year of transitions for this training, the content was re-developed around the Primary Care Model presented by The Australian Centre for Social Innovation, and virtual delivery replaced face-to-face training in primary health care settings.

We welcomed new stakeholders who joined the BSPHN team to complement the work of Centre trainers and we completed the foundational phase of this important project in mid-2020.

In 2021 Centre staff will continue to work with BSPHN in the development of primary health care responses to perpetrators of domestic and family violence.

Training for workplaces

In response to requests during the height of COVID-19, we trialled the delivery of virtual training for workplaces.

All participants at these short sequential sessions, presented across three days, agreed that because of this training they now had a greater understanding of the role employers have in creating and preserving a safe workplace, as well as the elements of a workplace that promote equity and respect to reduce violence against women.

“

- Thanks for sharing the slides and videos! That is helpful for facilitating change for our own workspaces!

- I found this training to provide valuable insights and thought-provoking content. I believe this training could be tailored to provide a valuable resource for the corporate sector.

”

Research higher degrees

The Centre works through CQUniversity Australia to offer a range of Research Higher Degree programs to meet your needs.

Unlike coursework study, a Research Higher Degree usually does not follow a structure of lectures and assignments. A Research Higher Degree is a program of supervised research and study leading to the preparation and submission of a thesis. Members of the Centre are available to help with your study journey, which may commence at any time of the year.

Higher education – a focus on ‘practice’

CQUniversity continued to develop its range of higher education study options, focused on domestic and family violence practice, and maintained its position as the Australian leader in this field. The courses are delivered by research-active teaching staff who are members of the Centre’s team. All lecturers are connected to, and/or have had experience in, the specialist service sector.



Postgraduate Courses on offer:



**Graduate Certificate
in Domestic and
Family Violence
Practice**



**Graduate Certificate
in Facilitating Men's
Behaviour Change**



**Graduate Diploma of
Domestic and Family
Violence Practice**



**Master of Domestic
and Family Violence
Practice**

Postgraduate Units

CQUniversity responded to the needs of current and potential workers with the option of enrolling in a single unit as a professional development option or a pathway towards a degree. This offers the opportunity for busy workers and potential workers in the field to select individual units of interest to upskill in specific areas.

The range of units available in 2020 included:

- Domestic and Family Violence Theories and Perspectives
- Domestic and Family Violence Responses and Interventions
- Advanced Studies in Domestic and Family Violence Practice
- Child Safety and Domestic and Family Violence
- Men's Behaviour Change Interventions and Practice
- Working with Victims/Survivors of Domestic and Family Violence
- Domestic and Family Violence Project
- Leadership and Management in Domestic and Family Violence Practice
- Advanced Skills for Men's Behaviour Change
- Integrated Services and Systems for Men's Behaviour Change
- Sexual Violence in Domestic and Family Violence Contexts



- The lecturer provided us with incredibly helpful information with lots of examples and templates to use. This my first formal study in about 23 years and I have felt both very supported and that the unit was very informative and useful in my learning. The essays expanded my thoughts and evidence base of current strategies in Victoria and contemporary theories.

- The topic of this unit is interesting and was supported by a good range of readings. I liked the recorded lectures and lecture notes. By reading and listening, I felt more engaged with the content. The lecturer was very approachable and knowledgeable. I also appreciated that, while being theory-based, the information was constantly drawn back to the application in practice.

- This unit was very informed and helped me build on my knowledge in the field. It allowed me to look at various aspects in a different light and encouraged me to critically reflect on my own practice. The unit work scaffolded my learning and flowed well with the assignment tasks. Overall, I am extremely satisfied with the learnings I have taken away from this unit.



Undergraduate Unit

In Term 3 2020, Violence against women: Key themes was offered for the second time. Enrolments in this unit have grown and it has attracted students from a diverse range of disciplines.



2020 Student Voice Awards and Commendations

Senior Lecturer Dr Emily Hurren Paterson was recognised for her contribution to learning and teaching through this award. Her hard work and dedication was celebrated in this important accolade, based on positive student evaluation scores. Emily was encouraged to share her teaching advice so that others could adopt the 'secrets of her success' through peer education across CQUniversity in 2021.



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Support Staff

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|------------------|------------------|
| Patrice Zarzecki | Jude Marshall |
| Margaret Roche | Maree Gibbs |
| Janine Hicks | Monique Blundell |
| Liz Boardman | Vicki Lowik |
| Jamie Anderson | Chris Chicoteau |



Adjunct Staff

- Associate Professor Silke Meyer
 Dr Andrew Frost

*The work of the Queensland Centre for
 Domestic and Family Violence Research
 would not be possible without*

*The Queensland Government, Department of
 Child Safety, Youth and Women*

[This government department was renamed, and its functions were redistributed under the Machinery of government changes which were approved on the 12 November 2020.]

CQUniversity Australia

