

Standing Strong

2019 Report

*Queensland Indigenous
Family Violence Prevention Forum*



STUDY DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PRACTICE



About the Forum

History

Hosted by the Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research, the Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum is in its 15th year.

The 2019 Forum theme *Standing Strong* reflected the commitment of all to collaborate to end domestic and family violence, and the enduring value of this important Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month activity in Queensland's calendar. As in other years, the content related to working with women, children and men who are either survivors or perpetrators of domestic and family violence. Through formal presentations, breakout workshops and structured and informal discussions, participants from across Queensland and beyond were able to grow their knowledge of contemporary challenges and opportunities and build their practice networks.

Purpose

The Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum aims to:

- highlight and celebrate the good work that is being done by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to end domestic and family violence;
- support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to share information and gain new knowledge about strategies and programs that could be used effectively by others; and to
- promote opportunities for networking between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers in the field of domestic and family violence prevention.



Learning together and growing... *“”*

Great to hear so many ideas from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people about how culturally appropriate services and responses could be developed and delivered.

Director's Message



Thank you to all who contributed to the Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum, including the major funders of the Forum: the Queensland Government and CQUniversity.

In 2019, the messages of hope, resilience and innovative practice resonated across the Forum in presentations from keynote speakers, workshop facilitators and community champions, and all reflected the event's Standing Strong theme. This was truly a place where practitioners could learn, share and thrive.

This report provides an overview of the 2019 Forum, the speakers, guests and facilitators, and associated learnings and benefits. Ours is indeed a unique Forum, and in particular I would like to emphasise two particular aspects.

Firstly, our delegates- many of whom have attended the Forum for a decade or more- come from all over Queensland. Practitioners from regional, rural and remote and city services, as well as policy makers, take this opportunity to learn and share and build important and enduring networks. The map on page 09 gives a sense of the diversity of our participant base within the state, and we acknowledge those who travelled from interstate to join us.

Desmond Campbell, our keynote speaker, drew attention to a second feature of our Forum: the high representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male delegates. We were fortunate to hear Desmond speak at a conference in late 2018, and at that event he highlighted not only the under-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the room, but how few men were present on that occasion. In his keynote presentation, Desmond spoke to "why it's important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men to be part of the conversation to break the domestic violence cycle" and acknowledged how many men were engaged in our Forum.

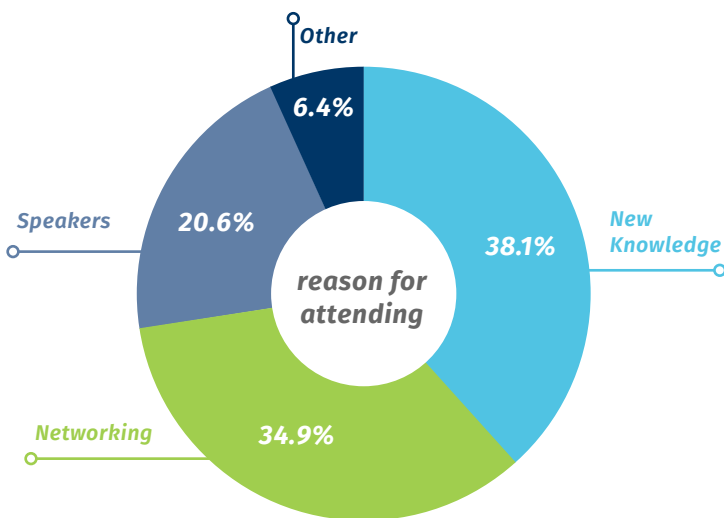
These few pages are but a taste of our days together, and cannot do justice to the spirit of goodwill and warmth at our event. It is truly a privilege to continue to welcome such dedicated practitioners to inspire and share with us as we all walk the journey to creating safer homes for women and children.

I welcome you to join us for our next Forum.

Director, Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research



A purposeful forum: reasons for attending



Other reasons for attending:

- Inspiration
- Work
- Passionate about DV
- Ideas on relevant programmes
- To engage
- Compulsory - what's working for others, gaining new ideas
- Participate
- Develop new programmes
- Support from others
- Apply cultural sensitivities to my practice as I work with Indigenous males and non-indigenous women
- Keynote Speaker
- Changing the picture in practice
- Hearing voices
- Understanding the dynamics of working in this area

Participants & presenters: Cultural background

103 Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander delegates (of whom 32 were men)

48 Non-Indigenous delegates



Learning together and growing... *“”*

Listening to the stories. Hearing the knowledge and knowing we are all on the same path to provide better outcomes for Indigenous communities.



97%

of attendees strongly agreed or agreed that they gained new knowledge at the Forum



98%

of attendees strongly agreed or agreed that they could use the knowledge gained in their work



98%

of attendees were very pleased or pleased with the content/ topics/ presentations at the Forum



99%

of attendees were very pleased or pleased with the networking opportunities at the Forum

Presenters



Opening Address:
The View from National Stage:
Fifteen Years On

Dr Jackie Huggins AM FAHA is Co-Chair of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples. Through the lens of this role, in this Opening Address Jackie shared her perspective on where we've been and where we're going in terms of state and national responses to the drivers and manifestations of violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. With the QIFVP Forum now in its 15th year, Jackie's presentation reflected on how the workforce has evolved to serve these communities, and what opportunities and challenges may be ahead for us.



Dr Jackie Huggins' knowledge... was incredible and inspiring. She also gave some challenging thoughts.

The opening address by Dr. Jackie Huggins... set the scene and provided strategic information.

Dr Jackie Huggins' Opening Address was the best part of the day.



Keynote Presentation:
Boys as Victims, Men as
Prevention Leaders

Why it's important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men to be part of the conversation to break the domestic violence cycle.

This presentation drew on the perspective of Desmond's personal upbringing in a home and community where family violence was prevalent. Desmond explored how this shaped his personal relationships with his family, community and intimate partners. He discussed his gradual understanding of healthy relationships through education and understanding of behaviours, through to being the only Aboriginal male sitting at the table shaping and implementing program delivery, research, policy and community advocacy to ensure national frameworks are relevant to our communities.



Keynote speaker Desmond Campbell was my highlight of the Forum.

The best part of the day was the gaining of insights into LGBTI strategies for prevention.

Desmond's presentation made me really aware of the problems of LGBTI people

Desmond Campbell certainly leads the way for many LGBTI peoples to tackle gender bias and stereotypes. We need to see much more of him in the future.



Special Guests



National Launch

National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women and Gender Equality: What do Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples think?

Dr Heather Nancarrow and Dr Kyllie Cripps, ANROWS

In this presentation, Dr Heather Nancarrow and Dr Kyllie Cripps launched the findings from the National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey (NCAS), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander survey participants. The presentation provided an overview of the NCAS and a deeper look at the responses provided by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who participated in the survey.



1800Respect Update

The work of 1800Respect

Project Manager with 1800RESPECT in the Disability Referral Pathways project, Hannah Taylor provided an overview of the work on 1800 Respect, including its national consultations with people with disability, and those living in rural and remote communities. She acknowledged the 1800Respect National Sector Advisory Group and shared the feedback of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who stressed that they need to be at the table when considering issues affecting their communities.



Workshops

Changing the Picture in Practice - Implementation Workshop

Karla McGrady, Our Watch

Karla provided an overview of the work being undertaken by Our Watch in preventing domestic and family violence. There was a focus on intersectionality and on 'changing the picture', and discussion about the principles guiding action and an opportunity to explore values and principles in action.



The Changing the Picture Workshop needs to be spoken about.

Being part of the Changing the Picture discussions has been exciting.

This was an opportunity to learn about Changing the Picture, and hear directly the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers in the field.

The Warrior Within

Samantha Wild, Awakening Cultural Ways

Samantha Wild and John Brady hosted a workshop on Truth – Justice – Reconciliation. In this session participants looked into family healing and our role to reinstate recognition of the love, protection, beauty and royalty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.



The Warrior Within was fantastic, outstanding - very informed and informative: it was wonderful that we could meet in this space - acknowledging our dark history without the anger.

This was a very powerful workshop.



Community Presentations

THEME:

Storylines Project

PRESENTERS:

Namarca Corowa
MARABISDA
Mackay

Strong Families,
Strong Community

Rachael Johnson
Laurence Anderson and Patricia Smyth

Strong Families, Strong Community
Cunnamulla

Torres Strait Social Justice
Interagency Services

Julia Yorkston
Gina Binjuda
Dalasa George

Various Organisations
Torres Strait

Murrigunyah Healing Centre

Leanne Smith
Rhonda Nicholls

Murrigunyah Family and Cultural
Healing Centre Woodridge

A Collaborative Approach to
Service Delivery

Bino Toby
QIFVLS
Rockhampton

Domestic and Family Violence
Project Officer: Engaging with
the Community

Eddie Hollingsworth
Desley Ah Wing
DATSIP
Mount Isa



The best part of today was the community presentations - to be able to hear about other organisations - explain everything about what they do and how they help.

The community presentations and hearing about fantastic programmes that are happening in communities was the best part of the day.

Torres Strait ladies - wow. I've been prompted about sessions I can deliver to my male clients.

The presentations from the Torres Strait Islander and Cunnamulla programmes were the best part of the day. We heard ideas we can implement almost immediately once made culturally appropriate.

Community presentations were inspiring and informed. Excellent to see community based, ground up approach by community.

Participants

Where did our participants come from?

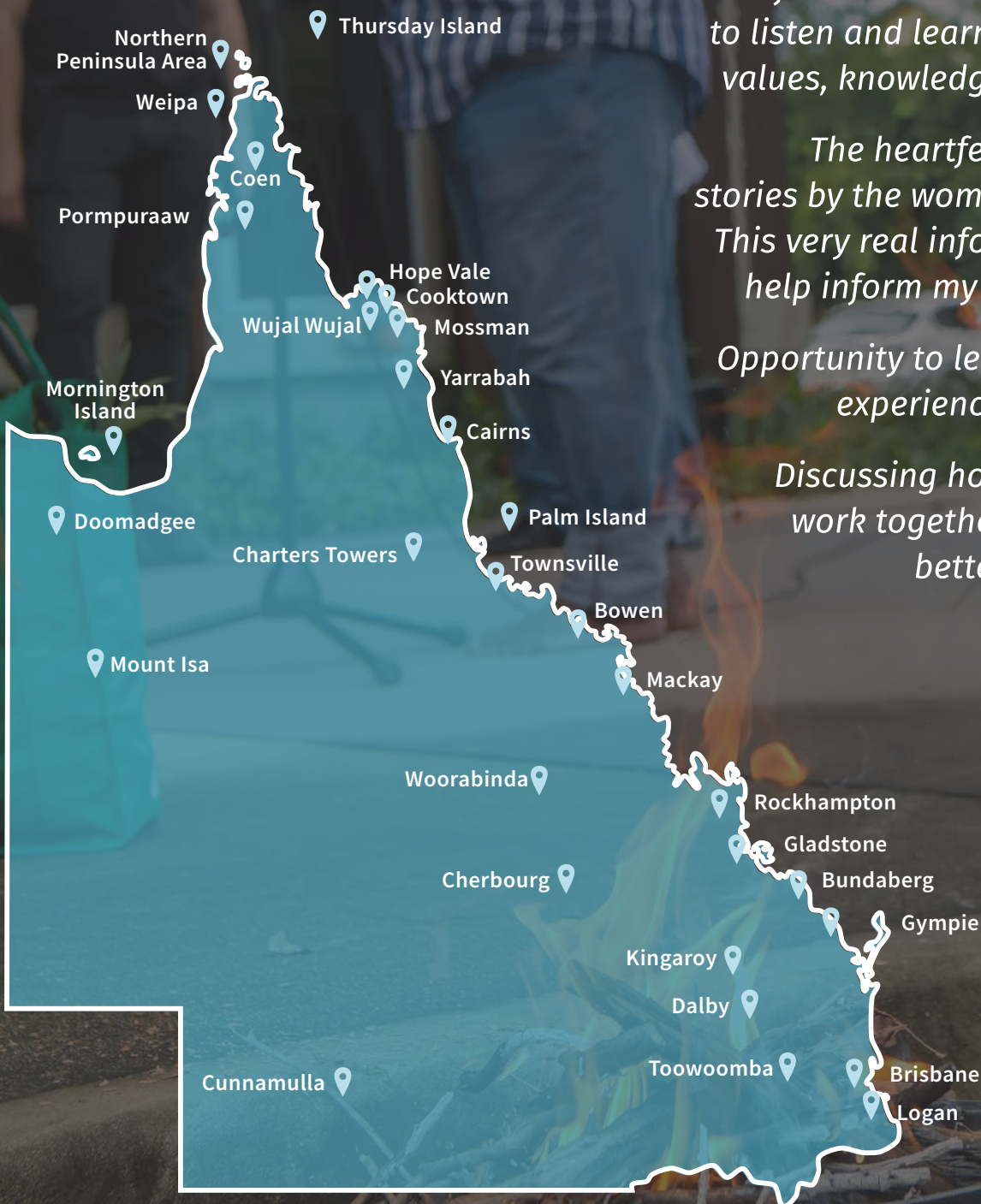
Learning together and growing... “””

Interacting during the sessions to find out what they do and to listen and learn about their values, knowledge and ideas.

The heartfelt sharing of stories by the women and men. This very real information will help inform my future work.

Opportunity to learn from the experiences of others.

Discussing how we can all work together to achieve better outcomes.



After the Forum

I didn't get to say goodbye to you last week, Well done and a big thank you to you and the team for another successful forum. We really enjoyed ourselves and hope to see you again next year.

We really enjoy taking the opportunity to show people what we are doing with our program. We will definitely keep in touch. It was a great Forum.

What an amazing week it was and thank you to everyone involved, we had a great time and learnt so much.

As a first time attendee, it was fantastic to see so many community based organisations and their amazingly dedicated staff coming together in a safe space to network and share practice. While many of the issues and challenges discussed would not be new to any of the attendees and workers in this space, I found it really valuable to hear what impediments these organisations face in their work and what solutions they've developed to address them at a local level, particularly considering I don't have much previous experience in this space. It gave me a lot to think about at the end of the two days, especially in relation to how I can adjust the way in which I (and my organisation) work to ensure that what I do and how I do it is not an impediment to those on the frontline and at a grassroots level.

This Forum offered a great opportunity to discuss prevention frameworks and programs with people involved in sector based work as well as those involved in frontline work. It was a well put together conference with very relevant and current content and data, creating networking opportunities which are incredibly important and creating space for facilitated conversations that play a key role in moving this work forward. Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in such an important conference for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Queensland.

I wanted to thank you for supporting the Trauma and Healing workshop at the Qld Indigenous Forum. I was amazed by the coordination and support provided by QCDFVR team members.

It was an absolute pleasure to network with the workshop attendees and value the hard work of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce and all people working with our communities.

A huge congratulations on a wonderful event!





“”” Learning together and growing...

It's good to see other services throughout Queensland and our very strong and passionate cultural professionals.

