



YEAR IN REVIEW

2021



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*Creating and sharing
knowledge since 2002*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Acknowledgement of Country

We proudly acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands across Queensland and Australia's other states and pay our respects to All First Nations Peoples. We acknowledge that sovereignty over this land was never ceded. We value the ongoing contribution of our many First Nations partners in advising, supporting and contributing to our work and projects – so that your voices and those of your communities are reflected in our work. We thank you with humility.

Acknowledgement of victim survivors

We acknowledge that adults, adolescents and children who have been impacted by domestic, family and sexual violence. We recognise that many remain invisible and unheard, and the criticality of an integrated, systems' response when victim survivors speak. Victim survivors are at the reason behind, and at the forefront of, our work. We thank you for sharing your stories with us and keeping us grounded in our efforts.

Acknowledgement of specialist and frontline services

We acknowledge the life changing and life-saving work of all who work on the frontline in gendered violence specialist services: the value and complexity of their work cannot be overestimated. We appreciate that this work cannot be done in isolation and the worth of working together across sectors to create safer lives for victim survivors. We thank those specialists, and all who work with them, for the many ways in which they support our work.

Acknowledgement of our partners

We acknowledge we cannot do this work alone and we thank our many partners through 2021 who supported our mission to contribute to the prevention of and response to violence against women (and their children) through research, education and sector support.



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In the preceding pages I paid a number of acknowledgements – these acknowledgements are heartfelt and sincere as we aim to make a difference, working with our partners who share our passion about the safety of women and their children. Also enabling our work is sustained funding and investment provided by the Queensland Government (Department of Justice and Attorney-General) and CQUniversity.

As in the previous year COVID-19 has had a major impact for all during 2021. This also meant a constantly changing landscape and heightened complexities and demand for those impacted by domestic, family and sexual violence. Despite the challenges in 2021 it was another busy year as we too evolved and changed our model and ways of working. This Year in Review provides a snapshot of our key highlights and achievements of 2021 which we hope you enjoy.

You can read more about Research on pages 3-7. On these pages you can see an overview of our research and evaluation projects over the year – completed and in progress. We also note publications and reports as well as cutting edge topics being explored by Research Higher Degree students during the year. If you are interested in knowing more, or seeking literature pertaining to these studies, you only have to email qcdfvonline@cqu.edu.au or subscribe as a member for us to update you regularly.

Sector Support is an integral part of our work. It is impossible to cover every piece of work but pages 8-13 provide a glimpse of the range of our activities in this area. We moved to different ways of presenting material such as animations and podcasts – always based on what identified needs and gaps the sector is telling us is important.

Our work with First Nations peoples and partners continued, including hosting a face-to-face Forum (including a virtual participation option) based on expressed preferences. This was truly a highlight for all those attending and there is more about this on pages 11-12.

Finally on pages 14-18 you can read more about education and training. We are progressively moving to offer different educational opportunities, ranging from online micro-credential professional development to research higher degrees that are ultra-flexible, cost effective and accessible.

We look forward to working with our valued partners and new partners, as we strive to make a difference in the lives of women and children.



Dr Heather Lovatt

Director, Queensland Centre for Domestic
and Family Violence Research



Research & Evaluation

KEY PROJECTS

There were challenges associated with ongoing COVID-19 restrictions impacting on research and evaluation methods and engagement with stakeholders, but a range of key projects were continued or completed including:

Response to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People Experiencing or using Domestic and Family Violence in Townsville



Review of the Effectiveness of P.R.A.D.O. (Caboolture)



Investment Review of Services and Programs to Support Children and Young People who have Experienced or been Exposed to Domestic and Family Violence



Sexual Assault Survey



Unintended Consequences of Men's Domestic Violence Programmes: Experiences of Facilitators, Women's Advocates, and Women's Counsellors



Safety and Accountability of a COVID 19 Online Men's Domestic Violence Intervention Program



Review of Departmental Publications – Legislation Explained (The Act); Increasing Your Safety (for those experiencing domestic and family violence); and Stopping Abuse



Review the outcome measurement tools and processes used by WHWSS providers to promote consistency and improve the information available to government and service providers about outcomes for women accessing WHWSS



Prosecution of adult sexual assault cases: an exploratory analysis of the impact of an integrated sexual assault response model



Evaluation of a case management model for Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service



Evaluation of UnitingCare Queensland Men's Behaviour Change Program



Exploring the legal outcomes from the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) model in Townsville (2016-2021)



A Qualitative Investigation of the Experiences of Female Strangulation Survivors



Development of micro credentials to be uploaded to a learning platform to support the Perpetrator Intervention Services Requirements



Ensuring the views and perspectives of regional, rural and remote communities are captured is a priority of our research. Our Director, Dr Heather Lovatt, visited Kingaroy in 2021 to hear valuable insights from workers as part of an Investment Review in 2021 exploring services and programs for children and young people. South Burnett CTC's Stacey and Maria provided a rich contribution to this project, and are pictured here with Heather. South Burnett CTC has long been a valued partner in our work and drew in their diverse team of workers to share with us during this visit.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- Academic journals are an important avenue for researchers to share findings from studies more broadly, nationally and internally. A snapshot of such publications is outlined below.
- Dhollande S, **Taylor A**, Meyer S, Scott M. Conducting integrative reviews: a guide for novice nursing researchers *Journal of Research in Nursing* 26(5):427-438 01 Aug 2021 (Journal article)
- Guggisberg M**, Bottino S, Doran CM. Women's contexts and circumstances of posttraumatic growth after sexual victimization: A systematic review *Frontiers in Psychology* 12:1-13 26 Aug 2021 (Journal article) [Publisher URL](#)
- Guggisberg M**. Sexuality and sexual health: Professional issues for nurses In *Nursing in Australia: Contemporary professional and practice insights*. Editors: Wilson, Nathan J., Lewis, Peter, Hunt, Leanne, Whitehead, Lisa. 201-210. Routledge, Abingdon, UK 2021 (Book chapter) [Publisher URL](#)
- Guggisberg M**, Haldane HJ, Lowik VJ, Taylor AM, Mackay BA, Signal TD. Silencing by design: Lessons learned about child sexual abuse from a university sexual assault survey *Women's Health* 17:1-12 Dec 2021 (Journal article) [Publisher URL](#)
- Hing N, O'Mullan C, Mainey L, Nuske E, Breen H, **Taylor A**. Impacts of male intimate partner violence on women: A life course perspective *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 18(16):1-16 Article number 8303 02 Aug 2021 (Journal article) [Publisher URL](#)
- Hing N, O'Mullan C, Nuske E, Breen H, Mainey L, **Taylor A**, Greer N, Jenkinson R, Thomas A, Lee J, et al. Gambling-Related Intimate Partner Violence Against Women: A Grounded Theory Model of Individual and Relationship Determinants *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 01 Jan 2021 (Journal article)
- McKenzie EF, Thompson CM, **Hurren E**, Tzoumakis S, Stewart A. "Who maltreats? Distinct pathways of intergenerational (dis)continuity of child maltreatment" *Child Abuse and Neglect* 118:1-13 Article number 105105 01 Aug 2021 (Journal article) [Publisher URL](#)

COMMISSIONED REPORTS - QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT

We also completed diverse studies for the Queensland Government:

Women who use force in a domestic and family violence context

Review of the Effectiveness of P.R.A.D.O. (Caboolture).

Evaluation of the Family Violence Support Service Model (Townsville)

Investment Review of Services and Programs to Support Children and Young People Impacted by Domestic and Family Violence.



RESEARCH HIGHER DEGREE STUDENTS

It is important that research, that is innovative and has a social impact, is fostered to shed light on contemporary and emerging issues. We are committed to fostering such research and CQUniversity's Research Higher Degree (RHD) program is an important avenue for this. 2021, as in past years, saw a continued growth in the number of students. Our team provides supervisory support – this is an exciting component of our job as we contribute to building a pipeline of researchers for the future in this field.

Topics being explored are diverse including as examples:

Exploration of
Online dating
sexual violence

Australian Nurses'
Experiences of
Providing Domestic
Violence or Sexual
Assault Care to
Women who
Present for
Abortion-related
Services

What Now:
Exploring the
Emergency
Healthcare
Response to
Domestic Violence

Not in our Church:
Addressing
Christian Women's
Vulnerability to
Domestic Violence

Impact of Multiple
Perpetrator Rape

Unravelling the
Phenomenon of
Domestic Violence
and its Effect on
Children

An exploration of
the lived experience
of the
partners/caregivers
of ex-ADF veterans
diagnosed with
PTSD with a focus
on DFV and
suicidality

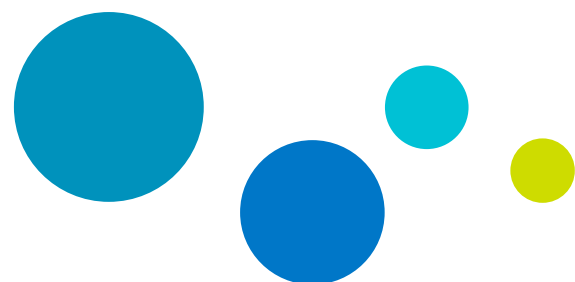
Exploring what
might explain why
some men use
strangulation in
their abusive
intimate partner
relationships.

Professional
perspectives on
parental alienation
and Intimate
Partner Violence:
Balancing Parental
Rights and
Children's Safety

Experience of
gender
discrimination of
female negotiators
in international
conflict contexts

Preventing child
sexual abuse: What
we're doing and
what we need to do
differently

Intimate partner
violence in
Australian
transgender
relationships: An
interpretive
phenomenological
study.





CASE STUDY: RHD STUDENT AARON SYLVIAN

Thesis Name

Intimate partner violence in Australian transgender relationships: An interpretive phenomenological study.

Thesis Abstract

Research studies about intimate partner violence (IPV) frequently leave out the transgender community. IPV in transgender relationships has received scant attention, with most studies occurring in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. This study aims to explore the types of domestic violence and coercive control experienced by Australian transgender people in intimate relationships.

Why this research is important?

The research study is significant because it is the first study in Australia to investigate transgender domestic violence (DV) and coercive control (CC) specifically. The research is critical for furthering our knowledge of DV and CC in transgender intimate relationships. This study will fill that knowledge gap. Transgender DV research will gain a new perspective with this project, and the benefits will flow onto the transgender community. This research can develop responses to victimisation based on actual victim needs. Understanding the complexities of interpersonal abuse in transgender relationships makes it possible to design services, advocate, and find solutions to transgender-specific needs.



Sector Support



Translating contemporary knowledge and evidence intersects with research and supporting the sector. For us, “the sector” is those services and agencies that have a role in prevention, early intervention and tertiary intervention across the service system. Key highlights are outlined in this section to give a snapshot of the work we do.

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

The Family and Child Connect (FACC) and Intensive Family Support (IFS) Services Community of Practice has been convening for some years, but the Women's Health and Wellbeing Support Services (WHWSS) Community of Practice has been in operation since 2019.

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.

Responsive to the needs identified by the Communities of Practice, we provided access to a range of thought-provoking presentations for these cohorts:

- Adolescent to Mother Violence, Trauma and Attachment - Mr David Burck.
- Walking with Dads - Dr Silke Meyer.
- Working with Clients with Disabilities - Jillian Olver.
- Working with Men as Victims and Perpetrators - Aashni and Mark, DVConnect.
- How Victim Assist Queensland (VAQ) works and what it can do for victims of DFV - Julia Morgan, VAQ.
- Complex Trauma - Cobi and Fiona, Gympie Women's Health Centre.
- Substance Misuse - Natasha Stapleton.

In addition, peer support sessions contributed to the success of these Communities of Practice. These were provided in response to requests from participants, and a 'members' site' web presence was maintained 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 continues to be pleasing.

Domestic Violence and Brain Injury Forum



The short and long term impacts of domestic violence, non-fatal strangulation and associations with brain injury is an emerging area of interest and concern for researchers and practitioners alike. In May 2021 we were pleased to partner with the Red Rose Foundation to hold the Domestic Violence & Brain Injury Forum. In addition to QCDFVR Director, Dr Heather Lovatt, speakers included Dr Julia De Boos (Queensland Health) and Sal Dennis (Insight Exchange).

RESOURCES

In 2021 we continued to adapt and extend our ways of sharing knowledge.



Strong Women, Hard Yarns, in its hard copy form, has been a long-time favourite among Practitioners. Following a revision two short animations were developed to extend the reach and accessibility of the resource.

The work was co-designed with our valued First Nation's partners, capturing real-life stories of women of all ages who have experienced domestic and family violence, who also lent their voices to the re-adaption of this valued resource.

It is our hope that these products will be another way to reach out to women impacted by domestic and family violence and help them find their strength to seek help.



As our world becomes busier, more of us are (literally) tuning in to podcasts. We built on our highly successful Season 1 of The Bulb to hear from these fascinating voices about aspects of practice/ research/ education life. The Bulb "explores aspects of gendered violence – what is thought about it, what we know about it and what is yet to be revealed". In this season we were able to work with two international guests, QCDFVR's long- time friend and colleague, Professor Hillary Haldane and Dr Megan Greeson.



- Exploring team responses to sexual assault - Dr Megan Greeson
- The isolation of family violence: responding to adolescent-to-parent abuse - David Burck
- The story of Jessica - Vicki Lowik
- "Good people in the world" - Jude Marshall
- We Met in Morocco - Professor Annabel Taylor and Professor Hillary Haldane
- Beyond the top of the mountain - Betty Taylor

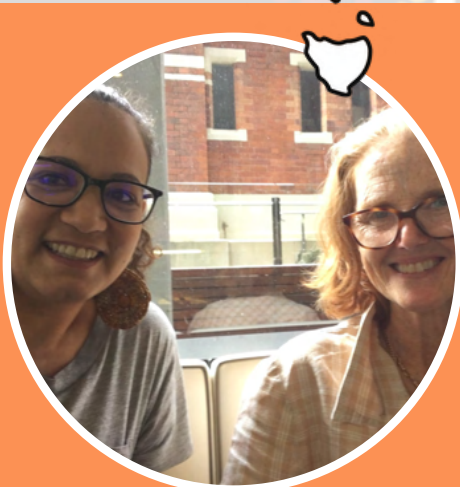


WORKING WITH FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE

2021 Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum: May 2021



Gathering together – in an actual room - brought great joy to our stakeholders, and it was our privilege to be with this wonderful group in Brisbane. Observing all the public health requirements that are now part of our lives, we convened for the first time since 2019. All the usual ingredients for success were there: a safe cultural space, lots of ideas, immense goodwill, and in 2021 we incorporated a new feature. Based on a lesson learned in 2020, that is, virtual engagement is with us to stay, a full room of 80 participants convened in person in Brisbane, and 25 participants, and one presenter, joined us virtually from around Queensland and beyond.



Getting ready for the Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum, Our Watch's Karla McGrady, Manager Emerging Practice, met with QCDFVR's Colleen Gunning to prepare for the May event.



Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service (QIFVLS)

We have partnered with QIFVLS on a number of projects and this year they invited us to continue to explore and evaluate their innovative case management model. It was great to commence working on this project, that will continue into 2022.

The QIFVLS Case Management Practice is a healing program that aims to support their clients address their needs. 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. In previous years we'd worked with QIFVLS to review the Case Management Practice monitoring and evaluation tools then in place, to support QIFVLS to develop the tools further and to develop an evaluation framework.

Central Queensland Indigenous Development (CQID)

Community controlled CQID is an organisation supporting the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through delivery of services across Central Queensland and surrounds. In addition to working with CQID in 2020, we delivered foundational domestic and family violence training in Hervey Bay to our CQID colleagues.

Strong Women Hard Yarns: recreating process

As previously mentioned, we worked with generous and talented women to, literally, give voice to the Strong Women, Hard Yarns Parts 1 and 2 animations. These digital resources offer other ways for practitioners to connect with women, and we hope will offer strength to women themselves who may be impacted by domestic and family violence and support them to find their strength so that they may seek help.

STRONG WOMEN HARD YARNS

STORIES ABOUT
DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE
IDEAS TO HELP

Funded by





Resources

We experienced another year of robust demand for our suite of resources. The much-loved refreshed version of Strong Women, Hard Yarns proved to be a practitioner-pleaser, with more than 3000 hard copies distributed around the state.

Re@der

Yet again the three editions of the Re@der satisfied its audience with a range that, as always, included a diversity of perspectives. In particular, the words of a First Nations author, who talked of his practice experience as a male facilitator in Men's Behaviour Change Programs, resonated with many readers, highlighting the value of such reflections.

Literature Reviews

Contemporary literature forms the basis for our research, evaluations and education. In 2021 in response to requests from our sector partners, we progressed the redevelopment of a range of literature reviews to provide 'evidence to practice' resources. These are pertinent, accessible and useful for integrated work in the gendered violence field.

Women's words

During the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence we shared a quote each day from the women with whom we work. All were wonderful and motivating but one in particular became our most liked and engaging 'tweet' over the year.

The words reflect what we all aspire to achieve.



Responses to Government/non-government requests

As part of our commitment to being part of Australia's most engaged university we respond in ways that are useful and meaningful to identified needs. One example of this was through another aspect of our approach to the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence. We worked with partners to share knowledge about working with different cultural groups experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence through the Healthy Relationships: Know your Rights project and celebrated with them in 2021.



In 2021 translated resources were launched as part of the Healthy Relationships: Know your Rights project, and Dr Heather Lovatt and Colleen Gunning were proud to join the team involved at this event. Ms Jatinder Kaur, Ms Caroline Fitzpatrick (99 Steps CALD Domestic and Family Violence Program) and Ms Katrina Weeks (Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc) are pictured with Heather and Colleen.



Education & Training



Over the past two years we have worked on transforming how we provide education and training. The quality is uncompromised but we have worked on contemporary, accessible, cost effective options- recognising the challenges of the workforce across the service system responding to domestic, family and sexual violence. High levels of staff turnover, rising demand on services and the increasing complexity of high risk cases are all affecting frontline services, which, like the rest of our world, are still adjusting to the impacts of COVID.

So, as in other years, in 2021 our team worked to create and deliver across accredited and non-accredited units, courses and workshops to provide a range of affordable avenues to education and training.

At the same time the foundation was built to a move to ultra-flexible, fully accredited and world-class university postgraduate qualifications, complemented by a growing bank of micro-credentials.

This is a 'study anytime', self-paced model for independent learners who want to upskill or cross skill to want the ultimate in flexibility to fit study with their work life commitments.

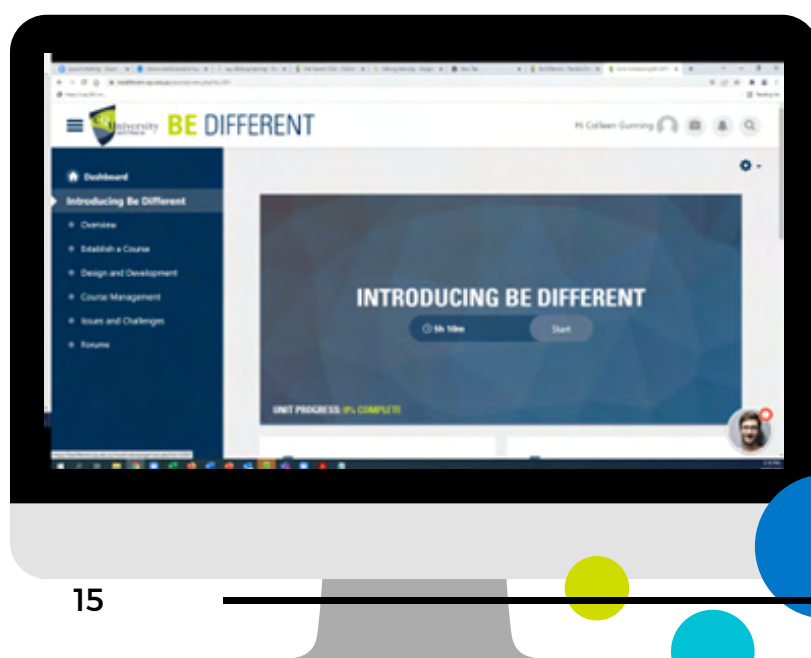
As ever, we recognise that responding to gendered violence requires integrated service responses. We know these will be enhanced when all services share an understanding of how to respond to families impacted by violence. In other words, it is clear that many who work with families impacted by gendered violence may not be employed in specialist services, or may be seeking employment in the specialist sector in the future.

ACCREDITED LEARNING


Higher Education

We know our learners, particularly those in the workforce, are busy people and we listened to their feedback. So our courses - designed specifically to address the critical need for trained practitioners to work with those experiencing, and using, domestic and family violence - will look and feel very different in 2022.

These courses will have no set term times, so students can start anytime and study at their own pace, without assessment and other term deadlines as they move to the fully online Be Different learning environment:



1. Graduate Certificate in Domestic and Family Violence Practice
2. Graduate Certificate in Facilitating Men's Behaviour Change
3. Graduate Diploma in Domestic and Family Violence Practice
4. Master of Domestic and Family Violence Practice



Besides this unmatched flexibility, the courses will become more affordable, because the Be Different courses are specifically designed as 'low-touch'.

As a tertiary accredited postgraduate course, eligible students can still opt to access FEE-HELP, the Government loan scheme to help pay tuition fees.

Micro-credentials

The other learning options on the Be Different platform are micro-credentials, and in 2021 we continued our work with CQUniversity's Centre for Professional development in building our range of micro-credentials to contribute to workforce development and capacity building across a wide range of agencies.

For example, although launched in 2020, the micro-credential Adolescent-to-Parent Violence continues to experience strong uptake and has been completed by service providers from a range of agencies.

To date 126 individuals have already enrolled and 86 digital badges have been obtained on completing the 6 hours of training.

In addition to Understanding the dynamics of coercive control the list of available micro-credentials now includes a linked suite that presents equivalent content to the unit of competency CHCDFV001 -

Recognise and respond appropriately to domestic and family violence

1. Understanding Domestic and Family Violence
2. Domestic and Family Violence Work Practices
3. Legal and Ethical Consideration in Domestic and Family Violence Practice and
4. Work Health and Safety Considerations in Domestic and Family Violence Practice

2021 also brought the foundational phase of another linked suite of 'bite-sized' learning opportunities. These will be of particular relevance to those who are considering employment, or currently working, in perpetrator intervention services in Queensland.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Cairns Domestic Violence Resource Service (DVRS)

Face-to-face delivery was possible at intervals in 2021 and in one of these, we were engaged by Cairns DVRS to deliver the accredited unit of competency CHCDFV001 - Recognise and respond appropriately to domestic and family violence to a group of learners in Atherton.

CUSTOMISED TRAINING

We continued to offer customised training for groups and organisations on a range of topics. In addition to training to the State's High Risk Teams on a number of occasions (arranged with WorkUP), in 2021 our trainers were busy delivering non-accredited face to face or virtual training opportunities to a range of partners;

Churches of Christ Queensland

Churches of Christ Care Queensland enlisted the expertise of our Associate Lecturers across the course of this year.

Queensland Corrective Services

Training workshops with Custodial and Probation and Parole Officers continued to be requested and delivered in 2021.

Brisbane South Primary Health Network (PHN)

We maintained work with Brisbane South Primary Health Network, with the latter part of 2021 bringing us a new developmental opportunity: shaping training with a focus on primary health care and its role in perpetrator interventions.

Centacare CQ

We delivered customised training that included topics such as, foundations of domestic and family violence practice and working with children and young people impacted by domestic and family violence. Both of our Associate Lecturers were able to deliver this training face-to-face to the Centacare CQ team in Mackay.

Quotes from our customised training

"The presentation met my expectations for learning the beginnings of becoming a member of a HRT meeting. It was well presented and structured. I enjoyed being able to follow along with the Information Sharing Guidelines and Common Risk and Safety Framework booklets."

"Really well done! Excellent engagement and clarification. Super helpful training."

"Thanks for making me aware of the importance of self-care and compassion fatigue."

"Thank you and know that you do great and valuable work!"

"Thank you for the great information and I liked how interactive it was and no question was a silly question."

WorkUP

Our collaborative efforts with WorkUP continued, with two significant projects completed this year.



Training for the Disability Workforce

We engaged with a woman with the lived experience of disability, and a disability service provider in this project. The recordings of, and resources linked with, these modules are now on our website for all to access.

Foundations of Domestic and Family Violence Work Practice for the Disability Workforce

- Development and delivery of four linked modules to two cohorts
- Development of a suite of associated resources (e.g. for each module, factsheet, scenario etc.)

Effective Organisational responses to Domestic and Family Violence Work for the Disability Workforce

- Development and delivery of a specific module for leaders to two cohorts
- Development of a set of associated resources for this module

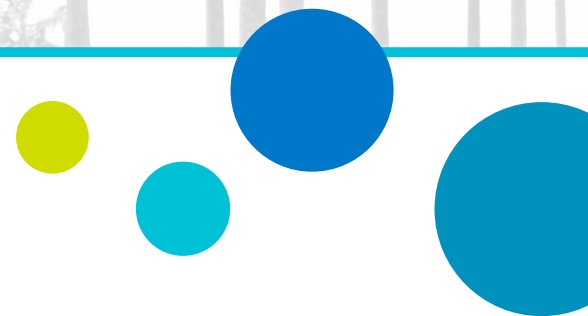


Statewide Induction Program for gendered violence services

We developed and delivered an interactive three-part Statewide Induction Program for the sexual violence, women's health and wellbeing and domestic and family violence workforce in Queensland. This was tested on three occasions to enable modifications and enhancements to occur, and to ensure the materials could be used by a range of trainers.

Ultimately, the package we delivered was designed to be used by any skilled trainer and included a guide with suggested activities, and all associated learning materials (e.g. presentation slides, case studies etc.)





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