

2022 *Year In Review*



A Snap Shot

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 the 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 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 your 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 you support our work.

Acknowledgement of our partners

We acknowledge we cannot do this work alone and we thank our many partners through 2022 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.



CONTENTS



Research/Evaluation

pg 03



Sector Support

pg 08



Education & Training

pg 13



Engagement

pg 16

2022, like its recent predecessors, brought yet more COVID-related impacts. The demand for gendered violence response services grew and reverberated across communities. Organisations of all types, including our own, continued to evolve.

However, despite these challenges, we have had one constant – the partners with whom we work. On that note, we thank all who have worked with us in our common mission to make a difference. We particularly thank the Queensland Government (Department of Justice and Attorney-General) and CQUniversity whose support and investment are pivotal as we continue to implement transformational changes to our model.

In this '2022 Year in Review' we share a snapshot of highlights and achievements over the year, including major changes across the third domain of our model – that of education and learning. If you are interested in knowing more, our website (www.noviolence.org.au) provides additional information and requests for further advice on research topics or the work we undertake are always welcomed.

The Year in Review reflects the three domains of our model – Research, Sector Development and Education/ Training. However, given the model's integration across the three domains, some aspects, such as knowledge translation activities, also overlap across domains. This is illustrative of the uniqueness and strength of the Centre's model but makes for some creative challenges when we structure a report on our achievements in a document such as this.

On pages 3 to 7 we overview the research undertaken during the past year. On pages 8 to 12 we provide a glimpse of our range of activities over the year for sector development. This includes our work alongside First Nations peoples and highlights are covered on pages 11 and 12.

Finally, on pages 13 to 15 you will read about how we have transformed our education and training offerings to be more accessible, affordable and ultra-flexible to meet the learning needs of practitioners in the field.

We hope you enjoy this snapshot as we move into 2023 continuing our shared endeavours to contribute to a safer world for women and their children.



Associate Professor 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:

- ✓ Evaluation of the Strangulation Trauma Centre (Completed)
- ✓ Review of 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 (Completed)
- ✓ Evaluation of the Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention (QIFVP) Forum to determine appropriateness and impact (completed)
- ✓ Research into non-fatal strangulation (MOU Red Rose Foundation) (completed)
- ✓ Evaluation of the Domestic Violence Action Centre (DVAC) program for young people using violence (completed)
- ⌚ Exploring the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Model in Townsville (2016-2021) (revised to align with the Taskforce recommendations – ongoing)
- ⌚ Evaluation of UnitingCare Queensland Men's Behaviour Change Program Stage 3 (ongoing)
- ⌚ Systematic Literature Review: Domestic and Family Violence and Acquired Brain Injuries (ongoing)





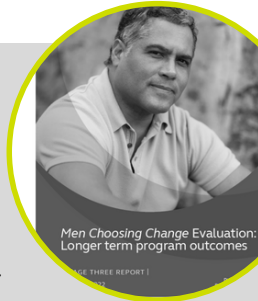
CASE STUDIES

We seek to bridge gaps and generate new knowledge, with a particular focus on applied research and evaluation – that has a real world impact. Two case studies are examples of this in 2022.

EVALUATING OF UNITINGCARE MEN SUSTAINING CHANGE PILOT PROGRAM

Our interest, and that of Uniting Care, in longitudinal change for men using violence continued over 2022. Our Dr Sue Carswell commenced an evaluation of Uniting Care's Men Sustaining Change pilot program which is running over a two-year period from mid 2021 to mid 2023. The program is a co-gendered facilitated peer support group for men who have completed the 16 week Men Choosing Change program and are motivated to continue their journey of behaviour change. This pilot is funded and developed by UnitingCare in response to many men's need for ongoing support to consolidate and build on the changes they had made during Men Choosing Change. QCDFVR's evaluation of Men Choosing Change provided further evidence of the need for a maintenance program.

A collaborative developmental approach is being utilised in partnership with UnitingCare. This approach includes co-design of the evaluation framework with UnitingCare and external key stakeholders and collection of quantitative and qualitative pilot data at intervals throughout the pilot to inform ongoing development. Emerging findings confirm the need for this type of maintenance program and the value of having a space where men can continue to access support to make positive changes. A dedicated Women's Advocate is employed part-time to work with partners and ex-partners of men accessing Men Sustaining Change and the emerging findings also confirm the benefits of women and children having ongoing access to supports.



WOMEN'S VOICES IMPACTED BY NON-FATAL STRANGULATION

An exploratory study was undertaken and subsequently published in 2022 capturing sixteen women's perspectives regarding their NFS experiences to discern the supports and responses they received from the service system.

This year we developed a report of findings that conveyed their 'voices' utilising verbatim quotes. The women who participated had the opportunity to review a draft of the report and provide comment before we moved to finalise. They were invited to participate in a 'closed' launch of the report which was handed to the Minister, Department of Justice and the Attorney-General. The closed launch was in a safe place and invitees were those known to the participants or agreed on by the participants. The report is readily available on both the Red Rose Foundation and the QCDFVR website.

Academic articles will also follow but the first report was developed in line with the women's wishes and intent going into the public domain – a priority for the Red Rose Foundation and QCDFVR.

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Our staff and adjuncts wrote and published on a variety of topics over the year:

- Gatfield, E., O'Leary, P., Meyer, S., & Baird, K. (2022). A multitheoretical perspective for addressing domestic and family violence: Supporting fathers to parent without harm. *Journal of Social Work*, 22(4), 876-895.
- Guggisberg, M., & Holt, A. (2022). Attitudes and Sexual Behaviours Associated With Adolescent Online Pornography Consumption: A Critical Commentary During COVID-19. *Journal of Social Psychology Research*, 1(2), 164-175.
- Hine, L., Meyer, S., McDermott, L., & Eggins, E. (2022). Intervention programme for fathers who use domestic and family violence: Results from an evaluation of Caring Dads. *Child & Family Social Work*, Vol 27, Issue 4, 1-14.
- Lovatt, H., Gunning, C., & Kajlich, H. (2022) Review of the Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum (Commissioned Report).
- Lovatt, H., Lowik, V., & Borggaard-Nicholson, G. (2022) Evaluation of the Strangulation Trauma Centre – Stage 2 Report (Commissioned Report).
- Lovatt, H., Lowik, V., & Cheyne, N. (2022) The voices of women impacted by non-fatal strangulation: Summary Report – key themes. QCDFVR, CQUniversity, Australia.
- McDermott, & Carswell, S. (2022) review of the outcome measurement tools and processes used by Women's Health and Wellbeing Support Services (Commissioned Report).
- Meyer, S., & Stambe, R. M. (2022). Mothering in the Context of Violence: Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Mothers' Experiences in Regional Settings in Australia. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 37(9-10).
- Meyer, S., Burley, J., & Fitz-Gibbon, K. (2022). Combining Group-based Interventions for Intimate Partner Violence Perpetrators With Comorbid Substance Use: An Australian Study of Cross-sector Practitioner Views. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 37(9-10).
- Pfitzner, N., Fitz-Gibbon, K., & Meyer, S. (2022). Responding to women experiencing domestic and family violence during the COVID-19 pandemic: Exploring experiences and impacts of remote service delivery in Australia. *Child and Family Social Work*, 27(1), 30-40.





Assoc Prof Heather Lovatt and Dr Vicki Lowik presented research findings at the request of WorkUP, as part of their Solidarity series. The topic was 'financial and economic wellbeing for women who have experienced domestic violence', and QCDFVR was one of four presenters who spoke about the theme from different perspectives.

Research translation also occurs through the production of sector development resources and activities and informs our education and learning options as you will see in the next section.

RESEARCH HIGHER DEGREE STUDENTS

We heed the continuous call for more knowledge on gendered violence and prioritise fostering cutting edge research and CQUniversity's Research Higher Degree (RHD) program is an important avenue for this. 2022, as in past years, saw a sustained growth in the number of students. Our team provides supervisory support – an exciting component of our work as we contribute to building a future pipeline of researchers in this field.





Sector Support

SECTOR SUPPORT

Translating contemporary knowledge and evidence for application in the 'real world' intersects with research and supporting the sector. For us, "the sector" is services and agencies that have a role in prevention, early intervention and tertiary intervention/responses across the service system. As well as the report, *The voices of women impacted by non-fatal strangulation*, examples of innovative knowledge translation included:

- A podcast where the facilitator of the DVAC program for young people using violence talked about facets of the program and how it works.
- A webinar and conference presentation sharing the findings from *The longitudinal evaluation of the UnitingCare Men Choosing Change* program.
- Preparation of two 'Research to Practice' Papers focused on what we know about women using violence in domestic and family violence contexts. The first paper is general in nature, and the second explores knowledge relating to First Nations women's use of violence. These will be released early in 2023 and form part of a suite of papers for practitioners on emerging trends, to be released over 2023.
- Development of micro-credentials to be available on a learning platform, providing the knowledge component aligning with the Perpetrator Intervention Services Requirements

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

Over 2022 we continued to facilitate two Communities of Practice for Family and Child Connect (FaCC) and Intensive Family Support (IFS) Services and 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.

Responsive to the needs identified by practitioners participating in the Communities of Practice, we provided access to a range of thought-provoking presentations including the following:

Intersection of AOD and DFV: Hayley Pilgrim and Renee Hoare, QuiHN

Exploring training and supervision experiences of facilitators of men's behaviour change programs: Jolene Ellat

Young People's experience of Homelessness: John and Dina, Queensland Youth Housing Coalition

The intersection of family Law and DFV: Julie Sarkozi, Women's Legal Service

Specialist response team: Mythiley Iyer, Department of Housing

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.

RESOURCES

We continued to adapt and extend our ways of sharing knowledge as we developed and presented resources aimed primarily at supporting those in practice.



Watch

We added a second short, animated video to enhance accessibility of our resource, "*Strong Women Hard Yarns*". This resource is meeting a need for those working with First Nations peoples impacted by domestic and family violence with both hard copy and digital versions on our website. The high uptake of all versions over 2022 is gratifying.

Mt Morgan CWA Branch was one of many organisations that requested this valuable resource in 2022.

Listen

We launched our 3rd season of *The Bulb* focusing on the timely topic – working with men who perpetrate violence.

- Conversations across the spectrum: Associate Professor Heather Lovatt
- Supporting him to make change: Dr Brodie Evans
- Working at a place of connection: Dr Brian Sullivan
- Building the evidence base through partnership: Dr Chez Leggatt-Cook
- Thinking with our hearts: Randal Ross
- They're not monstrous: Paul Monsour



"Conversations across the spectrum"



"Supporting him to make change"



"Working at a place of connection"



"Building the evidence base through partnership"



"Thinking with our hearts"



"They're not monstrous"

WORKING WITH FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE

Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum: May 2022



Thank you to 100 plus delegates who joined us from across the state, including the 25 attendees accessing the event remotely.

Nunukul Yuggera Aboriginal Dance Company Welcome to Country and dance performance opened the Forum.



Forum participants were welcomed in a prelude to the forum where the second video as part of our "Strong Women, Hard Yarns" resources was launched



Evaluation of a case management model approach

We had the privilege of working with QIFVLS undertaking a process evaluation examining what is working well and suggestions for improvement from the perspective of clients, QIFVLS managers and staff, and key stakeholders. Our evaluation approach is to work collaboratively with QIFVLS to co-design and implement this evaluation. We are culturally guided by our key contact at QIFVLS, Aunty Bino Toby, the QIFVLS Board, and our First Nations researcher on the evaluation team, Jamie Anderson.

Far North Queensland First Nations workers: SAFE Training

A consortium of Cairns agencies, with the support of QCDFVR and sponsorship from WorkUP, engaged Dr Brian Sullivan to deliver three days of training, with assistance from Suewellyn Kelly and members of the QCDFVR team. The training focused on working with perpetrators of family violence and was extremely well received by the audience of First Nations workers and community champions.



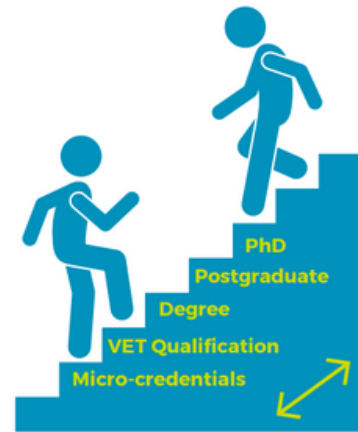


Education & Training



OUR EDUCATION

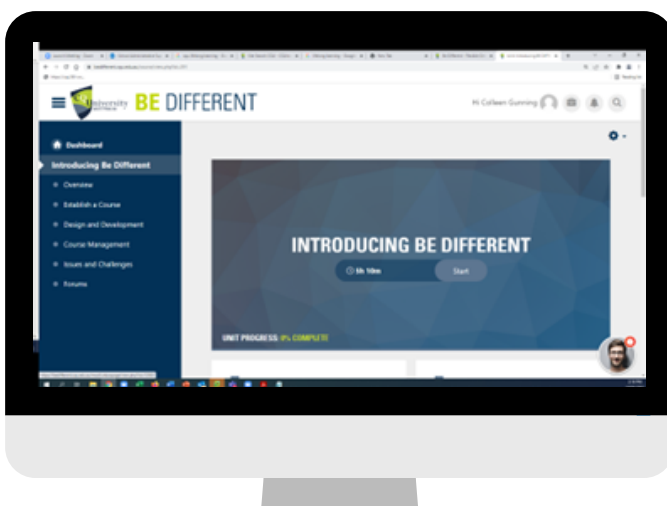
We know that potential and existing workers responding to gendered violence need accessible, affordable and flexible learning options. In 2022 we focused on transforming our education and learning options, further positioning us at the forefront of DfV education and learning. We offer students multiple pathways to engage with gendered violence studies.



Higher education: Be Different

Universities are in a constant state of adaptation to respond to the learning needs of students – in particular COVID highlighted that traditional methods do not meet the needs of those working in the gendered violence response field. On this basis, over 2022 we transitioned our postgraduate courses to a new learning platform (BeDifferent).

Through the new Be Different platform at CQUniversity, students have access to a range of postgraduate education units and courses. These are offered in a flexible learning environment where students can study and submit assignments when it suits them as there are no university terms or assessment due dates. The hyperflexibility and self directed nature of the study units allow for a better balance between work, home and student roles and are available at a lower cost.



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



SELF-PACED

Start anytime with no assessment or unit deadline constraints.



HIGH QUALITY

Fully accredited degrees from a world-class university.



AFFORDABLE

Pay less than traditional degrees with our 100% online, low-touch design.



ULTRA FLEXIBLE

Study anywhere, anytime with a device and internet access.

Micro-credentials

We know that those working in the gendered violence response field often need 'just in time' learning that is skilled based. This is an area that we continue to review, refine and expand based on identified needs and contemporary issues.

Our current short courses available as microcredentials are:

- Adolescent to Parent Violence
- Domestic Homicide Risk Assessment
- Understanding Domestic and Family Violence
- Domestic and Family Violence Work Practices
- Legal and Ethical Consideration in Domestic and Family Violence Practice
- Work Health and Safety Considerations in Domestic and Family Violence Practice

CUSTOMISED TRAINING

We offered a range of customised training

Domestic and Family Violence: an introduction for those who work with First Nations people

Domestic and family violence workshop/s

Far North Queensland First Nations workers: SAFE Training

Risk Assessment and Management, Safety Planning

What does 'accountability' mean in men's group work?

Foundations of Domestic and Family Violence Work Practices





Engagement



Codesigning with our partners

Emma Millis from eSafety women visited Mackay presenting to the Mayor's DV Taskforce, and the CQUniversity School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Sciences, the university's Student Ombudsman and staff from the Counselling and Wellbeing department. ESafety Women is a department within the eSafety Commissioner which is Australia's independent regulator for online safety and is the world's first government agency dedicated to keeping people safer online.



In a similar vein, Yonnipin Foan, Acting Manager, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Mackay, was photographed with Patrice Zarzecki as we planned for the Forum.



In March, in the lead up to the Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum Kerry Maley – Domestic and Family Violence Workforce Specialist at Mackay Hospital and Health Service visited to discuss the event. She took time out to be photographed with Suewellyn Kelly.



Events We Supported



We were pleased to assist SPEAQ with their 2022 Forum – Breaking the Mould: Progressing our responses to diversity. Associate Professor Jennifer Smith and Mark Walters also attended the Forum gaining new knowledge and networks.



Associate Professor Heather Lovatt co-hosted a leadership panel discussion at the Healthy Leadership in Health and Community Services Virtual Leadership Symposium



QCDFVR staff assisted with the organisation of the 2022 School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Sciences Research Symposium; where our RHD students had the opportunity to present their studies

Professional Development

Associate Professor Heather Lovatt along with Betty and Tania from the Red Rose Foundation attending the National Brain Injury Conference in Sydney in June. For the first time, the Conference included Pre-Conference Workshops, with one of the topics being Domestic and Family Violence and Brain Injury.



Associate Professor Heather Lovatt attended the International Evaluation Conference in Adelaide - gaining new knowledge, learning new approaches and making valuable research networks.



Our new Associate Professor Jennifer Smith and Lecturer, Suewellyn Kelly enjoyed catching up with a past colleague, Judy Pidcock, at the Stop Domestic Violence Conference held in December.



Associate Professor Heather Lovatt with Dr Ashlyn Sahay and Associate Professor Tracy Flenady during research planning days at CQUniversity

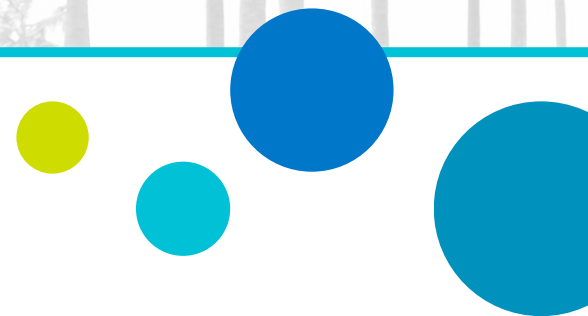


Customised Training Testimonials

The workshop was easily understood and broken into manageable chunks - the workshop was well paced and informative.

It was framed in a practical way, rather than just theoretical/data.

The facilitator took others' point of view and explored the idea as a group and it was very detailed and educating to a young Indigenous person.



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