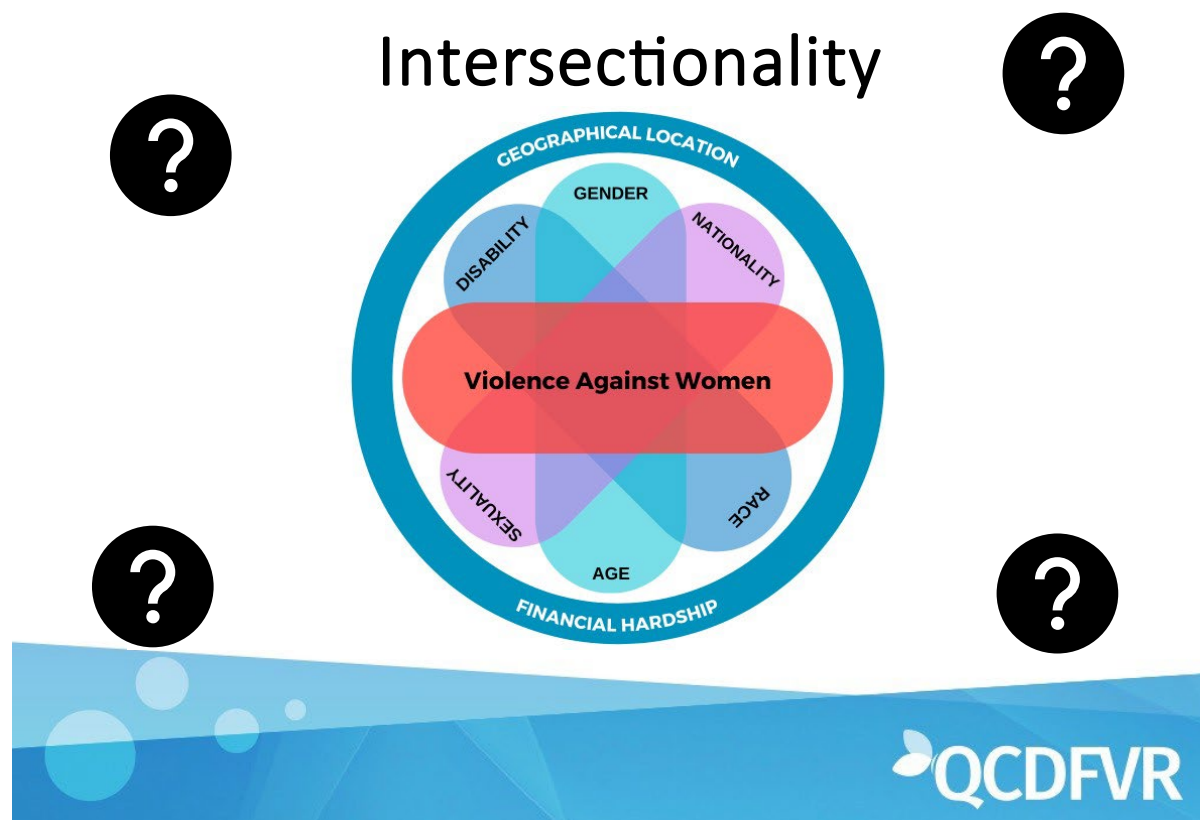


## Community of Practice (WHW SS)– Peer Support 21.4.21

**Notes from Discussion** - 8 participants from services in Mackay, Beenleigh, Toowoomba, Hervey Bar, Bundaberg and Caboolture.

**Topic for discussion** – Intersectionality and Accessibility.



After a brief mindfulness practice, participants were encouraged to introduce themselves and share some information about their role.

Then a reflective practice framework was utilised to explore intersectionality in the work being done by the practitioners.

Participants were broken up into breakout rooms and provided 4 questions to discuss:

We know the barriers that our clients face accessing support and protection from ‘the system’

1. Where are our clients struggling most?
2. Do we compensate for these barriers?
3. What do we miss? (i.e. what do we know that we don’t know?)
4. What has worked well?

After approximately 20 mins of discussion, participants returned to the main group and fed back discussion insights as follows:

- Women presenting with Atypical cognition often encounter barriers and are misunderstood.
- Older women often face a lack of resources allocated specifically to them.
- Those experiencing financial hardship are increasing struggling to move out of crisis – meaning that work of ‘recovery’ is halted as the focus becomes more about immediate concerns.
- Homeless and at risk of homelessness continues to be a major barrier to accessing other services – When a woman does not have a safe place to sleep at night or a roof over their child’s head, everything else seems less important.
- Instances of responding to intersectionality well included wellbeing groups that were able to be flexible in content, responding to group priorities, as well as providing transport to groups and babysitting.
- Participants also spoke about large positions of clients experiencing grief, depression and complex trauma.

Watched video of women with lived experience of DFV and living with disabilities. Reminded participants of resources such as WWILD <https://wwild.org.au/>

Participants were informed of **Liz’s meeting with WHA** and discussion of the continuation of the CoP at this point. Also shared possibility of CoP being a voice for the practitioners to feedback info to WHA.

**Next session** to be a panel discussion on How Guides/standards etc are used in day-to-day work. Date to be confirmed.

Reiterated June 8<sup>th</sup> at 10am for DV Connect presentation.

**Reminded participants of members page** [www.noviolence.org.au/members](http://www.noviolence.org.au/members) password WHW\_COP to access past presentations including session with Mythiley Iyer Dept Housing Specialist Response team.

See also attached documents from women with disability Victoria.