



2025 FORUM REPORT





The Forum is hosted by the Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research and is shaped by its cultural Advisory Group.

THE PURPOSE

The purpose of the Forum is to provide an opportunity for services and organisations supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence to share knowledge and best practice to ensure the continuation of quality service delivery.

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;
- promote opportunities for networking between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers in the field of domestic and family violence prevention and to
- provide Forum delegates with tangible materials to support frontline work, that may be shared with colleagues back in their communities.

“

So interesting, great learning & great presentations.

”

“

The flow of today was really well curated.

”



The Artwork

The Forum has adopted the Dancing Crane logo. This was designed by Mr Les Stewart, a longstanding participant of the Forum. He painted the beautiful dancing crane, with the following explanation about what the painting meant to him:

The yellow (the giver of life) surrounds the white, and the yellow is surrounded by the red dots (the blood shed through domestic and family violence in communities). The little white dots represent the small, weakened spirits that have come through life (yellow). Tears and blood (red) are being shed from violence in our families. The Dancing Crane creates stronger blood that gives stronger life, and this creates stronger spirits. Like the bird and the design, everything becomes flowing and beautiful. It comes to a peak above with a strong flow – stronger dots over the beautiful bird showing strength. It connects all the strength and power with its widespread wings of hope that we all have for our women, families and community.

It is also still painted on the background of darkness that can overtake if we do not keep adding to the painting to block out the sad and harmful dangers that hide in the shadows. To me this painting represents the first time I attended the Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum and what it has become, since then. The bird represents the beauty of the Forum, its people and the attendees. The lines are the waves of change, getting stronger as we add to the discussions and services. Under the umbrella of services, we head in one direction together to bring strength and support to our communities that are now providing the safety our women, children and families deserve. This then supports our communities to become as one and beautiful like we want.

The Forum logo had such an impact that it was decided, with the permission of the artist, to keep this as the logo for the event now and into the future. We thank Les for his invaluable contribution to the Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum over the years and look forward to continuing to work with Les.

Director's Message



I am delighted to share a taste of the wonderful two days of our *2025 Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum* in this report.

This gathering was more than just a meeting of minds from across the state - it was a celebration of collaboration, innovation, and shared purpose. The *Strength in Unity* themed - Forum served as a welcoming space for meaningful dialogue, fresh perspectives, and the forging of new connections. Whether it was during registration and settling in each day, the interactive workshops, or the refreshment breaks, the enthusiasm and engagement of our delegates were contagious.

The Forum was the result of months of tireless dedication, careful planning, and the unwavering guidance of our Forum Advisory Group. Every detail - from the thoughtfully curated agenda to the logistics - was designed to create an environment where people could feel safe and welcome, and relationships could thrive. We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed their time, talent, and passion to make this event a reality, including the delegates who bring to the Forum the spirit of community.

Despite the distances that separate us, there was a shared commitment to learning, growing, and making a positive impact. The conversations sparked in Royal on the Park we know will continue to resonate long after the Forum has ended, and we are excited to see the collaborations and initiatives that will emerge as a result.

A final and sincere thanks from our Centre must go to the Queensland Government, for its commitment and investment in this event to enable accessibility for delegates across Queensland.

See you next May in Mackay!

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

Special Thanks

Nunukul Yuggera Aboriginal Dance Company

We were privileged to open the Forum with a very moving Welcome to Country and Traditional Dance by the Nunukul Yuggera Aboriginal Dance Company, setting the tone for two days of reflection, learning, and connection.



“
The
traditional
Welcome to
Country was
deadly!
”



2025 Advisory Group Committee

As with every year, this event simply wouldn't be possible without the steadfast support and guidance of the Forum Advisory Group. We extend our sincere thanks to this year's members: MC's Yonnipin Foan, Robbie Mann, Sam Wild and Lyndon Francis; and presenter/delegates Georgina Binjuda, Julia Yorkston and Davina Hickling.



Participants

Where did our participants come from?



“

Loved the diversity of the sessions.

”





Strength In Unity

Cultural background




100

Aboriginal and/ or Torres
Strait Islander delegates

26

Non-Indigenous
delegates

77%



23%




100%

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



100%

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



99%

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



98%

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

Our Presenters

Rosemary Wanganeen
The Healing Centre for Griefology



Transforming Aboriginal disadvantage into Aboriginal prosperity

Rosemary shared her powerful message of Griefology, gained through integrating her beliefs, concepts derived from research and historical study and a deepening understanding of how coercive behaviours have evolved within family/domestic violence. This presentation integrated Rosemary's personal lived experiences on how she became a victim of family/domestic violence, and later a perpetrator of such violence and canvassed a wide range of grief-related themes, and common grief emotions. She explained Griefology thus:

"Griefology doesn't: shame, blame, humiliate, demonise, or vilify a victim or perpetrator because it recognises that loss and grief are human experiences therefore, it doesn't discriminate!

Griefology doesn't condone family/domestic violence; it doesn't excuse but explains.

However, Griefology has a right, a role, and a responsibility to respectfully tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. It's not what is said but HOW it's said; with humility, empathy, and compassion!"



Rosemary Wanganeen was the best part of the day.

Keynote speaker - Rosemary opened my eyes to our humanity and the need to truth telling.



Our Presenters

Assistant Commissioner Jenna Roberts
Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission



Reflections on what the Commission has heard on preventing violence in Indigenous communities

The Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission (DFSVC) is dedicated to ending gender-based violence in a generation. Its core function is to promote and support the achievement of the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032. As DFSVC Assistant Commissioner, Jenna is committed to ensuring that governments across Australia meet their targets to reduce the rates of violence experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children. In this presentation Jenna shared some of the first-hand insights she has gained in her travels around the nation, listening to the experiences of individuals affected by domestic and family violence – whether they are victim-survivors, or service providers, or on at least one occasion, a person who had formerly used violence in his relationship.

“

Assistant Commissioner and Coercive control workshop - powerful stories.

”

“

Presenters were great - respectful and clear.

”



Workshops

Weaving Our Stories

Lee George - Wanjameer Creative

Weaving has long been acknowledged as a highly intricate and refined expression of First Nations innovation and tradition. It creates items that are both practical and beautiful, while the act of weaving itself holds profound cultural meaning. It serves as a medium for passing down knowledge, fostering connections with community and land, encouraging mindfulness, and much more and the concept of this session was welcomed by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group for this year's Forum.

In this session, delegates received a kit and instructions from Lee to help them embark on a small weaving project. Lee shared her skills so that all could have the experience of creating, learning from others and, in many cases, helping others with the activity.



*Loved
everything &
all the
conversations.*



Workshops

Coercive Control

Presentation and discussion facilitated by Hannah Taylor-Civitaresse, captured by a visual artist

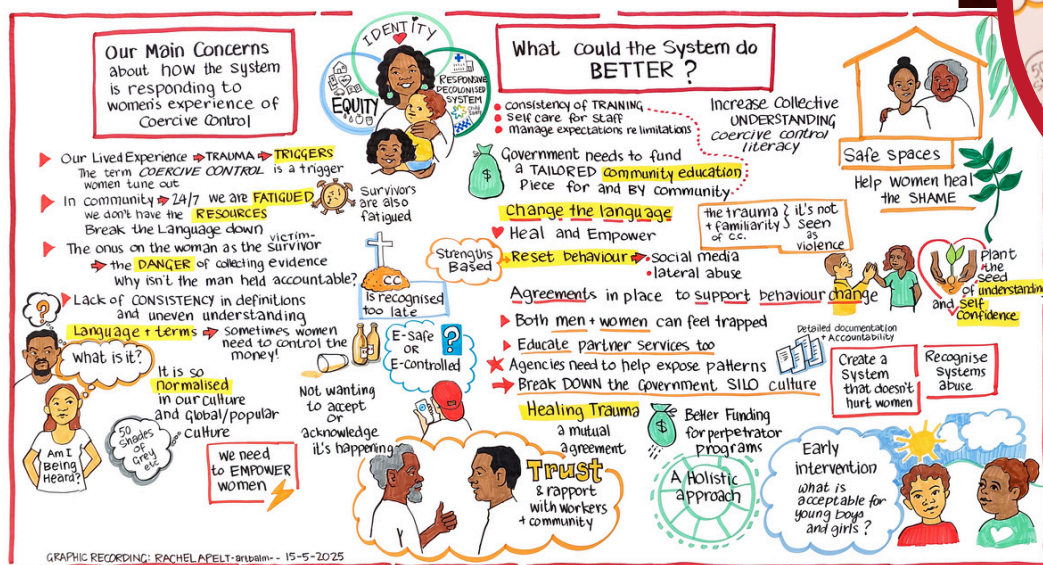
Hannah, a PhD Candidate, presented some early findings from her research *The intersectional factors of Coercive Control for First Nations Women*, and spoke about the meanings behind the term “decolonising research”. Her research has three objectives:

1. Explore First Nations women’s experiences, understanding and definitions of coercive control
2. Identify the intersecting factors that impact First Nations women’s experiences of coercive control.
3. Identify service gaps and strategies required to support First Nations women experiencing coercive control

Critically, Hannah encouraged delegates to consider why coercive control has not been seen through a cultural lens, that is, inclusive of the control exerted by institutions or systems.

After this presentation Hannah, and MC Sam Wild, guided delegates through discussion of two questions, the responses to which were captured by Graphic Recorder, Rachel Apelt.

- What are our main concerns about how we are responding to women’s experiences of coercive control?
- Thinking about our main concerns, what could we do to improve on our responses?





Community Presentations



ORGANISATION	PRESENTERS	TITLE
Far West Indigenous Family Violence Service	Donna Mitchell and Amanda Fox	Far West Indigenous Family Violence Service
Helem Yumba CQ Healing Centre	Lyn Anderson, Jamie Anderson and Peta Steedman	Cultural safety and the Common Risk and Safety Framework
MARABISDA Inc	Lee George	A Journey of Women's Healing
Care Goondiwindi	Jason Scott	First Nations Fire Fighters
South Burnett CTC	James Saltner and George Fisher	Introduction to our DV Services: Wondin Dee and Safe Haven
Dept of Justice & Attorney General Mura Lagh Myuma Analysis, Research, Consulting and Advisory	Craig Casey and Adrian Geary Dr Heron Loban Dr Michael Limerick	Evaluation of Community Justice Groups' DFV Enhancement

It was special to ground the Forum with the wisdom of feminine resilience.

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Local, State & National

ORGANISATION

PRESENTERS

TITLE

Our Watch	Toni Hawkins and Melissa Kulan	There's hope in <i>Changing the Picture</i>
Lenna Passi and Warringu	Georgina Binjuda and Vicki Wood	Strengthening Our Collective Voice
WorkUP	Jade O'Rielly and Kirstie Williamson	What Does Good Look Like in Reflective Practice?
eSafety Commissioner	Carolyn Wilkes and Matt O'Brien	Safe Online, Safe in Community
Uniting Care QLD	Dulcie Bronsch and Deanne Lawrie	Elder Abuse and Neglect of Older People
WorkUP	Jade O'Rielly and Kirstie Williamson	Connecting Conversations Workshop and Resource

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Hearing about diverse and innovative approaches to addressing family and domestic violence.



Networking

The twilight networking event offered a relaxed atmosphere for attendees to connect and share stories over light refreshments, accompanied by live music from local singer John Corowa. Some delegates even joined John on stage for spontaneous performances, showing off their vocal talents. With a photobooth adding to the fun, it's safe to say everyone had a great time!





Thank you

A heartfelt thank you to our Forum photographer, Tiarni from Captured by Light Photography, for documenting the event again this year. Over the two days, Tiarni's gentle and unobtrusive presence beautifully complemented the sense of community and connection in the room. You can view more of Tiarni's Forum photos on our website.



QUEENSLAND INDIGENOUS FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION FORUM

On Yuggera and Turrbal Country

Institutional racism
Our very identity is defined as a **RISK**

Before colonisation we had Health Identity, connection Songlines Wellbeing sustained for millennia

Colonisation

First Act of COERCIVE CONTROL

De colonising our Work

INDIGENIST METH

- analysis of IM
- centring VOICE
- SELF DETERMIN
- Indigenous PART
- it must be RELEV
- DATA SOVEREIGN

COERCIVE CONTROL

threat to dispel a res

forms of





Thank you for your support and attendance



www.noviolence.org.au



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