

noviolence.org.au

YEAR AT A GLANCE 2025



 **QCDFVR**

Queensland Centre for Domestic
and Family Violence Research

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We proudly acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands across Queensland and Australia's other states and territories 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, many of whom remain invisible and unheard. We recognise the importance of an integrated service response when victim-survivors speak about their experiences. You 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 & FRONTLINE SERVICES

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OUR PARTNERS

We acknowledge the funding received from the Queensland Government, the investment and support of CQUniversity, the invaluable advice from our First Nations Advisory Group and our valued Adjuncts and Centre Members—without you we couldn't achieve our mission of changing and ending the tragic story of domestic, family and sexual violence.



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RESEARCH +
KNOWLEDGE
CREATION

SECTOR
SUPPORT

EDUCATION
+ TRAINING

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research (QCDFVR) operates within CQUniversity—a leading regional university with a national presence. Our work focuses on strengthening prevention of and responses to domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) through research, education and collaboration across the sector.

In 2025, our focus was on turning evidence into action. We delivered research and evaluation to inform policy and service delivery, including an evaluation of Queensland's expansion of and enhancements to the domestic and family violence (DFV) integrated service system, and the co-design and development of program artefacts for a diversity of perpetrator intervention programs.

We also supported workforce development through education, training and Communities of Practice on domestic, family, and sexual violence (DFSV) across Queensland. We brought the sector together through targeted convening and engagement activities. This included the 2025 Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum—a critical space for connection, knowledge sharing and dialogue on prevention and response. Insights from the Forum contributed to shared priorities, strengthened capability and sector relationships.

Together, this work reflects QCDFVR's commitment to translating evidence into practice and supporting systems that respond to violence with accountability and care. Looking ahead, we remain focused on working in partnership with regional communities, services and government to best respond to a complex landscape. We will continue to focus on innovation, prevention and real-world solutions, while amplifying lived-experience voices.

We are grateful to the Queensland Government and CQUniversity for their continued support of and investment in our work, and to our many partners whose dedication makes our work possible—we simply couldn't do it without you.

Associate Professor Heather Lovatt

Director, Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research



2025

HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

RESEARCH



14 Research and evaluation projects with government and sector partner agencies



12 Publications released



17 Higher Degree Research students supported through supervision and mentoring

TRAINING & EDUCATION



270 Participants engaged in education, training and professional learning



17 Training sessions delivered

- Delivery modes
- ONLINE
 - FACE-TO-TACE
 - HYBRID

140+

Practitioners involved in Communities of Practice through 15 online sessions



Engagement across multiple regions with a strong regional and remote footprint



Co-designed online training for working with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) victim-survivors, including the development of a practice paper

Considerations when working with interpreters

SECTOR SUPPORT



Representatives from **43 organisations** participated across QCDFVR forums and training



126 participants attended QCDFVR's Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- We contributed a diverse range of research, advice and resources to the Department to support DFSV reforms and Child Safety initiatives
- We provided training and professional development hosted on our learning management system, including online modules regarding Queensland's new coercive control legislation
- We partnered with non-government organisations on co-designed research projects
- We strengthened how we share knowledge with the sector through the launch of our newsletter *Beacon* and an expanded suite of Research to Practice papers





**RESEARCH &
EVALUATION**

*Evidence that
Shapes Systems*

RESEARCH & EVALUATION

In 2025, our research continued to shape how services and systems prevent and respond to DFSV. Our projects provided evidence that directly informed policy and practice across Queensland and beyond.

Key Projects

We led a wide range of high-impact projects strengthening policy, practice and service responses to DFSV across Australia:

- Scoping review of DFV-informed Child Protection frameworks and models
- Evaluation of a trial program for adolescent boys and young men who have been impacted by DFV and are using or at risk of using DFSV
- Review of a pilot training program for DFV emerging practitioners
- Exploratory research on coercive control of older people in Australia
- Evaluation of a men's prevention and psychoeducation program, addressing self-regulation concerns
- Contributions to a foundational study relating to homelessness services and risk assessments of DFV
- Evaluation of the Queensland expansion and enhancement of DFV integrated service responses and High-Risk Teams

CASE STUDY

Artefacts and Program Logic

Developing a strong program logic and theory of change as initiatives commence is the basis for organisations and government to effectively reflect on and evaluate initiatives in a dynamic manner. QCDFVR worked collaboratively with sector partners to develop a comprehensive set of program artefacts to support the implementation of two perpetrator intervention trials as part of Queensland's commitment to expanding the range of program responses to persons using violence:

Anglicare Southern Queensland's Family Peace Project—an eight-week brief intervention group program for people who use violence and abuse in their family or intimate relationships.

RESEARCH & EVALUATION

Men & Co. Services’ Pathways to Change program—a 16-week Men’s Behaviour Change Program (MBCP) delivered online to support men, who recognise their use of DFV, to take responsibility for their behaviour and commit to meaningful, non-violent and long-term change.

The artefacts developed are designed to ensure consistent implementation, robust evaluation and scalability of the programs, and include:

- **Program logic** outlining intended outcomes and the connections between inputs, activities, outputs and outcomes
- **Theory of change** describing how and why behaviour change is expected to occur
- **Program and staffing model** defining program structure, delivery mode, roles, responsibilities and staffing requirements
- **Outcomes framework** establishing key performance indicators to measure short- and long-term effectiveness
- **Program manual and client journey map** providing delivery guidance, session plans and a visual representation of the client experience

Higher Degree Research Students

The interest in undertaking research higher degrees on DFSV has continued to grow. Our students explored a diverse range of topics that encompassed areas such as:

- Coercive control
- Sexual offending and online dating apps
- Men who breach Domestic Violence Orders and the service system response
- Pornography and intimate partner sexual violence
- Safety and DFV policy responses
- Gendered violence in the Maldives
- Impacts of intimate partner violence on female tertiary education students
- Remorse and MBCP
- Men who use strangulation in the DFV context
- Vicarious trauma in DFV practice
- Reproductive abuse and Afghani women in Melbourne
- Online Prosocial Behaviours human identification
- Housing precarity in the context of DFV



Knowledge Translation

Research was shared through a variety of mechanisms including a range of publications and presentations.

Conferences and Professional Engagements

QCDFVR continued to share research, insights and information regionally, nationally and internationally, including:

- **DFV and Child Protection Focus Group (Brisbane):** Supporting the exploration of the intersection of DFV and child protection, Associate Lecturer Elizabeth Boardman shared practice-based insights on fathers' case plans
- **Australian & New Zealand Society of Criminology (Brisbane):** Dr Nicola Cheyne, Dr Vicki Lowik, and Assoc Prof Heather Lovatt presented research on coercive control and strangulation survivors' narratives



RESEARCH & EVALUATION

- **International Research Engagement (Europe & UK):** Assoc Prof Xanthe Mallett attended an AI and “Smart” Criminal Justice Conference in Lisbon, met UK DFV researchers and presented on DFV–suicide research
- **SPEAQ Forum 2025 (Brisbane):** Associate Lecturer Mark Walters shared findings on high-risk DFV offenders who strangle their partners, contributing to sector understanding of DFV behaviours
- **Lighting the Way Conference (Brisbane):** For the fourth year, QCDFVR led workshops for teacher aides on how DFV affects children, facilitated by Associate Lecturer Elizabeth Boardman
- **Together in Prevention: Queensland Local Government DFV Leaders Forum (Mackay):** Senior Lecturer Dr Raquel Peel and Lecturer Suewellyn Kelly presented on Respect@Work legislation and its relevance to DFV in local government



Journal Articles and Research to Practice Papers

-  Women's housing precarity in the context of domestic and family violence: an analysis of Australian policy
-  The provision of emergency healthcare to patients experiencing intimate partner violence
-  Exploring emergency healthcare for women experiencing intimate partner violence with comorbid psychological distress
-  Rethinking cross-examination: Reducing retraumatisation for victims and survivors of sexual assault
-  Trust difficulty in intimate relationships: Understanding the impact of insecure attachment and flirting styles
-  Coercive control and older people: Towards definitional consistency
-  The lived experience of survivors of intimate partner strangulation after leaving the abusive relationship
-  The theory of relationship sabotage: A preliminary evaluation of conceptual models expanding on attachment and goal-orientation frameworks
-  Lessons from women impacted by intimate partner strangulation
-  Considerations when working with interpreters
-  Co-production of programs and policies with victim-survivors

Research Reports

QCDFVR also submitted the following research reports to the Queensland Government:

- Evaluation of the High-Risk Team/integrated service response
- A scoping review of child protection domestic violence frameworks



**EDUCATION &
TRAINING**

*Strengthening Practice
& Workforce Capability*

EDUCATION & TRAINING

QCDFVR strengthened workforce capability across the DFSV sector through provision of a diverse range of professional learning opportunities. Our offerings ranged from postgraduate courses and micro-credentials to tailored workshops, ensuring practitioners at all career stages could access relevant, evidence-informed learning.

This year, we also updated the free training modules for Queenslanders on our website (see www.noviolence.org.au/learn), making DFV education accessible to the broader workforce.

Accredited Education Programs

- We delivered **four** accredited education programs aligned with CQUniversity, sector priorities and workforce demand.
- Programs supported practitioners to deepen specialist knowledge, strengthen leadership capability, and embed evidence-informed practice within organisations.
- Enrolments and course completions increased across all programs in 2025.
- 2025 marked the strongest year for both enrolments and completions.

Practice Resources

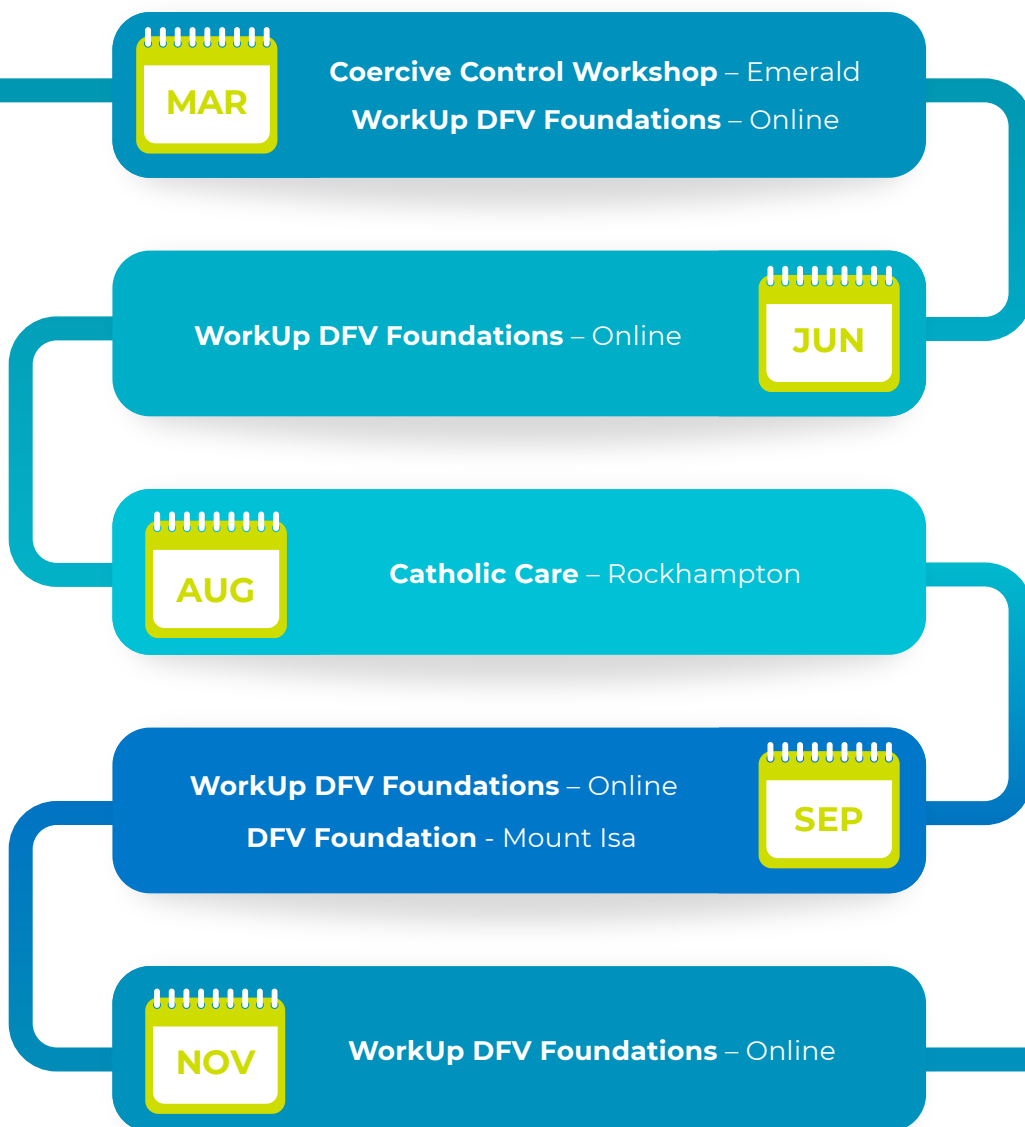
We developed an online training module on the Queensland DFV Common Risk and Safety Framework tools for working with CALD victim-survivors. The module was created through a co-design process:

- **Reference Group Workshop:** A full-day, face-to-face session with specialist and non-specialist workers and advocates who support CALD victim-survivors
- **Ongoing Collaboration:** Follow-up online meetings guided the development of content to ensure relevance and practical application
- **Key Outcome:** The process identified a need for guidance on working with interpreters, which led to the development of the Research to Practice paper *Considerations when working with interpreters*, **available here >>**

Customised Training Workshops

Alongside accredited education, QCDFVR delivered a range of training and micro-credential offerings. These included online modules and customised training delivered in partnership with organisations and service providers.

Businesses that invest in DFSV training help build staff and leadership capability to recognise and respond to DFSV while strengthening workplace safety, wellbeing and respectful culture.



CASE STUDY

WorkUp Training in Mount Isa

As demand for DFV services continues to grow, workforce shortages remain a significant challenge, particularly in regional and remote areas. To help address this, human service professionals from across the Mount Isa and Gulf regions came together for a workforce development event focused on building skills, sharing knowledge and exploring pathways into DFV practice.

The event provided a practical and collaborative learning environment, with Associate Lecturer Elizabeth Boardman and sector partners facilitating discussions grounded in regional service delivery and contemporary practice.

Delivered in partnership with 54 Reasons and DVNQ, and supported by WorkUP, the event reflected a shared commitment to strengthening and sustaining the regional DFSV workforce.



BEST FACILITATOR I'VE HAD. I'VE BEEN IN LOTS OF DFV TRAINING AND DELIVERED DFV TRAINING MYSELF – THIS IS BY FAR THE BEST AND WELL DELIVERED SESSION 10/10.

EVERYTHING WAS RELEVANT TO MY ROLE. VERY INFORMATIVE AND WELL PRESENTED. LIZ WAS A VERY ENGAGING FACILITATOR.





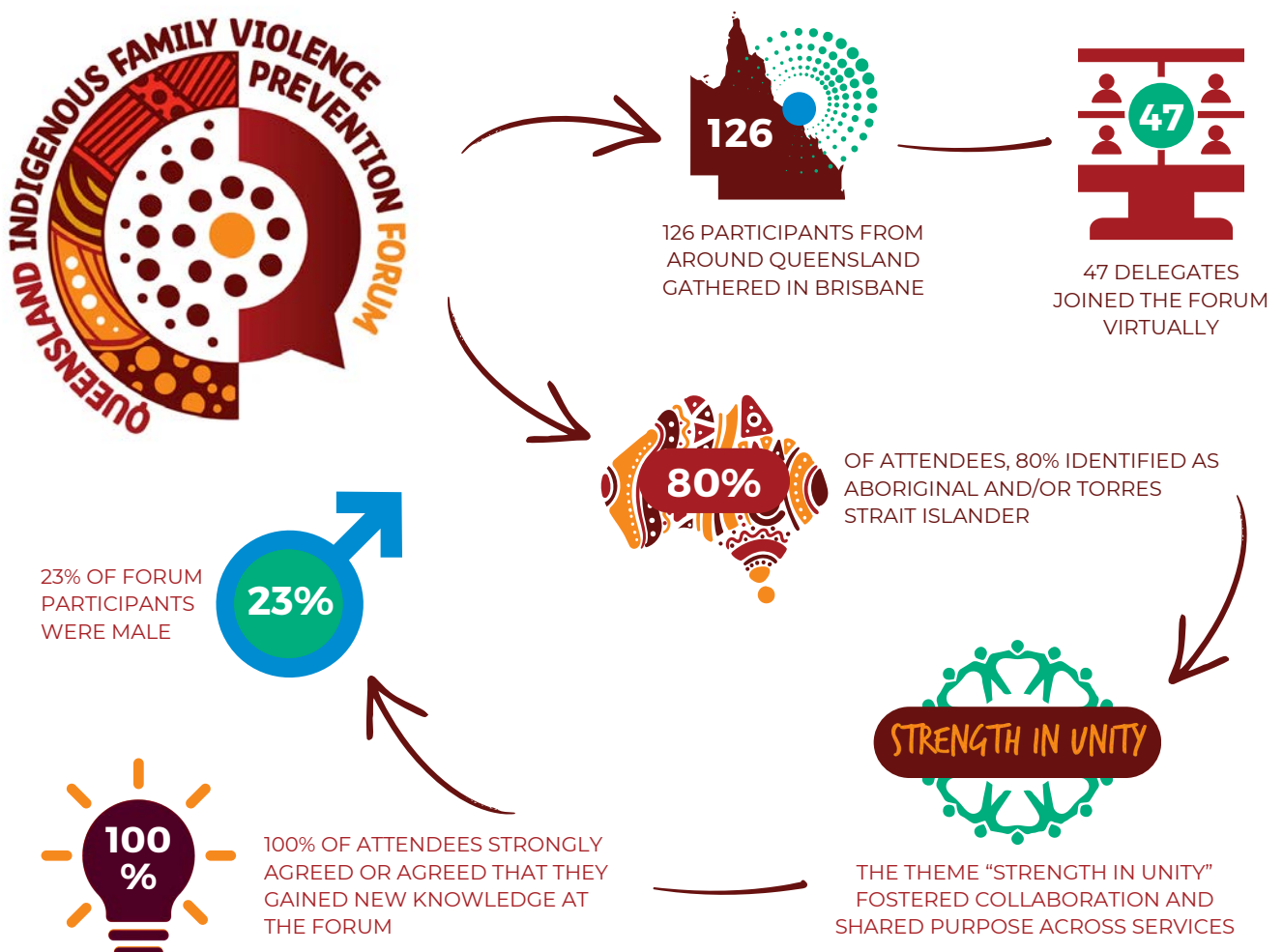
S E C T O R
S U P P O R T

*Connecting the Sector,
Strengthening Practice*

QCDFVR has continued to strengthen the capacity and capability of the DFSV sector across Queensland. Our sector support work ensures research evidence is translated into practice and that practitioners have access to the tools, networks and guidance they need to deliver safe, effective responses.

Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum

The Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum was held on the 14th and 15th May 2025. The purpose of the Forum is to provide an opportunity for services and organisations supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing DFSV to share knowledge and best practice to ensure the continuation of quality service delivery.



Key Event Highlights

- **Keynote:** Rosemary Wanganeen presented on Griefology, sharing a culturally grounded approach to understanding grief and its impact on families affected by violence
- **Workshops:** Sessions explored coercive control, cultural safety and innovative healing practices, equipping participants with practical strategies for their work
- **Cultural activity:** Weaving Our Stories fostered connection, reflection and mindfulness through storytelling and creative practice



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LISTENING TO ALL THE DIFFERENT STORIES AND THE WAY THEY WORK AND OVERCOME CHALLENGES.

SECTOR SUPPORT

Key Event Highlights

- **Networking:** A twilight event provided space for building relationships, collaboration and peer support across the sector
- **Listening to the sector:** Forum discussions identified service gaps and strategies for delivering culturally informed responses to DFSV



“

SO GRATEFUL FOR BEING ABLE TO ATTEND AND HEAR FROM ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITY AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE REALITIES AND STORIES FROM AN INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE.

WORK BEING DONE WITHIN COMMUNITIES - IDENTIFYING THE GAPS YET TO BE MET. LOVED THE NETWORKING, CONNECTION AND SHARING IDEAS.

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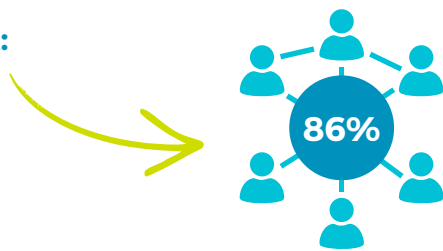
Communities of Practice

Communities of Practice (CoPs) provide a valuable space for Queensland practitioners to share knowledge, build connections and strengthen their work in DFSV. In 2025, Associate Lecturer Elizabeth Boardman facilitated 15 CoP sessions that included quarterly peer support meetings and presentations from specialist practitioners, advocates and researchers.

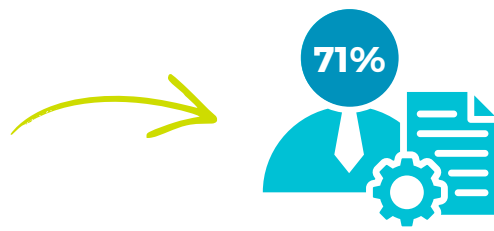
Key Themes:

- Culturally informed practice
- Economic and sexual abuse
- Non-lethal strangulation
- Coercive control legislation
- Trauma-informed practice and working with perpetrators as fathers

Impact:



86% OF FAMILY AND CHILD CONNECT/INTENSIVE FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE PARTICIPANTS REPORTED INCREASED KNOWLEDGE AND STRONGER CONNECTIONS WITH COLLEAGUES



71% FELT MORE CONFIDENT IN THEIR WORK AND BETTER ABLE TO MANAGE TRAUMATIC CONTENT



THE CoP PROVIDES A SAFE, SUPPORTIVE SPACE TO SHARE CHALLENGES AND LEARN FROM PEERS, WHILE STAYING UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST INSIGHTS IN DFSV PRACTICE.



LOOKING AHEAD

We look forward to continuing to be at the forefront of research, education and sector development to contribute to the prevention of and response to violence against women and children.

Learn more about our priorities and future directions in our 2026–2030 Strategic Plan

[CLICK HERE](#)





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