

Australian Domestic & Family Violence CLEARINGHOUSE

newsletter

CLEARINGHOUSE NEWS

Stakeholder Survey

As part of its ongoing quality improvement activities, the Clearinghouse is seeking your feedback on our services and your suggestions for future development. We would appreciate your taking the time to complete and return the enclosed survey in the reply paid envelope by December 20, 2002.

Literature review on the economic costs of domestic violence

This publication, covering both Australian and International literature, can now be downloaded from the 'Publications' page on the Clearinghouse web site: <http://www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au/Publications.htm>

Simply go to this page and click on 'Literature Reviews'. Those who would like a copy of the publication, but who do not have access to the Internet, can obtain a copy by contacting the Clearinghouse.

'Expanding Our Horizons' – conference papers online

Papers from this international conference, held in Sydney in February this year, are now available on the Clearinghouse website. Go to the publications page: <http://www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au/Publications.htm>, then click on 'conference proceedings'. Please note that this section of the web site also contains conference papers from *Seeking Solutions*, Australia's Inaugural Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Conference, held at the Gold Coast, in September 2001.

New research project

The Clearinghouse has received funding from the NSW Department of Community Services for a one year research project which will explore the barriers and pathways for women who wish to end a relationship in which they experience violence but who want to remain living safely in their own home. The

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Partnerships Against
Domestic Violence



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research will involve interviews with women and service providers in both rural and metropolitan areas. It will commence in early October and will contribute to policy and service development in line with the recommendations of the *Partnerships Against Domestic Violence* 'Home Safe Home' report, available at: http://www.padv.dpmc.gov.au/oswpdf/wesnet_report.pdf

Tips on using the Clearinghouse online databases

This issue of the newsletter includes the first in a series of articles by Dr Dale Gietzelt, Clearinghouse Information Officer, on how to search our online databases. The article, on page 12, deals with the Research and Resources (publications) database, and describes how to search for publications which are both Australian, and available online.

PRACTICE NOTES

The Southern Domestic Violence Action Group – Celebrating ten years of community action against domestic violence

Mergho Ray

In August 2002, the Southern Domestic Violence Action Group (South Australia) held its 10th Annual General Meeting, taking this opportunity to celebrate over 10 years of activism against domestic violence.

The Southern Domestic Violence Action Group (SDVAG) was established in 1989 by local service providers who recognised that domestic violence is a serious problem that has a devastating impact on those affected. Its purpose is: 'to provide an open forum and public voice for the Southern community to address issues and enable actions that prevent domestic violence for the benefit of women and children'.

The Incorporation of the Southern DVAG in 1992 gave the group a sense of achievement and energy to expand the membership and develop as a true community based action group. Services represented on the group include Noarlunga Health Services, Southern Women's Community Health Centre, Southern Domestic Violence Service, City of Onkaparinga, Onkaparinga Information Service, Noarlunga and Aberfoyle Park FAYS, SA Housing

Trust, the Child and Family Investigation Unit (SAPOL) and the Department of Human Services. The membership also comprises survivors of domestic violence and other individuals within the community. Among the many achievements of the Southern DVAG have been:

- An annual campaign promoting safety and respect during the Christmas and New Year season. This time of the year and the months following is a known 'danger' time of increased violence towards women and children, with financial debts frequently adding to the hardship. Among the strategies used in this annual campaign have been displays and dissemination of free information in public spaces, articles in the local press, and the production of fridge magnets displaying the message: *Peace on earth begins at home.*



- Obtaining funding to produce a *Domestic Violence Information and Resource booklet* (subsequently known as 'the Purple Booklet') for the Noarlunga, Mt Barker and Victor Harbour regions. The main purpose of the booklet is to provide information on domestic violence and available local and state wide services. Now in its third edition, this publication has developed to be more appropriate for Indigenous women, NESB women and lesbians. To date, the Southern DVAG has printed 26,000 booklets for use in the southern region.
- The development of the WAVES community education program. The need for such an initiative was identified by women survivors who recognised that greater community understanding about domestic violence would assist women who were trying to deal with an abusive relationship. WAVES stands for Women Against Violence Education Service, but more significantly, WAVES represents women making waves in the community, waves of change, waves

building up energy, speed and strength, waves as a powerful force that cannot be ignored and waves that erode embedded values and beliefs. At the launch of WAVES in December 1993, one of the educators, a creative dance artist, performed a piece she had been developing around the concept of WAVES - *Making Waves; Turning the Tide*. Responses to the WAVES talks and workshops often included requests for training and educational materials. The WAVES *From Community Education to Community Action* package (1995) was a direct outcome of this community interest.

- Ensuring, through seeking funding and advocacy, that women's support groups are available within the region. Many women who attended the support groups became valuable members of the Action Group.
- A range of initiatives with young people to raise awareness about relationship violence, including the *Violent & Abuse FREE Zone* campaign for school age students and youth; and the adaptation by the WAVES educators of the 'Changing Gears' education package from the Riverland DVAG.
- Forming partnerships to develop culturally appropriate information on domestic violence for ethnic communities. A partnership with the Southern Multicultural Forum, Migrant Women's Support and Accommodation Service, Women's Health Statewide, Southern Women's Community Health Centre and individual ethnic communities advanced the development of *'Violence in the Home has many forms' - Multicultural Domestic Violence Radio Announcement Project*. Radio announcements in 13 languages - Greek, Italian, Filipino, Bosnian, Spanish, Polish, Russian, Vietnamese, Arabic, Mandarin, Khmer, Cantonese and Serbian - were placed on compact disc and the announcements were played on community radio. The project, funded by the *Partnerships Against Domestic Violence* initiative with the support of the South Australian Department of Human Services, ran over several years, and received a National Violence Prevention Award.
- Reproducing a Valentine's Day card originally developed by Southern Women's Community Health Centre in conjunction with a young women's group at Hallett. Targeting young women, the purpose of the card is to raise awareness about non-violent relationships.



It carries the message: 'You can be my Valentine if you...'

- Participating in a range of policy forums at the national, state and local levels.
- Initiating and taking an active role in the *South Australian Coalition of Domestic Violence Action Groups*. The overall aims of the Coalition are: to have a united voice when responding to issues of Domestic Violence and Indigenous Family Violence; to be part of broad alliances; to maximise influence on policy and decision making processes regarding domestic violence; and to create networks to facilitate effective communication, shared resources and training.
- Auspicing the (South Australian) Coalition of DV Action Groups community awareness campaign: *Silent Witness – Domestic Violence Hurts Kids Too*, launched in March 1999. The campaign, funded by the *Partnerships Against Domestic Violence* initiative with the support of the South Australian Department of Human Services, involved the production of posters, bumper stickers and balloons, a fact sheet on 'the effects of domestic violence on children' and an 8-page booklet for men titled 'Your Anger Hurts Kids Too'. During the development of the materials, the idea of the *Clothesline* was created. The Clothesline is a powerful visual display of messages from children and adolescents about the impact domestic violence has on them. Many Action Groups participated in this additional project and individually developed their own process for collecting the messages. The Clothesline continues to be a much sought after display that receives very positive and empathetic attention from the general public.
- Production since 1998 of a newsletter, *No-one Need Live in Fear*. It provides practical and statistical information relevant to the general community, names domestic violence in common language and provides strategies on how community members can be involved in

preventing violence and abuse within relationships. Fifteen hundred copies of each issue are produced and distributed through schools, Community Centres, libraries, some GP practices, and Government and non-government services.

The achievements of the Southern DVAG demonstrate the power of service providers and community members working together.

As one member pointed out, *'Whilst domestic violence and the issues surrounding it remain the domain of enlightened health workers and academics, little in our community will change'*.

Further information

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Details on how to obtain materials from the 'Silent Witness' campaign and 'Violence in the Home has Many Forms' initiative, can be found on the publications page of the Partnerships Against Domestic Violence web site:

<http://www.padv.dpmc.gov.au/publications/publicat.htm>. The 'Silent Witness' campaign materials can be ordered free of charge from DAS Distribution: (02) 6202 5736; email: jamie.walker@rmsdas.com (Product code: A054887, OSW Code: OSW59)

National domestic violence campaign for people from non-English speaking backgrounds

On 25 September 2002, the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women, Senator Amanda Vanstone, announced a month-long campaign targeting non-English speaking background (NESB) communities of the issue of domestic violence.

Funded under the Commonwealth Government's *Partnerships Against Domestic Violence* initiative, the campaign recognises the need to educate all Australians about the nature and impact of domestic violence, and the need for all community members to reject violence and support those who are affected by it.

The Commonwealth had not targeted NESB communities because they are more prone to domestic violence than mainstream Australia – of the limited research available on this issue, there is no empirical evidence to suggest this trend. However, NESB communities have been found to have a lower awareness of the nature and impact of domestic violence and to experience a range of barriers to disclosing the violence and seeking help. In addition, a NESB-specific campaign is preferable given that NESB groups benefit more from tailored messages than simple translations of mainstream campaign materials.

The campaign, which is appearing in ethnic press and radio, provides information about the damaging impact of domestic violence on individuals, children and families, the law, and where to get help. The messages focus on the unacceptability of domestic violence and the need for a whole of community

response to its prevention and reduction. The campaign materials include a full colour, four-page press insert and a 60-second radio commercial.

The press insert will appear in 38 ethnic newspapers targeting thirteen different language and cultural groups. Radio advertisements will be broadcast to nineteen target languages and cultural groups. Languages include Arabic, Mandarin, Bahasa, Russian, Bosnian, Spanish, Cantonese, Tamil, Thai, Greek, Tongan, Hebrew, Tagalog, Turkish, Hindi, Vietnamese, Italian, Yiddish and English.

The campaign has been strongly supported by a wide range of religious leaders who have signed an Interfaith Declaration against domestic violence. Religious leaders were identified in the developmental research for the campaign as a key influence for non-English speaking background communities in relation to domestic violence response and prevention. In addition, religious values were seen to act as a strong deterrent to domestic violence in many NESB communities.

Further information

www.padv.dpmc.gov.au.

International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA)

The Clearinghouse has been advised of the establishment of this new organisation

The objectives of INPEA are:

- to increase public awareness and knowledge of the issue
- to promote education and training of professionals and paraprofessionals in identification, treatment and prevention
- to further advocacy on behalf of abused and neglected elders
- to stimulate research into the causes, consequences, prevalence, treatment and prevention of elder abuse and neglect

Further information

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The Townsville International Women's Conference: Poverty, Violence and Women's Rights... Setting a Global Agenda

In early July, over 400 delegates from around the world gathered in Townsville for a conference which offered a wealth of stimulating and challenging speakers on a range of topics around the theme of exploring male violence and its effects and developing more effective feminist responses. With such a rich 'smorgasbord' of papers available, it was a difficult task to decide which session to attend. Topics included trafficking in women, prostitution, war, poverty, violence against women in East Timor, Pacific women's activism against violence, domestic violence and child sexual assault. Keynote speakers in large group sessions gave many opportunities for all delegates to come together and the ensuing conversations were very lively. Keynote presentations by Indigenous speakers Kerrie Tim, Gracelyn

Smallwood and Delena Foster in different and powerful ways addressed the intersection of racism and sexism. At a lively session entitled 'Speakers' Stone', women presented short, powerful opinion pieces via a range of methods, including poetry and video. The conference organisers are to be congratulated for offering such a stimulating and inspiring conference, and also for offering a social program which showed delegates many facets of North Queensland life.

A highlight of the conference was the invitation to delegates from Delena Foster, Chairperson of the Palm Island Community Council, to visit Palm Island and learn from Indigenous women about their experiences. Delegates from around the world joined with the women of Palm Island in a march against violence. The photos on this page give a flavour of the unique experience of this day, thanks to the generosity of the Palm Island community. The Clearinghouse will be publishing the papers from this conference on its web site. Watch for details on the 'news' page of our web site and in our next newsletter.



1. Visitors join in with the Palm dancers
2. Welcome by protesters drawing attention to the issue of paternalism of governments on Indigenous issues
3. Aunty Jean and Aunty Agnes Wotton, respected elders, with Summer Bland (WEL Brisbane)
4. Palm Island public square outside the main retail store where everyone gathered for the day's events

Further information

Updates, including feedback from participants, are available on the conference web site: <http://www.tiwc.asn.au/tiwc/post-conferenceupdate.htm>

Victorian Family Violence Database and Release of Victorian Family Violence Database: First Report

Those working in the area of family violence have long articulated the need for improved collection and analysis of relevant data. The Victorian Community Council Against Violence (the VCCAV), in collaboration with Victoria Police, the Magistrates' Court of Victoria, the National Data Collection Agency, the Department of Human Services and the family violence sector, have established the Victorian Family Violence Database (the VFVD). Seed funding for the project was provided by the Commonwealth Government's *Partnerships Against Domestic Violence* program with the ongoing costs being met by the Victorian Government.

The VFVD brings together data from a range of agencies working in the area of family violence into a single state-wide database. The development of the VFVD enables the provision of a more comprehensive picture of family violence to better inform policy and program development. It provides valuable information that will inform both Victorian Government initiatives to reduce the incidence of family violence as well as the work of the non-government family violence sector.

A Data Review Committee (the DRC) has been established with membership from each of the data source agencies. The DRC formally oversees the work of the VFVD, authorises the release of reports and ensures that there is compliance with privacy legislation. All data provided to the VFVD is non-identifying.

As at September 2002, the VFVD holds data extracts for the two years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 from Victoria Police family violence reports, Victorian Magistrates' and Children's Courts intervention order applications, and Victorian Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) agencies' family violence data. It is anticipated that the VFVD will include further sources of data in the future and the VFVD project team is currently in discussion with the Victorian Department of Human Services around the release of acute health data. Additionally, in the longer term, the project team will work together with data providers to achieve a standardised framework for family violence data definitions and collection.

An important issue that bears on the capacity of the VFVD to accurately identify the extent and nature of

family violence is its underreporting. In the last twenty years, 80 per cent of women who experienced violence from a partner sought no help from any services (OSW 2001). Due to the low level of reporting of family violence, it is likely that it will appear as if its incidence is increasing as responses improve and more victims seek assistance. The VFVD will be a useful mechanism to monitor these changes over time. In addition, the range of data available for analysis from the VFVD indicates the extent and nature of family violence above and beyond what each individual data source agency provides individually. The VFVD is able to capture evidence of a range of experiences of family violence. This diversity of data sources reflects the range of pathways that may be taken to seek assistance such as police, courts, refuges and hospitals, and, in doing so, provides a more comprehensive picture of family violence in Victoria.

Victorian Family Violence Database: First Report, released in August 2002, presents an analysis of data from Victoria Police, Victorian Courts and Victorian SAAP agencies across the key demographic variables of gender, relationship, age group and region, with a specific focus on adult female victims and children. Future reports will focus on other groups such as adult male victims and offenders.

First Report reveals that there were approximately 20,000 incidents of family violence recorded by Victoria Police and approximately 20,000 aggrieved family members subject to finalised original intervention order applications in each year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 in Victoria. There were approximately 11,000 clients of SAAP agencies for whom family violence was a reason for seeking assistance during each of these two years.

There are also large numbers of children present at family violence incidents recorded by Victoria Police (approximately 18,500 in 1999-2000 and approximately 19,900 in 2000-2001). In addition, there were approximately 4,500 children each year who were the subject of intervention order applications.

Furthermore, in 1999-2000, more than half of clients for whom family violence was a reason for seeking assistance from SAAP agencies had one or more accompanying children. The available data suggests that there were at least 7,750 accompanying children in 1999-2000. Of the accompanying children to SAAP agencies where family violence was a reason for seeking assistance, 85 per cent were aged under 12 years; approximately 45 per cent were under five years.

The Victorian Family Violence Database: First Report is being distributed to those working in the family violence area and is available from the VCCAV website: www.vccav.vic.gov.au

Reference

Office of the Status of Women 2001, *Working Together Against Violence: The First Three Years of Partnerships Against Domestic Violence*, Commonwealth of Australia, p. v.

Further information

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NEW PUBLICATIONS/REVIEWS

Routes to Safety: Protection issues facing abused women and children and the role of outreach services

Humpheys, C. & Thiara, R. 2002, Centre for the Study of Safety and Well Being, University of Warwick.

Clearinghouse Senior Research Officer, Jane Mulrone reviews a report of British research designed to identify the issues faced by women and children leaving a violent relationship, and to document valuable components of outreach services shown to be effective in supporting women's attempts at help seeking and survival.

The research

Twelve women's and two children's outreach services, along with outreach coordinators, members of management committees and referral agencies were consulted via in depth interviews and questionnaires concerning women's experiences of leaving a violent and abusive relationship and the role of outreach services in aiding the recovery of women and their children. In conjunction with this data and an analysis of outreach services policy documents, examples of good practice within outreach services were articulated.

Women's experience of violence and abuse

Many women accessing outreach services experienced an escalation in violence and abuse to a point at which they feared for their physical safety and emotional well being, with a number of women

concerned about their own mental health. A large proportion of women experienced sexual assault and rape by their partner, sometimes witnessed by their children. Seventy-six per cent of women stated that the violence and abuse did not cease once they had left the relationship with 36 per cent stating that it was still continuing at the time of the research. Whilst 36 per cent had called police to incidents, a further 19 per cent had chosen not to call police. Women and their children often experienced serious threats or life threatening assaults despite having left their partner.

Outreach services

Outreach services covered those providing outreach follow-up once a woman had left a refuge as well as support and information services to women who have never been a resident of a refuge. These services included information and support (85%), advocacy (76%), meetings with an outreach worker outside a woman's home (63%) and meeting with the outreach worker at a drop-in outreach centre (60%). Support, including groupwork, was also provided in conjunction with specialist workers such as interpreters, disability, mental health, and drug and alcohol workers.

Many women commented that they were unaware of the supports and options available until they made contact with an outreach worker. Providing a flexible and non-judgmental response coupled with time, support and understanding gave women the confidence to deal with often multiple experiences of abuse. Importantly, 52 per cent of the women said that outreach support helped them leave the abusive relationship and 67 per cent said that outreach support had helped them stay away from an abusive relationship.

Children and young people's experiences

Outreach services provided activity-based programs for the children and home visiting follow up attending to resettlement issues. The rationale for this service component is that children experiencing domestic violence are subject to many changes and moves in their lives and the transition from the refuge to a new life situation needs to be managed with attention to their needs.

Children spoke about witnessing extreme levels of violence as well as physical violence directly perpetrated on them or their siblings. They spoke in terms of fear, anger, sadness, loss and the problems associated with intrusive thoughts and pictures. In response to their experiences, children stated that outreach services should provide information and

activities that are fun and enjoyable as well as those helping them to deal with past and current issues, including linkage with other children who had gone through similar experiences. Children clearly identified their mother as the person they would turn to discuss their problems, emphasising the importance of working with women in ways that help them to maintain strong connections with their children.

Obstacles women encountered

Women reported that their concerns often appeared to be minimised by service providers. For example, when they approached general practitioners and emergency departments for treatment for their injuries, women reported that they were rarely asked about the context in which the injuries occurred. This resulted in a lack of documentation about the violence and further prevented women from accessing the information and support required. Women reported further dissatisfaction with legal outcomes, including action on breaches of protection orders and the withdrawal of prosecution. Many women (44%) had contact with statutory child protection workers but found the process less than positive. Whilst they were aware of the need for allegations of abuse to be investigated, they experienced judgmental attitudes that did not recognise the role of the abusive partner and his attempts to prevent them from seeking help. Indeed women said they felt coerced into leaving their partners before they had adequate supports in place under the threat that their children would be removed.

Help seeking and moving on: What helped?

Not surprisingly, when women were asked about improvements to service delivery, they proposed the following:

- An immediate response;
- Non-judgemental, respectful interaction;
- To be taken seriously, with the abuse treated as a crime;
- Priority given to their safety and that of their children;
- Recognition of the links between women's well being and their ability to attend to the needs of their children;
- Ability to respond to women with complex lives who were also experiencing domestic violence, so that domestic violence does not become a non-issue regarding intervention strategies

Starting Over and Moving On

Initial difficulties after leaving included financial hardship, isolation and lack of support, children's behaviour and emotional responses, violence and abuse from the ex-partner, difficulty making decisions, practical problems, confusion about whether to return to their partner, child contact arrangements being used to continue abuse, difficulties finding appropriate housing, and legal problems. This study indicates that while there are substantial problems in the early stages of leaving a partner, these significantly recede over time. The only exception to this was racism and racial harassment, which remained at the same level.

When women were asked about the positive aspects of leaving a violent relationship, the most positive factor was being free from the violence. Not having to account to their partner and being able to have control over their lives and relationships with others, as well as making their own decisions, were identified as powerful dimensions. Women reported having increased confidence, feeling safe, having an improved sense of self, and feeling happier. Importantly, the study found that women were less likely to identify job training or re-entry into the workforce as significant factors. The authors deduced that women are not in a position to think about these issues for some time after leaving a controlling and abusive relationship.

Implications for practice

Women's varying experiences in the post separation context reveal a great deal about intervention priorities. Whilst this is often an extremely difficult and dangerous time for women, this study highlights the positive outcomes that emerge over time. The report states that 'intensive support for women in the first six months after leaving is crucial' (p.108). Women with support will find a pathway to attaining a safer life for themselves and their children. Of note, is the concern that minority ethnic women are over represented in the group of women who still face substantial difficulties beyond the initial six-month period. It is recommended that 'specialist resourcing' is essential for women facing multifaceted problems within an environment that is abusive and isolating.

Outreach services need to account for the broad spectrum of women's experience of violence by their partner. A clear trend identified by the research was the need for outreach services to be available to women still in violent relationships, non-residents of refuges and those women experiencing post separation violence. It was suggested by women that outreach services needed to be accessible to a broad range of client groups, particularly women with

special needs and those who do not want to approach mainstream services.

An issue arising from this research is the safety of children and young people on contact visits with their father who has been violent and abusive. For those women who did have contact agreements, they reported that 'contact' had been used as a way to track them down, to perpetrate ongoing abuse and intimidation, or as an opportunity to harass by using the court process against them. Many women spoke about their efforts to ensure that contact arrangements worked for the sake of their children despite ongoing fears and were surprised by the lack of concern regarding the child's safety expressed by the court or statutory child protection workers.

Conclusion

This report, auspiced by Women's Aid in the United Kingdom, highlights the growing existence of outreach services as an additional form of service provision within women's refuges. It is recognised that as many women may not access refuge accommodation, outreach support and advocacy is vital to their recovery. The development of outreach services has occurred in an ad hoc manner and as a consequence has not received specific funding to deliver a non-accommodation related service. In addition to ongoing funding, sound management practices such as ensuring regular supervision, providing access to appropriate training, establishing appropriate policies, creating appropriate management structures with workers possessing specialist knowledge, are essential to the success of any outreach program.

Overwhelmingly, a positive message that pervades the concluding sections of the report, is that good practice interventions make enormous differences in women's lives. Women have clearly articulated the benefits of leaving a violent relationship that become more apparent after the initial stages of recovery. These are contrary to the negative messages that often pervade about the prospect for change in women's lives. It is these voices that need to be amplified so that other women can learn from their experiences and wisdom in order to access "routes to safety".

Further information

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info@womensaid.org.uk

Men as victims of domestic violence: some issues to consider

Chris Atmore, 2001, Domestic Violence & Incest Resource Centre

Victoria's Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre has recently published the second in its series of Discussion Papers. These Papers provide in-depth analyses of aspects of family violence that have policy and practice relevance. They focus on areas that have previously been under-researched.

This paper explores the issue of men as victims of domestic violence. It is commonly believed that women are the typical victims of domestic violence, and that most perpetrators are men. This view has shaped different stances on, and responses to, domestic violence as a social problem, in areas ranging from government policy to feminist campaigns. Recently this focus on women as the victims of domestic violence has been criticised. Dissenting voices argue that men, too, can be victims of violence in the home, and that this fact is insufficiently acknowledged in areas like government policy and general public awareness.

Men as Victims of Domestic Violence examines the various perspectives that are brought to bear on this debate. It takes a measured look at the existing research and the uses that are made of it, in particular by 'men's rights' groups. The Discussion Paper argues that feminists need to engage with this recurring and controversial issue, and identifies questions and problems that require critical analysis and considered reflection.

Further information

Domestic Violence & Incest Resource Centre
292 Wellington Street, Collingwood, Victoria, 3066
Ph: (03) 9486-9866; Email: dvirc@dvirc.org.au
Cost: \$12.00

Domestic Violence in the Lives of Children: The future of research, intervention, and social policy

Edited by Sandra A. Graham-Bermann and Jeffrey L. Edleson, 2001

Publisher: American Psychological Association, Washington, DC.

This comprehensive book brings together contributions by leading researchers and practitioners on the

issue of children who experience adult domestic violence. Each chapter begins with a brief review of the research before moving to identify both future research directions and policy implications. Overall, the book aims to 'identify what is needed in the future in defining central research constructs, in setting standards for conducting this research with this population of children, and in determining what steps are needed next to ensure quality interventions can be identified and implemented for children who experience abuse to themselves and to their mothers.' (p. xi)

The book is divided into three sections. The first, 'Understanding Children's Exposure to Domestic Violence', explores the underpinning knowledge about the impact on children of exposure to domestic violence. It begins with a chapter which analyses the methodological, conceptual and practical issues involved in establishing the prevalence of children's exposure to domestic violence. This is followed by a discussion by Rossman of the longer term effects on children of exposure to domestic violence, drawing primarily on a trauma perspective. Rossman reviews the research on the links between chronic exposure to domestic violence and the development of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic stress symptoms and on the biobehavioural effects of chronic trauma exposure. Insights into longer term effects provided by four types of research are then described: retrospective studies, prospective studies (of which there are few), short-term prospective studies and studies of exposure to domestic violence and its impact on the achievement of developmental tasks. Rossman concludes that the longer term impacts can be summarised in the following way: 'Exposure at any age can create disruptions that can interfere with the accomplishment of developmental tasks, and early exposure may create more severe disruptions by affecting the subsequent chain of developmental tasks.' (p. 59)

Hughes, Graham-Bermann and Gruber then explore the concept of resiliency as it relates to children who experience domestic violence, noting that little research attention has to date been directed towards those children who appear to be coping well in this situation. They report the results of two studies which provide some beginning insights into the factors associated with children's coping with exposure to domestic violence, and outline a research and policy agenda for the future. In the following chapter, Jeffrey Edleson addresses the co-occurrence of child maltreatment and domestic violence. He argues that increased recognition of this overlap requires "new thinking" in the design of research studies, and outlines core components which must be addressed in future studies. One of these is the need to evaluate the effects of the new legislative, policy

and practice initiatives which are currently being implemented. For example, he points out that universal screening for domestic violence is being widely promoted as an intervention. He asks whether such interventions result in women and children being given new options and resources, or whether there are other, "unintended negative outcomes". Peled concludes the first section of the book with a thoughtful exploration of the ethics of research on children's exposure to domestic violence, a topic rarely addressed in the literature. She outlines a detailed proposal for ethically sound research with children experiencing domestic violence.

The second section of the book explores the role of families and social support. Radford and Hester argue that a major gap in the research literature is a failure to address the issue of mothering in the context of abuse. They explore this issue 'from the premise that the social, historical, cultural, and political contexts in which thinking about violence, the family, and mothering is positioned has a profound influence on policy responses to women and children surviving abuse.' (p. 135) This is followed by a chapter which looks at fatherhood and domestic violence. Williams, Boggess and Carter argue that, while collaboration between domestic violence advocates and the father's rights factions of the fatherhood movement is not possible, alliances must be formed between domestic violence advocates and other father involvement advocates. In the following chapter, Jaffe, Poisson and Cunningham note that the research about the impact of divorce and separation on children, and the research on the impact of living with domestic violence, have largely developed along separate lines. As a consequence, practices (such as shared parenting) which arise from the findings of the literature on divorce and separation, may be recommended inappropriately in situations of divorce when there is a history of domestic violence. It is argued that future research on the impact of living with violence on children, must inform Family Law.

Eisikovits and Winstok then outline 'a conceptual framework for including children's own perceptions in future empirical study of exposure to adult domestic violence.' (p. 7) The final chapter in this section reviews the research on the role of social networks and social support in children's coping. Beeman argues that interventions need to target not only children exposed to domestic violence, but also the adults and children who can potentially provide support to children living with violence. This includes teachers and other service providers in contact with children, and also the wider community (e.g. peers and neighbours), which can be resourced through community education to offer non-judgemental support. Building help-seeking skills in

children and young people is also needed. Importantly, she points to the need to co-ordinate interventions aimed at supporting children with interventions aimed at supporting their mothers.

The third section of the book focuses on prevention initiatives and their evaluation. Graham-Bermann notes that evaluation research of programs to assist children to overcome the effects of exposure to violence is in its infancy. She reviews the available evaluations before suggesting a framework for designing future interventions and evaluating their outcomes. This is followed by a chapter which places the work with children in the larger context of coordinated community responses to domestic violence. In the final chapter, Wolfe and Jaffe outline an agenda for prevention programs using a framework which identifies key approaches for different developmental stages.

Overall, this book provides a critical review of the available research on children experiencing domestic violence and clearly outlines an agenda for future research. It is a thoughtful, stimulating and detailed resource which attends to the multiple contexts which impinge on children and their mothers dealing with domestic violence and its aftermath.

RESEARCH FINDINGS/INITIATIVES

PADV Improving Women's Safety Project: Forums to talk about how we enable women and children to remain in their homes safely

The PADV-funded *Improving Women's Safety* project is exploring how victims of domestic violence and their children can be supported to stay safely in their homes whilst the perpetrators reside elsewhere (either mandatorily or voluntarily). Three issues based forums: women, perpetrators and diverse communities (including Indigenous, rural/remote and CALD) are being held in every capital city in Australia during late October and November. If you would like to have your say about what the issues are and what strategies could be put in place, please register to attend a forum.

Further information

Melinda Mayne, IWS Project Manager,
Health Outcomes International, Ph: (08) 8363 3699
Fax: (08) 8363 9011; Email: melinda@hoi.com.au
Website: www.hoi.com.au/iws/forums.htm

What are the legal needs of older people in NSW?

The *Legal Needs and Access to Justice* project aims to identify the particular legal and access to justice needs of economically and socially disadvantaged people in New South Wales. As part of this project, the Law and Justice Foundation is conducting a study of the 'Legal Needs of Older People' and is calling on older people and other interested parties to participate. The study will identify the pathways and barriers to older people accessing justice. Consultations will be held with older people, service providers, policy makers, lawyers, academics and advocates.

Older people can participate by writing to the Law and Justice Foundation about their experiences of the legal system and/or by participating in a focus group. Submissions from service providers are also invited.

The closing date for submissions is 11 Oct 2002

To participate in the study

Contact Julia Perry
Ph: (02) 9221 3900; Fax: (02) 9221 6280
Email: jperry@lawfoundation.net.au
Post: Law and Justice Foundation
GPO Box 4264, SYDNEY NSW 2001

To find out more about this study go to:
<http://www.lawfoundation.net.au/access/elder> or
telephone and ask for a background paper.

Working With Children Project

'Working with Children' is a six month project funded under the *Partnerships Against Domestic Violence* initiative. The purpose of the project is to identify services and resources within Australia for children living with domestic violence and to develop best practice standards and tools for practitioners. The project will run from May to November 2002. To date the project has sent information to over 1300 services and held 13 forums to obtain input into good practice standards. If you have to yet completed a questionnaire you can call Robyn on 1800 336 777 and complete it over the phone.

Further information

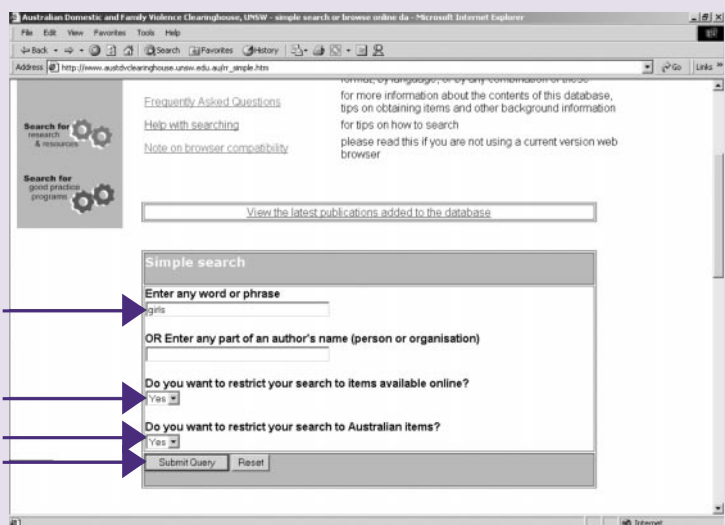
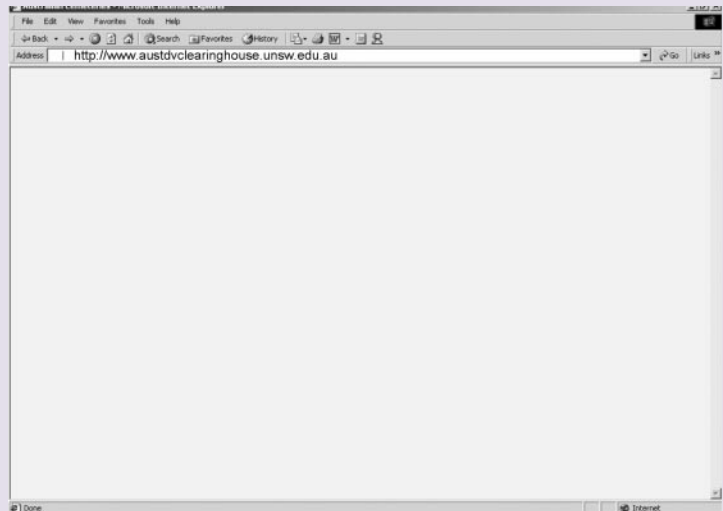
Leslie Gevers Community Management Services
PO Box 133 North Fremantle WA 6159
Ph: 08 9336 7717
Email: kidsproject@lgcms.com.au
Web: www.lgcms.com.au

SEARCHING FOR ONLINE, AUSTRALIAN ARTICLES IN THE CLEARINGHOUSE RESEARCH AND RESOURCES DATABASE

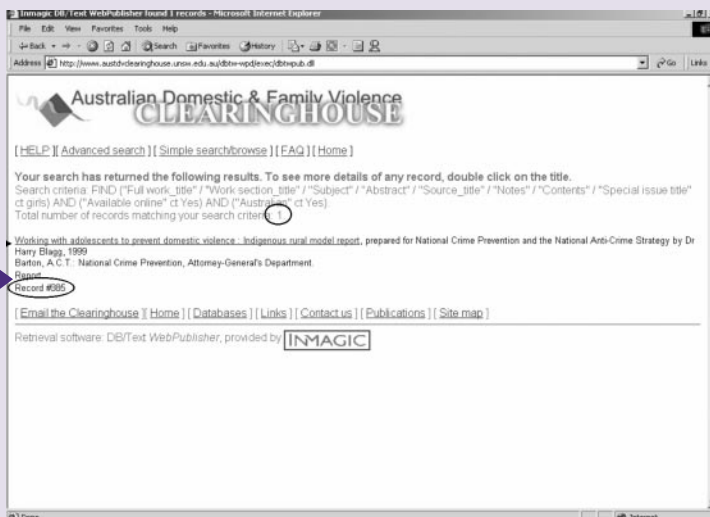
Dale Gietzelt, Information Officer

The Clearinghouse's Research and Resources (R & R) database currently lists over 1,100 items, in the form of journal articles, book chapters, reports, posters, leaflets, videos, postcards etc. Some of these items are available online and can be downloaded onto your own computer, for immediate access. In most cases, you will need to have the latest version of Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer. This can be downloaded free of charge at the Adobe site: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>

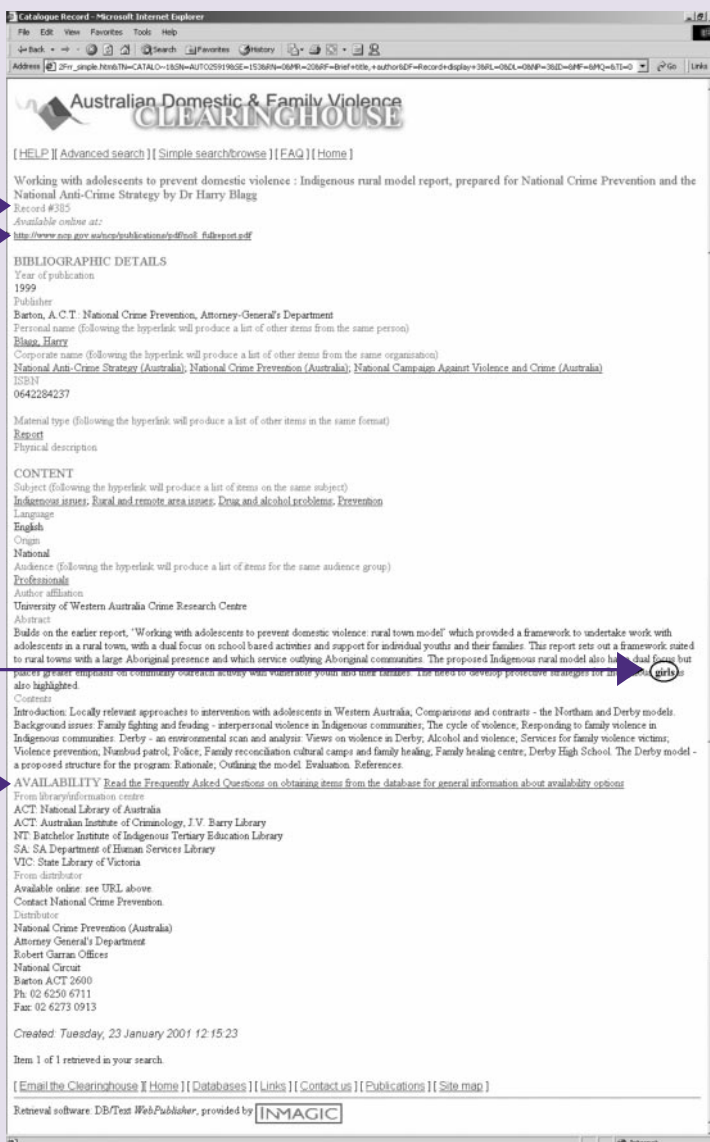
- 1 Go to our home page at www.austdv-clearinghouse.unsw.edu.au. Highlight the address bar in your browser (here the browser is Internet Explorer) and type in the above address and then press Enter (or Return).
- 2 You are now at the Clearinghouse's home page.
- 3 Click on the green wheels on the left ("Search for research & resources"). The following page appears. In the Simple search box, type in your required keyword(s). In this specific example, the keyword 'girls' has been used, as you want information on domestic violence as it affects girls specifically. Where it asks if you want to restrict your search to items available online, click on the to indicate "Yes". Similarly, where it asks if you want to restrict your search to Australian items only, click on the to indicate "Yes". Then click on the 'Submit Query' button.



4 In this example, one record is retrieved from the Research and Resources database. This means that there is, at this point in time, one Australian item that mentions 'girls' in the title, subject, abstract etc., that is available online, for immediate downloading or retrieval to your own computer.



5 The record can be retrieved by clicking on the blue underlined text, which acts as a link to another page providing more details on that particular item. In the current example below, you can see that the word searched for – girls – is highlighted in bold font. Also note the record number (which is our internal classification system), also found on the results page.



6 The Web address or URL where the document can be found is located just under the title, again in blue (or sometimes purple, if you have been to that web page before), underlined font (indicating a link to another page or website – what is known as a hyperlink). If you click on that hyperlink, it will take you in most cases directly to the document. Sometimes you might get a contents page from an organisation, and you might have to click on another hyperlink to find the desired document. Provided that you have the required version of Adobe Acrobat Reader for files ending in .pdf format, after clicking on the URL hyperlink, the document should appear.



7 Note the availability of the item in hard copy. Several of the libraries throughout Australia that hold the item are listed, as are the distributor's contact details.

8 Use the binoculars symbol/button to find the particular word or phrase which you are seeking. At the bottom, the buttons – such as 4

(advances the document one page) – can speed up the process of looking through for relevant information. To print a .pdf format document (one that uses Adobe Acrobat Reader), DO NOT use the printer button on the browser (NOR the option found in File, Print)– instead, use the one within the Adobe frame, as indicated above.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES/SEMINARS

Coordinated Criminal Justice Responses to Family Violence: From Duluth to Canberra – Training workshop

Presented in conjunction with the International Women in Policing Conference, by the ACT Director of Public Prosecutions, ACT Policing, the ACT Victims of Crime Coordinator, ACT Corrective Services and the Domestic Violence Crisis Service of the ACT

October 24-25, 2002 Canberra, ACT

The 'Duluth model' of a coordinated community and criminal justice response to domestic and family violence is a recognised world leader. The Family Violence Intervention Program (FVIP) in the Australian Capital Territory is inspired by the Duluth model. The FVIP is a recognised national benchmark in access to justice. This workshop is designed for criminal justice practitioners by criminal justice practitioners as an opportunity for reflection, learning and action-planning. The workshop will explore adaptation issues from Duluth to the Australian context. It will provide practical

reflections on the implementation of a sustainable program of strategic system change.

The cost of the workshop is \$300 for NGOs and \$350 for Government agencies. The fee includes all handouts and refreshments

Registration/Information

Jane Caruana, Ph: (02) 6217 4381
Email: jane.caruana@act.gov.au

Women and Policing Globally

An international conference and training symposium

October 20-23, 2002, National Convention Centre, Canberra

The conference will examine a broad range of issues, including: international comparisons of women in policing and law enforcement; trafficking in women; international networks for women in policing and law enforcement; improving the status of women within policing and law enforcement; all forms of violence against women including domestic violence, sexual assault and female genital mutilation; increasing diversity within policing and law enforcement environments; the roles of police and law

enforcement officers in protecting women's human rights; and best practice in policing for women.

Further Information

Conference Co-ordinators
2002 Women and Policing Globally Conference
PO Box 139, Calwell ACT 2905
Ph: +61 2 6292 9000; Fax: +61 2 6292 9002
Email: confco@austarmetro.com.au

Voices of the Past... Visions of the Future

Inaugural International Conference, Women's Refuge Group of WA

October 29-31, 2002 Mandurah, WA

The conference aims to bring together International, National and Local community leaders to promote established programs and practices within the field of Family and Domestic Violence. A diverse range of people associated with Workplace, Family and Domestic Violence will be in attendance. The theme and content of the conference is designed to cater for the interests of a wide range of individuals, representing a most diverse cross-section of the Western Australian community.

Web site:

http://www.keynotewa.com/conf_pge/cnf_wrg.html

Building An Intervention System For Men Who Abuse Their Partners:

Organisation Development, Judicial Oversight & Program Evaluation

Please note that there is no Brisbane or Sydney conference as previously listed in this newsletter. Instead, SDVMA and the presenters have decided to "tour" the conference. The presenters will travel directly to any organisation, anywhere in Australia and/or New Zealand and train small groups of delegates in a very personal, educational, dynamic and highly interactive way.

Further Information:

SDVMA
GPO Box 3228, Brisbane, Queensland, 4001
Ph: (07) 3206 6799; Fax: (07) 3229 8860
Email: sdvma@bigpond.com

Women's Mental Health Across the Life Span

November 15-16, 2002, Mercure Hotel, Sydney

This conference will focus on mental health issues confronting women across the life span. Papers addressing those issues faced by younger and older women and women from culturally diverse backgrounds are particularly welcome. The conference will be preceded by a one-day workshop conducted by Ruth Gallop, RN, PhD who has extensive experience in the provision of services with a specific emphasis on women's mental health.

Contact:

Sandra Hoot, Fax: (02) 9828 6181
Email: Sandra.Hoot@swsahs.nsw.gov.au
Post: Women and Mental Health Inc (WAMH)
PO Box 1330, Rozelle NSW 2039

Contemporary Issues in Sexual Assault – Preliminary notice

February 12-14, 2003 Sydney

The conference will provide the opportunity to investigate programs and research, develop and critique approaches to sexual assault both internationally and within Australia. The conference will also provide the opportunity to examine and critique the relevance of race, ethnicity and religion in sexual assault; highlight the impact of such depictions in the community; provide a gender analysis; and address sexual assault as an issue affecting all communities.

Themes: contemporary legal issues; service provision issues; prevention

Contact

Violence Against Women Specialist Unit
Ph: (02) 9228 7899
Web: www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/cpd

7th National Rural Health Conference

March 1-4, 2003 Hobart, TAS

The Conference will focus on all sectors that can make a major contribution to the health of people in country Australia. It will widen the rural and remote health community to include people involved in education, the environment, economic development and community services. It will remind us that the

rural health community includes people who live and work in the major cities and who care about the health of people from country areas.

Contact

Travel Makers
Ph: 1800 838 408 or visit the website for online registration: <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/seventhconf/seventhconf.htm>

Violence Against Women: Evidence of Difference? Preliminary Notice and Call for Papers

The 12th International Conference of the Nursing Network on Violence Against Women

June 20-22, 2003, Adelaide, South Australia

This conference aims to provide a forum for all those who work in human services to come together and discuss the work that is occurring to end violence against women and children and promote their safety. In particular this conference aims to promote collaborative efforts throughout the community and across sectors with an emphasis on the responsibility of the health system to respond to violence against women and provide options for safety. The conference will ask critical questions about what is making a difference by reviewing current evidence and will endeavour to examine the array of social issues that impact on the lives of individuals, families and women including Indigenous Communities. It will also discuss "Rural and Remote Communities" in the context of geographical location. The social, political, economic and physical factors impacting on these communities and service providers will be examined in relation to the range of strategies/practices to address these issues.

Further Information

Conference Convenor: Dr Charmaine Power
Ph: +61 8 8201 3270; Fax: +61 8 8276 1602
Email: vawconf@flinders.edu.au
Web: http://wwwnursing.sturt.flinders.edu.au/news/nws_conf.htm

Call for papers closes 30 November, 2002.
Contact: Ms Karen M Smith
School of Nursing & Midwifery
Ph: +61 8 8201 2492; Fax: +61 8 8276 1602
Email: vawconf@flinders.edu.au

ISPCAN 15th International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect

Hosted by NAPCAN

September 19-22, 2004, Brisbane

Aims to share ideas and experiences from across the global community about protecting children in a way that welcomes children and young people as valued participants.

Contact

Secretariat office, C/ ICMS,
PO Box 3496, South Brisbane, QLD, 4101
Ph: +61 7 3844 1138; Fax: +61 7 3844 0909
Email: ispcan2004@icms.com.au
Web: www.congress2004.com

INTERNET SITES

World Wide Web Resources for Social Workers

<http://www.nyu.edu/socialwork/wwwrsw/>

A site created to facilitate social workers' access to information available on the Internet. Contains many useful links to domestic violence sites.

End Violence Against Women (USA)

<http://www.endvaw.org/>

Developed by the staff of the Johns Hopkins Population Information Program as part of its ongoing effort to collect and share documentation and communication materials produced in the worldwide struggle to end violence against women.

Deadline for contributions to the December 2002 Newsletter is November 4

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the Commonwealth of Australia, the University of New South Wales or the *Partnerships Against Domestic Violence Taskforce*.

Whilst all reasonable care has been taken in the preparation of this publication, no liability is assumed for any errors or omissions.

The Clearinghouse is linked to the Centre for Gender-Related Violence Studies, based in the University of New South Wales School of Social Work.

Funded by *Partnerships Against Domestic Violence*, a Commonwealth Government initiative working with the States and Territories and the community to find better ways of preventing and responding to domestic violence.