

Australian Domestic & Family Violence



CLEARINGHOUSE

newsletter

CLEARINGHOUSE NEWS

Stakeholder Survey

Thank you to those readers who replied to our recent information and stakeholder surveys. We are currently compiling the results and a summary report will be contained within the next Clearinghouse Newsletter. In general, the feedback we have received about Clearinghouse services has been overwhelmingly positive. Survey recipients, in some cases, have given very specific feedback about what they found valuable and have also given suggestions about further improvements that can be made. This will be very useful for the Clearinghouse in future planning of our services.

A big thank you!

New Entries on the Good Practice Database

Inner Southern Domestic Violence Action Group "Kite Day" – SA

In 1998 the Inner Southern Domestic Violence Action Group developed an idea to raise an awareness of Domestic Violence and its effects. The intention was to spark the public's curiosity and interest with the visual effects of the day itself. It was also hoped that the subsequent media coverage would have the same effect.

The Inner Southern DVAG supplied 300 kites to school children with words promoting safe, secure and happy homes and environments. The kites incorporated messages of love and family communication to encourage children to pattern non-violent behaviours. The children themselves painted the other side of the kites with bright happy messages and pictures. The kites symbolized the freedom of flying high and the right for every child to be able to reach their full individual potential.

The children spent time on the beach flying their own kites and watching a professional kite flying demonstration. There was also a kite buggy. When they could be coaxed from the beach they also had great fun participating in the "Life. Be-in-it" games, of Earthball, Tug-O-War, Space Hoppers etc.

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Partnerships Against
Domestic Violence



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEW SOUTH WALES

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Feedback from children and teachers after the 1998 KITE DAY was very positive and after such a great day they requested that the event be continued annually. This will be the third year the event has been organised.



Target group: Children, General Community

Intervention mode: Community arts, Community education

Perspective: Empowerment

Contact

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Alternative Stories Art Gallery and Businesses Against Violence Project – Tasmania

During the Reclaim the Night festival, a unique community education strategy was developed by women from the Launceston community and workers from women's services, in order to create awareness about the issues of violence against women. The organising committee wanted to engage people who may not necessarily be comfortable with being involved in a march or protest, but who were interested in being part of saying 'NO' to violence against women. Funding was obtained from the Westfield Foundation through the Businesses Against Domestic Violence Project to create an *Alternative Stories Gallery* and to launch an information and awareness project with local businesses in Launceston. The projects were:

'The Alternative Stories' Art Gallery

The aim of the gallery was to set up an exhibition one week prior to the Reclaim the Night festival and march, displaying positive images of women and in doing this creating a space that would promote alternatives to violence against women. Local community groups, schools, universities and individual artists were invited to display their work. The response was overwhelming, with 100 pieces of art in various mediums being submitted. Over 80 people attended the launch and a constant flow of people came throughout the week to view the artworks.

Workshops

In the same space as the gallery, a series of free workshops and activities were held, focusing on alternative health options and creativity. Examples included self-portrait drawing, making a community puppet and *I wish I could do that*, a confidence and assertiveness workshop through performance. The workshops were well attended, providing opportunities for people to explore new experiences they may not necessarily have been able to access before. The community puppet workshop was a week-long workshop facilitated by a local artist. An eight feet tall puppet was created and subsequently used in the march.

Businesses Against Domestic Violence Project Sponsors

Southern Cross television was approached to produce a video byte to be used to convey a community message about saying no to violence against women. In return they developed a television advertisement, aired extensively on television for a period of ten days prior to the march. This conveyed a strong message of saying no to violence against women to a broad cross-section of the community. Other businesses were approached to donate time and materials to the setting up of the Gallery exhibition, running the workshops and refreshments for the launch. This was generously supported.

This Business Says No to Violence Against Women

Posters, stickers and information packages, including support services resource cards, were developed with the *No To Violence Against Women* message. Businesses were invited to support the message by displaying the posters and distributing material from the information packages. Four hundred information packages were given to 30 businesses in the Central Business District. These contained programs for the *Alternative Stories* gallery exhibition, Reclaim the Night activities and Say No to Violence stickers.

Evaluation of the strategy indicated that the gallery exhibition was welcomed as a venue to portray positive images and raise awareness of the issues of violence against women. The broad support for the project has led organisers to consider using similar strategies again.

Target group: general community

Intervention mode: community education; community arts

Perspective: gender awareness

Organisations: Women's Domestic Violence Support Service (Tas.); Women's Health Information Service (Tas.)

Contact

Women's Domestic Violence Support Service
PO Box 1421, Launceston TAS 7250
Phone: (03) 6334 0305; Fax: (03) 6334 0043

PRACTICE NOTES

Innovative approaches to domestic violence work in family support services (NSW)

Joy Goodsell, Coordinator of Sutherland Shire Family Support Service and Former Secretary of the Family Support Services Association writes about the increasing reliance on family support services to support families experiencing domestic violence.

Introduction

In an environment of limited resources, Family Support Services (FSS) in NSW have become one of the major referral services for women and children experiencing domestic violence in New South Wales. At any one time 1 in every 140 families in this State is using the services of their local family support service. Statewide Data Collection over the last 12 years by the Family Support Services Association (FSSA) indicates that over 50% of all families approaching our services for assistance were currently experiencing domestic violence or seeking assistance in coping with past effects of domestic violence.

The FSS Programme was originally a Federal Government programme funded to work with socially and financially disadvantaged families. This

initial Federal network was made up of over 500 Family Support Services Nationwide. In NSW, FSS are funded through the Community Services Grants Program administered by the Department of Community Services. There are currently over 150 Family Support Services in New South Wales. These services are spread between urban and rural areas. Historically, these services were set up to work at the preventative end of the spectrum. Due to continuing funding restraints to core funding, services have had to prioritise intake and target work to the most disadvantaged and most at risk families. Casework involving domestic violence and child protection issues has now become one of the highest priorities for most, if not all, family support services.

There are several Aboriginal-specific family support services in NSW, and about 30 Aboriginal Family Workers, scattered throughout the State. Some of these services are at the forefront of developing innovative ways of working and programmes that address violence in their communities. Like all community services and human services everywhere, adequate, needs based funding would help to deliver more services.

Principles underpinning domestic violence work

Family Support Services have embraced an ecological approach to family support, focusing on the whole family, how they relate as individuals and how, as a family, they interact with other systems in society. Principles underpinning domestic violence work include:

- Client-centred approach, resulting in service delivery being flexible, non-judgmental, and targeted to meet individual needs
- Commitment to increasing the personal power of families, seeking to build on strengths and competencies
- Belief that families do have choices and FSS are committed to providing appropriate support to enable those choices to be discerned and enacted
- Belief that family breakdown is linked to poverty and/or social isolation and also can be triggered by a range of other circumstances such as physical disability, mental illness, alcohol and/or substance abuse and intellectual disability. As a result, family support services are committed to advocating for better resources for families, particularly those most disadvantaged
- Commitment to working in partnership with other services to provide better resources for families (FSSA, 1996, 11).

How do family support workers actually work with families experiencing domestic violence?

Most FSS work on the premise of strengthening families and recognising the non-abusing parent's strength of survival in their abusive relationship. In 1993 FSSA embarked on an intensive casework training program with all FSS called "*Building on Strengths*". This training has led to casework that is based on the assumption that optimistic family work is oriented towards identifying the strengths and resources within families and using them as the base on which new skills and approaches can be developed. Recognition of the family's problems and deficits helps to promote the need for change, especially where child protection concerns exist and where the effects of domestic violence are impacting on the non-offending parent's ability to meet their children's needs. Workers using this approach assume that change is more likely if it can be built on what already exists within the family, rather than being imported from outside" (Elliott et al., 2000, 5). Once realistic goals have been achieved, the family support worker's involvement with the family will finish.

A key aspect of the work is building an understanding, trusting relationship with the family. This relationship forms the base from which information can be given, challenges addressed and honest feedback given. It can include practical action and assistance.

Families presenting to FSS are often experiencing multiple issues within the context of experiencing domestic violence. These are child abuse or neglect, inadequate housing, parents' own experiences of being parented, lack of child care, disability, unemployment, health or mental health issues, substance abuse, social isolation, and/or insufficient finances. This illustrates the multidimensional nature of family support work.

Examples of family support services provided to families experiencing domestic violence

- Crisis work
- Ongoing, one to one casework
- Counselling
- Information and referral to needed services i.e. police, refuges, courts, legal services, crisis accommodation etc.
- Services may auspice other community services, e.g. refuges, supported housing.

- Mutual support groups for women
- Reparative children's groups for children who have witnessed domestic violence
- Self esteem and community development groups
- Creative therapy groups to help the healing process
- Auspicing of Court Assistance Schemes
- Participation on local domestic violence committees

Family support services are very diverse and are targeted to meet the specific needs of their local community. Essentially, they all work towards the empowerment of families to ensure ongoing safety and a life free from violence. However, differing approaches have surfaced in regard to men who have been abusive to their partners. Some services have developed programmes to work with men, which has led to some interesting debates between services about the efficacy of this.

Past approaches

In the past decade the Family Support Services Association has developed a number of unique initiatives in an attempt to address the real issues and make a difference for those experiencing domestic violence. Such initiatives have reflected recognition of the problem and the need to work in a way that assists women and children to overcome the impact of abuse. These have included:

Steps of change

In 1994 the FSSA was successful in their funding submission to the Office of the Status of Women to produce 'Steps of Change' - a training resource for community-based work with women in violent relationships. This resource drew on the considerable knowledge that family support workers shared about their creative approaches to working with women experiencing domestic violence and facilitating change in their lives. In particular, it focused on the importance of naming violence and abuse, the need to highlight and work with barriers to leaving a violent relationship and the relevance of assessing and developing safety plans. Importantly, the value of respect for a woman's story, to work at her pace and to trust her judgement were crucial elements in helping women gain confidence and develop an understanding of what a violence free family may feel like. Over 500 family support workers in New South Wales were trained using this resource to work effectively with women who were living in domestic violence.

Children who experience domestic violence

In 1995 the Family Support Services Association turned its attention to children living in violent homes and wrote a group work programme for services wishing to start working with children. This programme was called 'Children Witnessing Family Violence' and was written by Eva Beehag a family support worker from Lower North Shore Family Support Service. Since then many services have adapted this programme and are providing successful programmes to children throughout NSW. Children who attend 'Kids Groups' at Sutherland Shire Family Support Service are thirsty for information about the violence and the primary carers have told us that their children have experienced 'change' in many ways. For example, they learn to trust, are more communicative about their feelings and consequently are more expressive and loving. Several parents have rung asking, "Can my children come back? They want to do it again!" This is one of the most exciting and valuable services we provide in relation to domestic violence.

FSS continue to look at ways of accommodating children and young people's needs. In more recent times concern has been voiced by many family support workers who are alarmed at the high numbers of children coming from violent homes being diagnosed with ADD/ADHD. Debate has raged over the use of medication and the difficulties that exist when the underlying issues, namely the violence and abuse and parenting problems, have not been addressed. Family Support workers still believe that this is not appropriate for children suffering Post Traumatic Stress Order and continue to voice their concerns based on their experiences in working with families.

Sutherland Shire FSS initiatives

Court assistance work

In 1996, Sutherland Shire Family Support Service (SSFSS) applied for and were successful in receiving funding from the Legal Aid Commission under the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Program (WDVCAP) to establish a Court Assistance Scheme at Kogarah and Sutherland Courts. All family support workers in our service participate on a monthly roster for this scheme. Evaluation of the scheme has shown that the service is very valuable in assisting women through the court process. Further evaluation has also been conducted through the Court Assistance Scheme to demonstrate the hidden nature of domestic violence and that it is occurring in wealthy families in waterside homes as well as lower income areas in our local government

area. This has assisted the service to argue for increased levels of funding.

Watching the Court Assistance Scheme in action at Sutherland Court, it became clear to all that we needed to have a child care worker who was able to care for the children whilst parents were involved in the court process. It did not seem appropriate to have children witnessing further anger, trauma and conflict in the courtroom. Consequently, two years ago a community grant was received from Sutherland Shire Council to employ a child support worker to look after and interact with any children waiting in the Court Assistance room.

The tragedy is that for many of these children this is their first experience of a children's service, in the corner of a Court Assistance room. The child support worker has seen children with developmental delays and a range of behavioural problems that indicate many children are missing out on needed early intervention. Our worker also makes reports to the Department of Community Services of her assessments of the effects of violence on these children. So far this worker has made over 130 notifications over the last 2 years. A further \$50,500 from the Attorney General's Crime Prevention Unit will fund this position for another two years.

Working for change at the local level

Our service is the auspicing organisation of Sutherland Shire Domestic Violence Committee. This committee allows us to undertake community development with all other local services, which increases our networking and improves our service delivery through a genuine interagency approach. We have also engaged in a range of activities, such as community education and lobbying, which we could not achieve on our own.

The future

Funds recently received from the Drug Summit will be used to work with adolescents affected by domestic violence, a service we have not been able to offer to families up until now. The Court Assistance Scheme is seeing more Apprehended Violence Order applications from mothers being abused by teenage children. Working with these families will be ground-breaking and very much needed.

As SSFSS is now into its second decade of service to our local community, we are beginning to see the effects and results of the many years of neglect of children's needs. In the context of current research into the brain development of 0 - 3 year olds, we believe that priorities should focus on working with children to overcome the impact of living with domestic violence in a more concerted and effective

way. To this end, we are advocating the establishment of a network of specifically trained workers to provide counselling and reparative group work to children and young people.

I conclude with a poem from a mother who attended one of our domestic violence support groups.

I think it captures the context.

Reflections on the Family Court

*With an AVO
And a file at DoCS
Up to the family court I rock*

*I'm interviewed
And counselled too
Mediation's the thing for you*

*They listen
And seem to understand
Until he holds up his hand*

*She's telling lies
She's quite unstable
Let me lay my cards on the table*

*We're sorry sir
We've done you wrong
Just hang in there and try to be strong*

*It seems so futile
I decide to pass
And agree to anything to end this farce*

*It makes sense now
The security at the door
I've never had murderous thoughts before.*

Marguerita

References:

Family Support Services Association of NSW (1996)
"A Vital Link: An Issues Paper". Concord West.

Elliott, B, Mulrone, L, and O'Neill, D. (2000)
"Promoting Family Change: The optimism factor".
Allen and Unwin. Sydney, Australia.

Contact

Joy Goodsell, Coordinator
Sutherland Shire Family Support Service Inc.
Ph: (02) 9528 2933

NEW PUBLICATIONS/REVIEWS

Two group work resources are reviewed to highlight the current ideas about working with children and their mothers who are experiencing domestic violence.

Parkas: Parents Accepting Responsibility Kids Are Safe

Group work manual for children and their mothers living with domestic violence (2001)

This manual, written by Wendy Bunston and Helen Crean, provides session plans and resources to deliver a ten-week program for children aged between 8-12 years and their mothers or carers who have experienced family violence. The authors state that their program has "evolved to facilitate children and their families to 'hear', 'listen' and 'respond' to each other in relation to the violence they have experienced", p.7. Hearing, listening and responding are core principles underpinning the therapeutic leadership and process of *parkas*.

The *parkas* model is child sensitive, driven by the needs of children. The structure of the program involves the children's group being conducted on a weekday, with the mothers group occurring on the following day. The last week of the program is a joint session with mothers joining the children's session an hour later for a final farewell celebration.

Importantly, the group aims to create a therapeutic environment where children have the space and safety to express their feelings amongst their peers, as a consequence of experiencing domestic violence. A central theme involves honouring the experience and attachments of the child to their parents and significant others. This includes the recognition that some children still may hold strong attachments towards the perpetrators of violence. A significant objective of the program is to raise awareness of parents about the sustained and debilitating impact that family violence has on their children and themselves as carers. A major component of the program is to open up communication between mother and child about experiences and relationships with each other in order to encourage reconnection and facilitate emotional healing. Further attention is given to supporting children to develop appropriate, creative and safe ways to manage their feelings, such as depression and anger.

The manual predominantly concerns itself with mothers as the primary carer of children. However, Section 4 describes a pilot program conducted with dads and children in 1999.

Parkas differentiates their program from others in the following ways:

- it is a combined mental health and community health program using expertise in local communities
- the same leadership team is involved in all aspects of the program delivery to ensure connectedness, continuity of relationships and understanding of individual and family issues and dynamics.

Emphasis is placed on the importance of processing and exploring the issues raised by group members rather than becoming too dictated by adhering to the content format. It is intended that each session build on previous sessions and provide the foundations for future sessions. Material covered within the program flows across both the children's group and the parents' groups.

Authors stress that the program requires skilled facilitation and is demanding in terms of time and emotional energy. From their experience, supervision has been an essential element in the provision of the *parkas* program.

Further information

Royal Children's Hospital
Mental Health Service for Kids and Youth (MHSKY)
50 Flemington Street, Flemington VIC 3031 and
Ph: (03) 9345 6011 Fax: (03) 9345 6010
Djerriwarrh Health Services, Melton
Cnr Yuille and High Streets, Melton VIC 3337
Ph: (03) 9747 0700

Manual of Going Places: Moving on From Domestic Violence

A group work program for children and their mothers who have experienced domestic violence (2000)

Going Places is a constructive and fun psycho-educational and therapeutic program for mothers and children covering issues such as violence, anger and secrecy. It has been a joint project in the ACT by the Child at Risk Assessment Unit, Child, Youth and Women's Health program, ACT Community Care and various interagency partners, including Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Women's Information and Referral Services and the Domestic Violence Crisis Service. A comprehensive manual of the program has been produced as a step by step guide to service providers wishing to run the program. The manual is 76 pages in length and

consists of 7 parts: overview of concurrent group model, including philosophy; preparation and assessment of participants; children's group program (details of each session); mothers' group program (details of each session); evaluation; reference list; and attachments.

In particular, the concurrent group model aims to enhance mothers' understanding of the impact of living with domestic violence on themselves, their children and their own mothering. The process of running the groups concurrently increases the commonality of the mother and child's experience of violence and aims to strengthen the emotional connectedness between them. Within each session of the mother's group, time is spent informing them about what their children are learning and strategies for dealing with issues and behaviour that may arise is discussed. As a result, women are building a confidence about their own parenting and children have the opportunity to talk about their experiences in a safe and secure environment. The preferred age range for this program is 6-8 year olds comprising both sexes. Clear and concise instructions are given for each session including desired outcomes, materials and session outlines.

To obtain

Annabel Wyndham or Jeff Perry, Child at Risk Assessment Unit, The Canberra Hospital, PO Box 11, Woden, ACT, 2606.
Phone: 0262442712; Fax: 0262443861
Email: AnnabelWyndham@act.gov.au or JeffreyPerry@act.gov.au
Cost: \$60 plus \$10 delivery, payable to CARAU.

Domestic Violence Resource Centre (2001)

Critical Directions Monograph Series on Domestic Violence and Child Protection Vol 1, No.1. Domestic Violence Resource Centre, Qld

The DVRC intends to publish a collection of monographs bi-annually to review the issues concerning domestic violence and child protection. This first issue begins by indicating that children often experience domestic violence as "silent witnesses". A concise summary of the literature concerning the links between child abuse and domestic violence, perpetrators, and the effects of violence and abuse on women and children is provided. Case management approaches that include holistic assessments of the family and that attribute responsibility for the violence to the perpetrator are promoted. It is suggested that "a genuine alliance with the non-abusing mother" be established in

order to properly protect the child. The monograph highlights the importance of collaborative and coordinated responses that incorporate clear, strong, social and legal sanctions.

To obtain

Domestic Violence Resource Centre (DVRC)
PO Box 3278, South Brisbane BC, QLD 4101
Ph: (07) 3217 2544; Fax: (07) 3217 2679
Web: www.dvrc.org.au

New Domestic Violence Resource Centre (DVRC) resources (QLD)

The Domestic Violence Resource Centre has recently produced new resources for health and education service providers.

“Homework Not Done Again” – Poster

For some children, school can offer relief from a distressing home life. Teachers and other school staff may be the only other caring adults (aside from their parents) whom they can turn to. In an effort to raise the awareness and knowledge of school staff, the DVRC developed the *Homework Not Done Again...* poster for school staff rooms. The poster captures the links between what may be happening for children at home and their behaviour at school. For example, homework might not be done because “our computer crashed” or “the dog ate it” or “dad hit mum again and the police came around...”.

“Are You Afraid of Someone You live With?” – Desk Triangle

A number of studies indicate that many women seek assistance from health-care providers in the first instance, and that an appropriate and empathetic response can help individuals subjected to this violence. In response to these findings, DVRC produced a desk triangle entitled *Are You Afraid of Someone You live With?*. This desk triangle aims to support the role of health-care professionals in violence intervention. It assists them with useful information needed to provide high quality response to women victims of domestic violence. Also, displaying the desk triangle on General Practitioners’ desks will let women know they can talk about the violence they may be going through in their intimate relationships.

“Just Another Day Living with Violence” – Poster

To complement the desk triangle, DVRC have

produced a poster entitled *Just Another Day Living With Violence*. This poster aims to raise the awareness of the community and other health-care providers about the prevalence of domestic violence by hanging the poster in a prominent position in reception areas.

Limited copies are still available. Service providers are welcome to contact Julie on 07 3217 2544 or e-mail her on projects@dvrc.org.au to get copies of these new resources.

Kids safe from violence – West (KSFV-W) poster

An inter-agency response to childhood trauma and family violence

The poster promotes child sensitive practice principles in working to address the impact of family violence on children. Ten key principles are specified on the poster. They include principles such as the need to work collaboratively to promote child sensitive models of practice and the importance of creating opportunities for children of all cultures to give voice to their experience of family violence.

To order copies

Mental Health Services for Kids and Youth (MHSKY)
50 Flemington Street, Flemington VIC 3031
Ph: 9345 6011; Fax: 9345 6010

Older Women Speak Up

Compiled by Margaret Sergeant & Jane Mears. Reprinted Edition of Booklet.

Older Women Speak Up invites you to send for our booklet of stories of violence against older women in the home. This booklet is made up of stories of violence as told by older women to groups of other older women. The stories show in women’s own words how all kinds of violence happen – physical, emotional, sexual, social and financial abuse – and the devastating consequences for women. The stories illustrate the tremendous courage and strength women have. We adopt creative strategies to survive, and become empowered to change our own lives and ultimately the lives of older women everywhere.

Cost: \$5 per booklet including postage (\$4 for orders of 50 copies and over). Booklet free to women wanting a single copy.

Contact

Older Women Speak Up
1A Liverpool St, Bundeena, NSW 2230, Australia
Ph/Fax 612 9660 5925; Ph 612 9523 9558
Email: msarge@zip.com.au or J.Mears@uws.edu.au

Two more booklets in the *Older Women Speak Up* series are planned for publication in the coming months. They are *More than Survival* (written for older women) and *Survival Is Not Enough* (targeted to people who work in the area of violence against women).

A new resource from Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre (Vic)

The 'Relationships' booklet: an interactive guide for young people

Recent research highlighted that young women are more at risk of experiencing violence in their relationships and are much less likely to use victims' support services than are older women. In response to this, the DVIRC in Victoria has developed a new mini-booklet for young people, which provides a guide to developing respectful relationships, and what to do if a relationship becomes abusive. The booklet has a focus on sexual and emotional forms of abuse, as well as physical, assisting young people to understand the importance of trust and communication in sexual relationships, to identify sexual violence and forms of emotional abuse. This 24-page booklet is interactive, with quizzes and checklist questions, as well as providing practical ideas on safety plans, ways of developing self-esteem and a discussion of helpful services and websites.

Stories and quotes from young women contained in the booklet were obtained from information submitted by young women to DVIRC's 'when love hurts' website (see www.vicnet.net.au/~girlsown). The booklet was originally based on material from this website, and developed through consultations with 31 young women, secondary school staff and the Victorian Department of Education, Employment and Training.

Further information

Domestic Violence & Incest Resource Centre
292 Wellington St Collingwood Victoria 3066.
Ph. (03) 9486-9866 or Fax: (03) 9486-9744.

Free to services in Victoria. Interstate services may order a free copy, further copies are 50c each plus postage (although developed in Victoria, many of the services and websites listed are national).

Editor's Note:

In the previous edition of this newsletter, the Central Violence Intervention Program (CVIP) based in South Australia inadvertently attributed the poem "An autobiography in 5 Chapters" to Peter. This is incorrect and the CVIP apologises for any confusion.

RESEARCH FINDINGS/INITIATIVES

A call for papers

The National Clearinghouse for the Defence of Battered Women, located in Philadelphia USA is calling for practitioners/advocates to submit articles, for inclusion in a special edition of the *Violence Against Women Journal*, on women who use violence or force. They are particularly interested in hearing from advocates and women who are or were in conflict with the law concerning these issues.

The deadline for submission is 15 November 2001 and papers should be no more than 30 double spaced pages. Each article will undergo peer review before inclusion in the journal.

Contact

National Clearinghouse for the Defence of Battered Women
125 S. 9th Street, Suite 302
Philadelphia, PA 191107
Email: SueOsthoff: sueo@ncdbw.org
or Andrea Bible: andrea@ncdbw.org

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES/SEMINARS

Working With Children Who Have Witnessed Family Violence

A 2 Day Workshop with Emphasis on Working with Children in Groups

November 21-22, 2001, Westmead, Sydney

The Family Court of Australia (Parramatta Registry), and the Parramatta Community Health Centre jointly present this workshop which aims to up-skill workers intending to facilitate group work programs for children experiencing domestic violence.

This two-day workshop will include :

- Issues for children living in domestic violence situations

- Effects on children who have witnessed domestic violence
- A review of current research and literature
- The importance of engaging the parents
- Individual therapeutic interventions
- Group work with Children Who Witnessed Domestic Violence
- Specific skills, techniques, practical tips and useful ideas gleaned and developed from working with these children

The workshop will be facilitated by Lily Chen, Family Court (Parramatta) Counsellor and Alexandra Duffy, Social Worker at Parramatta Community Health Centre. Lily has worked at the Family Court since 1993 and has 20 years' experience working with families and children in court, community and health settings. Alexandra is a Social Worker with 11 years' experience in working with children and families. Her work experience spans Alternate Care, Developmental Disability and Assessment, and Community Health. Alexandra's involvement with group work reflects her belief in the power of shared experience. Both have wide experience in delivering group work programs, especially in working with children who have experienced domestic violence. This workshop attracts 12 AASW C.E.P. Accreditation points

Time: 9.15am to 4:45pm (both days)

Cost: \$220 – including GST, Lunch, Morning and Afternoon Tea

Numbers: Limited to 20

Closing Date: 14 November 2001

Further information

Lily Cheng, phone (02) 9893 5553
Email: lily.cheng@familycourt.gov.au

Alex Duffy, phone (02) 9843 3222
Email: Alexandra_Duffy@wsahs.nsw.gov.au

Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect – One Child's Reality – Everyone's Responsibility

November 19-22, 2001, Melbourne

The conference aims: to promote the development and continued improvement of partnership approaches for the protection of children from abuse and neglect; to strengthen the commitment to the prevention of child abuse and neglect in the context of promoting family well being and community

development; to provide professionals with current research and information related to critical factors which impact on family functioning, including family violence, poverty and other social factors; to provide opportunities to debate and discuss different work strategies in the area of child abuse and neglect.

Further information

Phone: +61 3 9499 7612; Fax: +61 3 9499 7699

Email: accan8@prevents.com.au

Web: <http://www.prevents.com.au/accan8/>

Women, Violence and Disability Forum

November, Queensland

The DVRC will be holding a forum entitled *Women, Violence and Disability*. This forum will be for women with a disability, disability workers, policy makers and the domestic violence sector. It will provide a space to address emerging issues around women with a disability who experience domestic violence.

Further information

Julie, Public Education Officer
DVRC (07) 3217 2544
Email: projects@dvrc.org.au

Building an intervention system for men who abuse their partners:

Organisation Development, Judicial Oversight and Program Evaluation

November 28-30, 2001 Brisbane

The objective of this interactive and solution orientated conference is to stimulate and support the development of intervention programs for men who abuse their partners through practical technical assistance and system planning. Each day will comprise morning plenary sessions, afternoon consultation and debriefing and half day workshops with each of the three keynote presenters:

- **Dr Edward Gondolf, USA**, Professor of Sociology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Associate Director of Research for the Mid-Atlantic Addiction Training Institute and principal investigator for the Centre of Disease Control's evaluation of intervention programs for men who abuse their partners.
- **Mr Robert Foster, USA**, founder and director of the "Domestic Abuse Counseling Centre" the

largest and most successful provider of intervention programs for men who abuse their partners in the USA.

- **Chief Court Judge Jack Simmons, USA**, responsible for the operation of the Magistrate Court/Domestic Violence system in Pittsburgh. He evaluates the effectiveness of the court through data supplied from research done by Dr Gondolf and sets policy for the operation of the court. He also sets standards for the intervention program providers and victim shelters/advocates, establishes criteria for eligibility for admission into the intervention program and determines protocols for the overall operation of the Domestic Violence Court.

This conference will present, and give practical guidance on implementation, on a range of issues including: instruction and demonstrations of protocols, procedures, and administration of domestic violence counselling programs; practical applications for implementation of something similar to the DACC program into Australian systems; a criminal justice response that can be uniformly applied holding the perpetrator accountable for his behaviour; ways of making domestic violence offender programs more accountable to the community; improvement of program outcomes in terms of victim quality of life, cessation of assaults and reduction of other forms of abuse; instruction on procedures and steps to effectively evaluate programs, including research design, outcome measures and analysis.

Further information

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Email: sdvma@pacific.net.au

Violence Against Women – Meaning • Cultures • Difference

February 18-22, 2002 The University of Sydney

This conference aims to extend our understandings of violence against women by drawing on the experiences of scholars, practitioners and activists from around the world with reference to the context in which they work. The conference offers the opportunity to reflect on what is shared by women internationally as they seek to challenge the violence they experience. Violence against women is a global problem but it takes many different forms and is shaped by both local context and international developments (such as economic development, migration, labour markets, armed conflict). The subtitle *Meanings, Cultures, Difference* seeks to challenge singular approaches to theory, policy or practice that

are unreflective about the differences between and among women. The conference aims to encourage debate, facilitate the sharing of information about innovative practices and foster the development of international networks among participants. It also will provide the opportunity to showcase innovative Australian research and practices.

Speakers include Professor Sherene Razack, University of Toronto; Dr Aurora de Dios, Philippines representative to the UN for CEDAW and Chair of the Asia-Pacific Board of the International Coalition Against Trafficking in Women; Prof Liz Kelly, UK; Merepeka Raukawa-Tait, CEO of the NZ National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges; and Shamima Ali, Director of Fiji Women's Crisis Centre and Chair for the Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women.

Indigenous keynote speakers include Boni Robertson, Pam Greer and Barbara Flick who are all well regarded for their research and practice contributions in relation to family violence in Indigenous communities.

Contact

VAW2002 Conference Secretariat
Professional Development Unit
Faculty of Education, University of Sydney
AUSTRALIA 2006
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Unravelling the Complexities of Family Violence: a Holistic Approach

March 7-8 March, 2002, Coffs Harbour, NSW

Aims to look at family violence from a holistic perspective. Will examine practical intervention issues and prevention initiatives, as well as background issues and factors contributing to family violence. Organisers aim to make this conference relevant to as many people as possible and would like to encourage participation from all sectors of the community affected by family violence, including field workers, service providers and members of the community. There will be closed sessions for Indigenous participants.

Register your interest:

Those wishing to attend the conference are encouraged to register their interest by **31 August** so that planning can ensure the conference is accessible and affordable.

Call for papers:

If you are interested in presenting a paper and/or workshop at the conference submit an abstract (no more than 500 words) by 28 September 2001.

To register your interest in attending or presenting a paper/workshop at the conference write to: Kirsten Busby, Violence Against Women Strategy, PO Box 126, Port Macquarie, NSW 2444 or email to kirsten_busby@agd.nsw.gov.au

The conference is funded by the Victims of Violent Crime Grants Program, Department of Corrective Services.

Further information

Organising committee:

Kirsten Busby (02) 6588 2913, Janice Reilly (02) 6568 4040, Diane Garfield (02) 6563 1588, Gail Missen (02) 6562 6066 and Bea Ballangary (02) 6658 7487.

INTERNET SITES

U.K. Crime Reduction Programme: Violence against Women Initiative

This initiative is part of an evidence led programme that aims to reverse the long-term rise in crime by identifying and piloting a range of cost effective approaches to reducing crime. Funding has been allocated to local agencies/multi-agency partnerships to develop and implement local strategies for reducing two types of violence experienced by women: domestic violence and rape and sexual assault by known perpetrators.

Project Summaries:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/domesticviolence/projsum.htm#bradford>

Projects are funded which address: education and awareness raising; multiple interventions; rural; civil and criminal law; health; and protection and prevention. Examples of programs include: 'Safety Planning with Survivors and Risk Assessment of Perpetrators: Tools for Practitioners'; and 'Staying Put', about supporting and enabling women and children who have experienced domestic violence to remain safely in their family home.

Deadline for contributions to the December 2001 Newsletter is November 20

United Nations

<http://www.unifem.undp.org/campaign/violence/unkit/index.htm>

United Nations Page providing links to overall information on the activities of all UN Agencies and Programs addressing violence against women.

Australian sites

Domestic Violence and Child Protection

Jannawi Family Centre

<http://www.jannawi.com.au/>

Child protection service in south western Sydney which addresses the intersection of domestic violence and child protection through its family counselling, education and production programs. Site introduces the 'Jannawi Kids', life-like puppets from different cultural backgrounds who help children and families to talk about, and to overcome the effects of, violence and abuse.

Joint Churches Domestic Violence Project (Queensland)

<http://www.home.gil.com.au/~stillerk/DV.html>

Contains information on training available, worship resources and a pamphlet on family violence designed for members of churches.

The Jewish Taskforce Against Family Violence

http://www.med.monash.edu.au/secasa/survivors/html/jewish_taskforce.html

The Jewish Taskforce Against Family Violence is a group of concerned Jewish people from both secular and religious backgrounds who are committed to the elimination of violence in Jewish families. Site contains information and referral sources.

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.

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