

The Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research in conjunction with CQUniversity's Faculty of Sciences, Engineering and Health Distinguished Visitor's Program is pleased to host a seminar by:

**Heather Douglas PhD
Associate Professor
Director of Post Graduate Research Programmes
TC Beirne School of Law
University of Queensland**

Date: Thursday 4th June, 2009

Time: 11.30am – 12.30pm
(45 minute presentation followed by discussion & questions)

Venue: Building 20, Room G.11, CQUniversity Mackay Campus, Boundary Road
and video-linked to 9 sites in Queensland - see following page for details.

Breaches of domestic violence orders: The criminal justice process

Abstract:

Scholars and activists have long campaigned for domestic violence to be recognised as criminal offending. Very low rates of criminal prosecution continue to be associated with domestic violence matters; one exception to this is the criminal prosecution of breaches of protection orders. In 2005, there were over 8,000 breaches prosecuted in Queensland. This presentation draws on a study of criminal prosecutions of breaches in Queensland and explores the process of criminal intervention in the context of domestic violence. The research explored in this presentation demonstrates that the process involved in prosecuting a criminal breach often involves a minimisation of the harm inflicted on women by perpetrators, police and magistrates, a ruthless contest about the facts, numerous court appearances before resolution, and inappropriate sentences.

About the Presenter:

Associate Professor Heather Douglas researches in the area of criminal justice. She is particularly interested in how the criminal justice system impacts on women. She has previously worked as a lawyer in Melbourne and at the *Aboriginal Legal Service* in Alice Springs. While in Alice Springs, she co-founded and worked at *Domestic Violence Legal Help* (now the *Domestic Violence Legal Service*). She is the co-author of *Criminal Process in Queensland* and numerous other publications.

Please Note: Places are limited!

**This event is free of charge, however all attendees *must* register by
1 June- see details on following page.**

Breaches of domestic violence orders: The criminal justice process

Sites hosting a video-link of this presentation

North Queensland

Thursday Island: James Cook University video-conference room (the old Court House)

Cairns: James Cook University campus, A21.002

Townsville: James Cook University campus, DA009-001

Central Queensland

Rockhampton: CQUniversity campus, Building 29, Room G.05

Bundaberg: CQUniversity campus, Building 1, Room 1.12

Gladstone: CQUniversity campus, Building 1, Room 1.03A

Western Queensland

Emerald: CQUniversity campus 1/A.205

Mt Isa: James Cook University campus Main Building, 100 Joan Street, Lecture rooms 1,2,3

South-east Queensland

Brisbane: QUT, Gardens Point campus, Block M, Lecture Theatre M306

See <http://www.qut.edu.au/about/location/index.jsp> for directions. Parking information Ph:31382225

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Closing date: June 1

Please register by either faxing or emailing the following details:

- **Your name**
- **Organisation**
- **Location of your service**
- **Site you will be attending**
- **Email address**
- **Phone number**

to the Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research (CDFVR) on 49407839 (fax) or emailing enquiries@noviolence.com.au Further information about this seminar can be obtained by calling 07 4940 7835. Attendees will receive confirmation of their registration.

A DVD of this seminar will also be produced and made available free of charge.