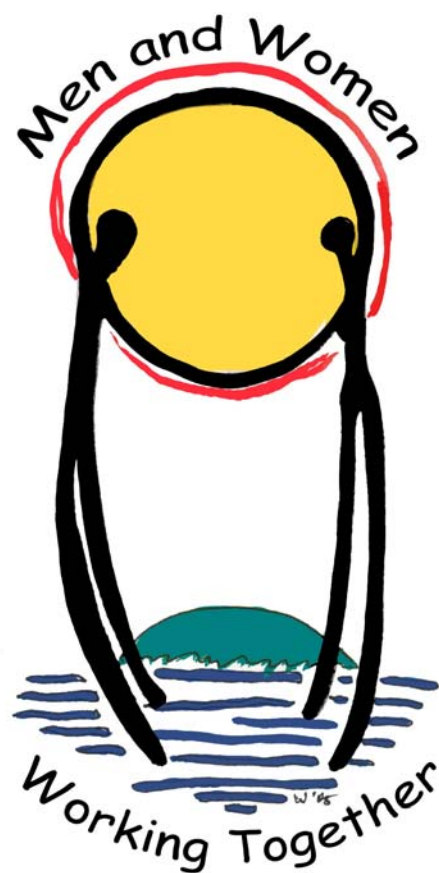


2005
Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum:
Men and Women Working Together



Outcomes Paper

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Introduction

Each year the Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research (CDFVR), in conjunction with its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group, convenes an Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum. The objectives of the forum are to:

- highlight and celebrate the good work that is being done by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to end family violence;
- share information and knowledge about strategies and programs that could be used effectively by others; and to
- promote opportunities for networking between workers in the field of Indigenous family violence prevention.

At the conclusion of each forum, CDFVR, including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group, compiles a report with any recommendations arising from the forum. Recommendations are then forwarded on to relevant agencies or Government Ministers for action.

This outcomes report identifies the recommendations referred to CDFVR and various Government Ministers after the 2005 forum and reports on the response of each to the recommendations. The information received in response to forum recommendations is shared with participants at the following forum, as well as being made publicly available through the Centre's newsletter and website.

The forum, and this process of engaging other agencies in regard to recommendations from the forum and reporting back on outcomes partly demonstrates CDFVR's commitment to work with, and support the work of, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to address domestic and family violence.

Following the 2005 forum, and in addition to recommendations directed to CDFVR, correspondence containing a copy of the 2005 Issues Paper was sent by the CDFVR Director and Jackie Huggins AM, representing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group, to the respective Ministers for the following State Government portfolios:

- Justice;
- Child Safety;
- Communities;
- Education; and
- Corrective Services.

This report identifies relevant issues raised with CDFVR, and the various Ministers, and summarises their responses.

Outcomes

Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research

1. *Meet with Ailsa and finalise copyright issues and discuss opportunities for Koora to be the personality within each local area incorporating local stories.*

Discussions have been held with Ailsa to advise, and clarify, that the copyright on Koora character and story book text held by Ailsa; the copyright on illustrations for story books held by each of two artists; and copyright on the teachers' resource manual is held by CDFVR.

2. *Follow up on marketing and publication opportunities for the Koora program.*

Discussions have been held with several publishers about the publication of Ailsa's story books and there has been a positive response from the Minister for Education in regard to the potential for the Koora Program to be implemented in schools throughout the State. This is addressed further in the response from the Minister for Education, below.

3. *Develop a resource package and identify opportunities to support and assist initiatives such as Koora around the State.*

This has been identified as a potential project for CDFVR's Indigenous Research Worker.

4. *Follow up initiative using the Koora Project with the Sisters from Yarrabah.*

Gail Ambrym, Community Development Worker with Yarrabah Council, has been advised of the positive response from the Minister for Education, and CDFVR's consideration of the potential to develop a framework to support local initiatives based on learnings from Koora project as a project for CDFVR's Research Worker. Gail has also been directed to the Koora evaluation report on the CDFVR website.

5. *Write to the Minister for Education highlighting recommendations relevant to that portfolio.*

Correspondence was forwarded to the Minister for Education and, as indicated above, a positive response has been received.

6. *Recommend development of programs by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with community focus, to: the Ministerial Advisory Council on Domestic and Family Violence; the Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors; and the Minister for Child Safety.*

Correspondence with a copy of the 2005 Issues Paper was forwarded to all of the above.

7. *Identify email addresses for all participants in the healing workshop and meet with Sandi Taylor and CDFVR's multi-media officer to explore options for an electronic Indigenous healing network.*

Email addresses of the healing workshop participants were gathered and forwarded to Sandi, who had facilitated the healing workshop. Further action on the development of a specific email group is pending.

8. *Seek an audit of funded healing centres and identify training and support needs for the healing centres.*

Correspondence was sent to the Minister for Communities and a response has been received. Details of the response are provided, below.

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice:

1. *Although there were no specific recommendations for the Attorney-General, a copy of the Issues Paper was sent for her information, recognising her participation at the 2005 Forum.*

The Attorney-General responded with advice that she had read the Issues Paper with interest and had provided a copy to the Department of Justice's strategic policy area.

Minister for Child Safety

1. *Two year protection orders remove children from mothers for long periods of time – hard to vary or revoke*

The Minister for Child Safety responded that amendments to the *Child Protection Act 1999* will produce better Indigenous child protection outcomes, and that Indigenous cultural advice and engagement will be sought in all significant decisions impacting on a child.

Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors

1. *Need to consider removal of perpetrators from family home, rather than women and children, when safe to do so.*

The Minister for Communities responded that the Violence Prevention Team (VPT) in his Department provides training for newly recruited child safety officers to increase their knowledge and awareness of domestic and family violence.

2. *Request contact details to undertake an audit, and identify training needs of Healing Centres across the State.*

The Minister for Communities responded that a review of Healing services is scheduled within the Office for Community Support's Business Plan; as part of this the VPT is undertaking an audit of the healing centres and will identify training and support needs.

3. *An adequate training program for staff in remote women's shelters is urgently needed.*

The Minister advised that the need for adequate training is being addressed through the Department of Communities' "Strengthening Non-Government Organisations" initiative, and the associated "Strengthening Indigenous Non-Government Organisations" project.

4. *Community-based perpetrator programs should be widely available.*

This recommendation was not specifically addressed in the correspondence received from the Minister for Communities. However, the Minister has asked the Ministerial Advisory Council on Domestic and Family Violence to provide him with advice in regard to perpetrator programs, and his Department is working towards a review of the practice standards for men's domestic violence perpetrator programs.

Minister for Education and the Arts

1. *Enable Indigenous education staff by valuing cultural capital.*

The Minister for Education and the Arts advised that the Department of Education, through *Partners for Success*, is committed to improving education and employment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

2. *Initiatives such as Koora the Kangaroo: Violence Prevention at Woorabinda State School, should be included in education system.*

The Minister invited CFDVR and Ailsa to contact Education Queensland to commence the process of a Curriculum Resource Review. If the outcome of Education Queensland's review and evaluation of the program is positive, the Department can promote, market and use the program in state schools in Indigenous communities across the State, following local customising to suit local context.

3. *Need to raise the profile of domestic and family violence within schools and to support teachers and teacher aides with information relevant to domestic and family violence.*

The Minister noted that his Department is represented on CDFVR's Course Development Advisory Group, which is developing an accredited training course on domestic and family violence. The Minister encouraged consideration of specific issues for Indigenous family violence in this process, for implementation through the Department of Education.

Minister for Corrective Services

1. *Mandated programs for perpetrators should be available state-wide and be funded, delivered and administered by the Department of Corrective Services in collaboration with domestic violence services.*

The Minister for Corrective Services advised that new projects associated with perpetrator programs within corrective services, will be consistent with International best practice and respond to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders.