

Newsletter

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From the Director



The last three months have been an incredibly busy and exciting time for those of us working to end domestic and family violence. The announcement of the Queensland Ministerial Advisory Council on Domestic and Family Violence is discussed on page 7 of this edition of the Newsletter, while the Green Paper on Homelessness, discussed in the March edition, was released in May, with consultations closing on 27 June. As a member of the Green Paper Steering Group I had the privilege of attending the Homelessness Conference in Adelaide, where the Prime Minister launched the Green Paper on 22nd May. I have also attended consultations in Darwin, Brisbane, Lismore and Alice Springs and the New South Wales Women's Refuge Conference in Sydney on the 29th May to discuss the Green Paper and the implications and opportunities it presents for women affected by domestic and family violence. Consultations were also held in Perth, Karratha, Hobart, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Townsville and

Albury/Wodonga. Having heard the various views of sector representatives in the consultation meetings, I look forward to reading the submissions and contributing to the analysis which will inform the Government's White Paper to be delivered later in the year.

It has been a particularly busy time for Tanya Plibersek, Minister for Housing and Minister for the Status of Women, who has also recently announced another two major initiatives in addition to the work on the Homelessness Green Paper. First, is a commitment to work towards Australia acceding to the Optional Protocol to the United Nations' Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Becoming party to the Optional Protocol will enable Australian women to complain to the United Nations if Australia violates its obligations under CEDAW and they have exhausted domestic remedies. The first step to becoming a party to the Protocol is an assessment examining the impact it will have on Australia, and in particular, Australian women. The assessment process, to be conducted by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department with support from the Office for the Status of Women, will begin soon and will involve Commonwealth agencies, State and Territory Governments, and the Australian community.

The second recent announcement by Minister Plibersek was the membership of the National Council to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children. Minister Plibersek was joined by the Prime Minister in welcoming members of the National Council at their first meeting on the 4th June in Canberra. The purpose of the Council is to assist with the development and implementation the Government's *National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children*, specifically aimed at reducing domestic violence and sexual assault. The Council is chaired by Libby Lloyd, an international human rights activist, a former President of UNIFEM and current Board Member of the White Ribbon Foundation. As Deputy-Chair of the Council, I have the privilege of supporting Libby in her role, and I am very pleased to be in the company of nine other women and one man, who have been appointed to the Council and who are outstanding advocates for the prevention of violence against women and their children. A full list of the membership of the National Council can be found at page 7 in this edition of the Newsletter.

Priorities for the National Council include developing respectful relationship resources for Australian high school students to educate young Australians, particularly boys, about the impact of domestic violence and sexual assault; enhancing White Ribbon Day education activities in rural and regional communities to promote culture-change that will reduce violence against women; and toughening and harmonising state and territory domestic violence and sexual assault laws.

The Council has already commenced public consultation with a broad range of stakeholders including members of the public, victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, and criminal justice sector professionals. I trust that CDFVR stakeholders have taken the opportunity to contribute to the various consultations that are moving forward the agenda on violence against women in Australia. You can contribute to the work of the National Council to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children, until 5 pm on the 18th July. For further details visit http://www.ofw.facsia.gov.au/womens_safety_agenda/national_council_reduce_violence.htm.

Heather Nancarrow

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Training opportunity - Course in Responding to Domestic and Family Violence (30629QLD)

CDFVR is very pleased to announce that the pilot of the accredited *Course in Responding to Domestic and Family Violence (30629QLD)* is due to commence in August this year. Course delivery is supported by the Integrated Skills Development Strategy of the Health and Community Services Workforce Council (ISD).



Betty Taylor, highly respected trainer and consultant within the domestic violence sector, has been engaged to deliver the Course pilot. Betty's membership of the Course Development Advisory Committee together with her extensive expertise in service delivery and training in the domestic violence sector made her the obvious choice for the delivery of the pilot and contributing to the Course's evaluation process.

Dates for the Course pilot, which will be held at the Riverside Reception Centre in New Farm, Brisbane, are as follows.

Unit 1: Recognise and Respond to Domestic and Family Violence – August 26, 27 & 28

Unit 2: Referring Appropriately and Effectively in Response to Domestic and Family Violence – October 15, 16 & 17

Unit 3: Reflecting on Work Practice When Responding to Domestic and Family Violence – November 25, 26 and 27.

Participants in the Course pilot are required to complete all three units, which make up the Course whole. Successful completion of the three units will result in the nationally recognised qualification *Statement of Attainment in Course in Responding to Domestic and Family Violence (Course Code 30629QLD)*.

The ISD target group (non-government organisations who receive recurrent funding by the Queensland Departments of Communities and Child Safety, excluding child care, aged care and disability services) will have first priority to participate in the pilot of this Course and participants will be chosen on a 'first come first served' basis. Non-target group members may be offered places if vacancies are available. As is usual practice, flyers from the ISD offering this Course will be circulated to all target group organisations. Participation in the Course will be determined by the ISD.

CDFVR has recently prepared a document calling for tenders to develop a Recognition of Prior Learning toolkit (RPL) and Assessor Network. The RPL tool will be designed to enable people who would like recognition of their current qualification/work experience to be applied to one or more of the Course units. Whilst any registered training organisation may choose to develop and apply an RPL tool, CDFVR is committed to assuring the quality of the assessment process associated with the Course and is working with the Integrated Skills Development Strategy to develop the RPL tool. An assessor network comprising industry members and trainers will advise on the development of the RPL assessment tool and facilitate opportunities for assessors to share information and support each other through the Course assessment process. Once the RPL assessment tool is completed, it will be included in the Course training package available from the Centre for Training Materials <http://shop.trainandemploy.qld.gov.au/cgi-bin/catalogue>. Trainers who have already purchased the Course will be able to obtain the RPL tool from CDFVR.

CDFVR will conduct an evaluation of the pilot *Course in Responding to Domestic and Family Violence (30629QLD)* after course completion and results will be available in our March 2009 newsletter.

5th Annual Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum “Addressing Problems – Sharing Solutions”

By Annie Webster, Education Project Officer, CDFVR

CDFVR's 5th annual Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum *Addressing Problems – Sharing Solutions* was held on 14th and 15th of May 2008 at the Mackay Entertainment Centre. Over 140 people attended the Forum - our highest participation rate since the Forum's inception in 2004. While the Forum is convened for Queensland's Indigenous communities to network, share knowledge and strategise for further progress on violence prevention, each year sees an increasing number of interstate participants, in addition to the interstate guests invited to present their work. CDFVR is currently considering ways of responding to the increasing demands for a national Family Violence Prevention Forum.

The two-day program included keynote speakers, plenary panels and yarning circles. In response to our 2007 participant survey, the number of yarning circles was increased this year in an effort to slow the program down, encourage networking and provide opportunities to discuss community programs. All speakers and yarning circle facilitators addressed the Forum theme *Addressing Problems – Sharing Solutions*.

Keynote addresses

Keynote addresses were presented by Pat Anderson, Co-chair of the Board of Inquiry into Protection of Aboriginal Children from Sexual Abuse and co-author of the Little Children are Sacred Report; Professor Chris Cunneen, NewSouth Global Chair in Criminology, University of New South Wales; and Randal Ross, Rowan Nicks & Russell Drysdale Research Fellow, Indigenous Men's Health Research, James Cook University.

Pat Anderson

Pat Anderson has a national and international reputation as a powerful advocate for the disadvantaged, with a particular focus on Indigenous health. In the spirit of the Forum theme, Pat looked at problems and provided her audience with some possible solutions. Pat discussed the lack of sex offender programs anywhere in the Northern Territory and suggested two pathways forward. By adopting a human rights approach there will be an 'open, fair and just' approach based on respect for Indigenous people. Pat told her audience that the Federal Government must reconsider and overturn the former Government's opposition to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to ensure that Indigenous people can participate in decision making that relates to their needs and interests. Pat spoke passionately about taking long-term prevention of family violence and sexual abuse seriously and called for early intervention, increased parenting skills and parental social networks in a bid to end family violence.

Chris Cunneen

Professor Cunneen's presentation included a number of case studies, which highlighted the problems in accessing legal support and protection, an examination of recently analysed family violence data collected by CDFVR, and commentary on the challenges and consequences of inconsistent quality in government data for the development of evidence-based policy and service provision. He concluded with a range of discussion points that aimed to explore possibilities for more effective interventions into family violence in Indigenous communities in Queensland. Chris also delivered a distinguished visitor seminar while he was in Mackay, details of which can be found on page 6.

Randal Ross

Randal Ross presented Red Dust Healing, a program for men that looks at a model of oppression and how it has affected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men's lives. Randall talked about men's loss of identity, responsibility and relationship as a consequence of colonisation. Red Dust Healing is written from an Indigenous perspective for Indigenous men and their families and facilitates the understanding of rejection being the foundation of all hurt. Within the program participants examine their own personal hurt which allows them to heal, while addressing family and personal relationships and what may have been lifelong patterns of abuse. Red Dust Healing covers a range of areas significant to healing, such as identity, family roles and structures, relationships, elders and men's business. Ninety people have now completed the course, with outstanding results. Randal cites targeting the program at participants' "hearts not heads" as the reason for the program's success.



Randal Ross



L-R: Dr Jackie Huggins, CDFVR's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group member; Heather Nancarrow, Director, CDFVR; and Pat Anderson, Keynote speaker. (Photo courtesy of the Daily Mercury Mackay).

There were two plenary panels at the Forum. The first panel “Addressing Problems” enabled a focus on two programs that are currently addressing problems in their communities.

Speaker **Trevor Binjuda** from Relationships Australia in Cairns discussed the “Alternatives to Aggression” program and the difficulties faced in enabling men to talk about their use of domestic and family violence. The program covers the Cairns, Yarabah, Mossman and Tully area to as far as Cape York. In Trevor’s experience, the impetus for men to become involved in self-help is the negative affect that domestic violence is having on their children and families’ lives. The Alternatives to Aggression program includes a 5-week preparatory course to ensure that men attending (both voluntary and mandated) are ready to commence the 12-session course. Trevor discussed the need within the course to work together and “say it straight” and presented a range of strategies to assist men to recognise their individual triggers to violence; identify the emotions beneath the violence; and learn to take responsibility for their actions. The program assists participants to heal and remain important and useful members of their community.



Trevor Binjuda



Lisa Kambouris

The second “Addressing Problems” panel speaker was **Lisa Kambouris** from the Metropolitan Aboriginal Youth Team in South Australia who presented passionately about the “Panyappi Project” (Younger Brother or Sister) which she co-ordinates. The Panyappi Project is an intensive, culturally appropriate voluntary mentoring program for Indigenous young people (aged 10-18) and their families. Some of the typical characteristics of young people engaged in Panyappi include: a history of offending and victimisation, low socio-economic background, poor school attendance and/or performance, and literacy and/or learning difficulties. The Panyappi Project has worked with 480 families since 2001 with an overwhelming majority making positive changes in their lives after project completion.

The second plenary panel “Deadly programs – Learning Through Practice” was designed to showcase a range of successful programs currently being run within communities.

Coleen Jensen from the Street Based Outreach Service (SBOS) together with her partner Lynette Dewis, spend their days walking around the streets of Cairns making connection with homeless people. The Service holistically approaches the diverse range of issues associated with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander homelessness and is an effective means of referral to relevant services. The Street Based Outreach Service enables about 30% of its clients to be repatriated to their communities and another 15-20% have been placed in rehabilitation programs or permanent housing. The SBOS has contributed to a significant decrease in anti-social behaviour since its inception in 2003.

Chelsea Malinas-Barba manages the Healthy Happy Families Program at Wuchopperen in Cairns. Chelsea and her team of six workers provide a range of services to the Cairns community, including court support; healing groups for men, women and young people; healthy relationship workshops; and youth programs. Wuchopperen works with a range of government and non-government agencies to decrease the level of domestic and family violence within their community; enable the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander community to have a culturally appropriate service to address the serious issues in their communities; promote healthy happy family relationships; and support people in crisis to work toward healing.



L-R: Heather Nancarrow, Coleen Jensen, Chelsea Malinas-Barba and Moogi Patu.

Moogie Patu is part of the Strong Families Team, Family and Children’s Services in the Northern Territory. Moogie’s presentation discussed the “Strong Family, Strong Community, Strong Future” project which is a key part of the Government’s Aboriginal Family Violence Strategy. It combines a family strengthening and community development approach and is Indigenous designed, led and staffed. The program is built on the belief that solutions to family violence must come from within each family. Program team members work with individual family groups within each community to develop an action plan for use with other community members. Family support workers monitor and support progress in this “ground-up” program.

Once again this year we incorporated the “Ten Minute Bite” concept into the Forum. This segment gives audience members who are not presenting a chance to give Forum participants a snapshot of the work they are doing. This year we heard from Ludo McFerran from the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse; Gwen Currie from Ada’s Haven in Toowoomba; and Greg Pascoe from Wuchopperen Men’s Group in Cairns.

Yarning Circles

A total of nine yarning circles were convened around the following topics:

What’s happening on the Ground: (a) Working in Cunnamulla; (b) Working with Youth; and (c) “Deadly Chicks” Program.

Empowerment and Justice: (a) Mainstream Legislation and Indigenous Women; (b) Experiencing the Justice System; and (c) What’s Happening in the Courts?

Safe and Strong – Caring for Our Children: (a) Addressing Problems in Bamaga; (b) Youth Mental Health; and (c) Doing the Groundwork.

The Forum’s final yarning circle: “Sharing Solutions – Which Way Now?” was designed to discuss and recommend strategies for a way forward in response to the Forum theme *Addressing Problems – Sharing Solutions*. CDFVR will meet with its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reference group to discuss yarning circle advice and make recommendations to relevant government departments.

Further information on yarning circles and results of the evaluation will be available in our Forum Report and accessible from CDFVR’s website www.noviolence.com.au.

As ever, the karaoke night featured some remarkable talent and Sonya and her staff, including Mackay North State High School students, did a wonderful job surprising us with a magnificently decorated room and delicious meal. Our karaoke star Lillian Gray entertained us again with her singing, and raised the roof with her signature ‘knee wobble’ while Forum stalwarts Shirley Slann and Sue Domic’s talents were worthy of acceptance into the Australian idol team!

Thank you to everyone who travelled from far and wide to attend the Forum. It wouldn’t have been such a great success without your input. We look forward to seeing you all next year – tentative dates for 2009 are May 26, 27 and 28.

Caught Having Fun at the Forum dinner Karaoke night



Distinguished Visitor Seminar: Professor Chris Cunneen

Improving Responses to Family and Domestic Violence in Queensland Indigenous Communities

CDFVR was honoured to host a distinguished visitor seminar on 13 May by Professor Chris Cunneen, NewSouth Global Chair in Criminology, University of New South Wales. Chris was also a guest speaker at the Centre's Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum; and with the support of CQU's Faculty of Sciences, Engineering and Health's Distinguished Visitors Program, the Centre invited Chris to again share his presentation to a wider audience by video-linking his seminar to 18 sites throughout Queensland. Chris' seminar presentation was titled *Improving Responses to Family and Domestic Violence in Queensland Indigenous Communities*.

Chris has a national and international reputation as a leading criminologist specialising in Indigenous People and the Law, Juvenile Justice, Restorative Justice, Policing, Prison Issues, Hate Crime, and Human Rights. He has conducted research work for a number of Indigenous and human rights organisations, including the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission and their National Inquiry into Racist Violence; and was a consultant to the National Inquiry into Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families.



Professor Chris Cunneen

Chris' seminar intended to present insights from his research into the use of Domestic Violence Protection Orders by Indigenous women in Queensland and their effectiveness as a response to family violence particularly in rural and remote communities. This research was commissioned by the Queensland Department of Communities, and Chris anticipated it would have been completed and approved for release well in advance of the seminar. However, the anticipated timeframe was not met due to delays in accessing state government data and Chris was unable to present preliminary findings from data collected with funding for the research project. Unfortunately, the need to adjust the presentation became apparent only shortly before the scheduled seminar and it was impractical to postpone the delivery of the seminar, or even advise of the necessary adjustment.

Chris' seminar presented a context for his research including a number of case studies which highlighted the problems in accessing legal support and protection and included his preliminary analysis of data from CDFVR's Domestic and Family Violence Database concerning patterns of Indigenous people's service usage (such as type of relationship, primary reason for contacting the service and primary service type), reports of violence to police and so on, compared to patterns for non-Indigenous people. He also highlighted the wealth of knowledge already available on Indigenous family violence and issues concerning the criminal justice system; the lack of an adequate response to this existing knowledge; and the problems associated with providing an evidence base for policy and practice given the limited availability of relevant government data. Chris concluded his seminar by providing a framework of discussion points for considering effective interventions in domestic and family violence.

A DVD of Professor Cunneen's seminar is available from CDFVR at no charge. If you would like to receive a copy, please contact Education Officer, Michelle Bradford at: m.bradford@cqu.edu.au.

CDFVR's new look newsletter is coming!

CDFVR's recent external evaluation included a review of the format and content of the quarterly newsletter, which resulted in a recommendation to introduce regular content areas as a means of increasing content consistency. A new name is also being considered for the "Newsletter", which is clearly more than a newsletter, but not as formal as a journal. The next edition, September, 2008 (Volume 7, No 1), will introduce the new look, and newly titled, publication: "The CDFVR Reader", with regular content areas that include research summaries; new policy initiatives; evidence-based practice; analysis from CDFVR's Domestic and Family Violence Database; forthcoming events and training opportunities; and, when available, articles from guest contributors.

The newsletter is the Centre's most regularly used resource by stakeholders, and we are keen to hear feedback and alternative creative suggestions about the publication's new name from our readers. We also encourage you to let us know of any new research, policy or practice that you have come across and that you think should be featured in the publication. We look forward to hearing from you.

Membership of the National Council to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children

Chair: Libby Lloyd AM; Deputy Chair: Heather Nancarrow.

Members: Pauline Woodbridge is Chair of the Women's Services Network (WESNET) and Co-ordinator of the North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Service. **Associate Professor Moira Carmody** has been working in the area of sexual assault since 1983, including roles as a sexual assault counsellor and co-ordinator and policy advisor to state governments across Australia. **Dorinda Cox** is a young Aboriginal woman with expertise in developing and delivering Aboriginal specific sexual assault education. **Maria Dimopoulos** has a formal legal background and has worked for over ten years as a legal adviser at the Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre. **Dr Melanie Heenan** works at the Australian Football League (AFL) as the Senior Project Officer responsible for the implementation of their Respect and Responsibility Program, and she is also the Senior Program Adviser to the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation's violence against women program. **Rachel Kayrooz** is a survivor of domestic violence and founder of *Shout! Speak Out*, which assists in the prevention and awareness of domestic violence through education and public speaking. **Andrew O'Keefe** is the Chairman of the White Ribbon Foundation (Australia) and a leading Ambassador in the White Ribbon Campaign. **Vanessa Swan** is the Director of Yarrow Place in South Australia and is a former Chairperson of the National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence (NASASV) and a current member of the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault (ACSSA) Reference Group. **Lisa Wilkinson** co-host of the Nine Network's TODAY Show, is one of Australia's most admired and respected journalists and corporate presenters, and is a leading business mentor.

Further details of the National Council to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children, including brief biographies for each member can be found at:

http://www.tanyaplibersek.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/tanyaplibersek.nsf/content/nat_council_violence_26may08.htm

Minister Nelson-Carr announces new Advisory Council

By Heather Nancarrow, Director, CDFVR

The Hon. Lindy Nelson-Carr, Minister for Communities, announced the 15 strong-membership of the new Ministerial Advisory Council on Domestic & Family Violence (MACDFV) during Queensland's annual Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month. The announcement was followed by the first meeting of the Council on the 27th and 28th of May. I would like to thank the Minister for giving me the honour of chairing her Council on domestic and family violence, and I am delighted to be supported in this role by Shirley Slann as Deputy Chair.

In addition to the Chair, the Council is comprised of members representing each of the Department of Communities' regions, and members representing rural, remote and urban Indigenous communities. Indigenous people hold one-fifth of the Council membership positions. Representation on the Council is as follows:

Shirley Slann - (Deputy Chair)
North Queensland

Christine Nichols - Cape York

Jeanette Kairupan-Vellis - Torres
Strait Islands

Amanda Lee-Ross - Far North
Queensland

Suzanne Gould -
Mackay/Whitsunday

Kathleen Garle - Fitzroy/Central
West Queensland

Narelle Cox - Wide Bay/Burnett

Paul Tuxworth - Darling Downs/
South West Queensland

Amy Stockwell - Moreton

Lee Prince - Sunshine Coast

Amy Stephenson - Greater
Brisbane

Donna Justo - Gold Coast

Ken Georgetown - Urban
Indigenous representative

Rae Kelly - Rural and Remote
Indigenous representative

The Minister has asked the Council to provide her with advice to support the development and implementation of a whole-of-Government strategy on domestic and family violence. The development of the strategy is being led by the Strategic Policy Directorate, Department of Communities in collaboration with a range of other government departments including the Department of Child Safety, the Queensland Police Service and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, which also have ex-officio membership on the Council.

Pending a review of all Queensland government advisory bodies, the Council has been appointed for a one-year term, with three meetings. Given the focus provided by the Minister, and the short period of time available, Council members agreed to consult on and develop a research agenda to support the implementation of evidence-based, inter-agency policy and practice in Queensland; and advice on improving access to high quality government data to support the implementation of the proposed research agenda. Some regional consultations have already been conducted and all Council members look forward to incorporating the results from across the State in its advice to the Minister.

Innovative Practice: Solution-Focused Responses to Domestic Violence Offenders

By Michelle Bradford, Education Officer, CDFVR

CDFVR recently received some information regarding a five-day intensive professional development opportunity being held in Sydney on 10th - 14th November. *"Innovative Responses to Family Violence: Working with Offenders, Victims and Children"* features in-depth sessions with internationally recognised practitioners, Adriana Uken (Solutions-focused therapist and co-creator of an offender treatment group program), Allan Wade (Response-based practitioner with victims of violence and oppression) and Andrew Turnell (Social Worker and co-creator of Signs of Safety approach to child protection casework). Details regarding this professional development opportunity are available by emailing Sonja Parker from Aspirations Consultancy at: sonjapa@inet.net.au or phoning 0439 985 406.

Of particular notice, is Adriana Uken's day-long session titled: "Accountability for Change: Solution-Focused Treatment of Domestic Violence Offenders". Adriana is from California and will be presenting the work of the "Plumas Project", an eight-session group treatment program for domestic violence offenders that she co-developed in 1990 with John Sebold. This brief article for the CDFVR Newsletter was prompted by the bold claims about the effectiveness of this solution-focused program expressed in the associated marketing literature. It presents an overview of the solutions-focused principles and practices underpinning the Plumas Project Offenders Treatment Program, and reflects on related evaluation studies as presented in two publications by John Sebold, Adriana Uken and Ohio State University's Mo Yee Lee (2004; 2007).

Lee, Uken and Sebold (2004; 2007) argue that traditional treatment programs for domestic violence offenders are dominated by a deficits perspective, which assumes that users of violence lack the necessary knowledge and/or skills to avoid using violence. On this basis, treatment programs are usually psycho-educational in orientation and use cognitive-behavioural approaches to target individual characteristics that contribute to violent behaviour; and feminist approaches to educate offenders about the socio-cultural factors that enable and reinforce male dominance. Such programs usually focus on challenging offenders to recognise, admit and take responsibility for their violent behaviours and learn new, non-violent ways to behave.

These authors acknowledge that the majority of participants in domestic violence offender treatment programs are legally or socially mandated to attend and this creates issues for motivation. They further argue that whilst the traditional treatment approaches are theoretically sound, if they don't match up with the offenders' perception of their problems, motivation to fully engage, participate, and indeed complete the program, will be further compromised and therefore impact on indicators of treatment effectiveness. "Client-treatment congruence refers to the extent to which clients' assessment of their own problems matches their perception of the potential benefits of the specific treatment they are receiving. Client-treatment congruence is a significant factor associated with treatment compliance and hence treatment effectiveness" (Lee et al, 2004, p.464).

The Plumas Project approaches treatment from a solution-based and goal directed orientation that "holds domestic violence offenders accountable for *solutions* rather than responsible for problems" (Lee et al, 2004, p.465). This solution-focused treatment model is present and future oriented and builds on a strengths perspective and uses a time-limited approach, postulating that "positive and long-lasting change can occur in a relatively brief period of time by focusing on solution talk instead of problem talk" (Lee et al, 2004, p.465). Central to the solution-focused position is the belief that domestic violence offenders have abilities and capacity to accomplish self-determined and personally meaningful goals. This position sends "a powerful message to domestic violence offenders that they have the ability to make positive changes and they themselves are the only ones responsible to make that happen" (Lee, Uken & Sebold, 2007, p.40).

The authors stress that a solution-focused group treatment model's focus and emphasis on solutions, competencies and strengths in offenders still recognises the role of offenders in instigating violence against the victims, and is careful to never minimise the destructiveness of their violent behaviour. This approach also recognises that treatment programs are a part of a broader co-ordinated community response to domestic violence, and that the legal system's strong sanction against domestic violence is a central ingredient to a treatment program's effectiveness.

The Plumas Project's solution-focused treatment model involves eight one-hour group sessions over a 12-week period, and is characterised by the following principles and activities.

- Therapists co-facilitating the group program are called facilitators and offenders attending the program are called participants.
- Participants are viewed as the experts of their individual experiences, realities and aspirations; and facilitators take the role of an expert in building change and solution-focused dialogue with each participant.
- Programs are co-led by a male and a female facilitator.
- Program participants are both male and female.

- The intake process employs a series of questions to create an opportunity for the potential participant and facilitator to begin assessing potential strengths and resources. Potential participants are not screened or excluded for severity of violence, substance use or mental health diagnoses.
- The treatment process uses language and symbols of solutions; strengths and history of the problem of violence is not explored.
- Goal identification and setting is used to “create a context for participants to identify, notice, rediscover and reconnect with their strengths and resources” (Lee et al, 2004, p.466). Participants determine their goals and facilitators use evaluative questions to assist participants to consider how useful, appropriate and feasible their goals are in their personal lives.
- By the third session, participants are required to express a goal that is personally meaningful and interpersonally related, that can be practiced on a regular basis and that is a new behaviour for them. Participants are required to report on their goal-directed efforts every session.
- Interventions revolve around “assisting participants to develop useful and well-formed goals; utilising goal accomplishment to expand, amplify and reinforce solution behaviours in a real life context; and consolidating new descriptions of self that do not contain violence” (Lee et al, 2004, p.466).

The Pluma Project’s evaluation study “used a one-group pre and post-test design with a 6-month follow up” to explore the effectiveness of a solution-focused approach for treating domestic violence offenders (Lee et al, 2004, p.466). Specific research questions were constructed around: (a) program participants’ behavioural changes in a relational context; (b) changes in participants’ self-esteem; (c) recidivism rates; (d) program completion rates; and (e) relationships between participants’ profiles and recidivism rates.

The study involved 90 program participants (77 men and 13 women), all of whom had been ordered into treatment by the court. These participants came from 14 groups that were conducted across a 6-year time span (1996 – 2002). Participants’ ages ranged from 19 to 61 years (average age was 37 years); and participants were predominantly Caucasian American (84.1%), followed by African Americans (10.2%), Native Americans (3.4%), and Hispanic Americans (2.3%). In terms of occupations, 55.1% of participants identified as labourers, 20.2% were unemployed, 7.9% were professionals, 6.7% were service workers, 5.6% were students, 2.2% were on welfare or disability, 1.1% owned a business and 1.1% identified as homemakers. Almost half of the participants (46.7%) were married or living with a partner, 42.2% were divorced or separated, and 11.1% had never married.

A more expansive report of the study’s methodology and findings is available from Lee, Uken and Sebold’s 2004 publication in *Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Social Services*, titled: “Accountability for Change: Solution-Focused Treatment With Domestic Violence Offenders”.

The evaluation indicates some encouraging findings that suggest value in a solution-focused approach to domestic violence offenders. The program completion rate for the solution-focused program was an impressive 92.8%. Lee et al (2004; 2007) argue that this is indicative of high client-treatment congruence, that is, participant-determined goals that are personally meaningful are more likely to enhance commitment, motivation and confidence in accomplishing beneficial outcomes.

Participants’ self reports at pre-program, post-program and 6-month post program indicated statistically significant improvement in self esteem. Whilst self esteem is not an established measure of treatment effectiveness, it is recognised as a risk marker for domestic violence. Examination of self esteem in this evaluation study drew on a solution-focused theoretical hypothesis that accomplishment of a personally meaningful goal will be associated with a positive self perception. Similarly, evidence from participants’ spouses/partners indicated a significant improvement in program participants’ relational skills in their intimate relationships from pre-program treatment to post-program and beyond to the 6-month follow up.

The evaluation study used inclusive criteria to define recidivism as (a) arrested for domestic violence related charges; (b) charges pressed against a participant for domestic violence; (c) spouse/partner was referred to the victim witness office for services; or (d) a request for a restraining order against the participant. Program participants, as well as their spouses/partners were also asked to report on participants’ behaviour and levels of physical and verbal violence in the intimate relationship at pre-program, post-program and at the 6-month follow-up.

The study found a considerably lower recidivism rate of 16.7% compared to recidivism rates of conventional domestic violence offender treatment programs; and this rate was comparable to the recidivism rate as reported by spouses/partners at the 6-month follow up interview. However, these rates were starkly different to the 2% recidivism rate as reported by the program participants themselves, thus adding weight to existing literature that asserts the unreliability of offenders to accurately report their recidivism.

In terms of relationships between participants' profiles and recidivism rates, the evaluation found that recidivism (as identified through official arrest records) was only related to childhood experiences of abuse, and not to other profiles such as psychiatric diagnosis, substance abuse, involvement with criminal offences, childhood experiences of parental divorce or parental alcoholism (Lee et al, 2004, p.473).

The study evaluating the effectiveness of the Plumas Project solution-focused treatment model for domestic violence offenders encountered challenges similar to those identified in other conventional domestic violence offender treatment program evaluations – that is, modest sample size, non-randomised samples, lack of a control or comparison group, selectivity bias, “lack of control of external factors such as divorce, relocation or incarceration that might influence the outcome” and the likelihood that recidivism rates compiled from official records may not reflect the actual occurrence of violent behaviours by the participants (Lee et al, 2004, p.473). As a result, Lee, Uken and Sebold (2004, p.475) state, “we cannot conclude in any decisive manner that a solution-focused approach is more effective than other treatment approaches because of a lack of comparison groups and the use of non-randomised samples in the present study”.

Further, the authors acknowledge that “a solution-focused approach is not a panacea for the treatment of domestic violence offenders”. However, the evaluation results support their challenge that solution-focused approaches should instead be “part of the pluralistic, societal effort to develop pragmatic solutions to end the more immediate, visible violence in intimate relationships. Diversity and multiple voices are imperative in the search for effective treatments for domestic violence offenders. A single voice or a single vision can only replicate the dynamic of dominance in abusive relationships” (Lee et al, 2004, p.474; 2007, p.40).

References

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Lee, M.Y., Uken, A. and Sebold, J. (2007). “Role of Self-Determined Goals in Predicting Recidivism in Domestic Violence Offenders”, *Research on Social Work Practice*, Vol.17, No.1, pp.30-41.

New Book: Crime, Aboriginality and the Decolonisation of Justice by Harry Blagg

Review by Heather Nancarrow, Director, CDFVR

One of our greatest challenges in working to end domestic and family violence is the need to address the over-representation of Indigenous Australians in the criminal justice system, while seeking stronger, more serious criminal justice responses to violent crime. This conundrum has occupied the minds of criminologists and activists alike, and none more so than those seeking to end Indigenous family violence. It is a particularly sensitive challenge for Indigenous women who are “torn between the self-evident oppression they share with Indigenous men...and the unacceptability of those men’s violent sexist behaviours toward their families” (Lucashenko 1997, p. 156).



Dr Harry Blagg

Harry Blagg has spent a lot of time thinking about and working on ways to address this problem. Working in collaboration with Aboriginal people, predominantly in Western Australia and Queensland, Harry has undertaken extensive research on family violence and justice issues and produced numerous publications. His book, *Crime, Aboriginality and the Decolonisation of Justice* is a culmination of his work to date. For those who know his work well, the chapter on family violence will seem familiar, with discussion of the different contexts of violence for Indigenous and non-Indigenous women, the nature of “family violence” as opposed to “spousal domestic violence” and Indigenous women’s advocacy for solutions that differ markedly from mainstream responses. However, he also offers a very insightful discussion on how these different contexts and circumstances impact on Aboriginal women in regard to “earning victim status” (p. 144) and the role of “jealousing” and fighting women, in regard to victim status.

These different contexts and circumstances are intrinsic to the book’s central thesis that the solution to the conundrum, discussed above, lies in the development of “community-owned” (distinct from “community-based”) hybrid initiatives within the liminal space between the non-Aboriginal domain and the Aboriginal domain. Understanding this concept is aided considerably by Figure 2.1 on pages 54 and 55. In building this thesis, Harry’s book offers insights into the role of the criminal justice system in continuing the colonisation of Indigenous Australians; it highlights the limitations of the well-intentioned “new justice” approaches; and focuses attention on the misunderstood role of Aboriginal customary law.

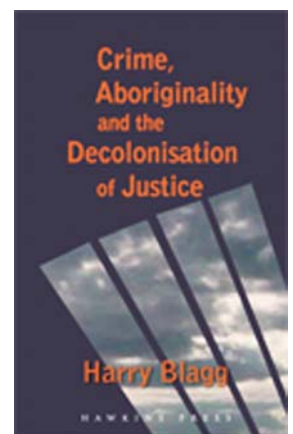
Consistent with Indigenous analyses of crime and violence as a consequence of dispossession, Harry’s analysis retains the notion of “underlying causes” of Indigenous over-representation in the criminal justice system, as discussed in the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (1991). He argues that any attempt to understand the relationship between Aboriginal people and the criminal justice system must take into account that “Aboriginal justice issues have a *radical specificity*, a degree of difference” (p.16) that cannot be subsumed into other conceptual categories such as disadvantage, class, gender,

or race, and that there “remain aspects of Aboriginal social reality which are profoundly incommensurable to our own, and which have to be accepted and respected...” (p.16). Drawing on his work with Aboriginal people for the Western Australian Law Reform Commission on Customary Law, Harry also argues that while many non-Aboriginal commentators hold customary law responsible for violence against Aboriginal women and girls (particularly), many Aboriginal women see that customary law is the answer to the violence. They see that attempts to create “one law” for all Australians, by suppressing customary law, has resulted instead, in lawlessness for some Aboriginal communities.

Current models of restorative justice merely provide an extension of the current criminal justice system, serving the interests of the dominant culture.....

Attempts to deal with the over-representation of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system through diversionary strategies, community-based services and greater use of fines has had, Harry says, the effect of moving the prison system even more towards being an Aboriginal prison system. This is because Aboriginal people have not benefited from the alternatives presented “because they represent too great a risk for diversion, often fail necessary eligibility requirements for community-based alternatives, are a bad risk for parole and are usually unemployed and homeless” (p. 21). On the other hand, these strategies have resulted in the decarceration of many white offenders, thus increasing the proportion of Aboriginal offenders in prison. Further, and despite the claims of many proponents of restorative justice that it is based on traditional methods of conflict resolution, Harry sees that current models of restorative justice merely provide an extension of the current criminal justice system, serving the interests of the dominant culture, rather than an effective means of justice for Aboriginal communities. He points out that restorative justice is “something that arrives in Aboriginal communities in the back of a familiar wagon train of Government initiatives, brought in from the outside to resolve crime problems, rather than having been nurtured from within... (and)...to be relevant, must at least come to terms with, and enter into, the debate about Aboriginal law...(from which)...it has been noticeably absent...” (p.86). He proposes instead a “restorative vision” that would seek systemic and structural change to address disadvantage and injustice, rather than focusing on individual and institutional change.

Attempts to make the criminal justice system more culturally appropriate also draws criticism from Harry, who says, “(t)he justice system...remains the property of the non-Aboriginal domain, irrespective of how it is presented and glossed over with ‘culturally relevant’ strategies: and it remains so no matter how many Aboriginal police, corrections officers, judges we employ” (p.89). These comments set the scene for the next two chapters, the first of which discusses Aboriginal police and policing. This is followed by discussion of Aboriginal self-policing initiatives, such as community patrols and night patrols and ways in which such initiatives have been co-opted for the purposes of the dominant justice system. He sees more hope in initiatives such as Koori (in Queensland Murri) Court (especially the Victorian model) and Circle Sentencing in NSW, although concerns about the Koori Court include that it might have a net widening effect, that it is limited to Magistrate Court matters, and that access to the court requires a guilty plea. Some fear that the latter results in false guilty pleas, in order to get into the Koori Court and access justice processes where they are judged by their elders, and where they can gain access to support services. Harry also finds support from Aboriginal people for Koori Courts to be extended to include trials and other matters including Children’s Court.



The final chapters of the book focus attention on customary law, it’s relationship to human rights and the opportunities available to deal with violence in Aboriginal communities through “governance from below” (p. 182), through community justice mechanisms. Harry argues that customary law is something that cannot be accepted or rejected; it exists in shaping daily life within Aboriginal communities “whether ‘we’ give formal recognition to it or not” (p.153), while white society seems aware only of those aspects of customary law that deal with punishment and “promised marriages”. Customary law is thus misunderstood and misrepresented in ways that tend to “de-culturise Aboriginal women, as though they were the objects of cultural practice rather than active carriers and creators of culture” (p. 169).

Overall, Harry presents us with a detailed and provocative discussion of the limitations of mainstream and many “alternative” justice responses to violence in Aboriginal communities. He proposes that the way forward is to develop hybrid, community-owned initiatives in the liminal space between the non-Aboriginal and the Aboriginal domain. Successful initiatives will be those that “allow Aboriginal values, beliefs and forms of cultural authority to intervene constructively in the shared space between domains” (p. 205).

References

Blagg, H. (2008). *Crime, Aboriginality and the Decolonisation of Justice*, Sydney: Federation Press.

Lucashenko, M. (1997). Violence Against Indigenous Women: Public and Private Dimensions. In S. Cook & J. Besant (Eds.), *Women’s Encounters with Violence: Australian Experiences*, Sage Publications.

2008 Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Awards

Congratulations to this year's recipients of the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Awards, which were presented by Lindy Nelson-Carr, Minister for Communities, Disability Services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Multicultural Affairs, Seniors and Youth. Awards were presented in the categories of: individual; community organisation; government; partnership; and Indigenous.

The Department of Communities', Communications Branch reports that the following initiatives were presented with a Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Award:

Individual Category: Aunty Mary Twaddle

Aunty Mary began advocating for the prevention of domestic and family violence on Palm Island in the 1940's when she recognised a great need for a women's centre on Palm Island. She began counselling women from her home, providing a safe place for women and children who were subject to domestic and family violence.



Aunty Mary Twaddle being presented with her award by Minister Lindy Nelson-Carr.

Aunty Mary's goal is to see domestic and family violence become a thing of the past on Palm Island. She was a pioneer in helping women and children on Palm Island, holding community discussions and helping to form a women's committee to advocate for the prevention of domestic and family violence.

As a result of her dedication to this cause, and with the support of the community and council, the "Kootana Women's Centre" was established for women and children on Palm Island. A family day-care service has also been established at the Kootana Women's Centre, enabling women to travel to the mainland to do their shopping.

After Kootana was established, Aunty Mary was approached by some men on Palm Island to help form a Men's Group. Because of the increase in awareness of the need for domestic and family violence prevention, the women's group and the men's group worked alongside each other in the prevention

of domestic and family violence. This meant that Mary also had a counselling role with perpetrators, providing guidance on proper family values.

Aunty Mary's respect for people's beliefs, culture and way of life, together with her passion for helping women and children, has assisted many women, men and children affected by domestic and family violence on Palm Island.

Aunty Mary now resides in Townsville, however she remains interested in the running of the Kootana Women's Centre. Today the centre has introduced further services including the "Young Parenting Program", the "Safe Haven Program" and the "Elder Women's Support Group". Aunty Mary has empowered women on Palm Island to become involved in community issues and has played a part in strengthening the community as a whole and therefore her amazing work will live on in the generations to come.

Community Organisation Category (1): Normanton Stingers Rugby League Football Club

For: Domestic Violence - It's Not Our Game

The Normanton Stingers promote the message: "Domestic Violence – it's not our game" which is displayed on players' jerseys, supporter t-shirts, wrist bands, car stickers and banners displayed at football grounds. Players from the Normanton Stingers Rugby League Football Club have agreed to act as role models for the community in Normanton and surrounding areas by refusing to participate in domestic and family violence. Players who do perpetrate violence are penalised with exclusion from games and, ultimately, the team.

A television advertisement featuring Stingers players and their campaign ran on Imparja television between May and September 2007. By promoting this message at home and away games, and on television, the Stingers have challenged acceptance of domestic and family violence in the region. The reach of the campaign has also extended into the Northern Territory thanks to the support of Imparja Television.

The population in Normanton is 1600, with 60% identifying as Indigenous, and it is estimated that at least a third of the town's residents attend home games. By publicising the "Domestic Violence – it's not our game" message to a broad audience across the region, the campaign recognises that domestic and family violence affects far more people than just the victims and perpetrators in and around Normanton.

Community Organisation Category (2): Miles Regional Arts Council

For: Stage Play - Rural Domestic Violence

This play is an innovative approach to raising awareness of domestic and family violence through a comedy/drama about rural life in Australia today. Written after consultation with a domestic violence counsellor and an extensive study of literature on rural domestic and family violence, this stage play places the issue in front of the community, whilst offering people who are "suffering in silence" a means by which they can reach out for help.

"*Farmer will Swap Combine Harvester For Wife*" written by Hugh O'Brien, was chosen as a winner by the Miles Regional Arts Council during the Dogwood National Play Writing Competition. The play shines a spotlight on the unique problem of rural domestic and family violence. It outlines a possible course of action for the victim enduring domestic and family violence, the perpetrator and the people who come into contact with them.

One of the issues the play addresses is the key question of why women who are abused by their partner stay in the relationship. In the play, the perpetrator is directed to seek help through Mensline. Every person attending the play received a program which carried the contact phone numbers for dvconnect Womensline and Mensline.

People who would not normally attend a counselling session, a lecture or watch a DVD about domestic and family violence unexpectedly found themselves confronted with the subject through the play. The play uses humour, a local setting, situations the audience are familiar with and likeable characters to convey its message that domestic and family violence is never acceptable. The play serves two purposes: to women who are suffering in silence, it shows that they are not alone and help is available; it also challenges the behaviours of perpetrators, as well as providing advice on where to seek help.

Six sold-out performances were held at the Leichhardt Centre in Miles in September 2007. These performances exposed the timely message of the play to a combined audience of around 1,200 people. The play was so well received that other towns have requested productions. At least four will take place in 2008, including Wandoan, Chinchilla and the Sunshine Coast.

Government Category: Townsville City Council – Women's Advisory Committee

For: Townsville Unmasked

"Townsville Unmasked" was a two day event to raise awareness of domestic and family violence within the community and identify some practical prevention strategies. Dr Ed Gondolf, Director of Research for the Mid-Atlantic Addiction Training Institute in the United States, has been involved in domestic violence research for 30 years and was keynote speaker for the event.

Four presentations were held over the two days. The presentations targeted specific audiences including Indigenous workers, defence force workers, corporate and community leaders, service providers and the public. Two speakers from the North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Service, two speakers from the local Queensland Police and two local speakers from "Thursdays in Black" supported Dr Gondolf in these presentations.

Approximately 300 people attended the presentations, with the awareness raised throughout the community reaching even wider. Feedback from attendees on all presentations was extremely positive. In particular, attendees reported a heightened awareness of domestic and family violence and its impact. Attendees further reported that they had learned simple strategies to make a difference in their working and personal life.

Partnership category: Mareeba and Tablelands Violence Prevention Committee

For: Violence No Way

The "Violence No Way" campaign owes its success to the collaboration between diverse stakeholders in the Mareeba and Tablelands district, including Police, sporting groups and community organisations. The focus of the campaign is on increasing the safety of children affected by domestic and family violence, by informing the community about underlying causes of domestic and family violence, what assistance is available, and by working to make domestic and family violence unacceptable in all communities within the Atherton Tablelands.

The Campaign has been supported by community leaders and the public, with local radio and television stations carrying advertisements over a twelve month period. Other examples of support include the Tableland Police using the slogan "Violence No Way" on coasters in pubs across the Tableland and more than 200 people gathering in Mareeba for a "Violence No Way" Parade. Local Police report a downturn in the number of domestic and family violence incidents in Mareeba since the program was launched in March 2006.

The “Violence No Way” campaign has three streams to reduce the incidence of domestic and family violence and the impact it has on children, families and communities.

1. Bringing together on a steering group virtually all stakeholders involved in the prevention of, and responses to, domestic and family violence in the Atherton Tablelands community.
2. Educating the community and raising community awareness of the underlying causes, effects and responses to domestic and family violence, helping them realise they are not alone, that violence in any form is unacceptable, and that they will be supported by their community if they are affected.
3. The formal steering group implementing initiatives that built on informal communication networks to better manage prevention, and enhance early intervention and response services for people affected by domestic and family violence.

The evaluation of the community education and awareness raising aspect of the ‘Violence No Way’ campaign was conducted on a community by community basis. This identified gaps in the campaign and led to further refinement and implementation of actions around community education, such as the introduction of Queensland Police Service Domestic and Family Violence information packs to neighbourhood centres.

Indigenous category: Myalla Yarning Circle
For: “Myalla Boobaghun” Big Talking Women

The Dalby Town Council and the Toowoomba Domestic Violence Prevention Service have funded the production of a CD which uses music as a powerful medium to encourage positive change in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. The ‘Myalla Boobaghun’ CD has been produced by using local Indigenous singers, song writers and musicians.

Research shows that there are high rates of domestic and family violence in Indigenous communities. The aim of this CD is to reduce violence and abuse in the local Indigenous community by instilling pride, and helping to heal Indigenous women, men and children.

Written by Indigenous women, each song has a clear message, using stories which have affected the women personally. Two songs are specifically about domestic and family violence: “No More Loving Murri Way”; and “Niya” (me).

All of the women who sing or have written songs for the CD are Indigenous women with two being Elders in the community. There are traditional Indigenous songs with the language of the Jarrawoir People from Dalby and surrounding area as well as language from the Gungurri people from Mitchell, South West Queensland.

Indigenous women from various areas around South West Queensland, who have strong family connections with other towns in the South West including Cunnamulla, Charleville, Mitchell, Dalby, St George, Roma, Toowoomba, Chinchilla, Miles and Cherbourg have been involved in the CD. The women on this CD believe that “if we change at least one person’s view on violence we will be happy women”.



Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Award recipients with Minister Lindy Nelson-Carr.

The Dalby Town Council plans to have a copy of the CD in the Welcome Packs provided to new residents of the town. The CD will also be included in the Welcome Pack for the Indigenous women who enter Ada’s Haven, a Women’s Shelter in Toowoomba.

The CD has the potential to have a significant effect on Indigenous women and children. As this CD will be played by many Indigenous women in their own homes across South West Queensland, it may give them courage to make a difference for themselves and their children.

Workshops, conferences and date claimers

9 -11 July

10th Australian Institute of Family Studies Conference
Families Through Life
Melbourne, Vic
<http://www.aifsconference08.com/news/issue1/issue1.html>

3-6 August

Men's Advisory Network 2008 Second National Conference
From Babies to Blokes: The Making of Men
Fremantle, WA
<http://www.promaco.com.au/2008/man/>

14-16 August

RANZCP Bi-National Conference 2008
Drugs, Alcohol and Family Violence
Port Douglas, QLD
http://conorg.com.au/library2008/Forensic_Call_for_Papers_2008.pdf

17-20 August

2008 NACLIC conference
Just is as Just does – Community Legal Centres working for Justice
Darwin, NT
<http://www.nacli.org.au/conference/>

22-24 August

RANZCP Bi-National Conference 2008
Trauma, Disorganised Attachment and Dissociation:
Opportunities for Repair
Hobart, TAS
http://conorg.com.au/library2008/Psychotherapy_Call_for_Papers_2008.pdf

26-28 August

Course in Responding to Domestic and Family Violence
(30629QLD)
Unit 2 - Oct 15-17
Unit 3 - Nov 25-27
Riverside Reception Centre
Brisbane, QLD
See Page 2 for more details

7-10 September

The XVIIth ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse
and Neglect
Towards a Caring and Non-Violent Community: A Child's
Perspective
Hong Kong
<http://www.ispcan.org/congress2008/>

8-9 September

The Third International Asian Health and Wellbeing Conference
2008
Auckland, New Zealand
<http://www.health.auckland.ac.nz/population-health/cahre/conference2008/2008Conference1stAnnouncement.pdf>

8-11 September

1st World Conference of Women's Shelters
Alberta, Canada
<http://www.womenshelter.ca/>

14-17 September

13th International Conference on Violence, Abuse and Trauma
San Diego, USA
<http://www.ivatcenters.org/Conferences/Conferences-International.htm>

29-30 September

Circle of Security
Understanding attachment across the lifespan
QUT Brisbane city campus
circleofsecurity@qut.edu.au

1-4 and 6-9 October (8 days)

Circle of Security - Assessment and Treatment Planning
Attachment-focused interventions with high risk populations
QUT Brisbane city campus
circleofsecurity@qut.edu.au

20-23 October

17th International Safe Communities Conference
Working Together to Make a Difference
Christchurch, New Zealand
<http://www.conference.co.nz/index.cfm/lsc08/Welcome/>

10-14 November

Innovative Responses to Family Violence: Working with
Offenders, Victims and Children
Sydney, NSW
http://www.signsofsafety.net/files/0811_10-4_inovative_responses_to_family%20violence_workshop_flyer.pdf

26-28 November

9th International Narrative Therapy and Community Work
Conference
Adelaide, SA
<http://www.dulwichcentre.com.au/Conference.htm>

The Australian Childhood Foundation conducts professional development training in all Australian states throughout the year, in the following areas.

Trauma and attachment
Trauma and brain development
Supporting parents and families
Navigating the children and family law systems
Therapeutic support for children in out of home care

See www.childhood.org.au for further details.



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