

# Domestic Violence Conference DV SnapShots

(October 17-18, 2014)

## FINAL REPORT

Prepared by Northern Adelaide  
Medicare Local (NAML), June 2015

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# Executive Summary

## Background

Domestic violence (DV) has been declared as a 'National Emergency' (ABC News 2014). Victims of domestic violence often continue to live in fear for themselves and their family even after they have left the abusive relationship. There are many forms of abuse with some of them being physical, emotional, verbal, social, economic, psychological, spiritual or sexual in nature. The abuse is irrespective of gender and sexuality, though statistically women experience it more than men in Australia. One Australian woman is killed almost every week by a current or ex-partner (ABC News 2014). A woman is more likely to be killed in her home by her male partner than anywhere else or by anyone else (Parliament of Australia 2011). Up to one in three victims of sexual assault and at least one in three victims of family violence and abuse are male. The majority of violence against men is committed by other men (Australian Bureau of Statistics 2013). In South Australia the police have responded on an average to 27 domestic-violence incidents a day and have issued almost 3000 interim intervention orders in less than two years (The Advertiser, Nov 21st, 2013). Risk factors such as alcohol and drug abuse, financial and personal stress and lack of social support have been shown to correlate to increased risk of DV against women (Weatherburn 2011). However further research is required to determine the effects of other risk factors.

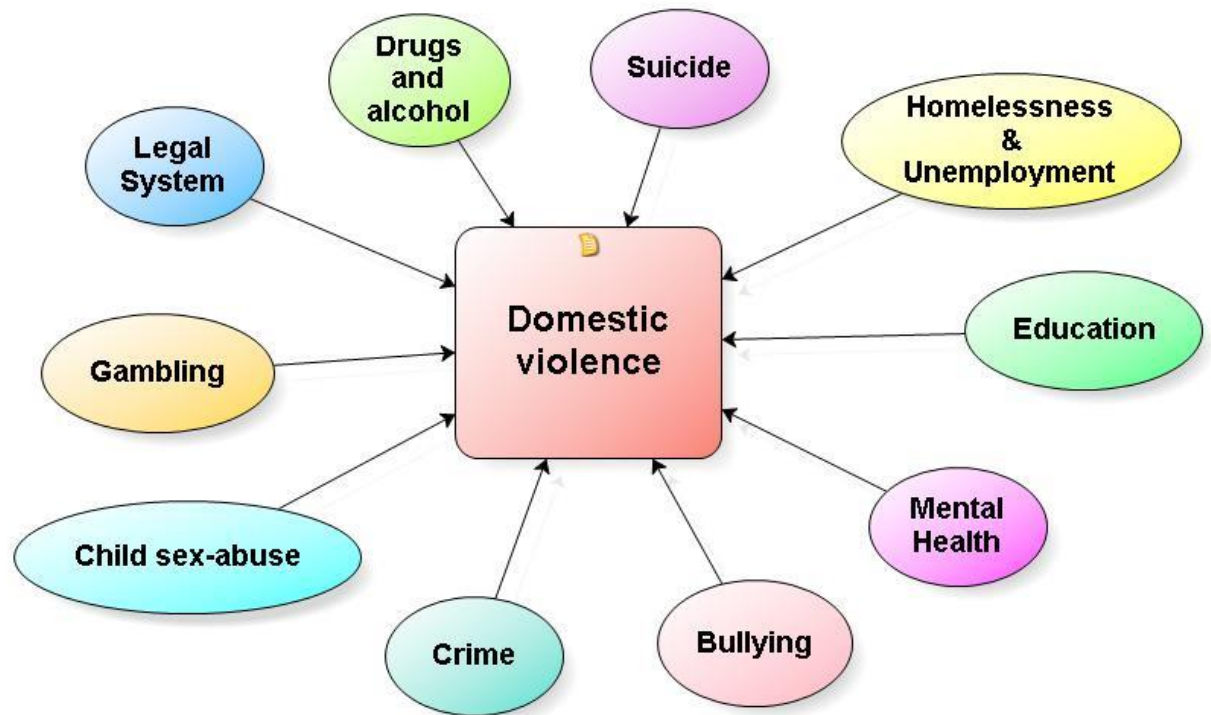
WIN-Inspire Empower Transform Inc (WINspire), along with various small businesses and not for profit partners, organised South Australia's inaugural Domestic Violence (DV) SnapShots 'Lifting the Lid' Conference at Adelaide Football Club Training Centre, on Oct 17-18, 2014, with the purpose of raising awareness of domestic violence among South Australians (WIN-Inspire Empower Transform Inc 2014). The conference also included 10 workshops on both days that reflected upon the impact of various risk factors on DV and what else could be done to assist in tackling DV. The results of the workshops are presented in this document as an executive summary which will be followed by a complete report in 2015. It is envisioned that both documents will provide a voice from the community to the Government to identify what is currently working and to see if there are any opportunities for innovation.

## Purpose

The main aim of the 10 facilitated workshops was to discuss and understand the views of the delegates of the conference on what is currently working in the area of DV, what further education needs to be provided and what are the changes that need to be incorporated in order to make a difference, on their chosen topic. The chosen topics were various selected risk factors, as listed below, as identified by the organisers.

**The following risk factors of DV were included in the workshops:**

- 1. Education**
- 2. Homeless and unemployment**
- 3. Legal System**
- 4. Suicide**
- 5. Mental Health**
- 6. Bullying**
- 7. Child sex abuse**
- 8. Crime**
- 9. Gambling**
- 10. Drugs and alcohol**



### **Workshop delivery procedure**

The workshops were conducted in a structured manner with delegates answering prescribed questions in booklets. Each day was divided into two sessions. Each session had 10 tables (with 10 delegates each) discussing a different topic/risk factor with assistance from a facilitator and a scribe who took relevant notes of topic discussions from delegates. The delegates were free to choose any topic they wished. In total, there were 30 table top discussions facilitated in the workshops.

### **Each topic had 3 questions:**

- a) Celebrate:** What is currently working well in the sector to support the reduction of DV.
- b) Educate:** What education needs to occur in the community/government/other sectors in regards to the link of DV with this particular sector.
- c) Change:** What changes are needed in this sector to help support a reduction of DV

The information from the booklets and discussion notes for each topic were thematically analyzed by NAML. This document only provides a summary of the qualitative information from the discussion on the above three set of questions for each topic, from all delegates in both workshops. The full report will follow in 2015.

## **Key findings**

**Following are the key outcomes of the discussions held on the ten topics:**

### **1. Education**

The participants were happy with the involvement of the community on various aspects of domestic violence. Counselling was adequate at schools and TAFE and various National Programs like White Ribbon, Lifeline H2H etc. has helped in raising awareness. But more needs to be done to help and support both victims and perpetrators. Education is needed not only schools but to all sections of society. DV should be promoted as being independent of sex as either sex can be a victim. More rehabilitation and awareness programs should be organised for victims and perpetrators.

### **2. Homelessness and unemployment**

Participants acknowledged the fact that Australia has much better societal norms and job opportunities than many other countries. There is good education on this issue and the government is reasonably aware of the association between DV and homelessness which has resulted in the establishment of shelters like that on Hutt Street and Catherine House etc. Education campaigns needs to continue to raise more awareness including people from all walks of life. Education of men to stop blaming the women and educating the women to help them find better jobs. Supportive workplace policies must encourage women to find work as well as stay at work instead of isolating themselves with employers taking more responsibility. There was also a call for better utilisation of current housing as well as increase in funding for safe housing.

### **3. Legal system**

The participants cheered the fact DV is recognised as a crime with placement of immediate injunction orders as Police are now taking immediate action. Media has helped in raising awareness on this issue. Increased public education around the fact that DV is an actual crime and their legal rights in this issue. Education for perpetrators on the effect of criminal records on their future job possibilities.



Counsellors are also providing early support for victims. New laws are required around appropriate intervention timeframes, child support, custody, financial issues etc. Most importantly the testimonials during legal proceedings should occur in physically separate place for the victim and the perpetrators due to the fear and trauma that the victim may suffer during legal proceedings.

#### **4. Suicide**

The participants celebrated the fact that the Australian welfare system is robust enough to support the victims as compared to many countries where women have no choice but to take their own lives. People are now openly discussing about options available which in turn is helping reduce the stigma around DV. A large number of free age-appropriate services are now available like Kids Lifeline, 1800RESPECT, Sammy D Foundations etc which are making a difference. More education is required around DV being a risk factor for low esteem leading to suicide. Education regarding the fact that naming and shaming, relationship issues, coping mechanisms, same-sex relationships, stress management, etc can help reduce suicide. Early intervention throughout schooling years and training of parents as well as teachers will help. Collaboration of services and information sharing (e.g. Family Safety Framework) should occur.

#### **5. Mental Health**

Many felt that there was limited funds available for support workers and as a result many victims were in jail or hospitals. Some thought that there are not enough programs in place and government regulations were restrictive and most of the innovative ideas come from NGOs. Others thought that there is public awareness on the role of DV in mental health and mental health (MH) organizations are helping victims. Family safety networks have led to increased awareness among people. It was pointed out that MH issues has a genetic basis and can be inherited. Robust, all round education and training involving women, young people, victims and perpetrators on building life skills, dealing with trauma, independence, and developing robustness and self-esteem was the essence of a range of self-development education which was suggested. Improved funding was highlighted and the Government have a major role in new intervention strategies, governance, new legislations etc. Besides better crisis care, backup plan to assist/support affected families, building more shelters, increase number of DV support workers is required. Spiritual, emotional and physical support to encourage resilience, durability and sustainability to withstand pressures.

#### **6. Bullying**

The participants cheered the role of media, community meetings, new legislations, zero tolerance at school and organisations like the White Ribbon in raising awareness in raising awareness against bullying and Police are now playing a more active role. Training for teachers whilst still in University as well as professionals already in the workforce, educating and empowering them around bullying management. Educating

both parents and children how to prevent, identify and better handle bullying. Provide visual training through posters against bullying. Education at school and early intervention were thought to be crucial. Increased counselling services, improved communication channels, rehabilitation of perpetrators, increased resources, more campaigning and mobile apps were some of the other recommendations.

## **7. Child-sex abuse**

Participants celebrated the fact that a lot of awareness exists around the issue of child-sex abuse and DV. Child-safe environments now exist in schools, sports club etc. Mandatory notification is now in place. Kids Helpline and Child-abuse report line are proving to be very useful. Special education at schools regarding perpetrators tactics, sexual education, how to eliminate stigma and openly discuss on this issue is required. Promotion of how 'keep safe' and 'be aware', how to identify sex abuse, supportive and legal help, building a self-accepting and positive image, how to manage respond and act against DV etc. Raising awareness that perpetrators are very often from within the family and explain the link between DV and child-sex abuse is required. Training of school volunteers on how to identify first signs of sexual abuse. Raising awareness within multi-cultural communities also very important as in Australia people from various cultural backgrounds exists. Increased resources for providing support to affected families. Special programs need to be developed for assisting perpetrators in case they need treatments or want to confess.

## **8. Crime**

Participants appreciated the involvement of police, government departments, social campaign and GPs in contributing in a positive way. New Injunction orders are in place, when broken the police can remove the perpetrator from the scene. The police also now need to report all DV related crimes. Social campaigns, GPs, 'stay home stay safe' programs also helping keeping people safe. Further, more education schools proposed around early intervention and how to prevent a crime. A 'statute of limitations' which is a law which sets out the maximum time that parties have to initiate legal proceedings from the date of an alleged offense should be introduced. Increased funding, more legislations, and nation-wide database of defenders in order to identify an offender, frequent release of statistics around these offences etc. is required.

## **9. Gambling**

Participants acknowledged that majority of public are now aware of association of DV with gambling through education campaigns, release of statistics which demonstrates a 50% correlation, online resources, media and posters. Even gambling venues have started to cut the number of machines. New legislation is required for hotels/pubs to have daily limits of gambling and introduce pokey-taxes. Further new research needs to be directed towards better understanding on what leads to this extreme behavior, prevalence of online gambling and the wider impacts of gambling on the community and mobile apps. Training of victims around a "no blame, no shame, non-

judgmental”, promote the Stop → Intervene→ Change theory, how to cope under this situation, how their life can improve if they are able to successfully address this issue, provide better treatment options and tighter legislation and more government resources. Educate addicted gamblers on how to move away from gambling. Educate the bar staff on mandatory reporting. Educate children about imminent dangers of gambling.

## **10. Drugs and Alcohol**

There is now increasing awareness of the negative influence of drugs and alcohol and its relation to DV due to public campaigns, increasing education and support at schools. Legal interventions, employer concerns and support for victims are increasing. Further education is required to inform the victims and perpetrators that drugs and alcohol cannot be used as an excuse, therapy, reasons to cope or abuse of the wife/children. Education of youth needed on effects of drugs and alcohol on their life, consequences of public drinking and under-age drinking. Neighbors need to watch out for early signs. Raising awareness of the services available, including the financial support, counselling for children growing in such homes, organisations like Relationship Australia etc. is key. More research is required to find out the cause of such risky behaviors and what needs to be done to curb it. Making posters illegal and promoting plain packaging, increasing fines and penalty, and blocking easy access to drugs and alcohol is required.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

### Word Cloud of Frequency – All delegate comments



The workshops were highly successful in understanding the ethos, views, opinions and suggestions of the participants on the topic of domestic violence and its relation to various risk-factors. The discussions revealed the current status of domestic violence in this country, how the victims are coping and what are some of positive changes that have occurred to improve the situation. In addition they provided valuable insight into what more can be done to improve the situation and suggestions and ideas on how to cope with and overcome DV, in order to build a safe, harmonious and secure society.

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# Introduction

Domestic violence is at the core of many of today's societal issues. It includes physical, verbal, emotional, sexual or psychological abuse, controlling money, stalking, neglect in a relationship of dependence, harm to an animal or property, restricting spiritual or cultural participation. *'The term violence against women means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.'* (United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women) In Australia domestic violence is a major public health problem. Victims of violence could continue to live in fear for themselves and their family even when they have left the abusive relationship. People from all walks of life could be affected by domestic violence including relationships such as current and past intimate relationships, co-habiting, carers and guardians, other family members including step families, those who fall within Indigenous or culturally recognised family groups etc. **(1)** Though the abuse is irrespective of gender and sexuality, women experience much higher rates of domestic violence as compared to men. Although majority of Australians (98 per cent) acknowledge that violence against women and their children is a crime however, DV continues to be unacceptably high. Though Family and domestic violence could affect women of any background, there are certain vulnerabilities and impacts relating to age, ability, socio-economic status, culture or religion. One in three Australian women have experienced physical violence since the age of 15, and almost one in five have experienced sexual violence, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006). In 2005, over 350,000 women experienced physical violence and over 125,000 women experienced sexual violence (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006). Violence not only affects the victim themselves, but the children who are exposed to it, their extended families, their friends, their work colleagues and ultimately the broader community. Too many young people in Australia have witnessed acts of physical domestic violence against a parent (National Plan to reduce violence against women and their children 2010-2022. An initiative of the council of Australian Government. <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/women/programs-services/reducing-violence/the-national-plan-to-reduce-violence-against-women-and-their-children-2010-2022>)

The **One in Three** Campaign aims to raise public awareness of the existence and needs of male victims of family violence and abuse; to work with government and non-government services alike to provide assistance to male victims; and to reduce the incidence and impacts of family violence on Australian men, women and children (Male victims of family violence, <http://www.oneinthree.com.au/malevictims/>).

In order to take a united stand against this issue, WINspire a South Australian not-for-profit organisation tied up with many partners including White Ribbon Australia in order to organise South Australia's inaugural DV SnapShots 'Lifting the Lid' Conference. Aim of this inaugural 2-day long DV Snapshot conference was to

facilitate and achieve large scale social change by collective impact by raising awareness of how DV influences mental health, suicide, bullying, drugs & alcohol, crime, gambling, eating disorders, education, legal systems, homelessness and child protection. In order to achieve this a special 2-day facilitated workshop was organized which heard the views of the delegates on what currently works in this sector, what areas need further education and how changes can be brought about to effectively tackle domestic violence in Australia. Northern Adelaide Medicare local (NAML) which worked closely with Winspire to organize these facilitated workshops and was tasked to analyze the information that came out of these group discussions. This report has been prepared by NAML and contains the outcome of these workshops.

## Environmental scan

One in three Australian women have experienced physical violence since the age of 15, and almost one in five have experienced sexual violence, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.<sup>2</sup> In 2005, over 350,000 women experienced physical violence and over 125,000 women experienced sexual violence. (National Plan to reduce violence against women and their children 2010-2022. An initiative of the council of Australian Government. <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/women/programs-services/reducing-violence/the-national-plan-to-reduce-violence-against-women-and-their-children-2010-2022>). Indigenous women and girls are 35 times more likely to be hospitalised due to family violence related assaults than other Australian women and girls. A study commissioned by the Commonwealth in 2009 also shows the enormous economic cost of violence. Domestic violence and sexual assault perpetrated against women costs the nation \$13.6 billion each year. By 2021, the figure is likely to rise to \$15.6 billion if extra steps are not taken.( National plan) Family and domestic violence is also a major cause of homelessness in Australia In 2011–12, 34% (77,178) of all people receiving assistance from homelessness agencies were trying to escape some sort of family or domestic violence (Govt website).

## International Statistics on Domestic Violence

### Proportion of family violence homicides in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and the United States of America (3)

Country	Homicide rate /100,000 population (UNODC 2011)	Summary of family violence homicides
Australia	1.23	For the period 2007-2008, 260 homicide incidents, involving 273 victims were reported in Australia. Among the incidents in which the relationship between the offender and

		deceased were known (n=243), 134 (55.1%) were classified as 'domestic homicides'.
Canada	1.67	For the period 2000-2009, among homicides in which the relationship between the offender and the deceased person was known, 1758 of 4532 (38.9%) were intimate or familial.
New Zealand	1.25	For the period 2002-2006, 141 of the 291 homicide deaths investigated by police (48.5%) were perpetrated by a family member of the victim. This comprised, on average 28 homicides per year.
United Kingdom	1.19	For the period 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2010, 203 of the 619 homicides (32.8%) in the United Kingdom were family violence homicides.
United States of America	5.22	For homicides occurring in 2010 in which the relationship between the offender and the deceased person was known, 2425 of 7272 (33.3%) were 'intimate or familial'. 4

**Proportion of intimate partner homicides in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom and the United States of America. (3)**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Intimate partner homicide</b>
Australia	Of the 134 'domestic violence homicides' identified by the National Monitoring Homicide Program for the period 2007-2008, 80 deaths were sub-classified as being intimate partner homicides (59.7%).
Canada	Of the 1758 family violence homicides occurring in the period 2000-2009, 929 (52.8%) were intimate.



New Zealand	Of the 141 deaths classified as family violence homicides for the period 2002-2006, 77 (54.6%) were 'couple-related'.
United Kingdom	Of the 203 family violence homicides between 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2010, 116 (57.1%) were classified as occurring between intimate or ex-intimate partners.
United States of America	Of the 2425 homicides occurring in 2010 in which the relationship between the offender and the deceased was familial, 1336 were intimate-partners (55.1%). <sup>5</sup>

### **Intimate partner homicides by sex of the deceased in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom and the United States of America. (3)**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Sex of deceased person for intimate-partner homicides</b>
Australia	Of the 80 intimate partner homicide victims for the period 2007-2008, 62 were female (77.5%) and 18 were male (22.5%).
Canada	Of the 929 intimate partner homicide victims for the period 2000-2009, 714 were female (76.9%) and 215 were male (23.1%).
New Zealand	Of the 77 'couple related' homicides for the period 2002-2006, 61 were female (77.2%) and 16 were male (22.8%).
United Kingdom	Of the 116 intimate partner homicides for the period 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2010 involving individuals over 16 years, 95 were female (81.9%) and 21 were male (18.1%).
United States of America	Of the 1336 intimate partner homicides occurring in 2010, 1095 were female (82.0%) and 241 were male (18.0%). <sup>6</sup>

## The State-wise plan (National Plan) to address DV

### New South Wales

In June 2010 the NSW Government launched the \$50 million five-year Domestic and Family Violence Action Plan - Stop the Violence, End the Silence.

### Victoria

Since 2005 the Victorian Government has invested over \$175 million in a number of significant whole-of-government reforms to reduce and prevent violence against women.

### Queensland

The Queensland Government released its coordinated state strategy, For Our Sons and Daughters - A Queensland Government strategy to reduce domestic and family violence 2009-2014, in July 2009.

### Western Australia

The *Western Australian Family and Domestic Violence Strategic Plan 2009-2013* involves systemic reform of Western Australia's response to family and domestic violence. The reforms are currently being implemented by the Department for Child Protection and the Senior Officers' Group for Family and Domestic Violence.

### South Australia

The *Women's Safety Strategy 2005-2010* (WSS) outlines the South Australian Government's vision to address the issue of violence against women, including both rape and sexual assault and family and domestic violence. The WSS has a broad focus from early intervention work focused on preventing violence, through to community education to raise awareness about the level and complexity of violence against women.

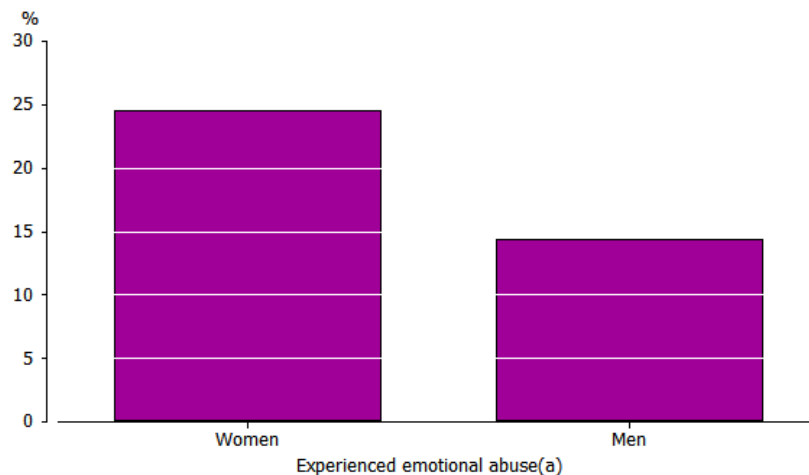
### Tasmania

Tasmania's whole-of-government approach to reducing family violence, *Safe at Home: A Criminal Justice Framework for Responding to Family Violence in Tasmania*, was introduced in 2004 with major changes to legislation. The *Family Violence Act 2004* (Tas) introduced economic and emotional abuse and intimidation as criminal offences and grounds for obtaining Family Violence Orders.

### Northern Territory

The Northern Territory uses a whole-of-government approach to family violence policy and programs, with the main policy framework called *Building on our Strengths: A Framework for Action for Women in the Northern Territory 2008-2012*.

## Domestic Violence prevalence in Australia



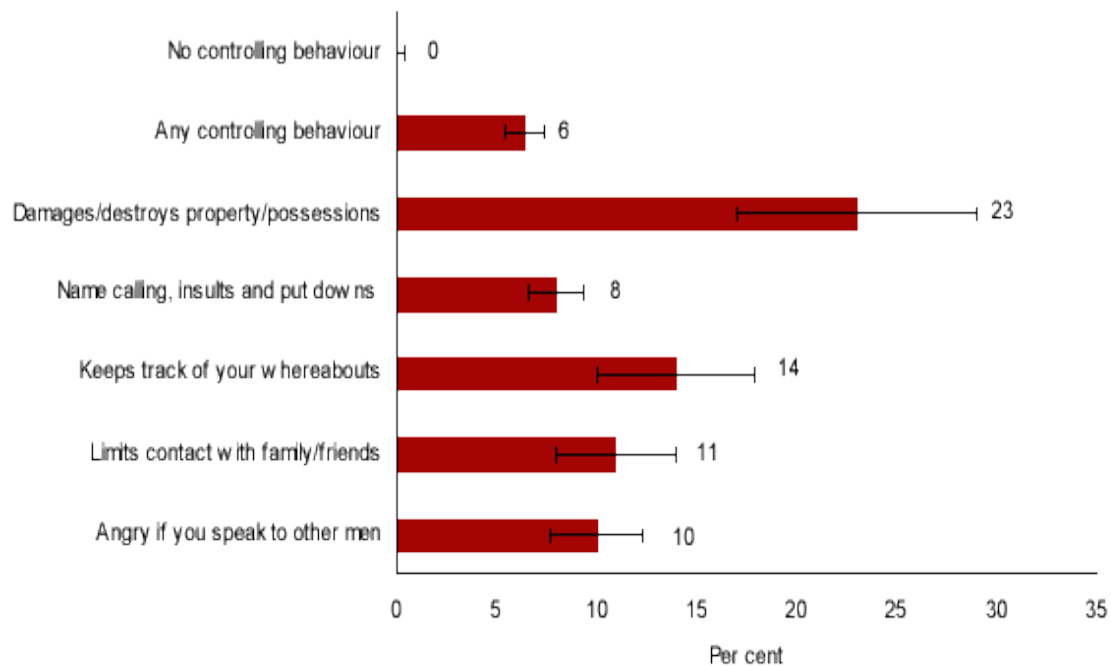
The 2012 Personal Safety Survey provides the most up to date figures on domestic, family and sexual violence. ( Research paper series, 2014–15 14 october 2014, domestic, family and sexual violence in australia: an overview of the issues, Janet phillips, penny vandenbroek,[1](#) In this survey 13,307 women and 3,743 men (17,050 in total) aged 18 years and over who were living in private dwellings across Australia were interviewed. The interviewees were asked about violence experienced by men and women since the age of 15, as well as in the 12 months prior to the survey.

### The key findings of this survey are:

- 49 per cent of men (4,148,000) and 41 per cent of women (3,560,600) had experienced some form of violence since the age of 15
- women were more likely than men to have experienced physical assault by a male **in their home**. An estimated 62 per cent of women compared to 8 per cent of men experienced their most recent incident of physical assault by a male in their home
- similar proportions of women and men (67 and 68 per cent) had not been in contact with the police after their most recent incident of physical assault by a male
- women were more likely than men to be subjected to violence by a partner—17 per cent of all women and 5 per cent of men had experienced violence by a partner since the age of 15
- both men and women were more likely to experience physical violence than sexual violence, however, women were much more likely to have experienced sexual assault than men. An estimated 17 per cent of women and 4 per cent of men had experienced sexual assault since the age of 15
- men and women who had experienced sexual assault since the age of 15 were more likely to have been assaulted by someone they knew rather than by a stranger. An estimated 15 per cent of women had been sexually assaulted by a known person compared to 4 per cent who were assaulted by a stranger
- women were more likely than men to have experienced emotional abuse by a partner since the age of 15—25 per cent and 14 per cent respectively, and

- women were more likely to have experienced an episode of stalking during their lifetime—19 per cent of women and 8 per cent of men.

**Women's experiences of current intimate partner violence during the previous 12 months by controlling behaviours (n=5,074) (5)**



## Purpose of the Workshop

The main aim of the 10 facilitated workshops was to discuss and understand the views of the delegates on what is currently working in the area of DV, what further education needs to be provided and what are the changes that need to be incorporated in order to make a difference.

The different topics included in these facilitated workshops were:

10. Mental health
11. Suicide
12. Homeless & unemployment
13. Education
14. Legal (Education and legal were split up into two different topics)
15. Gambling
16. Bullying
17. Child sex abuse
18. Drugs & Alcohol
19. Crime

## Workshop delivery procedure

The workshops were conducted in a structured manner. Each day was divided into two sessions. In each session there were 10 tables (with 10 delegates each) with a different topic. The delegates were free to choose any topic.

Each topic had 3 questions:

- d) Celebrate:** what is currently working well in the sector to support the reduction of DV.
- e) Educate:** What education needs to occur in the community/government/other sectors in regards to the link of DV with this particular sector.
- f) Change:** What changes are needed in this sector to help support a reduction of DV

In each workshop the delegates were asked to discuss a topic with respect to the 3 set questions (15 minutes each). The delegates were given a booklet to initially write down their thoughts for 5 minutes, followed by a verbal 10 minutes discussion. Each table had a facilitator and a scribe. The major outcomes of each discussion were then written down. These notes were then processed by Northern Adelaide Medicare local and the results were provided in the form of a report.

# Results

The following are the comprehensive description of all the comments tabled by the facilitators of each discussion that was held. They reflect the overall views of the participants and the information that came out of the discussions.

## 1. Education

**Celebrate:** Counselling is currently happening at schools and at TAFE. Programs like White Ribbon, Lifeline H2H is helping. Vigils, rallies are being organized. Community is getting more involved through activities, community gardens, festivals etc.

**Educate:** More DV heroes in children's classrooms are required. Help and support needs to be given to both victims and perpetrators. Women empowerment is required. Educations needs to be provided to community, young people, community, women, victims and perpetrators. Community needs information around DV statistics through public awareness programs.

**Change:** The main response to change was that of education. Education should be provided regarding how to prevent or overcome DV in school, industry, to law makers, school staff and whole of community. DV should be acknowledged as independent of sex, could be man or women that is affected. The severity of DV as a crime should be impressed upon. Programs for both victims and perpetrators should be carried out.

## 2. Homelessness and unemployment

**Celebrate:** Unlike many other countries, in Australia marriages are not forced and one can get out of a marriage easily. Work avenues are also better in Australia than other countries. In Australia it is now recognized that DV is a major cause of homelessness and government needs to be made aware of it. There has been increase in government shelters like the one on Hutt Street and Catherine House and people are now increasingly aware of it. Acute care shelters are now available. There is good education around this and there are systems in process to address this issue.

**Educate:** Education and public awareness were the major emphasis around this issue. GPs, men, women, community, public, basically everyone needs an education around this. Public needs to be made aware that there is a link between DV and homelessness leading to a negative economic outcome. New supportive workplace policies to encourage affected women to stay at work and not stay at home and isolate themselves. Improve women's education so that they can get employed. Also improve DV awareness in migrants.

**Change:** Men need to be more involved and blaming the women needs to stop. Employers need to take responsibility as well. There should be an increase in funding with unlimited access to safe housing. Remove red tape that prevents use of empty facilities. There should be a register for offenders.

### 3. Legal system

**Celebrate:** DV has been recognized as a crime in Australia. There are services in place already to support early intervention and provided support to the victims and families. Immediate Injunction Orders (IO) can now be placed. Police are increasingly aware of DV. Media plays a prominent role and reporting it to media helps raise awareness. Counsellors also are now providing early support when such cases come up.

**Educate:** Victims need to know what rights they have. People need education around what happens after the police get involved. Public needs to be educated that DV is an actual crime. Laws around child support is a problem and needs to be addressed. There needs to be a mechanism in place to ensure intervention occurs at the right time. As a result of the legal channel, children go to the mother, father loses all money due to which there is a lot of heartache and anger. Perpetrators should be educated around long term effects e.g. future potential job loss/job opportunities, their criminal records etc. So there should be support system for the father as well. Once a criminal charge is laid against an individual they should be made more accountable.

**Change:** Main suggestion that came up was that separate rooms needs to be provided for testimonials from the victim and perpetrator. The victims could also be taken to secret locations and interrogated through video conferencing/Skype. Victims need to be removed by the police from home within 24 hours and then given counselling. There should be clear penalties in place. Early support from counsellors is desirable.

### 4. Suicide

**Celebrate:** Suicide has been in news and there is now more prominent media emphasis on how celebrities die. Women are dying in more violent ways than before. ATSI people have 30% higher suicide rates. But Australian welfare system is better than other countries where women have no option but to kill themselves. Though there has been a clear increase in DV related services there has also been increase in appropriate media campaigns. Men are now speaking out against DV. Families are openly discussing it. Teaching around life skills is increasing. People are discussing options available to them. Professionals are increasingly aware of the link between DV and suicide. Stigma around DV has reduced due to open communication. Increase in services through creation of specific groups/foundations like Kids Helpline, Lifeline, 1800RESPECT, Sammy D foundations etc is making a difference.

**Educate:** DV is a major risk factor for suicide and self-esteem. Educating people that suicide is more than a mental health problem and that a major factor for suicide is low self-esteem is important. Education should also be provided around relationships issues as it is another cause of suicide. Education around life-skills, successful

relationships and coping mechanisms can bring about a change. Education around the fact that the naming and shaming of any individual can lead to suicide. Open up conversation regarding attempted suicide under 10 years of age. Let kids know that it's okay to ask for help. Educate the society regarding impact of DV in men and in same-sex relationships. Education around stress management needed. Appropriate training and education should be given in prisons, where suicide rates are high.

**Change:** Early intervention was the main theme that emerged. Early intervention at emergency department, pre-school, primary school as well as high school level, is important. Teachers need further training around values and morals. Parenting programs on how to deal with their children, needs to be implemented with special emphasis on the role of dad in a child's life. There needs to be specific child protection workers at school. Collaboration of services and information sharing (e.g. Family Safety Framework) should occur. The naming and shaming of the family where a member has committed suicide needs to stop. More agencies in SA required to deal with male perpetrators. Instead of looking at alternative models the current options need to focus on rehabilitation and recovery. Finally a change should be brought about in the current bottom-up as well as top-down system.

## 5. Mental Health

**Celebrate:** Opinions were split on this with many feeling that there is nothing to celebrate with limited funds available to support workers and many of the child-sex abuse victims being either in hospitals or jails. Better linkages need to be made between mental health (MH) and DV. Some thought that the innovative ideas came from NGOs as the government regulations are restrictive. Also appropriate programs are not being used to address this issue. But the majority felt that there is public awareness on association of MH issues with DV. MH organisations are coming together to support victims and the MH workshops through MH professional network, are being organized on one-on-one basis. Family safety networks have come up. New policies are talking about new legislation. People are more aware and are talking. Police are also involved as they are talking to the public about new legislation. Media and public events are helping people to talk and open up. There are few champion campaigners in this area like Gabrielle Kelly through her Adelaide Thinkers in Residence Program in South Australia (*aimed at delivering long-term benefits to the state in early childhood education and wellbeing and resilience by working with global and local leaders to drive systematic change*).

**Educate:** It was recognized that DV related MH issues has long standing effects as it doesn't just affect one generation, but is multi-generational with depression having known to have genetic linkages. Education of people for better behavior, even at a young age is important. There should be campaign around reducing the stigma. Victims need to be educated around how to protect themselves. Women need to be made aware of their own vulnerability. Education for young people in building life skills and dealing with trauma, how to deal with difficult people improve self-esteem, financial management and skills on how to be independent. Education around how to spot an abuser, mind games, how not to forgive a perpetrator, recognize the signs



of mental health abuse, recognize mental manipulation, definition of rape within a marriage, religious separation for independence of self-strength, building self-esteem and believing in ourselves. Teaching better habits/patterns rather than better coping mechanisms by putting ego, pride, self-importance aside to deal with the issue. Psychologists and psychiatrists need to be trained better in MH and DV management and should be aware of the difference between MH and DV.

**Change:** Improving funding was the major change proposed. Government should help by intervening, governance, bringing about changes to current legislation, providing psychologists for each affected person. Implementation of new preventative programs quickly via ongoing funding. More accommodation for DV victims, crisis care, backup plan to assist/support affected families, changes to existing laws, building more shelters, increase number of DV support workers etc. Run spiritual courses on 'what love means' and 'speak up, say no', ways of physical outlets by venting emotions and recovery programs to help improve MH outcomes of DV victims. Engage more self-help groups (modelled on the Alcoholics Anonymous program). Move away from focus on resilience, durability and sustainability to withstand pressures from perpetrators. More funding required for research for trauma/DV effects. Also prominent persons/ celebrities need to shine the light. Decrease price associated with seeking help. Improve well-being by yoga, training solutions, breathing exercises, self-empowerment etc. Increase the number of psychologists leading to better understanding this issue.

## 6. Bullying

**Celebrate:** An increase in the number of workshops that are being organized related to DV and interpersonal communication was highlighted. Media including social media, is getting increasing involved in raising awareness against bullying including online bullying. Community meetings, school programs, zero tolerance at school and foundations/organizations like the White ribbon are playing a key role in raising awareness. SAPOL officers are now being increasingly approached by victims. Definitions/interpretations of bullying is now easier and no more acceptable part of growing up. Changes in legislation are now benefitting the victims making them come forward.

**Educate:** The focus was on training (including on-the-spot training), early professional exposure, educating and empowering the professionals involved in bullying management. Provide education of students and parents on how to better handle bullying. Education around bullying should be taken up as via a gamification strategy. More visual communication for the public against bullying e.g. no bullying posters etc. Educators themselves are in need of further education/training.

**Change:** Early education at school and early intervention by authorities were highlighted in the comments. Increased counselling services and introducing programs/interventions at school were discussed. Victims should be empowered about how to manage bullying. Communication channels on how to help victims as

well as perpetrators should be opened. Rehabilitation of perpetrators should not be ignored. Resources should be unlimited with increased training for improving personal confidence. Campaigning against bullying through multi-media as not everyone can read. There should be mobile apps around this.

## 7. Child-sex abuse

**Celebrate:** The highlight of this section was that there is a lot of awareness existing around the issue of child-sex abuse and DV. Community is more aware, due to education at school children are increasingly aware, due to increasing discussion with children as well as their families there is more awareness now. Child-safe environments are being created in various places that children visit like sport clubs etc. There are protective bells and protective behaviors around keeping children safe at schools. New curriculum on keeping children safe is now introduced at the preschools and not just teach 'stranger-danger'. There is publicity through the media on high profile cases where people are increasingly speaking out. There are now advocates who spread the message through the media. There is now mandatory notification to authorities on incidences of child-sex abuse. There are now helplines like Kids Helpline and Child-abuse report line which helps everyone to know where to go and thus do not need to decide if they personally need to take any action or not.

**Educate:** This topic was very passionately discussed with various suggestions emerging. The major theme being education in schools and educating kids on this topic. Keeping children safe should be the best option for children's curriculum as 80% of schools and childcare centers are using it in an effective way. Sexual education in school programs should be introduced in early ages and needs to include subject of healthy relationships. Train kids about perpetrator tactics and find out what keeps them silent help remove stigma by asking them to speak more about it. Provide more age specific education and how to get help and effective implementation of the 'keeping safe' curriculum. Teaching children to have respect for themselves and be aware of themselves. Teaching kids effected by DV how to learn and recognize their own feelings and teach them of how to manage their behaviors and responses to DV. Educate kids how to identify sexual abuse and DV. Also be self-accepting and build a positive self-image. Provide positive assistance to the victims and nurture them. Training of volunteers in schools to identify kids/ behaviors and identify signs of abuse and provide specialized training to all workers especially child-workers. It was discussed that it's important to know that the perpetrators usually were familiar with both the family and the concerned child. Provide education around a situation where the perpetrator is within the family. Improvement in child protection training to incorporate information around the link of DV with child-sex abuse. The community to be educated around being witnesses and reporting to the police if they become aware of any situation. Raising awareness within multicultural communities is also important as often they come from various cultural backgrounds and help them in reducing shame. Legal rights of the victims need to be clarified via education. Women whose children are affected needs to be educated on how to leave a situation. Group support needs to be provided and resources should be made available to the affected family if required.

**Change:** Major theme that emerged here was around education, raising awareness and providing support. Since children are very vulnerable in a DV situation there needs to be support for women in DV situations as this helps in preventing future abuse of the child. Education of parents around how important it is to listen to your child and also what are the steps to be taken in a child abuse situation. Education of children how to protect themselves. Education of people to speak up and take action. Educate the women to speak up and not remain silent and help diffuse their fears about losing the child. Raise awareness that DV related child-sex-abuse often happens within families. Effective intervention strategies need to be in place. People need education around how to address the perpetrator. Publicize the fact the statistics around DV related child sex-abuse. So that people realize how frequent it is. Programs need to be in place for perpetrators as well for their assistance, treatments or if they want to confess.

## 8. Crime

**Celebrate:** Few points of celebration came up regarding the role of police, departments, social campaign and GPs. New Injunction orders are in place for DV related crimes. If this order is broken then the police can remove the perpetrator from the scene. Social campaigns are helping in drawing the line and saying enough is enough. The police are now mandated to report all DV related incidences. DV services are in place. GPs are also now monitoring for suspected perpetrators. 'Stay home stay safe' program is also helping people be safe and is something to celebrate.

**Educate:** Not many points emerged in this area. Major areas of education proposed were education in schools on how to prevent crime in DV situation. Also education around the fact that early intervention can reduce the trauma and damage that can be caused. Also a 'statute of limitations' needs to be introduced against committing a crime during DV (*'Statute of limitations' is a law which sets out the maximum time that parties have to initiate legal proceedings from the date of an alleged offense*).

**Change:** Few points were raised like more funds are required to combat this issue. Appropriate legislation should be passed against crime during DV. Besides there needs to be a nationwide DV offender database so that people are made aware of the identity of perpetrators. People should be made aware of the statistics around offences committed in DV and be able to distinguish between DV and assault.

## 9. Gambling

**Celebrate:** Main theme that came out was that most of the people are now aware of the consequences of gambling on DV. Awareness has been spread by education campaigns on how gambling destroys lives. Issues around gambling as well as statistics on gambling and DV are being made public through courses like Mental Health certificate 4 courses as well as Institutions like Relationship Australia website. As per correlation statistics 50% gambling addicts experience or commit DV. Various

online resources and information are designed around capturing effects of gambling on family and DV and also has helped raise awareness. Awareness via media and posters helping is putting this issue very much out there. It was also noted that various gambling venues are beginning to cut down on gambling machines. Anti-gambling campaigns are paying attention to the cultural backgrounds now.

**Educate:** To start with the media should also play a role in informing people the link between gambling and DV and the impact of DV itself. One the topmost suggestions that came from this discussion was that more research was required on defining the effects of gambling as a major contributor to DV. Also research around prevalence of online gambling and its effect thereof. Also what leads to this kind of extreme addictive personality? Research is also required on the wider effects of gambling on the community. Various types of training programs were suggested around making this issue a “no blame, no shame, non-judgmental”. Training victims how to cope under this situation and letting them know how their life can improve if they are able to successfully address this issue. Advice the victims as to how to escape from co-dependency to partner and family and encourage them. Educate addicted gamblers on how to improve their self-esteem, be satisfied with small wins and how to start an ‘escape fund’ and arrange for special services to counsel them how to move away from gambling. Educate even the perpetrators currently behind bars. Also educate the bar staff on mandatory reporting of addictive behaviors. Organize community awareness campaigns with the help of special mobile apps. Gambling and DV should be included as a topic in Universities as well.

**Change:** The major change suggested was around educating the community, more research, tighter legislation and better treatment options. The best way to prevent further damage is to follow the 3 steps Stop → Intervene→ Change. Spread awareness that all type of addictions can lead to DV. The approach has to be holistic as we need to look at the bigger picture and not just address the negativity around this issue. Teach victims and perpetrators how to respect themselves. There needs to be a national plan to eliminate DV. Improve upon current programs as they are not very useful and there is not enough healing. Government should adopt long-term objectives with more health resources. Education at schools about the imminent dangers in gambling and more community involvement and a change of the public perception to address this issue. More funding for training programs for victims. Introduce new legislation that would mandate hotels/pubs to have daily limits of gambling. Another suggestion was to raise pokey-taxes in order to fund research for the benefit of the community. Treatment for addiction to include treating symptoms as well. There needs to be a pokey-replacement therapy.

## 10. Drugs and Alcohol

**Celebrate:** Some Public Campaigns are required. More Support in schools for kids. Intervention orders can cover Drugs & alcohol with DV. Services for both but not well (Long way short) Range of services but how does it integrate? By perpetrators & victims. (All one-sided instead of both). Tricky relationship between two (Not clear). Where is the connection between the two (DV, Drugs & Alcohol). No place at school

before more so now in today's era. A lot more awareness of where to get help! Schools beginning to talk about it. Greater awareness & more availability. More support now. This event is working well & there is a link between DV & Drugs & Alcohol. Definitely a connection (1800 number doing well. 1<sup>st</sup> day of each month is alcohol free in Mongolia. Should work with mentality of youth. Companies taking steps for responsible drinking.

**Educate:** Whole community to get involved. Drugs & alcohol used as therapy to DV. Recognition of the fact that perpetrator, victim & witnesses are all affected. D & A an excuse for DV. Because of this the whole community needs to get involved. Not just parents but the kids as well. Survivors of DV should not use D & A as a way of therapy. Women in DV using D & A to overcome & now need to know, that's not the way. It could be perpetrators, victims & witness in DV. Victim's use of D & A in DV can be used due to control by perpetrator. Recognizing change from learned behavior of parents. Coping mechanism shouldn't include D & A. Don't drink alcohol and abuse wife. Don't hit kids. Promote practice of neighbor's report. Promote understanding and knowledge of drugs and its effect on youth by discussion. Educate youth to results of public drinking. Unacceptable. Behavior not OK. Under-age drinking has consequences.

**Change:** More promotion of services available. Need more understanding of 'why'. Education of consequences of behavior. More promotion & help available in DV (Creatively 1800 No.). No posters in pub or packaging e.g. like in gambling. Need more understanding of 'why'. Don't understand the pattern. More in an indirect approach. Don't get wrapped in the emotion. Education on the consequences of behavior & the response. Acceptance & accountability. Counselling services. Don't need to have too much money. Couples have financial help. Awareness of financial help. All means should be tested. Improve the law e.g. higher fines. Name and shame, instead of ignoring. Underlying issues. Relationship Australia. Attitude to drink and driving. Let's change access to drugs and alcohol. Used to be cool. Change in and around what is acceptable. There should be an incentive to stop. Recognize DV as a crime. Increase in penalty. Have a register of DV offenders.

# Thematic analysis of delegates views

## Tabular Representation

(Using the Qualitative analysis software NVivo (6))

Topics	Celebrate	Educate	Change
1. Gambling	Awareness of the issue	Establish the linkage between gambling and DV	Legislative change (to prevent gambling)
	Support and services available	Upskilling and training (on issue) for professionals, counsellors and service providers	Awareness through education and promotion
	Public campaigns and advertisements	Increased awareness through different mediums	Targeted research on linkage (between gambling and DV)
	Awareness campaigns (public and in schools)*	Upskilling and training (on issue) for professionals (including teachers)	Awareness through education and promotion
	Support and services available	Resources for parents	Increase in funding towards (support) programs and campaigns
2. Bullying	(Social) Media attention on the issue	Increased awareness through different mediums	Legislative change
		Linkage between bullying and DV through different mediums	Improve current education system
	Awareness programs in schools*	Upskilling and training (on issue) for professionals (including teachers)	Legislative change
	(Social) Media attention on the issue	Support and resources for families	Increase support and resources for parents, children and professionals

### 3. Child-Sex Abuse

Support and services available (for those previously abused to come forward)

Increase awareness through different mediums

Upskilling and training (on issue) for professionals

Education around the current legislation for the community/families

Increase in funding towards (support) programs and campaigns

Support and services available (e.g. Stay Home Stay Safe program, DV shelters)

Education (on the issue) to wide range of audiences (schools, professionals, women)

Legislative change (and standardisation of legislation nationally)

Interventions from the police

Support and services for families

Increase awareness and training (on issue) for professionals (including the police)

### 4. Crime

Early intervention measures

Increase support and programs for victims, survivors and perpetrators

Increase in funding towards (support) programs and campaigns

Support and services available

Education (on the issue) to community and professionals (including the police)

Increase support and programs for victims, survivors and perpetrators

Increased awareness of the issue in the legal system

Education and awareness on legal rights and process to victims and survivors

Increase in funding towards (support) programs and resources

### 5. Legal System

Increased awareness of the issue by the police (intervention measures)

Information, support and services

Legislative change (and standardisation of legislation nationally)

Support and services available

Education (on the issue) to community, professionals (including teachers) and students

Increase support and programs for at risk persons, vulnerable families and survivors

### 6. Suicide

Awareness of the issue

Information on available support and services

Increase awareness and training (on issue) for professionals



<b>7. Drugs &amp; Alcohol</b>	(Social) Media attention on the issue	Multi-sectoral approach (to communicating and raising awareness of the issue)	Multi-sectoral approach (dealing with the issue)
	Support and services available	Education and awareness (on the issue) to community, professionals and students	Increase awareness
	Awareness of the issue (Social) Media attention on the issue		Increase support and services
<b>8. Education</b>	The school counselling process	Education on the issue to community, professionals and students	Increase awareness
	Awareness of the issue		Increase support and services
<b>9. Mental Health</b>	Support and services available	Education (on the issue, linkage) to community, professionals and students	Awareness through education and promotion
	Awareness of the link between mental health and Domestic Violence	Information on available support and services	Training (on issue) for professionals, counsellors and service providers
	Media attention on the issue	Increase awareness	Increase programs and services
	Support and services (e.g. Shelters, housing) available	Education (on the issue, linkage) to community, at risk persons and survivors	Increase awareness through education and promotion
<b>10. Homelessness &amp; Unemployment</b>	Awareness of the issue	Information on available support and services	Support for victims, survivors, and perpetrators
		Increase awareness	Training (on issue) for professionals, counsellors and service providers
			Increase programs and services (for victims, survivors and perpetrators)



## Detailed representation

(Using Qualitative analysis NVivo & Wordle)

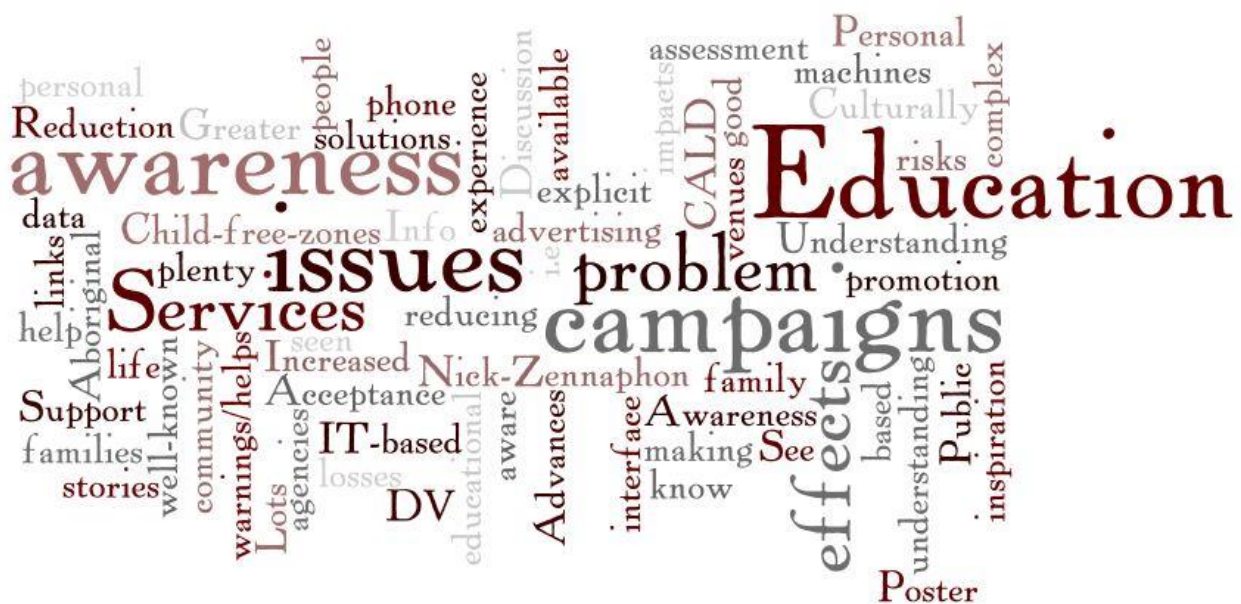
## 1. Gambling

## Celebrate

### Major themes emerging from NVivo:

1. Awareness of the issue
2. Support and services available
3. Public campaigns and advertisements

### Wordle Analysis:



### Major themes emerging from NVivo :

- ### Wordle Analysis:





## 2. Bullying

## Celebrate

### Major themes emerging from NVivo:

1. Awareness campaigns (public and in schools)
2. Support and services available
3. (Social) Media attention on the issue

*\*Interpretation caution: Some respondents could be commenting on Bullying per say and not considering the link between Bullying with Domestic Violence*

### Wordle analysis:









### 3. Child Sex Abuse

## Celebrate

### Major themes emerging using NVivo:

1. Awareness programs in schools
2. (Social) Media attention on the issue
3. Support and services available (for those previously abused to come forward)

*\*Interpretation caution: Some respondents could be commenting on Child Sex Abuse per say and not considering the link between Child Sex Abuse with Domestic Violence, and others could be commenting on possible changes rather than celebrating what is currently working in the system*

### Wordle analysis:







## Change

### Major themes emerging using NVivo:

1. Legislative change
2. Increase support and resources for parents, children and professionals
3. Upskilling and training (on issue) for professionals
4. Increase in funding towards (support) programs and campaigns

### Wordle analysis:





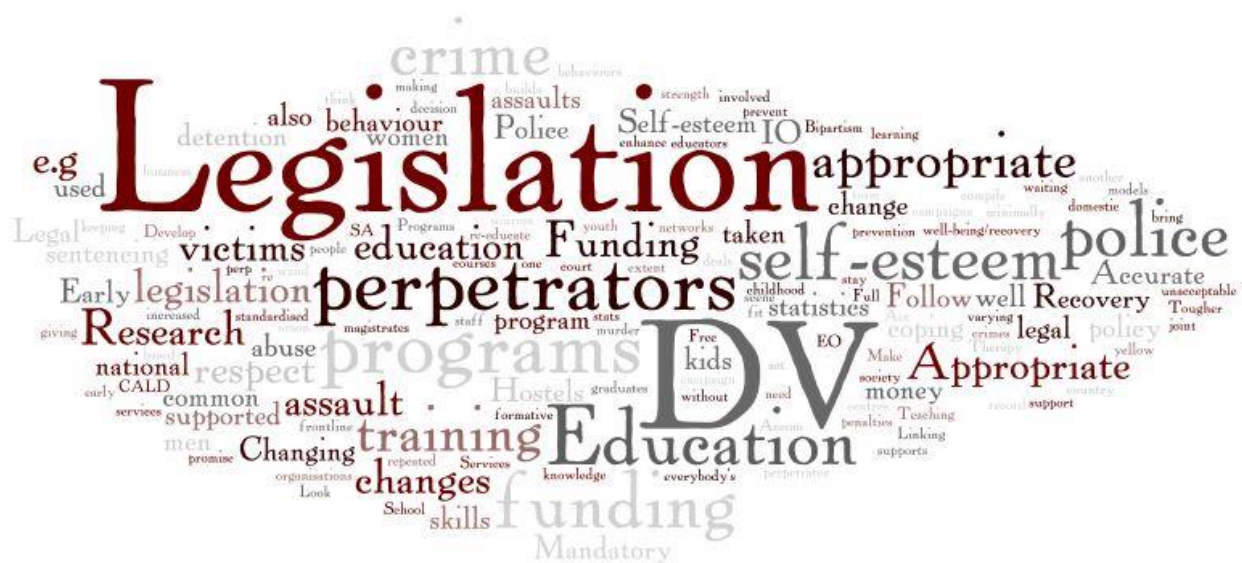


## Change

### Major themes emerging using NVivo :

1. Legislative change (and standardisation of legislation nationally)
2. Increase awareness and training (on issue) for professionals (including the police)
3. Increase support and programs for victims, survivors and perpetrators
4. Increase in funding towards (support) programs and campaigns

### Wordle analysis:



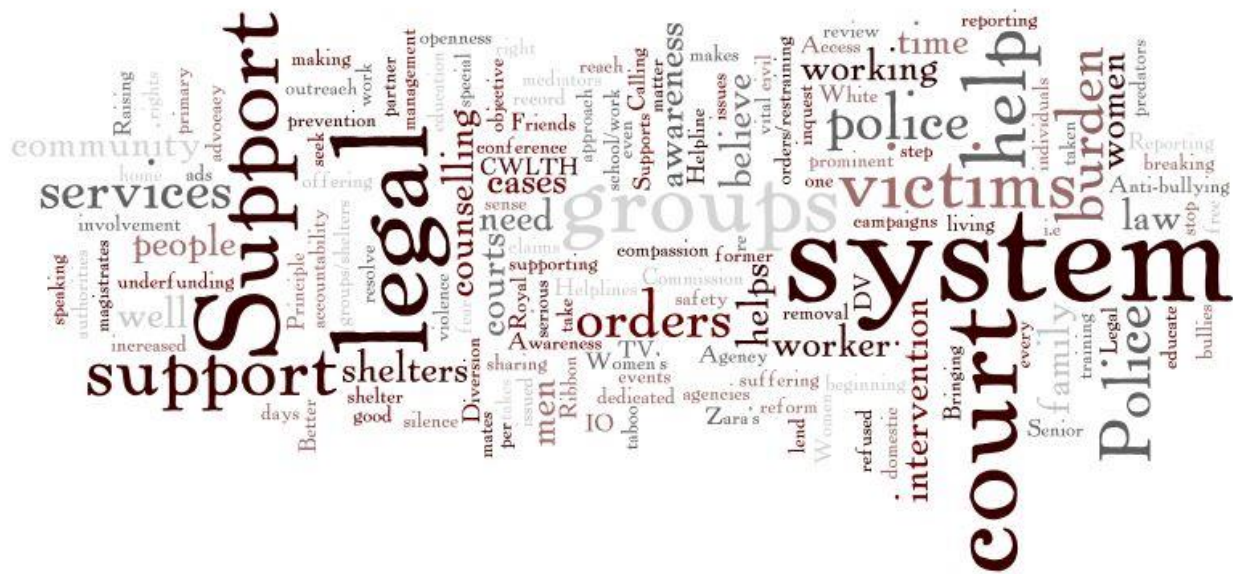
## 5. Legal System

## Celebrate

### Major themes emerging using NVivo:

1. Support and services available
2. Increased awareness of the issue in the legal system
3. Increased awareness of the issue by the police (intervention measures)

### Wordle analysis:









## 6. Suicide

## Celebrate

### Major themes emerging using NVivo :

1. Support and services available
2. Awareness of the issue
3. Social & Media attention on the issue

### Wordle analysis:







## Change

**Major themes emerging using NVivo :**

1. Increase support and programs for at risk persons, vulnerable families and survivors
2. Increase awareness and training (on issue) for professionals
3. Multi-sectoral approach (dealing with the issue)

**Wordle analysis:**



## 7. Drugs & alcohol

## Celebrate

### Major themes emerging using NVivo (\*)

1. Support and services available
2. Awareness of the issue
3. (Social) Media attention on the issue

*\*Commentary: References made to Mongolia have been removed before analysis*

### Wordle analysis:



**Educate**

## Major themes emerging using NVivo

Education and awareness (on the issue) to community, professionals and students

### Wordle analysis:





## 8. Education

## Celebrate

### Major themes emerging using NVivo:

1. The school counselling process
2. Awareness of the issue

### Wordle analysis:





## Change

### Major themes emerging using NVivo :

1. Increase awareness
2. Increase support and services

### Wordle analysis:





## 9. Mental Health

## Celebrate

### Major themes emerging using NVivo :

1. Support and services available
2. Awareness of the link between mental health and Domestic Violence
3. Media attention on the issue

### Wordle analysis:



## Educate

### Major themes emerging using NVivo :

1. Education (on the issue, linkage) to community, professionals and students
2. Information on available support and services
3. Increase awareness

### Wordle analysis:



## Change

### Major themes emerging using NVivo:

1. Awareness through education and promotion
2. Training (on issue) for professionals, counsellors and service providers
3. Increase programs and services

### Wordle analysis:



## 10. Homelessness & Unemployment

## Celebrate

### Major themes emerging using NVivo :

1. Support and services (e.g. Shelters, housing) available
2. Awareness of the issue

### Wordle analysis:



**Educate**

### Major themes emerging using NVivo:

1. Education (on the issue, linkage) to community, at risk persons and survivors
2. Information on available support and services
3. Increase awareness

### Wordle analysis:



## Change

**Major themes emerging using NVivo:**

1. Increase awareness through education and promotion
2. Support for victims, survivors, and perpetrators
3. Training (on issue) for professionals, counsellors and service providers
4. Increase programs and services (for victims, survivors and perpetrators)

**Wordle analysis:**



# Conclusions

## Major themes that evolved from the discussions

- Raising public awareness on the issue through media, training programs, campaigns, posters, education etc.
- Increase support for victims around rehabilitation, emotional and other mental health issue for both the victim and the perpetrator.
- Increase awareness by via modified curriculum at schools as well as universities. Heroes, champions and celebrities in classrooms can be very inspirational as roles models for the kids.
- Advocacy for stringent legal channels, policy reforms by decision makers and increase funding for more effective programs.
- Research into why DV has reached such enormous proportions in the society and what more can be done to stop it from snowballing further was crucial.
- Capacity building, to strengthen the knowledge and capacity of professionals dealing with this situation by giving them continued training and resources.
- Establishing new rehabilitation services working in cooperation with NGOs to provide short-term and long-term support to victims and their families.
- Provide support and training to all health professionals including GPs to identify initial signs DV among their patients and come up with specialised treatment plans.

# Testimonials (Personal Stories from participants)

## 1. ROWENA BROWN

**Business Woman, Glenelg Art Gallery**

[www.glenelgartgallery.com.au](http://www.glenelgartgallery.com.au)

When I heard of DV Snapshots 'Lifting the Lid'. I was both intrigued and frightened. Although I run Glenelg Art Gallery, as a professional woman, I was also a victim of a bully. I felt so alone. I felt that I was somehow stupid to be in a position that caused me, and my loved ones by default, such harm. Perpetrators are experts in covering their tracks, planning ahead and setting victims up to look at the wrong. They only move on when caught, with no care for their prey. I learnt at DV Snapshots two very important things: that I am not alone, and I have amazing loving and professional support through this amazing group of people. I learnt of an alarming pandemic of domestic violence in our society and how historically it has been ignored, despite the large damage and costs to not only many innocent lives but also our society as a whole. I learnt that thousands of victims are rendered homeless and think they are alone. The Conference was professionally structured and presented. The Hosts were all warm and welcoming. There was no judgement, just sharing, collating facts, support and education. I was very impressed because I was healed of many misconceptions by what I learnt via the round table workshop discussions, the speakers and the attendees.

*There is no heart without art - Art reflects life - Paint your future beautiful*

## 2. SUJATA PRASANAN

**Business Woman, Organo Gold**

[www.healthiswealth2.organogold.com](http://www.healthiswealth2.organogold.com)

The information shared and discussed at the workshop sessions were very enlightening. I was amazed to see the commitment and passion each of the participants had in wanting to make a change and stop domestic violence. Some of the participants representing organisations had so many obstacles, difficulties and even faced abuse to stand up for what they were advocating and yet were relentless to keep on going. Due to time constraints, the sharing had to be limited. Furthermore the strength of the DV survivors to be open about sharing their story and help others was very empowering. I personally didn't feel alone and am excited to want to compile these stories into a book to inspire and empower more women to take action and strive to thrive. More such conferences and workshops need to be held so as to gain more momentum to really get the message out that DV stops right here, right now!

*A person's true wealth is the good, he or she does in the world. Be the light.*



### 3. BROWNYN JEFFREY

**Business Woman, Mind Decisions Pty Ltd**

[www.minddecisions.com.au](http://www.minddecisions.com.au)

I believe everyone is doing the best they can with the resources they have. Violence is a human trait. On occasions my toddler has hit me when I haven't done what she wants, because that's where she is at with her communication. My response to her is to say 'violence is the lowest form of communication. If you are annoyed at me, you need to explain how you feel instead of hitting me'. I never smack her as I am aware that teaches her that when someone doesn't do what you want you hit them. We all learn how to communicate from our environment and experiences. But as 'life isn't fair' and everyone is born into different circumstances, some of us never learn to evolve our communication. To me the only way to change 'poor conditioning' is through our EDUCATION SYSTEM, teaching expert COMMUNICATION; we could prevent DV and interrupt vicious cycles and on the plus have a lower divorce rate too.

*Believe what serves you to love your reality.*

### 4. JENNY SHIPPEN

**Business Woman, The ICANetwork**

[www.theicanetwork.com/r/jshippen](http://www.theicanetwork.com/r/jshippen)

Would just like to say how privileged I felt to be part of the DV Conference. The quality of the speakers and guests and the passion which they delivered their messages was second to none. The workshops were well organised and professionally run with valuable input from many sources. It helped raise the profile of this secret epidemic in our society and still continues to do so. It also lets those suffering in silence that they are not alone and united we CAN make a difference.

I believe this should be an annual event so we do not allow complacency to sneak back into our system. Let us keep informing and educating so that everyone can feel safe in their own home not only now but in the future.

It was also encouraging to see politics were put aside to fight this scourge on a united front and was well supported by small business owners who see the value to our economic growth by having productive employees who are not afraid of going home. I think the main message was everybody was united and determined in their efforts to bring about the changes of attitudes towards the victims and penalties imposed for perpetrators. I believe that by awareness of this crime being across all socio economic groups races and creeds it will help people recognise what is happening around them and that it's not acceptable even if is a mate and women will be treated equally with the dignity and respect everyone deserves. That is why this Conference was invaluable just by raising awareness alone and bringing one of those taboo subjects into the light of day and not not leaving it to flourish behind the veil of secrecy we will see changes

I just hope everybody sees the value in holding these workshops and raising awareness. Keep up the great fight and if need my assistance know where I am.

## **5. KYLEE**

### **Business Woman, online shop Imogen Blu & April Nights Consultant**

I didn't know what to expect I just knew that there was something really good to come out of it.

I was lucky enough to have been invited due to shining the light on women in business who have experienced DV and are overcoming their own personal experience with DV. At the conference I displayed my Business products and My New Adventure... My Online Shop Imogen Blu.

In my lifetime I have been personally through Domestic Violence and new how detrimental it is and can be. The 2 day conference was inspiring powerful and touched you like no other. Everyone became connected and empowered to make a real change knowing we are not alone. Thank you DV Snapshots for this amazing life changing experience

## **6. GILLIAN**

### **Professional Woman**

### **Founder White Ribbon Breakfast South Australia**

A very worthwhile event, providing a number of people the chance to share some very difficult experiences in their lives and how they have moved on.

It also provided an opportunity for others to share what they were involved in, not only their businesses but also their contributions to those who are survivors of DV.

All had the opportunity to contribute and to make a difference. A very evocative and empowering experience.

## **7. MIKE**

### **Professional Businessman**

### **White Ribbon Ambassador**

I was only able to attend D V Snapshots for one afternoon. So had no time to evaluate the whole program.

I believe in the adage that a problem shared is a problem halved. A number of those that spoke shared some of the worst experiences in their personal lives with the audience. This would have been cathartic for victims as the audience listened caringly and respectfully. This session was purely beneficial in so many ways.

It was also refreshing to see both sides of politics represented by their leaders and projecting joint support for action.

## **8. KALA**

**Professional Community Woman, Women's Community Centre**

[www.womenscommunitycentre.com.au](http://www.womenscommunitycentre.com.au)

Sorry for not getting back to you earlier Lorelle. But I have so many connection for with like minded people and it has given me motivation for striving harder in all that I do and make a difference in other peoples life. Kala

## **9. MADDIE KELLY**

**Professional Woman, Social Justice Coordinator**

St Aloysius College

The DV SnapShots Conference offered a unique opportunity for all who are concerned about the devastating effects of domestic violence to speak, listen and act. It was empowering, as these three areas are usually those over which perpetrators exhibit most control over victims. The array of individuals and community groups also symbolically demonstrated that domestic violence doesn't discriminate - it is everyone's issue. Most importantly, DV SnapShots invited participants to use their strong feelings surrounding this issue as motivation for change.

I attended the conference with a personal intention to learn and respond to an issue which is very close to my heart, and I left the conference feeling humbled to have met many others with likeminded wishes. The Child Sex Abuse and Legal System workshops I took part in opened the discussion about how we can best support the vulnerable people that DV affects - the victim and children. Discussing systematic flaws which prevent victims from receiving justice was very important, and addressing these problems is of the utmost important if we are to reduce the prevalence of DV.

Above all, the conference was effective because it ignited hope and confidence in a better future for anyone who's been affected by domestic violence. The stories of survivors challenged us to examine many facets of society and identify areas of improvement, as well as allowing them to break their silence, which, I imagine, provided a sense of triumph and ultimate healing. Hearing these personal testimonies helped attendees to a person representing the effects of domestic violence, not just a statistic or a mathematical graph. Only when we realise that this is a humanitarian crisis which we all can help resolve, will true change start to take place. Finally, I left the conference with the realisation that this change shouldn't start tomorrow... It has to start today.

## **10. JILL CHAPMAN**

## **Professional Woman, MOSH**

[www.mosh.org.au](http://www.mosh.org.au)

I found DV Snapshots to be an enlightening experience. The opportunity for survivors of DV to share their experiences in a safe environment was very empowering and ensured they had a secure, respectful audience. I found the information they shared to be invaluable to my work and the workshops provided a unique opportunity for service providers to network and hear survivors' stories in a more intimate setting.

The team from Another Step Closer Inc were delighted to provide the management, production and delivery of the workshops for the DV Snapshots Conference in October 2014.

Our service was provided through our charity – Got the Balls, seeking to encourage proactive men's health.

Our team of facilitators oversaw workshops covering 10 topics relevant to the core issues surrounding Domestic Violence. We observed that there is a significant impact on the victims from the fall out from domestic violence and that DV takes on many forms aside from just the physical. Lives are changed forever and the pain is ongoing.

Our awareness gained of the contributing factors was immense and it became clear to us that our best course of action was to continue to persist with our quest to address the way men deal with their mental health issues.

Our awareness campaign can be found on our website - <http://www.gottheballs.org.au/>

## **11. PAULA LUETHEN-SOPER**

### **Professional & Business Woman, Councillor City of Tea Tree Gully**

[www.bestlife-coaching.net](http://www.bestlife-coaching.net)

As a speaker and facilitator on the topic of child sexual abuse at the DV Snapshots Conference I would like to thank the organisers for the opportunity to profile and explore further a topic which is surrounded by much silence despite being such an epidemic in our community. 1 in 5 is an outrage statistic and I was thankful for the opportunity to give this issue a public hearing. I was even more thankful to gain the support of the audience to acknowledge the issue and I heard a very vocal support for further protective behaviour education in our schools. The child sexual abuse workshops revealed a low level of awareness of the issues and the link to DV and this conference has provided a platform for this to be addressed through future research. Furthermore the opportunity to be one of the 45 Snapshots Speakers and tell my story of a childhood of abuse enabled me to begin to heal. Thank you and great conference.

## **12. BELINDA SIMS**

### **Ms Australasia United Nations 2015**

## **Founder of Live Like You Mean It**

At the DV snapshots conference I really became aware that there were many people out there who had no idea of what their rights are as far as legal rights as well as in some cases in people coming here from other countries that there is a law against violence. This really showed me that much more education and awareness is needed around people rights to remain safe and the laws around it.

### **13. Emeritus Professor Anne R Edwards**

#### **Non-executive board director**

This was a perfect example of the value of a community-based initiative to share knowledge, experience and ideas for action on this critical public issue that is capturing wide national attention. The particular value of this event was its success in attracting politicians and policy makers as well as service providers, professionals, representatives of business and the not-for-profit sector, and survivors and families who have experienced domestic and family violence and providing a number of opportunities for communication, exchange of views and engagement between the participants.

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