

**ISSUES PAPER**  
**(for distribution to other networks)**  
**KEY ISSUES ARISING FROM THE QDVSN MEETING**  
**TOOWOOMBA February 2015**



*In the spirit of enhancing information sharing and collaboration between our networks, Queensland Domestic Violence Services Network (QDVSN) decided to distribute to other related and like networks and services, relevant issues arising from the QDVSN meetings. In addition, QDVSN recognises that our networks are frequently responding to and discussing the same issues, and the strength that lies in co-ordinating and sharing information.*

*After each QDVSN meeting, the QDVSN secretary can forward to your network/service the key relevant issues arising from the QDVSN meeting. In addition, if your network/service would like to similarly disseminate information relating to your network/service, we would certainly welcome this.*

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new DFV Protection rules for use in courts came into effect on February 28. Queensland Courts has produced a fact sheet and a guide to them. <a href="http://www.courts.qld.gov.au/courts/magistrates-court/domestic-and-family-violence">http://www.courts.qld.gov.au/courts/magistrates-court/domestic-and-family-violence</a></li> <li>• Under the National Plan, the PM has announced a VAW panel, with three projects; a national DV Protection order, Standards for Women and tech safety. The Queensland government is asking for information about gaps in these areas of service.</li> <li>• A national app named Daisy has been devised, with information on QLD services.</li> <li>• The Premier’s Taskforce will be a key driver for actions around DV in the future.</li> </ul> <p>We are encouraged to tell regional staff about our concerns with referrals from Supportlinks (and soon to be from FACC) being prioritised. This can lead to other referrals not being assessed according to risk.</p>
<b>CDFVR</b>	<p>Annabel Taylor the new Director for the Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research, discussed the major research project which the centre is undertaking for ANROWS. The research project falls under number 4 of the ANROWS Research priorities for 2014-2015 which is ‘Systems’ and more specifically under 4.1 which is ‘Improving legal and justice responses to violence against women’. The piece of work is under negotiation and will involve an investigation of the enforcement of protection orders and associated with this an exploration of issues relating to cross border protection order situations. The research will involve surveys with professionals whose work is associated with enforcement of protection orders and interviews with people who have registered cross border protection orders. Annabel reported that as a researcher she is interested in evaluation research that focusses on specific policies and interventions and also in workforce development and capacity building in the domestic violence sector.</p>
<b>FACC</b>	<p>The first tranche of the community based intake and referral system began in January. So far the successful tenderers have been large, nationwide organisations. Each FACC (Family &amp; Child Connect) contains a specialist DV worker, who ensures that people receive an appropriate response when a DV referral is made.</p>

<b>Advocacy</b>	QDVSN has submitted to the Senate enquiry into DV and the Premier's Taskforce. We will now be advocating strongly with the new government.
<b>Supportlink - Cairns Pilot</b>	The trial in Cairns around Supportlink working more closely with the community has ended. Supportlink has connected with more organisations, and is now tendering for a database, among other applicants, including some from overseas. The database will be owned by government, and accessed by QPS, Justice and Communities. Referrals will be transparent, and will involve vetting by trained social workers. The new model will assess for high and complex needs and risks. Supportlinks will also be looking for outcomes, which will result in extra work for them and us.
<b>DV Connect</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DVConnect reported that demand has increased by 35% over the past year.</li> <li>• Diane said if a woman is already in a service, and wants brokerage, that can be done without a referral. If in doubt, make a referral. If the woman needs refuge, and is a new client, just refer to DVConnect, who will do the QHIP referral.</li> <li>• DVConnect prefer to make all travel arrangements.</li> <li>• In response to our concern about delays in closing off a QHIP referral, Diane said that they have administrative authority with CHART, so can expedite this.</li> </ul>
<b>Conferences</b>	<i>Conferences for profit vs supporting those from the sector.</i> The issue of 'for profit' conferences (such as Criterion) was discussed, in contrast to community led conferences where the proceeds are returned to not for profit organisations. People were urged to prioritise and support sector led events.
<b>Outputs / Outcomes</b>	Future plans by DCCSDS for outcome reporting are being discussed around the state. It is understood that there will be two outcomes added to outputs. While several services use a survey and follow up phone calls, there is a need to clarify a set of measures that aren't generic.
<b>Resourcing for increased demand</b>	Increased demand for DV services has placed extra stress on staff, and is a workplace health and safety issue. The involvement of gangs and the impacts of the drug 'ice' have meant more complexity in case management. Some services are moving to a trauma informed practice model, as discussed by Alan Wade, Leah Giarratano and others. There is an agreed need for staff conferences/practice fora annually.
<b>Child Safety – dual referrals</b>	The issue of working with Child Safety has moved with the dual referral process being instituted as part of the Carmody reforms. This will require extra funding. Supportlinks is no longer required to report the presence of children at callouts, and SCAN is no longer required to report to Child Safety.

**What QDVSN members did to publicise  
16 days of activism against gender violence;**



SCOPE held a march in the park, supported by ZONTA, Quota club and WAG (Women's Action Group), followed by a coffee meeting with a speech about the purpose and origin of 16 days of activism. Good discussion followed.



**DVAC (Ipswich):** A number of Staff, Board members & wider community supported our First Gala event creating awareness in relation to **16 Days of Activism**. During the course of the evening we launched the film "Empowered and Free" that our Women's Advocacy Group had created.



**CRDVS (Cairns):**

The winners of our 'In Her Shoes' Relay Race for 16 Days of Activism.

The winners just happen to be the team from Department of Communities, led by our RED Mick Linnane – he's the one in the green boa and the 'sauceiest shoes'. And no, it wasn't fixed!

Maurice Blackburn Lawyers did us proud and donated fabulous prize hampers.