



## ISSUES PAPER

(for distribution to other networks)

### KEY ISSUES ARISING FROM THE QDVSN MEETING

SCOPE (Sunshine Coast)

February 2016

*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.*

#### **Government initiatives.**

Ongoing government initiatives have included amendments to legislation, the publication of strategies for working in areas specific to women and the setting up of several new DV services. Increased (one off) funding has been rolled out for women's counselling and for safety upgrades in some regions.

#### **Southport Court trial**

The trial of the specialist DV court has been extended until June 2017. Amy from DVPC reported that there has been a 57% increase in court mentions, and a 3% adjustment in respondents presenting as aggrieved persons. Amy is hopeful that the new model will increase accountability for offenders. Different cultural thinking is considered in the legal framework and risk management tools. An evaluation tool has been developed.

**Duty solicitors:** This scheme has been rolled out in 14 locations. Legal Aid QLD or the Women's Legal Service are the lead in several locations, with contracted private lawyers for respondents. The service has been working successfully in Cairns for 18 months.

**The 72 hour shelters** have been set up. The Brisbane refuge "Bridges" is run by Save the Children. Townsville also has a new shelter for short term crisis accommodation. The Brisbane DV Service has begun a "Safer Lives" 24 hour mobile support service for women primarily in motels and referred by QPS.

**New DV services** include those at Atherton, Tully, Gladstone, Redlands, Charters Towers, Ingham, Hinchbrook, Hughenden, Rockhampton, Cherbourg, Hervey Bay, Maryborough, South Burnett, Bundaberg and Redcliffe.

**The integrated response trial** is underway at Logan/Beenleigh as the urban space. Others are in process.

**FACC/IFS:** The third and final tranche of these services are due to be rolled out in Cairns, Mackay Cape York and Mt Isa by mid 2016. Each contains a DV specialist, who provides support and advice to other workers.

**Redbourne:** Shannon said they are working on Stage 2, which involves QPrime and will give us better information. The Infochange package is incomplete. It is planned to streamline the process.

QDVSN managers commented that there are technical issues around On Referrals, and inconsistencies in the way the system is being used. On referrals involve privacy issues, the decline tab cannot be used, and it is not possible to send a referral back to QPS.

There are huge differences in the number of referrals each service receives. Shannon said Redbourne will assess the proportion of DV related referrals coming to DV services.

**A data gathering** discussion began with the question - Do we want to gather useful data in a consistent way? It concluded with the opinion that a standardised tool would provide consistency and assist both government, researchers and our networks.

**Increase in work:** All services reported an increase in service users, resulting in staff stress and distress when a woman is unable to receive the service she needs in a timely manner. Some services have changed their model of service delivery to target 'crisis clients' more specifically within a discrete team.

Elizabeth from the Violence Prevention Team told us about the new website and templates for **DV Prevention month**. There will be an emphasis on community partnerships.

Sue said Directors General from several departments are meeting regularly to track progress on recommendations from the **Not Now, Not Ever** report. The Implementation Council is also meeting to promote the objectives of the report.

Jude Marshall

secretary