



## ISSUES PAPER

KEY ISSUES ARISING from the

QLD DV SERVICES NETWORK MEETING

(for distribution to other networks)

in CAIRNS, JUNE 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.*

**New DV services:** We are delighted to welcome new services to QDVSN.

These include for Rockhampton (under the auspice of Relationships Australia), Gladstone (within the Gladstone Women's Health, Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Centre), WAVSS across the Redlands (an extension of WAVSS in Logan) and Bundaberg (from Edon Place).

Several regional services have received funding to extend their service to outlying regions, including the Tablelands (Cairns), Hervey Bay (SCOPE).

DET has released funding to several services for developing child focussed programs and resources.

Safety Upgrades funding has been allocated to several services.

There are also five new **sexual assault services**, with several based in specialist women's services.

**Government initiatives.** .

Several departments across Government are working on the **Not Now, Not Ever** reforms with an interdepartmental committee of Directors-General overseeing the Queensland Government's response. The Implementation Council is also meeting to promote the objectives of the report.

**The integrated response trials** include Logan/Beenleigh as the urban space. Others are in Mt Isa (rural and remote space) and Cherbourg (Aboriginal location).

**FACC/IFS:** The third tranche is being rolled out in Cairns and Mackay districts.

An evaluation report on the FACC is in draft form. There has been considerable variation reported in the way the new services are being provided, and in the amount of input regional DV services are providing.

**Duty solicitors:** We discussed the roles of court support workers and those of duty lawyers. Nigel said the evaluation of the Southport trial will show how vital the court support workers are.

Concern was expressed about **online DVAs**. These include their quality, unsigned affidavits, implementation issues and unintended consequences. JAG is looking for efficiencies and is keen to hear from practitioners.]

**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. Many services have received top up funding, and the Stage 4 Request for Quote process is underway. New services will be expected to commence in October 2016. The new funding will aim to address gaps and will include investment in men's behaviour change programs.

**Redbourne QPS referral system:** Shannon said that 60-70 services are registered as having the ability to respond to DV referrals

1. Organisations are approved as long as they are funded.
2. The last bulletin contains a list of QPS co-ordinators.
3. They are looking at models of quality assurance and client satisfaction for QPS to consider.
4. Shannon said Redbourne will assess the proportion of DV related referrals coming to DV services.
5. A standardised data gathering tool would provide consistency and assist both government, researchers and our networks, in the opinion of QDVSN members.

**QLD Centre for DFV Research** is offering new courses for Education on DV include a graduate certificate and graduate diploma. These are post graduate courses, so some capability is required. The courses are divided

into separate papers. There is also a Men's Behaviour Change certificate planned.

Two lecturers have been appointed, with a possible third being considered. The course entitled Recognise and Respond to DV is still available, plus other VET courses.

Several excellent research documents are being published regularly and are available on the **ANROWS** website [www.anrows.org.au/](http://www.anrows.org.au/)

The ANROWS conference in February was an excellent time of coming together and hearing from researchers and government representatives. Information and presentations from the conference are available on <http://croakey.org/category/croakey-news-and-projects/croakey-conference-news-service/anrows2016/>

The report from **AWAVA** included information that Wesnet has been funded to provide training in tech safety (licenced from NNDV in the USA). The funding comes from the \$100m promised by the Prime Minister. Karen Bentley is responsible for the rollout throughout Australia.

The **AWAVA/Our Watch conference** is to be held in Adelaide this September 19-22. <http://conference.awava.org.au/>

It was agreed by consensus to appoint Amanda Lee Ross as convenor for the next two years. Jude Marshall was reappointed as secretary. Pauline was thanked for her service as convenor, not only for the past two years, but in that and various other roles over the past twenty years.

An evaluation of **1800RESPECT** involve changing to a triage model where callers are redirected in a first responder model which will include calls being triaged back to crisis lines when appropriate.

Diane from DVConnect joined us via Skype. **QHIP referrals** were the main topic discussed. We were reminded that QHIP referrals to

DVConnect are dealt with by a separate team, and are required only in non-crisis situations. QHIP referrals are not used in referrals from DVConnect.

There is concern that referrals are not time limited, and cannot be revisited when another opportunity for accommodation could be accessed.

**The Red Rose Foundation**, a successor to the Domestic Violence Death Review Action Group, was launched in May. A website will be created. The company's activities will include fundraising, awareness raising and advocacy.

The seven principles for DV leave in workplaces were outlined by Camille from the Services Union →

Jude Marshall  
secretary

1. **Dedicated additional paid leave for employees experiencing family or domestic violence**
2. **Confidentiality of employee details must be assured and respected**
3. **Workplace safety planning strategies to ensure protection of employees should be developed and clearly understood by the parties concerned**
4. **The agreement should provide for referral of employees to appropriate domestic violence support services**
5. **Provision of appropriate training and paid time off work for agreed roles for nominated contact persons (including union delegates and health and safety representatives if necessary)**
6. **Employees entitled to family and domestic violence leave should also be able to access flexible work arrangements where appropriate; and**
7. **Employees must be protected against adverse action or discrimination on the basis of their disclosure of, experience of, or perceived experience of, family and domestic violence.**

