

QDVSN MEETING ISSUES PAPER
FOR DISTRIBUTION TO OTHER NETWORKS
KEY ISSUES ARISING FROM QDVSN MEETING ON
25TH & 26TH FEBRUARY 2009 - BRISBANE

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 recognizes that our networks are frequently responding to and discussing the same issues, and the strength that lies in coordinating 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. If you do not feel it is useful for your network/service to receive this information, please do not hesitate to let us know. In addition, if your network/service would like to similarly disseminate information relating to your network/service, we would certainly welcome this.

Judicial Registrars

Pauline, Donna and Gayle have judicial registrars in their courts. Important to keep raising the issue as the DoC file note said the AG wanted feedback on how it was impacting on services. AG reviewing JR pilot, preliminary findings due out soon.

- *Action: Donna will share if the findings are sent out.*

QDVSN Statewide Candle lighting ceremony

Will be held on Wednesday 6th May 2009, gather at 5.30pm, candles to be lit as 6pm.

Ellen Pence event to be held in the morning – Donna suggested CDFVR might be able to assist with its video-conferencing process. Heather thought it could be a Distinguished Visitor Seminar on a particular topic that could be video-linked with a later discussion board with Ellen on-line for an hour.

- *Action: Working group to progress.*

Australian DFVC research on barriers to financial security

This research will examine the barriers and avenues to financial security for women affected by domestic violence. Evidence shows that financial resources are critical to women being able to live independent lives, free from violence. The principal aim of this one year project is to identify and develop practical strategies to enhance women's financial security, in order to assist them to leave and stay free from violence. IWSS has partnered with the ADFVC in this research with a particular focus on financial barriers for women without permanent residency in Australia. The research conducted will also include national policy forums with DIAC, National Child Support Agency, and Centrelink to respond to issues identified within the research. IWSS will also present issues for women from NESB who have permanent residency in Australia that may include property settlement and FLC issues etc. For more information contact Stephanie at IWSS.

State Implementation Plan (White Paper) and sector representation

Stephanie updated that QCOSS has established a working group to look at providing advice in relation to the white paper implementation. Jill Lange was keen to get DV sector representation on this group. Lindy Edwards, Amy Stephenson and Stephanie have been nominated to this. Stephanie missed first meeting on 12th Feb, next meeting next month. Aim is to look at what areas of implementation we

wish to promote within department. Short timeframe to work in so regular meetings up until May. Stephanie will keep everyone informed.

Queensland Access to Interpreters Working Group

At the last meeting Stephanie reported back on how the Queensland Government has made a commitment to ensuring that all departments develop strategies to enable their funded agencies to have fee free access to interpreting and translating services. The Queensland Access to Interpreters Working Group has met regularly to develop guidelines for departments to implement strategies for access to interpreting services. Although there has been a directive from Anna Bligh, departments are implementing this in different ways highlighting multiple concerns for the community sector. The Working Group has met with MAQ to look at how they will guide the direction across departments. The Working Group has also met with the Department of Communities (DoC) to provide feedback on their process for reimbursement of interpreting costs to services with a view to streamlining this process.

The Working Group continues to identify issues of cultural competence and inappropriate use (including non-use) of interpreters by departmental staff e.g. police, child safety, justice, health etc. They request that all services continue to document case studies so that information can be fed back to the respective departments. For more information contact Stephanie at IWSS.

Relevant information post-ODVSN meeting:

DoC will reimburse their funded services that use professional interpreting services provided by agencies such as TIS National or local interpreting service providers for clients who have difficulties communicating in English. Interpreters should be accredited by NAATI as a first preference, and NAATI recognition as a second preference. In the event that a NAATI accredited or recognised interpreter/translator is not available in the required language, then a suitably qualified professional interpreter may be used. The current process is that all funded services including SAAP services can submit their claim for reimbursement through the Sector Development area of the department.

The contact details for sending reimbursements claims are:

The Director

Sector Development

Youth and Development

GPO Box 806

BRISBANE QLD 4001

For further details contact Carolyn Hughes, A/Senior Program Officer Service System Development Sector Development | Youth & Development, Department of Communities, Tel: 3247-4196.

Course in Responding to D&FV

Heather updated that the pilot course has been held and 24 people completed it and the assessments. Still working in partnership with Workforce Council delivering it in Mackay and Townsville. Course will continue to be delivered by private trainers or by SDN funding out in their regions. Currently Workforce Council is employing Betty Taylor to do this.

RPL tool is being progressed by Tracey Acton. She has begun the process and has involved sector and other assessors in this process. Tracey has received some extensive feedback from the assessor network.

DV Death Review Action Group

Diane and Donna distributed the report *Dying to be heard*. Donna, Pam and Katrina met with minister Lindy Nelson-Carr, Linda Apelt, Barbara Shaw and Wendy Bourne, last week about the issue of a death review board. Successful meeting and heard that the idea had gone up to cabinet. DVDRAG meets again next week. Copy of report has also been sent to the major magazines.

Held a DVDRAG forum and it was very successful, good turn out. Part of plan was to have another two, one in Mt Isa and one in Townsville, talk from Betty Green on what is going on in NSW, and then a media session in April or early May.

The DVDRAG is constantly seeking donations and support from services and these funds can be sent to Womens Legal Service who auspice the project.

Heather mentioned that the AIC has funded some QPS research on a risk assessment tool for domestic homicides.

DV court confidentiality

Amanda shared a newspaper article with the group which published the name of a respondent at Cairns DV court. She also shared the email that she had received in response to her complaint about this. From the email response it appears that JAG's policy is counter to the legislation. The group was concerned about this.

- *Action: Amanda to write to Paul Marschke about this issue.*

Pets in Crisis

Pets in Crisis is still going well. Diane thought that it might have the potential to go nationwide but not sure with the current financial crisis. Diane will email out info about people possibly becoming foster parents for pets.

Joint meeting with DV Crisis Lines of Australia – Agenda

Update on nationwide drive for Death Review Boards

Diane spoke about the Qld DVDRAG and the recent discussion paper they have produced. Been quite happy with the government's response to this so far. Forum for death reviews being held in SA in the next few weeks. NSW working on a risk assessment tool for the large government departments.

National Council to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children – update from Heather Nancarrow

Council set up in 2008. Eight meetings between June and December including nationwide travel for consultations with a wide range of people. Expecting the national plan to come out sometime in March 2009.

Referral pathways and barriers to access refuge

Non-residential status is a big problem because clients are not entitled to income support and so the refuges have to try and bear this cost. Discussion about the cost of interpreter services to organisations. All states agreed that they have to use motels more now.

QLD D&FV Prevention Month

Diane spoke about the D&FV Prevention month and the QDVSN statewide candle lighting ceremony which is held the first Wednesday of May.

Ouster orders (models re women remaining in the home)

Tasmania - Assessed at time of incident if safe to remain in the home by police Victim Safety Response Teams. Allocated money for perpetrator accommodation but this was not used as most perpetrators were able to access other resources for accommodation. The money has been reallocated elsewhere now. Currently been reviewed and a report will be out shortly.

ACT – protocol with ACT Housing to work on things like security upgrades but this is only for government housing not private.

SA – also has protocol for safety assessment and then Housing SA carry out security upgrades as necessary.

NT Amendments to the DV Act to include mandatory reporting of DV

Idea started a couple of years ago after an enquiry into the death of a traditional woman with an arranged marriage. One of the outcomes of the legislation is that it should address attitudinal change. Legislation had last debate in parliament. Anyone in community who believes someone is at risk of serious physical harm has to report it to the police. Worried about the impact on services and the women who access the services. \$15 million over 4 years from government to increase services and community education. Fine up to \$22,000 for not reporting. No idea how this will be monitored or prosecuted. To commence beginning of July 2009.

NSW Woods Commission

Arose out of some very nasty public deaths in NSW. Report came out in December 2008. Chapter 17 is specifically about D&FV and makes three recommendations. The recommendations are going to parliament in March.

Discussion re accreditation for sector workers throughout the country

Talked about it in SA and Tasmania but not gone any further. Mentioned Qld CDFVR course. Qld Health looking at competency for sexual assault workers. Donna mentioned TAVAN Institute (Betty Taylor and Brian Sullivan) for Duluth model training for working with male perpetrators.

Discussion re service delivery to remote areas

Similar problems getting women out of remote areas, no transport, lack of police assistance (except for Tasmania), sometimes have to seek a 'social admission' at hospital but this can be fraught with safety issues etc.