

QDVSN MEETING ISSUES PAPER

FOR DISTRIBUTION TO OTHER NETWORKS

QDVSN Meeting 19 & 20 February 2004

Background information

At a meeting of the Queensland Domestic Violence Services Network (QDVSN) in 2003, it was decided to distribute to other related and like networks and services, relevant issues arising from the QDVSN meetings.

This is in the spirit of enhancing information sharing and collaboration between our networks. It is also in recognition 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.

We have also included a copy of the QDVSN Contact details. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us at any time.

KEY ISSUES ARISING FROM QDVSN MEETING ON 19 & 20 FEBRUARY 2004

Feedback Statutory Declarations for visa's

- Annabelle distributed some information for people to read about how the Stat Declarations need to be written.
- It is important to include information supporting that the woman is in fear or has been threatened.
- New forms 2003.
- Part C is the Stat Dec form.
- They want dates, your professional opinion as to why the violence has happened and the impact on the woman, with as many details as possible.
- When there is no DVO, there needs to be three Stat Dec's – one being her own, and two from a 'competent person'. Can also have Stat Dec from friends.
- IWSS is thinking of running workshops around this issue.
- Cultural violence includes not speaking their language, isolation from family
- The information is assessed by one person in immigration, and then it can go to Immigration Review committee or the Minister.
- When women leave they need to take identification/proof, eg photos, bank accounts etc. This is getting much stricter than in the past.

Practice Standards for Police Prosecuting Domestic Violence matters

Kym reported that she has made contact with Acting Senior Sergeant Leslie Hamilton (Acting State Domestic Violence Coordinator) to reiterate QDVSN's interest in and support of the progressing the development of the Practice Standards for Police Prosecutors. In Kym's most recent contact with Leslie (a few days prior to this meeting) Leslie said that this issue remains on their agenda, but it has not progressed any further as yet, as the office has been dealing with other priorities.

Development of a Statewide Coalition

Pauline reported that there seemed to be no developments to date.

ACTIONS:

- Pauline to follow up with Pam Godsell
- Kym to contact Betty re. where this issue is up to.

Crime and Misconduct Commission research/surveys re. Police response to dv

Robyn reported that the report is due out in March. Kim Adams passed on her thanks to QDVSN for participating in research.

ACTION:

- Kym to send email to Kim Adams requesting that QDVSN receive a copy of the report

Shared Parenting/Family Court issues

Kym has registered QDVSN with the Positive Shared Parenting Alliance.

Same-sex dv training

- Betty phoned Gabriele yesterday to say that there are a few spaces left for the LGBT training in April 2004.
- Chris contacted the GLWA and spoke with a worker who facilitates their training. GLWA doesn't have a specific training package. He offered to get back to Chris with contact details for another worker who he thought might be useful to speak with.
- Chris spoke with Jenny Gilmore. Jenny thought that there'd be others who could better do this training. Jenny suggested contacting Vicky Ogilvie as a possible trainer. Jenny suggested Chris could speak with Pam Godsell about the training Vicky has facilitated for Women's Legal Service. Chris attempted contact with Pam, but Pam is currently away. Chris spoke with Deb Tokar, but she didn't know anything further about this.
- Heather suggested contact with the NSW Education Centre Against Violence
- Gabriele said that she was contacted by Pauline Coffey, Open Doors, who was also asking about training options for workers.

ACTIONS:

- Services to phone Betty if interested in attending training
- Heather to forward contact details to Chris for NSW Centre

Issue of dvconnect's number not appearing with the emergency numbers on the front cover of the Brisbane White Pages (SDVAG raised issue with Kym)

Chris reported that she has resolved this issue for the Brisbane White Pages.

ACTIONS:

- Chris will follow up other White Pages across the state.
- Kym to draft a QDVSN letter of support to be used to lobbying other White Pages

National Domestic Violence and Children training initiative

Ann reported that Relationships Australia in SA had some PADV money to develop a training package for front line workers working with kids and dv (eg. Police, teachers). Ann said that a Worker visited Ann and Betty to discuss this. Ann's service is currently involved in trialing the project. Training package will be available on line.

ACTION:

- Ann will check that this will be available on the PADV website and advise QDVSN

Domestic Violence Fatality Reviews

Robyn reported that the Institute of Criminology recently did a review into the use of hired hit men, and found that the highest incidence of the use of hired hit men was by men against women in domestic violence situations.

Robyn suggested that the paper can be accessed on the Institute's website

Formation of a Statewide Peak Body

Clarification was sought about the definition of a Peak Body. Chris described that a Peak Body is seen as a recognized body, a political arm, which is recognized by the government and sector as experts on an issue. Purpose is to lobby, advocate and advise on policy and practice. Peak Body can speak on behalf of a sector.

ACTIONS:

- Heather will circulate some information about models for peak bodies
- Kym to locate 'No Vacancies' Meeting Minutes and circulate any relevant information to QDVSN
- Keep on the agenda

The RAP Process and Report, *"Is it Happening?"*

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Robyn said that it was discussed at the network meeting on Wednesday 18 February 2004 that the *"Is It Happening"* document states that services chose not to take up the new money that was available for this. However, some services said that they had been given a clear message that no money was available.

ACTION:

- Robyn and Pauline will draft a letter to the Department re. this

New initiatives in Western Australia – should we consider them for Queensland

Heather said that WA has recently moved domestic violence out of the police crime prevention portfolio and moved it into Major Crime. They have also drafted legislation around cases where children witness dv, that this will be seen as aggravated circumstances and carry greater penalties.

ACTION:

- Heather will keep abreast of these issues and update network as information is available.

Domestic Violence Protocols for Magistrates

Robyn reported that these protocols have now been updated to include non-spousal domestic violence. These are now available from the Department of Justice.

Winter Institute for Women in Townsville

Robyn tabled the program for the Winter Institute.

Robyn reminded everyone that we can go directly to the website www.feministagenda.org.au to view the program and register on line.

Link-up with Tracey de Simone and Raquel Aldunate, Women's Legal Aid

Thursday 19 February, 2.30pm – 3.00pm

Apologies from Tracey. Teleconference with Raquel only.

Means test criteria for Legal Aid Queensland

[Discussion of the issue raised by Jan relating to women being ineligible for aid if they are deemed to have 'equity' in their home, regardless of whether they can access this equity, or afford to refinance their home loan]

- Raquel said that LAQ has organized an external review of the means test criteria.
- Raquel will check if QDVSN can participate or assist in this review in any way. Raquel will advise Kym if there is any involvement that QDVSN can have.

Grants of Aid for DV

- WLA recently looked at stats for DVPO's across the state.
- It appears that approval for grants in relation to dv had decreased a little.
- DVPO's have increased, but approval rates for Legal Aid has either remained the same or slightly decreased.
- Possible explanation: LAQ has been conservative with dv approvals, following the introduction of the new legislation, given that LAQ received no additional funding.
- WLA seeking QDVSN ideas in relation to getting the message across that it is easy to get a grant of aid for dv.
- Services to get women to book for a legal advice appointment, rather than going to the front counter of their local office.
- WLA doing things internally also, but are encouraging services to advise women that they can be granted aid for dv. Amanda suggested that court staff need to know this information also.

Teleconference with Chris Munsie, (Violence Prevention Unit)

Friday 20 February, 10.00am – 11.00am

- Chris reported that Amanda is no longer the Manager of the VPU, effective two days ago.
- Amanda is now the Ministerial Liaison Officer to Mike Reynolds in the Dept of Child Safety.
- Kim Chandler is now the acting Manager.

Child Protection Implementations

- VPU met with Peter Forster also.
- VPU not sure where/if the Unit is going to be, will depend on the recommendations of the consultants.
- They are reviewing the Policy Directorate.
- Have said that the Policy Directorate is probably going to be very small.
- Heather said that QDVSN will be very clear in our submission that we do not wish to see the VPU cease to exist, and highlight the crucial role that the unit plays.
- Chris said that the new Minister is interested in hearing from and working with peak bodies, and suggested that it would be good for QDVSN to make contact.
- Heather asked if there has been any discussion about the future of the QDFV Council.
- Chris said that they are not aware of this, and hope to have a better idea of what's happening in the next couple of weeks

Suppression of contact details

- VPU met with the Department of Transport in November 2003.
- Presented a strong case as to why suppression of details should remain.
- Dept of Transport agreed to not make the change, and leave the system as it is, and asked VPU to assist them in informing services of the implications for having contact details suppressed, eg. If you are interstate and get picked up by police, you could be detained until the next working day until your contact details can be confirmed
- Dept of Transport is going to produce an information package about the implications.
- Dept of Transport will be requiring a letter of support from Coordinators detailing the risks to the worker.

Perpetrator issues

- Chris said that there's been no action as yet in response to QDVSN's letter to Amanda.
- Chris said that there's been no opportunity to do anything about this in the current environment

DFVPM

- Chris said that Remembrance Day will be the first Wednesday in May.
- There will be a Brisbane event, and the VPU would like to set up a working group for the Brisbane event.
- QDVSN to let Cecilia know who could be involved.

- Resources will be distributed in mid April.
- DV services will automatically receive the resources. Other services will need to complete a Calendar of Events form.
- Resources will include: Non-indigenous poster, indigenous poster, remembrance day poster, stickers, tattoos, postcards (distributed through Avante), drink coasters (distributed through the Hotels Associations)
- VPU haven't heard yet about DFVPM funding.
- Media Kit is being prepared. Anyone interested in being a spokesperson for the month, please phone Cecilia on 3405 6445.

ACTIONS:

- QDVSN to let Cecilia know who can be involved in a working group for the Brisbane Remembrance Day event.
- Anyone interested in being a spokesperson for DFVPM, please phone Cecilia on 3405 6445.
- Kym to send Kim Chandler the dates for the next QDVSN meetings.