



ISSUES PAPER

(for distribution to other networks)

KEY ISSUES ARISING FROM THE QDVSN MEETING

MACKAY

October 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.

Government initiatives.

As a result of the Not Now Not Ever Report issued following the work of the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland, there have been several initiatives worked on by the Queensland government. All 140 recommendations in the report have been approved. These have included (at the time of the QDVSN meeting)...

Southport Court trial

The specialist court is underway, with many processes still being worked on for best outcomes.

1. Its strengths include working with JAG to create an inclusive relationship.
2. DVPC (Gold Coast DFV service) has set the risk assessment process. There is an emphasis on men's dangerousness, rather than women's safety.
3. There has been a 30% increase on applications. Applications are mentioned on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, with Thursday set aside for hearings.
4. Weekly meetings are held. Amy (DVPC) is developing a risk assessment tool to give to the court along with an application. She believes they are developing a good model. Applications are heard on the day of lodgement.

Duty solicitors: This is being rolled out in 14 locations. LAQ or the WLS are the lead in several locations, with training and a process for contracting private lawyers for respondents. The service has been working successfully in Cairns for 18 months.

The 72 hour shelter for Townsville is in the planning stage. Consultation has already taken place. Thirty nine surveys showed a priority was for immediate safety.

Local rallies against DFV: Several participants expressed surprise at the speed with which initiatives such as local authorities being instructed to hold awareness rallies with a week's notice, are being rolled out. This has put pressure on frontline services who are expected to take part.

Audit of services: KPMG is performing a desktop audit of five DV and sexual assault services. This will be completed by the end of the year. The survey has been commissioned by the Premier and cabinet.

New services include those on the Cassowary Coast and the Tablelands, Redlands, Charters Towers and Hughenden,

The integrated response trials mentioned in Recommendation 74 of Not Now Not Ever, will include Logan/Beenleigh as the urban space. Others are under discussion.

FACC/IFS: These have been rolled out in several locations, with varying degrees of complications and negotiating around the provision of DV specialists. Some services have loaned a worker to FACC, and have provided training.

The FACC has highlighted the need for partnerships to be developed with good preparation. It was commented that the process has been a massive amount of work.

Men's behaviour change programmes: There have been changes in some regions to the providers of this service.

Redbourne: The change from Supportlink to Redbourne is advanced, with MOU's being drafted. There are concerns about the conditions in the partnership agreement, but we have been negotiating these with Redbourne administrators.

A Data gathering discussion began with the assertion that the department has never provided us with this facility. It was felt that a standardised tool would provide consistency and assist both government, researchers and our networks.

Amanda talked about her system (Chilli DB, which she has adapted) with drop down boxes. It collects all the data that Amanda wants, not just that required by DCCSDS. The question was posed - Do we want to gather useful data in a consistent way?

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. A discussion around appointments elicited comments that pressure means delays.

Resources: Amanda tabled a brochure that two staff created for people who speak Bhutanese Nepali. It can be downloaded from the Cairns website <http://www.dvcairns.org/>

Annabel from CDFVR reported that resources are being edited, with the production of a plain English (lower literacy) version.

An 'in principle' agreement was reached to invite new services to become members. It was commented that the services are no longer regarded as 'regional', but are specialist local services.

Jude Marshall
secretary