



# Newsletter

CRDVS Newsletter Issue

## From the Coordinator of CRDVS...

Welcome to our first newsletter. To set the scene I thought I'd tell you a little bit about us.

Although our service has only been incorporated since September 2000 we have been in existence since the early 1990s when we were auspiced by Lifeline. We have a volunteer management committee and eight staff members and are funded by the Queensland Department of Communities.

As well as providing direct client services such as counselling and crisis intervention within Cairns, the Cairns Regional Domestic Violence Service (CRDVS) has a role in providing community education and professional training, coordination of responses to domestic and family violence within the broader community and to develop professional networks to secure a collaborative approach to domestic and family violence service provision within the Far Northern Region of Queensland.

To carry this out staff network regularly through personal visits, telephone discussions and attendance at meetings and the CRDVS is currently Secretariat of the Queensland Domestic Violence Services Network. In addition, Management Committee members have been drawn from the community with expertise in legal and social aspects of domestic violence, such as a solicitor, members of Queensland Police Service, staff from the Family Court and Community Corrections, a teacher, an accountant and a medical practitioner.

I hope you find the newsletter interesting and informative and share it with many of your friends and colleagues.

Amanda Lee-Ross

## CRDVS Vision Statement

The Cairns Regional Domestic Violence Service aims to challenge the social structures that maintain domestic violence by coordinating a comprehensive service to all vulnerable clients by offering a client-centred support system to eliminate family violence in the community.

The aims of our service are to reduce the incidence of domestic violence in the Far Northern Region and ensure

the safety of victims of domestic violence, by increasing appropriate community responses to domestic violence and developing a culture of intolerance of domestic violence.

Specific objectives are to provide a comprehensive service to address domestic violence through community education, court support, coordination, training, referral and direct service delivery.

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**This free newsletter is a community service provided by CRDVS.**

**It is produced to inform and create awareness about issues of domestic and family violence**

**Find more information about CRDVS services on page 6**

## Domestic Violence Checklist

### TICK THE BOXES WHICH APPLY TO YOU

1. Is your partner jealous of your friends, family and even pets?
2. Do you discourage people from phoning you at home when your partner is there because they resent it and make your talking difficult or uncomfortable?
3. Does your partner use bodily or facial expressions, or noises to show extreme anger and loss of control, in order to frighten you?
4. Does your partner threaten to 'punish you' or 'teach you a lesson' if you do not comply with their demands?
5. Does your partner suggest that you are 'stupid' or 'crazy' if you disagree with them?
6. Does your partner apologise and say the abuse is simply a sign of deep love or fear of losing your love?
7. Does your partner claim to know the 'right' way to do things, and that you do not know what is 'right'?
8. Do you often feel like you are walking on egg shells?
9. Does your partner keep guns, knives or other weapons close at hand?
10. Do you at times feel overpowered by your partner's presence whether they are with you or not?

If you've ticked any of the above you may be experiencing one or more forms of domestic violence. If you're unsure what to do, you might like to have a confidential chat with one of the domestic violence workers at Cairns Regional Domestic Violence Service. Call 4040 6100 during business hours.

**In an emergency call *dvconnect* 1800 811 811 - 24 hours a day**

### Have you heard about... *dvconnect*?

***dvconnect* 1800 811 811 is the 24 hour statewide refuge referral agency for women and children needing to leave violence in the home.** *dvconnect* also counsels women who have not made the decision to leave but want some advice about options/resources available to them. Many women from remote areas of the state and the Torres Strait islands call us for assistance.

*dvconnect* also provides a **Mensline 1800 600 636** counselling service during the hours of 10am-6pm Monday-Friday for men who use violence or are victims of it.

Additionally, there is a 24 hour **agency telephone service** line accessible for agency workers who want to make an enquiry or get assistance for a client. The telephone number for this service line is available to workers directly from *dvconnect* or CRDVS.

***dvconnect***  
is the 24 hour statewide refuge  
referral agency for women and  
children needing to leave  
violence in the home

Diane Mangan, Manager of *dvconnect*

# Domestic Violence Fatality Review Petition

## Domestic Violence Fatality Reviews

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### The Domestic Violence Death Review Action Group

Tragically, domestic violence takes a significant toll in human lives each year in Queensland. In 1993, 19 adults and 9 children lost their lives as a result of domestic violence. Domestic homicides are not random acts and often follow a history of abuse and violence. Often many domestic homicides have predictive elements to them. Victims and/or perpetrators may have intersected with any number of agencies and systems prior to the homicide, with varying degrees of success.

The key to the prevention of domestic homicide is gaining a better understanding of patterns, prior indicators and gaps in current responses. Conducting fatality reviews is one way of gaining a better understanding of the nature and pattern of lethal domestic violence and abuse. A fatality review brings together representatives from various agencies: police, courts, coroner's office, community corrections, health, domestic violence services, shelters, perpetrator programs and child protection agencies and other professionals with relevant expertise.

This multi-disciplinary team conducts a detailed review of public records and other documentation regarding domestic violence related homicides in order to identify gaps in community responses to domestic violence and barriers to effective intervention. The purpose of the fatality review is not to assign blame but to create change. Information from fatality reviews combined with other sources of information ( research, crime data etc) allows for the identification of patterns in domestic violence fatalities. Conducting fatality reviews also enables the team to identify gaps in services and accountability structures and formulate recommendations for policies, services and resources to fill those gaps. While many overseas countries have had fatality review boards/committees operating for sometime, there is now a move from states across Australia to adopt a similar process.

In Queensland, the **Domestic Violence Death Review Action Group** has been established to lobby the Queensland Government to establish a comprehensive process for domestic violence death reviews.

The Domestic Violence Death Review Action Group is seeking the support of the community in our lobbying and advocacy endeavours. You can assist by signing either the petition which is to be presented to government in May or by individually lobbying the Premier and other members of parliament.

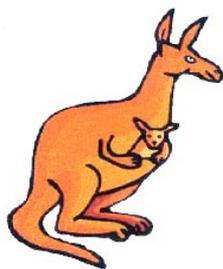
That domestic homicides occur is a shocking tragedy – that nothing changes is also a tragedy.

*The on-line petition to establish a death review board is now up and running. The petition will run until the end of Domestic Violence Prevention Month (May 2005).*

[http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/EPetitions\\_QLD/cgi-bin/Petitions.cgi](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/EPetitions_QLD/cgi-bin/Petitions.cgi)

### CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH SURVIVORS AND VICTIMS OF ABUSE

- Did you maximise the safety of the person experiencing abuse, and their children?
- Did you inform the person of their choices, their rights and responsibilities?
- Did you give a clear message that:
  1. violence is not acceptable?
  2. the victim is not to blame?
  3. the perpetrator is responsible for the violence?



**We all have the right to feel safe all of the time**

## The Reality of Domestic Violence

Domestic and family violence is widespread in communities and occurs across all groups in society regardless of social, economic, racial or cultural backgrounds <sup>1</sup>

Irrespective of religion, sexual orientation, educational or professional circumstances, domestic violence can affect anyone.

Researchers and service providers have found that economic and social factors can have a significant impact on how people respond to domestic and family violence incidents and what kind of help they seek. Families with ready access to financial resources may afford private help and are sometimes better able to hide

domestic violence, while families with fewer financial resources are more likely to receive assistance from government and non-government agencies. These agencies are often a source of statistics on domestic violence and consequently, families in poorer circumstances tend to be over represented in these figures.

**Busting the popular MYTH**  
that only a small percentage  
of our communities are  
affected by domestic and  
family violence

### Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum *MEN AND WOMEN - WORKING TOGETHER*

May 12 & 13 2005

Windmill Motel & Reception Centre  
Highway Plaza, North Mackay

Registration Fee:	Indigenous Government employee	\$150
	Non-Ind. Government employee	200
	Non Govt employee	70
	Individual contribution	50
	Students/concession card/unemployed	20

Seats are limited and preference will be given to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Contact : Annie Webster  
Old Centre for Domestic & Family Violence Research

Phone: 4940 7834

Fax: 4940 7839

Register online: [www.noviolence.com.au](http://www.noviolence.com.au)

**Myths carry harmful  
messages which  
contribute to a  
person's reluctance  
to seek help  
and may affect the  
responses they receive**

#### Reference:

<sup>1</sup>Report of the Qld Domestic Violence Task Force, 1988

## Community Education

Education plays an important role in bringing the 'hidden nature' of domestic violence out for open discussion in society.

Our community education programme aims to enhance greater community awareness of domestic violence issues and dispel myths that surround domestic violence. Through a range of brief interventions and in-depth training activities we convey messages to stimulate change in community attitudes.

CRDVS regularly facilitates free workshops and training sessions in Cairns and surrounding areas.

Available training and educational programmes include:

- Healthy Relationships
- Domestic Violence Legislation
- Domestic Violence and Children
- Domestic & Family Violence - Basic level training
- Reach Out— A workshop helping family and friends to assist women experiencing DV

We're happy to discuss other requirements. We do need plenty of notice though (a minimum of one month).

*Ring Gill at CRDVS for more information - 4040 6100*

### What's on?

## Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month

**D & FV prevention month is an opportunity for everyone to raise awareness about domestic and family violence in their community.**

**CRDVS has the following program of activities throughout May. Please contact us for details about any of these events.**

- Coming up...**
- DV Prevention Month : May 2005
  - Peace Week : 23—31st July 2005
  - Child Protection Week : 4—10 Sept 2005
  - Sexual Violence Awareness Month : October 2005

<u>Date 2005</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
4th May	Remembrance Day Ceremony 5pm—6.30pm	Mondo's Restaurant, Hilton Hotel, Cairns
6th May	D & FV Month Breakfast & Seminar (by invitation only)	Cairns
9th May	D & FV Information Stall 10am—4pm	Festival Faire Shopping Centre, Cairns
11th May	D & FV Prevention Workshop 9.45am—3.30pm	Douglas Shire Hall, Mossman
18th May	D & FV Information Stall 10am—4pm	Stocklands Shopping Centre, Cairns
20th May	CRDVS Open Day 2.30pm—4.30pm	CRDVS Office, Cairns
23rd May	D & FV Information Stall 10am—4pm	Westcourt Plaza, Cairns



# Cairns Regional Domestic Violence Service

## Services We Provide

**Cairns Regional Domestic Violence Service provides confidential and free services for family members suffering from domestic violence. There are many issues that you can discuss with our staff members such as:**

- Information about your rights and the rights of your children
- Steps that may help you to protect yourself from further domestic violence
- Information and assistance in making an application for a Domestic Violence Protection Order
- Support services that are available through our organisation, including Court support
- Counselling for you or your children to overcome the effects of domestic violence.

Our Domestic Violence Workers can also refer you to other support services for financial assistance, crisis accommodation, relationship counselling, legal advice on matters of family law, parenting education and many other issues.

One member of our team is a Child Counsellor, who can provide face to face counselling for children and young people aged 4 to 16 years who are affected by domestic violence.

We can also provide information about programs for perpetrators of domestic violence.

Our service regularly conducts and participates in workshops, seminars, conferences, lectures and training sessions in Cairns and surrounding areas. If you are not sure that we can help with your needs, then please telephone on (07) 4040 6100 and ask us.

### We're open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm



Phone: (07) 4040 6100



Email: office@dvcairns.org



Fax: (07) 4040 6111



CRDVS, PO Box 4601, Cairns 4870

### Visit us

1st Floor  
135 Abbott Street  
Cairns 4870



## Useful contacts

### Telephone Contact Numbers

**If you're in immediate danger call the POLICE on 000**

If you want to access safe accommodation (refuge for women and children who are in danger) or you need help and support dealing with a violent relationship you can call **dvconnect**, the Queensland 24hr domestic and family violence telephone service

1800 811 811

**Cairns Police**  
4030 7000

**Legal Aid Qld**  
1300 651 188

**Lifeline Telephone Counselling**  
131114

**Men's Information Line**  
1800 600 636

### Websites with information about domestic and family violence

[www.osw.dpmc.gov.au](http://www.osw.dpmc.gov.au)

[www.families.qld.gov.au/violenceprevention](http://www.families.qld.gov.au/violenceprevention)

[www.legalaid.qld.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.qld.gov.au)

[www.burstingthebubble.com](http://www.burstingthebubble.com)

[www.padv.dpmc.gov.au](http://www.padv.dpmc.gov.au)

[www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au](http://www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au)

## We're on the Web

[www.dvcairns.org](http://www.dvcairns.org)

Would you like to subscribe to receive forthcoming issues of the CRDVS newsletter?

Have you an interesting article you'd like to contribute to the next issue of this newsletter?

Please let us know by contacting Gill at CRDVS — Tel: (07) 4040 6100

Look out for the next issue  
in  
October 2005