



*Happy New Year*

**From the Family Violence Worker of  
CRDVS & Warringu ATSI Corp...**

# Newsletter

Issue No. 2 January 2006

Hi, my name is Bernice and I am an indigenous woman who has grown up here in Cairns. My family is well known locally and has lived here for many years. I am currently employed as the Family Violence Worker at Cairns Regional Domestic Violence Service (CRDVS) and Warringu Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation (Warringu ATSI Corp). My position is a joint role between the two organisations. I work at CRDVS on Mondays, and Wednesdays and Thursdays, and at Warringu on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Within my role as Family Violence Worker my duties include:

- \* Working with clients who are in a domestic violence situation.
- \* Assisting them to complete applications for Domestic Violence Protection Orders or Variations to current orders.
- \* Supporting aggrieved clients (victims) at the Domestic Violence Court on Thursdays.
- \* Referrals to other agencies if there are issues we cannot assist with.
- \* Advocating on the client's behalf if there are issues they do not understand.

Some of my other duties are responding to police faxbacks, giving support to clients, entering information onto the client database, entering non-identifiable data on a statistical database and writing monthly reports.

Clients are able to make appointments to see me at either organisation, whichever one they believe they would feel more comfortable at.

Warringu has undergone some dramatic changes and I would like my colleagues and clients to be able to visit me here and see what a warm and welcoming place it is. Warringu is located at 203-205 Mulgrave Road (Cnr Aumuller and Mulgrave) Cairns.

Please feel free to contact or come to see me if you or anyone you know is in a domestic or family violence situation and I will assist you to the best of my ability.

CRDVS Ph 4040 6100 Warringu ATSI Corp Ph 4051 1917

## Inside this issue:

From the Family Violence Worker at CRDVS & Warringu ATSI Corp	1
DVCAN Conference Report 2005	2
Responding to the Crime and Misconduct Commission Report <i>Policing Domestic Violence in Queensland</i>	3
The Realities of Domestic & Family Violence	4
CRDVS Calendar of Community Education 2006	4
Youth Corner	5
CRDVS Services We Provide	6
Useful Contacts	6

**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**

## DVCAN Conference Report 2005

# Order in the Court ! Workers In Support !



This year Domestic Violence Court Assistance Network (DVCAN) members were keen to hold their conference outside of the south east corner and Cairns was selected as the venue likely to attract a range of workers from rural areas, and particularly from the Cape. In fact people came from everywhere – from Cunnamulla, to Mornington Island, from the Gold Coast to the Torres Strait. Members of the Ministerial Advisory Council on Domestic and Family Violence were also there including Katrina Finn, (Chairperson), Shirley Slann, Rae Kelly, Aurora Foster, Senior Sgt. Ross Patching and Heather Nancarrow.

The Cairns Regional Domestic Violence Service agreed to host the conference and the staff must be congratulated for their hard work. The multi-talented coordinator Amanda, was constantly on the go, setting up the technology as well as opening and closing the conference.

Cairns put on its best for us with a lovely casual and relaxed environment, and this was very conducive to discussion, developing ideas and learning. The presentations by speakers and panels were excellent.

The panel of indigenous workers held the audience spellbound as they spoke passionately about the violence in the lives of the women and children they assist. The Indigenous and rural communities are still highly under resourced compared to other services in metropolitan areas. Shelters are being set up in communities that are not appropriately built because of lack of funding. They asked 'Why should rural and remote communities settle for second best?' Communities that do have shelters are not safe and this would not be acceptable in other communities. When shelters are funded, there needs to be adequate training made available to send a worker out to the community to train local staff and then move on to other communities.

They said that little came of the huge government and media focus on these communities in 2002 except for Alcohol Management Plans. However there were no detox or rehabilitation units to help people deal with the reduction in alcohol and this has caused a whole range of other problems. The indigenous speakers called for support from the broader community.

Another speaker advised that the Victorian Government has allocated \$5.2m to funding specialized domestic violence court pilots. Court Assistance Workers were very interested in the concept, in particular, the proposal of having specialized magistrates and police prosecutors specifically trained in domestic violence. The specialized courts would hear applications for Domestic Violence Orders and breaches, Crimes Compensation applications, some Child Support, some Family Law Act matters and some committal proceedings for indictable offences. As well as giving the Courts a more rounded knowledge of domestic violence, these pilot projects will be more supportive of victims of domestic violence and their children, whilst ensuring that women will be less likely to have to repeat their stories many times over to different court staff and service providers.

There were a range of important recommendations coming from the conference and the committee will refer these to the appropriate bodies in the coming months. With the permission of speakers, conference papers will be posted on the Women's Legal Service website [www.wlsq.org.au](http://www.wlsq.org.au)

**Thank you to Pam Godsell, Convener DVCAN, for contributing this article.**

## Responding to the CMC Report

In April this year the Crime and Misconduct Commission (CMC) released its long awaited report *Policing Domestic Violence in Queensland: Meeting the Challenge*. The report contained five recommendations as follows:

1. That the Queensland Police Service (QPS) develop policies and procedures that specifically direct officers responding to domestic violence incidents to investigate and collect evidence with a view to proceeding with criminal charges where sufficient evidence exists.
2. That the QPS implement a case management approach that incorporates strategies to address chronic repeat calls for service for domestic violence.
3. That the QPS undertake a comprehensive review to fully consider the merits of police-issued protection orders. The review should have particular regard to ensuring that legal mechanisms allowing a protection order to be contested, amended or revoked are in place.
4. That the QPS review the role and function of the State Domestic Violence Coordinator. The review should also consider the level of the position to ensure that the rank of the State Coordinator is commensurate with the position's responsibilities.
5. That the QPS review the role and function of Regional Domestic Violence Coordinators.

At a state wide meeting in June 2005, attended by 52 representatives from the Queensland Domestic Violence Service Network (QDVSN), Domestic Violence Court Assistance Network (DVCAN), Combined Women's Refuge Group Central (CWRG Central), Combined Women's Refuge Group SE Qld (CWRG SE Qld), and North Queensland Women's Services Network (NQWSN), the CMC Report was discussed and additional recommendations put forward to further improve the policing of domestic violence in Queensland.

### The Networks' Response

1. Support recommendation 1.
2. Support recommendation 2 with a case management model focusing on best practice including early intervention; identification of the barriers to women's safety; and an intersection with domestic violence services in providing case management.
3. Recommendation 3 (police-issued orders) was not supported unless there is legislative change within the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 1989* which directs police to use Predominant Aggressor methodology to identify victims and perpetrators.
4. Support recommendation 4 and 5. However, cultural and organisational behaviour changes need to take place within the QPS, and the expertise of domestic violence services should be used to inform the review process.
5. The report contains no reference to the concerns raised by women regarding the appropriateness (or lack of) interpreters. This includes women from non-English speaking backgrounds, the hearing impaired and indigenous languages.
6. The report does not address indigenous issues and there are no recommendations specific to indigenous communities.

### Amanda Lee-Ross, Coordinator, CRDVS and Secretary, QDVSN

The full CMC report *Policing Domestic Violence in Queensland: Meeting the Challenge* (CMC, March 2005) may be accessed via the CMC's website at [www.cmc.qld.gov.au/library/CMCWEBSITE/domestic\\_violence.pdf](http://www.cmc.qld.gov.au/library/CMCWEBSITE/domestic_violence.pdf)

A copy of the full networks' response is available by emailing Amanda Lee-Ross, [coordinator@dvcairns.org](mailto:coordinator@dvcairns.org) or telephoning (07) 4040 6100.

# The realities of Domestic & Family Violence



WHY SHOULD I LEAVE WITH MY KIDS, AND LET HIM STAY WHEN HE'S COMMITTED THE CRIME?  
I'M THE VICTIM, IT WOULD BE A LOT EASIER FOR HIM TO GO.

Source: SEND VIOLENCE PACKING — A Cartoon Storybook by Marta Ponti & Robyn Edwards,  
Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse, 2004

## CRDVS Calendar of Community Education 2006

Dates 2006	Times	Training	Location	Venue
28th February	10.30am-3pm	When Love Hurts Breaking the Intergenerational Cycle of Violence	Mossman	Mossman Community Centre
21st March	9am-5pm	Cross-Cultural Skills for Domestic Violence Workers	Cairns	To be confirmed
17th July	9am-5pm	Responding to Domestic & Family Violence	Cairns	To be confirmed
18th July	9am-5pm	Breaking the Intergenerational Cycle of Violence	Cairns	To be confirmed
6th October	10.30am-3pm	Responding to Domestic & Family Violence	Innisfail	To be confirmed

**Contact Gill at CRDVS about these training events  
email [commed@dvcairns.org](mailto:commed@dvcairns.org) or telephone 4040 6100**

# YOUTH CORNER

## WHICH PICTURE BEST DESCRIBES YOU IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP



### SIGNS OF AN UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIP

*When You Are With Your Partner  
Do You Ever Find Yourself Feeling?*

Pressured - Confused - Angry - Scared - Guilty

Uncomfortable - Nervous - Tense - Trapped

Humiliated - Upset - Feeling not good enough

Feeling bad about yourself - Controlled & restricted

Often the first indication that there is something wrong in the way you are being treated is how you feel. You feel like something isn't quite right. Listening to your feelings is important. Think about how you feel and behave when you are with your partner, if you are experiencing the following things regularly as a result of your relationship and you want things to change, help and support is available.

not sleeping properly - nausea - headaches - relying on alcohol or drugs - experiencing anxiety or depression - missing classes - wagging school - lower marks at school - not communicating with your parents or family - lying to friends & family because they might blame you somehow or stop you from going out - feeling like you can't trust people - losing touch with yourself and what is important to you, your own opinions, feelings - feeling isolated from friends & family - having less confidence in yourself - feeling alone - feeling afraid to tell anyone

Telephone Cairns Regional Domestic Violence Service 07 4040 6100

Telephone Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800



# 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



1st Floor

135 Abbott Street

Cairns 4870



## Useful contacts

### Telephone Contact Numbers

**If you're in immediate danger call the POLICE 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  
13 11 14**

**Controlled Aggression in the Home**  
A 12 week education course for men  
4050 4955

**dvconnect men's information line**  
1800 600 636

**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  
April 2006**

**Websites with information about domestic and family violence**

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

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

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

[www.ofw.facs.gov.au/](http://www.ofw.facs.gov.au/)

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