

**QDVSN MEETING ISSUES PAPER**  
**FOR DISTRIBUTION TO OTHER NETWORKS**  
**KEY ISSUES ARISING FROM QDVSN MEETING IN IPSWICH**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

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.

### **QDVSN Events**

Candle Lighting Ceremony – 5<sup>th</sup> May 2010. Most people reported a very good year this year with more attendance. Posters have been printed and Diane will send these out during the year to our services.

- *Action: Linda-Ann will take up a discussion electronically on whether QDVSN will carry out a state-wide activity for the 16 days of activism.*

### **Management Issues (Standing item)**

#### QDVSN Employment website

Gabrielle went to the Innovative Workforce Conference and there was an interesting talk about advertising jobs on other websites not on your own. She wondered if we should set up a QDVSN Employment website that we could upload jobs advertisements, management committee advertisements, career pathways etc. Amanda mentioned the Employment Office, based in Brisbane, that they had used recently to advertise the child counsellor position.

- *Action: Set aside agenda time at Emerald to discuss a project worker position to help progress some of these ideas.*

### **Family Law and Child Protection (standing item)**

Stephanie had emailed to the membership the IWSS submission to the ALRC and this was supported by QDVSN who decided to also endorse the WLS submission to the ALRC.

There was a discussion about a couple of cases where Legal Aid in Rockhampton had apparently given advice that women had to return to their homes with their children.

- *Action: Jen will feed back to WLA, Lorna Goldring, for them to investigate.*

Stephanie updated the group that IWSS is a member of the Multicultural Child Protection Working Group (MCPWG) which has developed a position paper in relation to child safety responses in CaLD communities. Stephanie will forward this on once it is completed.

Gabrielle mentioned that they were invited to a consultation for the child protection training for CSOs.

## **Portfolios, key networks, departments and stakeholders (standing item)**

Department of Communities – Angela Ridgall (Communications Services, Department of Communities) and Sue Coxon (Violence Prevention Team)

Rockhampton IR – Sue updated that the number of referrals from Nov 2009 to end of May 2010 was 391. Large proportion come from the police. These referrals are where clients have given consent to be referred. A lot of time is spent trying to contact those clients to engage them in the services available. Most clients are female aggrieved although they are saying they are getting a reasonable number of male perpetrators. Other parts of the service system are still coming on board ie. Intensive Case Management case workers. VPT working with CCT to develop and refine the risk assessment tools used. A common assessment tool has also been developed for use in the trial by case managers. Court support is fully operational. Evaluation is on-going and CDFVR will be conducting qualitative research on client experiences and outcomes of the trial.

- *Post meeting note: All Intensive Case Management workers are now on board.*

There is a current trial where child safety is able to gain information from court about DV orders when they have a child 'of interest'. Separate legislation was enacted for this information sharing. The information sharing trial took place during June 2010 in Rockhampton and Ipswich where child safety staff are being trained in the information sharing procedures and around issues of DV assisted by DV service providers. The involvement of community based service providers is considered a critical component of this training and an opportunity to encourage networking and relationship building between Child Safety and DV service providers with the aim of delivering better client outcomes.

Supplementary funding – Donna updated that this had also been raised with the Minister at the DVCAN conference and the Minister was not aware that 100% supplementary funding had not flowed on. Donna updated Sue that most services had only received about 60% of the supplementary funding they were offered. QDVSN had received a letter basically saying it was a 'done deal'.

OASIS – Sue advised that the enhancements have been tested with the OASIS team. Services will be able to use the online forms by July 28<sup>th</sup>.

Legislation Review – Gabrielle advised that QDVSN have put in a submission which contains a definition of DV and wondered if the VPT was putting in a submission. Sue stated that VPT is involved in providing input through the broader process but highlighted the importance of external submissions.

DFV Month – Sue and Angela. The *Act as One* campaign will run for next three years. QDVSN was able to feed back to Sue and Angela about the lack of resources and their late arrival. QDVSN also provided feedback about the importance of having a clear action message through the campaign. Angela also showed QDVSN the new posters for Elder Abuse that will be available for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on 15<sup>th</sup> June.

## WESNET

Stephanie has been approached to be the NESB representative (proxy/alternate) with Jane Brock for WESNET.

## **Working within the criminal justice system (standing item)**

WLS link-up – Katrina Finn

WLS have been working on DV legislation review submission, spending time reiterating problems with the systemic response to DV. Also mention risk management framework and how risk assessment

works within that framework. Spent time talking about the purpose and principles in the act and trying to ensure that additional thresholds (tests) are not put in that make it harder to get an order. WLS are suggesting that DV and FV need to be treated separately under the act and also sending a clear message that they want to see an exposure bill.

Family Law – have been working with commonwealth in relation to specialist mediation model for women experiencing DV. This is close to being rolled out as a pilot, for 18 months, in 4 or 5 locations in Australia and is based on a coordinated response model. Institute of Family Studies will evaluate it.

ALRC submission – recommending needs more consultation before the end of the road with this process.

QDVSN members are welcome to join WLS and access their website for resources and papers. WLS is going through a service organisational review at present.

## **Service Updates**

### DVConnect

High demand for flights out of remote communities and T&A costs. Jan to Mar quarter budgeted spending around \$50,000 on T&A and it was actually almost \$100,000. Formed partnership with Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre (prison). Doing group work with the prisoners and selected phone support with prisoners due for release. 100 prisoners held their own candle lighting. Also looking at how they can help DVConnect in terms of fundraising. DVConnect staff had another stall at the Homeless Connect day run by Brisbane City Council which is held for the homeless every six months. Two team leaders from DVConnect attended the NQWSN meeting in Cairns in March.

Been doing a trial, Support Links, with the police where between 9am and 5pm emails come through with referrals and DVConnect respond – like a faxback system.

### Emerald

Have two new part time staff. They held a big forum for International Women's Day and Dr Sally Coburn or 'Dr Feelgood' came. (Secretary's note – this is not the Dr Feelgood, 1970s British rock group of "...they've got me on milk and alcohol" fame ☺.) About 400 people attended. Candle lighting ceremony was well attended and attracted the media. Will have a day of activism with 'Airing dirty laundry' project which will take place in June, and travel round the local libraries. Funding from BMA for crisis house for 12 months. Developed good relationship with child safety and they have invited Sue to be a 'critical friend'.

### Mackay

Two new women's counsellors in place. Drawn up a set of case management documents. Moving into the women's centre in July 2010.

### Ipswich

Had a mini restructure involving administration. This seems to have worked really well. Thinking of trialing faxback with one police station. Got a great donation of \$10,000 from Zonta which will be used to update the service's website and some murals in the office. First CCR forum on 7<sup>th</sup> June.

### Toowoomba

Still looking at moving into a co-location with RA. New counsellor starting on 7<sup>th</sup> June. Doing training for GPs in rural areas. Have been approached by NAPCAN to assist with delivery of the *Love*

*Bites* training. Linked in with the *Toowoomba Says No to Violence* committee which has been a great help during D&FV Prevention Month.

### WAVSS

Sylvia has gone on three months leave. Few position changes recently including an administration restructure. Linda-Ann has been doing a lot of 'meets and greets' in her locale and community development in Beaudesert. Met with AG around setting up a Murri court and DV court. Doing a lot of work with IWSS.

### Caboolture

Holding a CCR planning day at the end of June to revive the CCR, facilitated by Betty Taylor. Finally have taken on an indigenous project worker for two days per week. Employing a project worker to produce resources for the service. High Risk Intervention project is on-going – this is a bit like a faxback but the worker actually sits with the police and the intervention is more 'intensive'. The worker also has greater opportunity to raise with the police issues around better practice. The downside of this is that it is hard to manage a worker who is off site, but the worker is now seeing clients 2 days a week at the service rather than at the police station. Have been invited to do some work at the Woodford Prison.

### Cairns

Currently recruiting for a new child counsellor and have had a good response to the marketing of the position which was carried out by the Employment Office, Brisbane. Embarked on two tax deductible fundraising campaigns. The first was the Great Wheelbarrow Race, a 150k race in the Tablelands. Robyn Campman, sister and aunt of a woman and child allegedly murdered by an ex-partner, has so far raised over \$5,000 for the service to share with the Tablelands Women's Centre. The other fundraising effort is that Amanda will be running the Gold Coast Airport Marathon on 4<sup>th</sup> July. Donation forms are available at [www.dvcairns.org/fundraising.html](http://www.dvcairns.org/fundraising.html) (click on the Gold Coast Marathon link). Currently hosting an indigenous cadetship which is going really well – she has completed her Cert III in community work and may be able to stay on and do a Cert IV in child protection.

### IWSS

Have produced translated resources in 15 languages. These will be officially launched later in June with a workshop. Hope to evaluate the resources in about 5 months to see how effective they have been, if they have been translated correctly or any unintended outcomes from them. Annabelle has formally resigned from her position as Director of IWSS after many years of dedicated service. Annabelle will continue to support the work of IWSS in different ways. QSAN, in response to KPMG review, have collaboratively funded a private consultant to assist with writing a response. This process included a full day face to face consultation with services in the Brisbane area, in-depth telephone interviews with regional NGOs in Qld, and face to face interviews with the five specialist services. Significant data has been provided for the development of a draft report. Once finalized, by the end of June, will use executive report to lobby with.

### Gold Coast

Will be supporting the ASU day of action on 10<sup>th</sup> June. Continuing with the two male offender programs, two nights per week. New product for 16 days of activism – trying to produce a program to use with mobile phones for young women. Updating website also. Signed an MOU with Gold Coast City Council around their response to DV in the workplace. Also made a commitment to the service regarding premises. The DVCAN Conference was a huge success.