

**QDVSN MEETING ISSUES PAPER**  
**FOR DISTRIBUTION TO OTHER NETWORKS**  
**KEY ISSUES ARISING FROM QDVSN MEETING ON**  
**26<sup>TH</sup> & 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2006 - WOODRIDGE**

Background information

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.

**Service Agreements/Enhancing existing services**

A letter was sent to Warren Pitt, VPT, DoC, Desley Murphy Community Funding, Linda Apelt and Desley Boyle regarding perpetrator service being funded at SACS 6. A discussion was held about the response letter from Mr Pitt. Ann had also spoken to the Service Delivery and Performance Commission about the funding anomalies. The commission has been established by the Premier to undertake reviews of various areas within the public sector.

- *Action: Donna, Diane Glen and Annabelle to work as a committee to develop strategies to address the wages and staffing issues. Needs to be an ongoing discussion about this.*

**DV Death Review Board update**

It has been a very active couple of months, with an article in the paper. It was suggested that DVDRAG should have a lobbyist. Other lobbying with politicians occurred before the election but poor response received. Southside DV Action group and other agencies contributed funds to getting a lobbyist. DVRC may auspice a one day a week position for six months with a resource budget. Planning day has developed a campaign strategy which is being finalised. Queensland Nurses Union and AMA have been supportive too. If anyone wants to give money for the project person please contact the action group first.

Townsville has some criminology students working in their service who are helping to develop resources for DVDRAG.

**Telephone link with Legal Aid – Fiona Fairbrother**

Feedback from services in relation to clients going to legal aid conferences and feeling that preferred suppliers pushing them into having a conference. Fiona raised this with Bernadette Kastan (conference section) – she will do some training with the preferred suppliers around this.

Tracey De Simone has done a report about Women and Legal Aid and is on Griffith University website. The recommendations have been given to the board and they are considering them at the moment.

Reviewing Best Practice Guidelines written in 2000 about DV to make sure they are in line with the Family Law changes. Hoping to be completed by the end of November.

Went to Family Law residential in August and there will be new form to alert the court to D&FV. Clients are required to fill in this 'Form 4' if they are alleging abuse and client also has to complete an affidavit with it. The purpose is to flag to the court that there are abuse concerns with the family and under the amendments they should be brought before a judge earlier – within eight weeks. Clients should ask their solicitor if they are going to complete a Form 4.

Fionna has not had a chance to see if the amendments have made a difference to DVPOs being made contested/uncontested. LA is waiting to get a response from the Magistrates on this.

### **VPT – Jess Wilson**

DV Month – Funding round opens 26<sup>th</sup> October 2006, closes 18<sup>th</sup> December 2006. It will be the same theme as this year. Seeking approval to continue the advertisements and to run during the Christmas period. Jess asked for feedback about the resources that were most useful last year. Poster competition results are on the website. Hoping to use one of them to produce postcards to be distributed.

TIS – Department is still looking at a long term strategy. Keep using interpreting services and send bills to Karen Copeland, DoC, to get funding back. QDVSN suggested that the department should write to all services to let them know the short term strategy.

#### *Post-meeting update from Jess:*

*In relation to the issue of TIS above, the interim process for services is the same as outlined in the letter sent to QDVSN, by the Minister for Communities on 10 August 2006. The process is for agencies to write to Karen Copeland about their use of TIS and for the letter to include information about the previous 12 months use of TIS and any invoices. This enables the department to calculate the current cost to the agency for using translating and interpreting services so funding can be allocated.*

Performance Measures – QDVSN fed back to Jess the issues around the new Periodic Performance Report and the variations that are happening across the regions. Jess reiterated that the reports are still draft and feedback is important. There was also a long discussion about viability of services due to funding issues and the problems with staff recruitment and retention.

- *Action: Amanda to add Karen Copeland to the QDVSN Issues Paper email list.*
- *Action: QDVSN will send in written submission re periodic reporting and send to Karen Copeland. Ann to action.*

Perpetrator Practice Standards – been redeveloped. A consultation draft will be going out in the next month or so. Doug Winten will request feedback from QDVSN, CWRG and DVCAN.

Amendments to Family Law Act – continuing to work with other states to monitor impact of the changes. Interested in referral process from Family Relationship Advice Line – had about 28,000 to 29,000 calls to the advice line, 5,000 identified as Queensland calls. 200 callers identified issues of violence and abuse. However there is an issue with the question actually being asked. Major concern of Jess's was that only 10 of the 200 were referred to DV services.

Seniors Legal Service Funding – \$1.9 million allocated to five pilot projects for seniors legal and advocacy services in Brisbane, Toowoomba, Townsville, Cairns and Hervey Bay. They will focus on elder abuse and financial exploitation.

### **Update from QCOSS Peaks meeting**

There are many preliminary meetings happening to try and bring all the peaks together to make the sector more viable and to have greater influence in policy-making. Meeting will try to develop a charter for our sector. Four people from each peak would be required to go to a future meeting to help develop the charter. There is also a costing/pricing workshop.

### **Internships with colleagues in Gulf/Cape York region**

A range of women on different communities have been keen to spend time with services in the South and women from the South would like to spend time with services in the North. Donna would like to talk about this more at our next planning day and how this might be incorporated.

### **QDVSN DV Month posters**

Rikki wondered if we were using the same poster for DV Month in 2007. Those who had posters over could share with those that have run out. It was suggested that the service should be a little later next year, such as lighting the candle at 6pm.

### **Periodic Performance Reports**

A discussion was held about the performance reports and what services had been asked to report back on. Some services have to report back on all four forms, others have had their statistics amalgamated onto the one form Type A for regional DV services. Inconsistency across the regions.

- *Action: Ann to pull together a submission for feedback to the VPT. QDVSN members to give their written feedback to Ann.*

### **Management issues**

During discussion it was noted that services may need a Public Officer registered with the ATO. There has also been some shifting of terms around PBI/Gift funds and salary sacrificing. Annual ATO compliance audits may be the way to go. Christine Kwasny of Kwasny Communications; can be contacted at [Kwasny@bigpond.net.au](mailto:Kwasny@bigpond.net.au).

Another consultant is Elizabeth Jameson of Board Matters. She can be contacted at [e.jameson@boardmatters.com.au](mailto:e.jameson@boardmatters.com.au). Elizabeth specializes in unpacking governance and its responsibilities and also is very helpful around choice of management structures – for example whether you are best situated as a company limited by guarantee or a not for profit organization.

A good website is [www.ourcommunity.com](http://www.ourcommunity.com) which has great material on it, especially around HR and risk management. Chris mentioned there are some good books on governance and one called *The Book of the Board* by David Fishel is useful.

### **Service updates**

#### *Townsville*

Staff being poached by departments with higher pay scales.

#### *Roma*

Doing a lot of early intervention work – USQ student comes to do puppet work at the schools for grades 3 and 4. Roma girl won the art competition run by the department for school pupils.

### *Mackay*

Amalgamation still ongoing, co-location probably next year. Been doing some education for police in the area.

### *Ipswich*

Trialing faxback and received federal funding for a worker for the trial. Currently evaluating the trial.

### *IWSS*

IWSS forum coming up – 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> November. Funding from Brisbane City Council to work with Central and West African women to link with mainstream services and back into the community.

### *DVConnect*

Men's Line – Court support in five Brisbane courts now, including women's court support in Wynnum. Applied to have Men's Line hours extended and use the line as a phone court support service too.

### *Caboolture*

Launched Integrated Response. Extension of faxback for kids into integrated response which includes faxback for respondents. Helped relationship building with the police.

### *CDFVR*

Accreditation received for the D&FV course. Finished enmeshment research and that will come out soon. OFW has funds available for research on D&FV and sexual assault. Looking at the criteria for the research grants to form a project. Heather will send an email around about their plan.

### *Cairns*

Did not win the perpetrator funding – went to Relationships Australia. Premises rental has increased by \$12,500 (35%) this year so seeking additional funding from department. Also, the building has been sold and will have to move by September 2008. This will be the second move within six years.

### *Gold Coast*

Been doing projects with sexual assault service and made a 'credit card' that sells the sexual assault message and contains both service's numbers. Also resourced wristbands. Men in men's group are high risk, high end offenders and should be serving 7 year jail terms. Risk is a big issue around the men's groups. Project SAFER report will come out soon.

### *WAVSS*

Nominated for a Ministerial award for the Logan Integrated Network Combining Strengths (LINCS) Project.

### *BDVAS*

Extended Support Project funded. Process took a long time just to get the money. Employed project worker for this, two days per week. Will spend time connecting with agencies who can help provide support to women staying in motels. Will be externally evaluated. DVRC is exploring possibility of paying their advocate, who also happens to be a solicitor, to do some legal work.

### *Toowoomba*

Received funding from Gambling Benefit Fund for project to work with the Sudanese community. Will make a DVD about DV information and TAFE will embed DV information in their English Language Course for all cultures.