



No To Violence: 2012 Australasian Conference on Responses to Men's Domestic and Family Violence *Experience, Innovation and Emerging Directions*

Location: St Kilda Town Hall Complex
Melbourne, November 14 – 16, 2012

Conference organiser: [No To Violence](#) Male Family Violence Prevention Association.

Your Invitation

No To Violence (NTV) invites practitioners, program providers, policy workers, academics and other interested individuals and agencies to a conference about working with men who use domestic and family violence, and supporting those (primarily women and children) affected by their violence.

The focus

The conference will focus on a range of challenges, emerging practice trends and innovations that support the continual evolution and strengthening of men's behaviour change and domestic and family violence offender programs. These might include, among others:

- strengthening linkages between courts, Corrective Services and programs provided by community-based agencies,
- what domestic and family violence offender programs run by Corrective Services and men's behaviour change programs provided by community-based agencies can learn from each other, both in theory and practice,
- what sexual assault offender and domestic and family violence offender programs can learn from each other,
- innovations in women's partner support work, and the multiple pathways through which men's programs can enhance safety and centralise women's and children's human rights,
- listening and responding to the voices and needs of children, including through child contact work and parenting after violence programs,
- creative approaches towards addressing men's use of intimate partner sexual violence,
- incorporating strengths-based approaches without watering down a gendered perspective of domestic and family violence,
- strategies to enhance men's readiness to change,
- the role of men's programs in multi-agency risk management processes,
- enhancing access for men from CALD communities into men's behaviour change work,
- evolving work by indigenous communities to address men's use of family violence,

- moving away from the 'one size fits all' approach to tailor programs to individual risk and needs, including emerging practices in case planning and case management, and the role of individual sessions to compliment group work,
- recent developments in addressing boys' and young men's use of violence against an intimate other or family member,
- emerging work in addressing violence in gay, bisexual, transgender and queer relationships, and
- addressing men's hegemonic masculinities and striving towards secondary desistance.

The bigger picture

While the main focus will be domestic and family violence, this will be contextualised within broader struggles to reduce men's violence against women and their children, and to transform gendered structural power relations within our societies. The conference will also welcome presentations and discussion on violence used by men against other men in intimate or family relationships, such as by gay or bisexual men, and adolescent males.

Conference structure

While the conference will include plenaries, the emphasis will be on exploratory, collaborative discussions and facilitated workshops rather than keynote speeches. There will also be significant opportunities for informal networking.

The conference will have an engaging feel that celebrates innovative (and safe) practice. We are committed to making this an event that engages the heart as well as the head. We also intend to take thorough notes and to record some sessions, to contribute towards the development of a set of practice development resources focusing on particular themes or issues involved in strengthening and evolving the work.

Your participation

We also invite you to think of innovative, emerging or complex themes or practice issues you might like to facilitate a conference workshop or discussion about. You do not need to be an expert on the topic (it need only fit the broad principles and context of the conference) and your role could be to facilitate the input of others as much as to present your own experiences, expertise, ideas and research. Information on how to submit a proposal to facilitate a workshop will also be available later in the summer.

Reflection, review, conversation

There appears to be an air of reflection and review in men's behaviour change and domestic and family violence offender work – not only in some parts of Australia, but also internationally. There has even been some talk that we are moving towards a 'second generation' of programs with men.

This conference will be an important opportunity for policy makers, judicial workers and other stakeholders to understand the realities and complexities of this work. Furthermore, we hope that the conference will produce fruitful, passionate and exploratory conversations about where the work might be heading in the years to come, and by doing so help to inspire our practice and policy work in the present.

More information

More information about cost, venue, conference structure and registration will be available from early February on the [NTV website](#). In the meantime, if you would like more information, [email](#) Rodney Vlasis, NTV Policy and Practice Co-ordinator, or phone on +61 (0)3 9428 3536.
