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MouthPeace – The Men's Referral Service newsletter

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**No To Violence
Male Family Violence
Prevention Association (NTV) Inc.**
Ph 03 9428 3536
www.ntv.org.au

Incorporating the
Men's Referral Service
Ph 03 9428 2899
1800 065 973
www.mrs.org.au

2011 Annual General Meeting

NTV / MRS elects a new Management Committee and Officer Bearers

No To Violence Male Family Violence Prevention Association and the Men's Referral Service held concurrent Annual General Meetings on Thursday November 24, at Hektor Woodley's restaurant in Abbotsford.

Outgoing Chairperson, Marg D'Arcy, welcomed members and guests, and paid tribute to the recent efforts of members of the Management Committee and staff, and in particular to Peter Londesborough who passed away suddenly only a few weeks ago.

The annual report and audited financial statements were approved by the attending members.

In accordance with the NTV and MRS constitutions, Management Committee members are elected to office for a term of two years. Management Committee members co-opted at a time outside of an AGM must re-nominate at the next AGM.

Of all current Management Committee members, only Deputy Chair Cathie

Nederveen did not require renomination at this time. Nine nominations were received for the eight available positions, and, in accordance with the constitutions, a secret ballot was held to elect the new members.

The new team

Here is the new NTV Management Committee for 2011/2012:

- **Maxwell Clarke**; is a social worker, member of the first ever Men's Referral Service Telephone Counsellors group, and is currently a MRS Supervisor, with substantial experience as a sexual assault worker. He recently retired from South East Centre Against Sexual Assault,
- **Annette Gillespie**; has twenty years' experience in family violence prevention in New Zealand, including ten years as CEO of the largest women's refuge there, and is currently General Manager of Operations at the Family Mediation Centre in Moorabbin,

... continued on page 2

16 Actions, 16 Days campaign welcomed It's been awesome

The November-December pilot of the 16 Actions, 16 Days campaign encouraging men to take daily action has been welcomed as a practical breath of fresh air.

NTV launched the campaign to highlight what everyday men can do to be part of the international 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence campaign. Commencing on November 25th, White Ribbon Day (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women), men were set one action per day across the campaign which ended on International Human Rights Day, December 10.

Spreading the invitation to act

16 Actions, 16 Days involved four stages: **Learn** (about violence against women); **Talk** (about violence against women); **Do** (something about violence against women); and, **Think** (about violence against women and the part we all play).

We've been lucky enough to have e-mails and phone calls over the 16 Days, such as this one: "I sent the link to 10 men I know –

some very switched on regarding family violence and some not so much. I challenged them all to take part and all 10 agreed. So far I have had email after email after email asking me questions..., comments and general discussion about the issues of violence against women. It's been awesome! Sometimes it's hard to find opportunities to discuss the issue without sounding like a broken record, and this has been a perfect vehicle for education without seeming like a condescending do-gooder."

2012 plan

NTV is eager to build on the campaign next year, especially for subsequent 16 Days campaigns, so we welcome and appreciate your feedback. Let us know how we can do better in 2012 to reach, engage and challenge everyday men to take everyday action; email Daniel Witthaus, NTV Capacity Building Project Manager, danielw@ntv.net.au. If you missed out on the 16 Actions, 16 Days Campaign, you can still read about it (and why not take it up?) on the NTV website at <http://ntv.org.au> •

NTV Notes

2011 AGM report

NTV / MRS elects a new Management Committee and Officer Bearers

- **Margaret Hodge**; has been a member of the NTV/MRS Management Committee for over six years, a qualified Men's Behaviour Change Program co-facilitator for many years and a Men's Referral Service Supervisor. Margaret manages a team of family services workers at Connections in Croydon,

- **Robyn McIvor**; is a social worker with 27 years' experience in family violence work, and a qualified Men's Behaviour Change Program co-facilitator. Robyn is the current Manager of the Relationships Australia (Victoria) Sunshine office,

- **James McCarthy**; is a volunteer Men's Referral Service Telephone Counsellor, and a team leader of adolescent case management services with Anglicare. James is the current Chairperson of Community West Inc.,

- **Debora McInnes**; is a communications and events professional and recently was awarded a Masters in Business Administration,

- **Cathie Nederveen**; has worked in the family services sector for nearly fifteen years including roles in management, counselling, women's family violence group facilitation, and policy and practice leadership. Cathie was the Deputy Chair of the previous Management Committee,

- **Christine Storm**; has over thirty years experience working in the community

sector, including family violence prevention and is a qualified Men's Behaviour Change Program co-facilitator and trainer,



- **Alan Thorpe**; a proud Gunai man, involved in male family violence prevention activities, particularly within Aboriginal communities, for more than ten years, including membership of the Victorian Indigenous Family Violence Task Force, Alan continues to work with the Ngwala Willumbong Co-operative as an alcohol and other drugs worker, and also for Dardi Munwurro running men's workshops. Alan is a qualified Men's Behaviour Change Program co-facilitator and is currently

... continued from page 1

facilitating innovative Aboriginal Men's Family Violence programs in three locations across Victoria, as well as being a panel member of the Marngrook Aboriginal football television program.

Office Bearers

The Chair congratulated the newly elected members and thanked Mike Wilson for his contribution to the Management Committee and the organisation.

The Management Committee met in early December and elected the following office bearers:

- **Chair**; Cathie Nederveen,
- **Deputy Chair**; James McCarthy,
- **Treasurer**; Max Clarke, and
- **Public Officer**; Chris Storm.

Cathie Nederveen welcomed the new team and thanked Marg D'Arcy for her long association with the organisations and her recent efforts as Chair, as well as Mike Wilson and Brian for their contributions and holding office-bearing positions with the Management Committees of 2010 and 2011. NTV and the MRS look forward to continuing the recent governance and strategic directions work undertaken by the previous Management Committee, and a successful 2012.

Danny Bly
NTV Executive Officer •

NTV 2012 Conference takes shape

Planning for the ground breaking Australasian conference is well underway with interest growing rapidly

The *No To Violence: 2012 Australasian Conference on Responses to Men's Domestic and Family Violence: Experience, Innovation and Emerging Directions* will be held at the St Kilda Town Hall in November (14 - 16).

"We're inviting practitioners, program providers, policy workers, academics and other interested individuals and agencies," says Rodney Vlasis NTV's Policy and Practice Co-ordinator. The conference focus is working with men who use domestic and family violence, and supporting those (primarily women and children) affected by their violence."

Workshops program

Workshop proposals that fit the themes and parameters of the conference will be warmly encouraged from policy makers, researchers, advocates, practitioners and other community sector and government workers from throughout Australia and Aotearoa/NZ. These workshops will form the major part of the conference.

"It is not essential to be an expert to run a workshop," says Rodney. "We welcome proposals from participants who seek to facilitate an engaged discussion on something that they are interested in, passionate, curious or concerned about. Workshops that create a space for participatory processes to reflect and explore an issue in depth will be just as important as those involving a PowerPoint or other form of presentation."

Workshop proposals need to focus on practice, policy, coordination, management, governance, evaluation or research related to:

- working with men who perpetrate domestic or family violence,
- supporting the safety and human rights of women through partner support/contact work associated with programs and services engaging men,
- enhancing the voices and needs of children in programs and services that work with men,

- engaging communities, and individuals within these communities, who by virtue of their marginalisation and lack of privilege face additional barriers and complexities in addressing the use of domestic and family violence, and / or
- strengthening collaborative partnerships to enhance coordinated and integrated approaches to engaging men who use violence.

As the conference title suggests, a key focus will be on innovative practice and policy developments, given how much the work is expanding and evolving. If you're thinking about submitting a workshop proposal it is essential that you read the background information which, along with registration details, will be on the NTV website (<http://www.ntv.org.au>) from early February. Please contact Rodney Vlasis via email (rodney@ntv.net.au) or phone (03) 9428 3536 for more information.

Preliminary detail is now available on the NTV website. •

MouthPeace

The Men's Referral Service new letter

2011 Graduation

Hard work and dedication rewarded

It was another balmy November evening when, as is MRS/NTV tradition, more than 60 people gathered for the annual No To Violence / Men's Referral Service / Swinburne University of Technology graduation event. This is a special celebration for NTV and MRS staff, trainers, members, and volunteers to honour their colleagues in Victoria's men's behaviour change sector.

Unique qualification

Martin De Graaf, Head of Social Sciences Industry Partnerships and Development at Swinburne University congratulated recipients of the Graduate Certificate in Social Science (Male Family Violence). He also reminded the audience of the unique nature of the qualification and of the impact the deeply challenging work has, both on the graduates and their families.

NTV Chair Marg D'Arcy also thanked and congratulated the graduates and other volunteers for choosing to do work that can make a difference in our community. She also reflected on the nature of the work across her many years in the sector.



2011 Telephone Counsellor graduates with MRS Co-ordinator Mary Karambilas. From left; Zac M, Mary, Tristan J, Alex D, Paul B, Terry M, Don M, Guy P and Mike E

NTV Executive Officer Danny Blay especially thanked the Men's Referral Service Telephone Counsellors and their families for their commitment and support. He paid tribute to all MRS staff and in particular, the late Peter Londesborough.

The graduates

16 Men's Behaviour Change Program facilitators were presented with the Graduate Certificate in Social Science (Male Family Violence), along with nine Telephone Counsellors who

proudly received their testamurs. We congratulated all recipients for their dedication, time spent, level of expert service and commitment to this challenging and emotionally affecting field of work.

The Men's Referral Service Telephone Counsellors who graduated included Alex D, Don M, Guy P, Paul B, Tristan J, Terry M, Mike E, Roy C and Zac M.

A special thanks to MRS Team Leader Tony Kelleher, Swinburne Trainer and Assessor Denise Roberts and our Administration Officer Joel Follan for their combined efforts to help the Telephone Counsellors complete the course.

Moreover, we acknowledge the work and skills of the Men's Referral Service Supervisors who provide support and guidance to trainees and all Telephone Counsellors. •

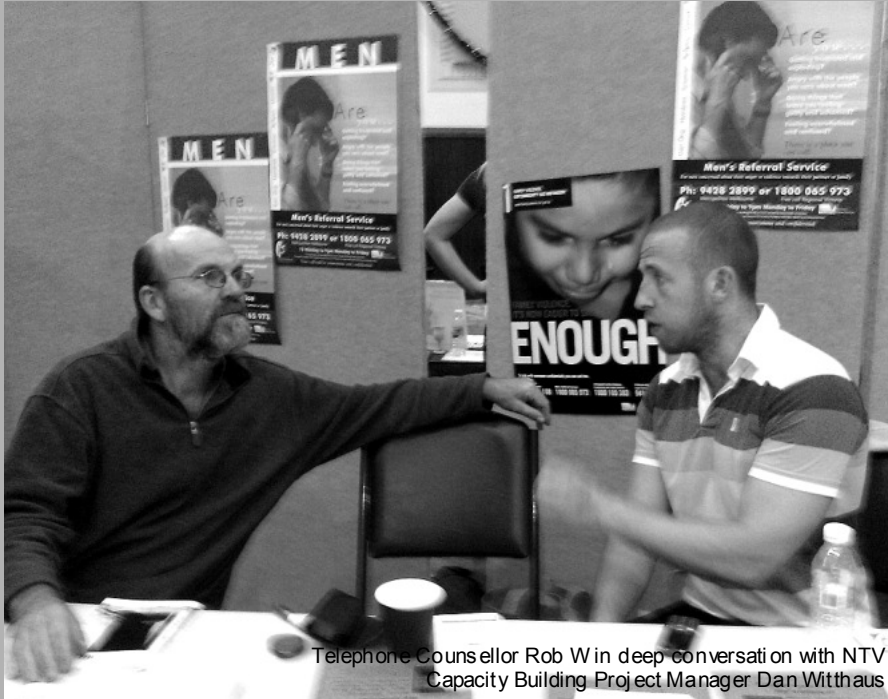


2011 Grad. Cert. recipients with Swinburne University's Denise Roberts. From left: Martin G, Peter O, Denise, Jacqui F, Steve H, David B and Mike E



Bang the drum!

The MRS takes part in a men's health expo in the eastern suburbs



Telephone Counsellor Rob W in deep conversation with NTV Capacity Building Project Manager Dan Witthaus

In November, the Whitehorse Council Men's Health Expo was the place to be when we set up a Men's Referral Service stall at the Box Hill Town Hall.

Many men of various ages and stages in life, – as well as women – stopped by for a chat about family violence prevention, telephone counselling and men's emotional health.

The stall was staffed by Dan Witthaus, Rob Walker, Mary Karambilas and Chris Grace.

If you are an NTV member, or Telephone Counsellor interested in community and social action activities please contact me.

Mary Karambilas
MRS Co-ordinator
email: mary@ntv.net.au
ph: 9428 2536 •



NTV Life member and MRS Supervisor Chris Grace with Whitehorse colleague and MBCG Facilitator

In the phone room

A busy November

During November, the MRS responded to 239 calls, 155 of those calls were from men. 51 were from agencies and 33 from women.

The MRS answered 88% of calls during business hours. This is a terrific effort from all during a busy month!

Farewell Rainer

Farewell to Rainer B who began with the MRS in 1998. Rainer has taken up to 620 calls during his many years service!

"I would like to thank all the MRS staff and fellow counsellors I have had dealings with over the last 10 odd years for their generosity and support," said Rainer. "My leaving of the MRS and NTV does in no way diminish my commitment to stopping any form of violence in the community, not just family violence, in any way I can. I wish everybody connected with the service all the very best for the future."

Thanks for the tremendous work and support Rainer, we wish you well.

Mary Karambilas •

Farewell Fred

We also farewell MRS Supervisor Fred W. A social worker, Fred first joined MRS as a telephone counselling trainee in 1999 and was a regular Telephone Counsellor for several years before retiring because of work commitments. He also spent some time as a co-facilitator of behaviour change groups.

We were very happy to welcome Dr Fred back to MRS in 2008 this time as a Supervisor - during his time away from us he completed a PhD.

As all who know him will agree, Fred brings a thoughtful and professional approach to whatever he does; his touch is light and his manner always friendly.

It's been a real pleasure having Fred on our team. We wish him well in the new job which takes him away from us.

Hilary Ash MRS Supervisor •



For information about
The Men's Referral Service,
please contact:
Mary Karambilas,
The Men's Referral Service
Co-ordinator
(03) 9428 3536
mary@ntv.net.au

NTV Notes

Safe at home, safe at work

Australian family violence and the workplace website launched

A new website has been launched by the federally funded Safe at Home, Safe at Work project to promote the introduction of domestic violence clauses in workplace agreements and other industrial instruments. It offer information and resources for:

- workers experiencing domestic violence: what you need to know,
- unions looking to negotiate domestic violence clauses: tips to negotiating domestic violence clauses, key facts, messages to members
- employers looking for information about domestic violence in the workplace and what to do about it: facts, definitions, how to plan policies and safety measures, and
- anyone interested in learning more about why domestic violence is a workplace issue.

Resources online

The website brings together a collection of resources developed as part of the *Domestic Violence Workplace Rights and Entitlements (DVWR&E)* project including:

- training for implementing clauses and support,
- research (the domestic violence and work survey), and
- law reform (submission on domestic violence and Commonwealth employment law and soon, domestic violence as a ground of discrimination).

Australia is leading the world in recognising domestic violence as an issue which can potentially impact on workers and workplaces, with approximately 300,000 Australian employees now covered by domestic violence clauses in their agreement or award conditions.

DVWR&E explained

This DVWR project is funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations to address the impact of domestic violence in the workplace and promote domestic violence entitlements through enterprise bargaining. It started in July 2010.

Working nationally with employers and unions partners, the Project has been successful in raising Australian awareness of the connection between domestic violence and the workplace and promoting the introduction of domestic violence entitlements in industrial awards and agreements. An overview of the Project's activities and achievements can be found here:

Check out the website:
www.dvandwork.unsw.edu.au •

Domestic and family violence can put jobs at risk, affecting performance and safety at work.

Domestic violence entitlements can protect all workers.

We want our members safe at home and safe at work so come and talk with us.

Safe at Home • Safe at Work

Ged Kearney
ACTU President

The DVWR&E project's *Come Talk With Us* poster features ACTU President Ged Kearney

'Pornify' the classroom

A lesson in objectification for Year Eights

Collective Shout supporter Amy Fletcher notified the movement about a pencil case her teacher boyfriend came across in his classroom. City Beach is now selling sexism to 12 to 13 year olds by flogging porn-inspired pencil cases to kids: keep your pens together – and promote sexism! – for only \$19.99.

While City Beach has a long history as a misogynist corporate offender – which is why they feature on Collective Shout's *Cross 'Em off your Xmas list* blacklist of corporate sexist offenders – even they were surprised that the store has now stooped to this. Says Collective Shout, imagine what would happen if a teacher downloaded or decorated his office wall with the same images. But hypersexualised images on student's school items are apparently exempt.

These images are a form of sexual harassment for schoolgirls and re-enforce a message they receive daily from media, advertising and popular culture that they are merely objects for male gratification and pleasure. They are also harassing to female teachers.

Go to <http://tiny.cc/8r56d> to find out how to object to City Beach sales. •

Switch to combat mode

Brain change in children exposed to family violence

Children exposed to family violence show the same pattern of activity in their brains as soldiers exposed to combat. In a study reported in the journal *Current Biology*, researchers used brain scans to explore the impact of physical abuse or domestic violence on children's emotional development and found that exposure to it was linked to increased activity in two brain areas when children were shown pictures of angry faces.

Previous studies that scanned the brains of soldiers exposed to violent combat situations showed the same pattern of heightened activity in these two brain areas – the anterior insula and the amygdala – which experts say are associated with detecting potential threats.

This suggests that both maltreated children and soldiers may have adapted to become "hyper-aware" of danger in their environment, the researchers said.

"Enhanced reactivity to a...threat cue such as anger may represent an adaptive response for these children in the short term, helping keep them out of danger," said Eamon McCrory of Britain's University College London, who led the study.

Read the full report from Reuters via <http://tiny.cc/6ydm7> •

Hostile sexism normalised?

Sex offenders and 'lads' mags language study

Far from being harmless or ironic fun, magazines that target young men could be legitimising hostile sexist attitudes, according to new research reported by a University of Surrey in the UK.

Psychologists from Middlesex University and the University of Surrey found that when presented with descriptions of women taken from 'lads' mags, and

comments about women made by convicted rapists, most people who took part in the study could not distinguish the source of the quotes.

Worrying language identification

The research also revealed that most men who took part in the study identified themselves more with the language expressed by the convicted rapists. In the study, psychologists presented

men between the ages of 18 and 46 with a range of statements taken from magazines and from convicted rapists, and gave the men different information about the source of the quotes.

Sourcing difficult

The researchers also asked a separate group of women and men aged between 19 and 30 to rank the quotes on how derogatory they were, and to try to identify the source of the quotes. Men and women rated the quotes from lads' mags as somewhat more derogatory, and could categorize the quotes by source little better than chance.

Normalising hostile sexism

Researchers, Dr Miranda Horvath and Dr Peter Hegarty, argue that the findings are consistent with the possibility that these magazines normalise hostile sexism, by making it seem more acceptable when its source is a popular magazine.

The research is due to be published in the British Journal of Psychology.

Read the full story from the Surry University via <http://tiny.cc/11d9d> •

Family violence and The Slap

Moira Rayner comment in Eureka Street

As anyone who has read Christos Tsiolkos' novel *The Slap* (or watched the serialisation on ABC television) would know, violence is intimately connected with power, ego, frustration and sex, and isn't easily abhorred, or even seen for what it is. Earlier this week the chief justice of Western Australia, a contemporary of mine at law school and a champion of White

Ribbon Day (as of many progressive and small 'l' liberal causes, bless) bemoaned as the major obstacle to eliminating domestic violence, women's reluctance to report it.

There is always, he said, a personal risk for any woman who protests, outside the inner family network, about being slapped, humiliated, micro-controlled or beaten up. The family power grid usually grills the protestor, the traitor, the persecutor, and

further relationships fracture...

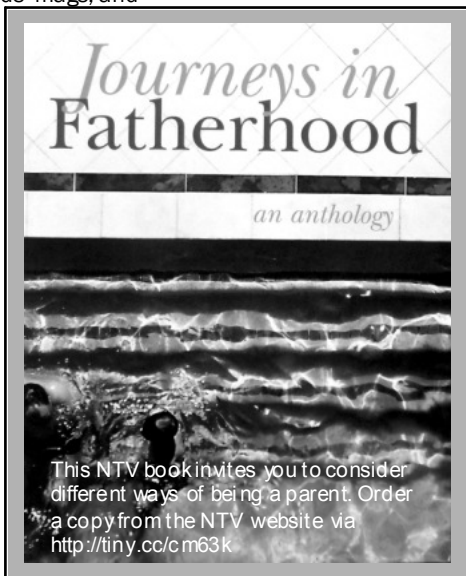
Preoccupied story tellers

The Slap is a rather nasty, long and lascivious book, whose eight major characters – who drive the story in chapters of their own – are mostly self-focused, unempathetic and shallow. They reveal little or no insight into the childishness of their own supposedly mature attitudes and choices, yet seem to have focused their adult identities on children.

No interest in Hugo

Far from addressing the issue of whether or not it is ever right for an adult to strike an obnoxious and disruptive toddler, the characters are by and large tellers of their own stories and preoccupations. The novelist and his characters are not in the least interested in the experience, feelings, confusion and furious humiliation of the three-year-old slap-ee, Hugo, with his entirely inappropriate sense of entitlement...

Read Moira Rayner's full commentary on the Eureka Street website via <http://tiny.cc/lk6vi> •



Help change the law

Survey on discrimination against family violence victims / survivors

The Federation of Community Legal Centres – Victoria (FCLC) is contributing to a submission to the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department on the consolidation of Commonwealth anti-discrimination laws.

Discrimination gap

At present, it is not unlawful to discriminate against someone on the basis that they are a victim / survivor of domestic / family violence.

FCLC will be submitting that domestic / family violence victim/survivor status should be added to the existing list of attributes upon which it is unlawful to discriminate.

To strengthen their submission, the Centre is seeking examples or case studies where victims/survivors may have been discriminated against on this basis.

Definition

FCLC's definition of domestic / family violence is broad, as in the Family Violence Protection Act 2008. Relevant areas of discrimination include renting a house, buying goods or services, applying for or being dismissed from a job, and education. The Centre is interested in examples where the person was discriminated against on the basis of being a current victim or survivor, or on the basis of past victimisation.

How to help

If you have one or more examples to contribute, please fill online survey form via <http://tiny.cc/g80dm>.

However, if you would prefer to provide your example over the phone, you can call Dr Chris Atmore on (03)9652 1506, email policy@fclc.org.au, or provide your number by answering the first two questions on the online survey.

Tight deadline

This is an opportunity to provide evidence to the federal Government to influence law reform on an important issue of justice. If you have an examples). The FCLC seeks responses by Monday December 19. Submissions to the Commonwealth AG's Department are due by February 1, 2012 •



Men's Referral Service
03 9428 2899
or 1800 065 973 FREECALL

The Men's Referral Service (MRS) is the Victorian gateway agency for men who are making their first moves towards taking responsibility for their violence or abusive behavior toward their partner or family members.

The MRS refers exclusively to men's behaviour change programs adhering to standards of practice developed by NTV and endorsed by the Victorian Department of Human Services.

**No To Violence Male Family
Violence Prevention
Association (NTV) Inc.**

NTV - No To Violence, the Male Family Violence Prevention Association, is the Victorian statewide peak body of organisations and individuals working with men to end their violence and abuse against family members. NTV members come from a wide range of professional and community backgrounds and work in a range of settings including government, community based settings as well as private practice. While NTV is based in Victoria, its members include organisations and individuals from a number of Australian states and territories.

If undeliverable return to:
No To Violence (NTV)
PO Box 3022
Victoria Gardens
Richmond VIC 3121

NTV Notes

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Become a member of No To Violence (NTV) The Male Family Violence Prevention Association Inc. NTV is the peak body of organisations and individuals working with men to end their violence and abuse toward family members. NTV members receive the monthly NTV Notes, periodicals and professional development and training.

Please send me information about becoming a member of NTV.

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Phone:

Email:

Please send to: NTV PO Box 3022 Victoria Gardens Richmond VIC 3121