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# No to Violence

Leading the change to end male family violence in Australia



## December Members' Newsletter

December 2024

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Dear valued NTV member,

Looking back, it feels like 2024 was a watershed moment. We saw unprecedented levels of public engagement in men's use of family violence, including political and media attention across the country.

Today I want to thank you and everyone else in our sector who has been out there striving tirelessly across 2024 in the often thankless work with men to help them change their behaviour and keep the women and children in their lives safer.

Sadly, that work is more critical than ever.



Despite our collective ongoing efforts the national crisis of domestic and family violence continues. At least 76 women have died due to violence this year with many hundreds of thousands more living in fear of their safety in their homes due to men using violence to exert power and control over them. And tragically these murders only represent the tip of the iceberg in terms of the prevalence and impact of family and domestic violence in Australia.

It was back in April, against the backdrop of a number of tragic deaths caused by men's violence, that Prime Minister Anthony Albanese declared family violence a 'national crisis'. His statement acknowledged a broad acceptance of the need to engage with men who use family violence to

This was reflected in Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner Michaela Cronin's first report on the progress of the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children several months later. Her report in August emphasised the need to engage young men and boys and those using family violence.

This year we saw the Queensland Government release Australia's first statewide strategy for people using violence. At the same time the New South Wales Government commenced a state-based men's behaviour strategy for people using violence, while in Victoria the Government appointed the country's first Parliamentary Secretary for Men's Behaviour Change and released a new package of measures to address family violence in that state that included a focus on men.

Nationally, No to Violence continued to press the case for a national perpetrator strategy. We sat at the table with governments and decision makers nationally, advocating on behalf of our members and our sector more broadly. On my recent trip to Canberra I was warmly received by senior representatives from all sides of politics and I'm pleased to say that all the decision makers we met with were keen to engage and to learn more about how they could contribute to ending men's use of family violence across the country.

Meanwhile, NTV's Men's Referral Service (MRS) saw a 50% increase in demand for contact and referral services from nearly every Australian jurisdiction in the second half of 2024. Where possible, our MRS counsellors will link men with services provided by our members – and so increased calls to MRS means increased number of referrals to our members.

This growth in demand for our service and across the sector makes it all the more critical that we address the staffing and skills shortages that you, as someone working on the front line of this crisis, would be so familiar with. During 2024 NTV continued to advocate to governments for increased investment in our workforces and the development of our sector.

We also continued to offer training and support to develop our sector: in Victoria through MARAM and in NSW with our work with the Risk Safety and Support Framework. We also played a key role in working with the sector in South Australia in the lead up to the Royal Commission into Family and Sexual Violence in South Australia.

We spoke out through the media more than ever before on your behalf and continued to build strong relationships right across the family violence sector – including contributing to research partnerships across the country and developing new areas of research investment.

To do that we engaged with our members more strongly this year than we have for many years. This helped inform the development of key submissions to state and Commonwealth Budgets and

Looking ahead to 2025, the Federal election will be a major focus for us as your national peak body, along with the federal budget. We are also looking forward to continuing to work with the new government in Queensland; advancing the New South Wales men's family violence strategy; continuing to push for a national perpetrator strategy; and advancing our research agenda, to name just a few of our priorities!

Alongside that, NTV will undertake a rigorous strategic planning process in the first half of 2025 to review what we do and how we do it, and I look forward to sharing more information with you about that process as it unfolds. Crucially, we will be seeking the views of our members and other key stakeholders in the sector to ensure you have the opportunity to have a voice in that process.

I would also like to extend an open invitation to you, as a valued member, to let our team know if you identify issues that you believe need to be elevated or amplified. If anything comes to mind, please reach out to our team at [membership@ntv.org.au](mailto:membership@ntv.org.au)

Finally, I want to acknowledge that the upcoming festive season is one of the busiest and most difficult times of year for many of us working in this sector. Here at NTV, our Men's Referral Service will be operating day and night across this period, and I know many of you will also be on duty while many of our peers, friends and families are taking time off.

I want to sincerely thank you for that dedication and commitment, and also wish you a safe and hopefully enjoyable break if you get one. Our next newsletter will be in February, and I look forward to touching base again then.

Thank you again for the incredible work you do.

Phillip



News

### **The 4th Annual Engaging Men & Boys to End the Cycle of Violence Conference**

No to Violence is pleased to be partnering with The Hatchery and The Man Cave to host the 4th Annual 'Engaging Men and Boys to End the Cycle of Violence' Conference.

This world-leading conference will delve into the issues at the heart of working with men and boys

Over two days in March 2025, 35+ presenters will deep dive into working with boys and young men, the challenges of inter-agency collaboration, how to provide better responses for men at the intersections of AOD misuse, mental health & violence...and more.

Secure your spot today to ensure you don't miss out on early bird pricing. **Register by tomorrow Friday the 20th of December to save \$400 off the standard price.**

Connect with peers at this event and be part of the drive for change at this thought-provoking and timely event.

**When: March 12- 13, 2025**

**Where: Sydney, Gadigal Land**

Register and find out more [here](#).

### **New Our Watch Resources - Men in focus**

NTV was pleased to work with Our Watch on the development of [Men in focus](#), a suite of new resources for youth workers and others working with men to help them better engage men and boys in preventing and ending violence against women.

Men in focus brings together research and practice knowledge to unpack and look at how to address masculinities and work with men.

Resources include:

- Men in Focus Practice Guide
- Men in Focus Evidence Review and
- Men in Focus National Consultation Report; *Strengthening national approaches to addressing masculinities and working with men and boys to prevent gender-based violence.*

The Men in focus practitioner resources include 14 videos, three infographics and eight practitioner support guides.

### **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence**

In Victoria the campaign kicked off on Friday, November 22 with the Walk Against Family Violence organised by Respect Victoria. A contingent from our Melbourne office braved the 34-degree heat to march in solidarity with the sector and the community.

As part of the global campaign, NTV also ran a social media campaign, with a daily post across

NTV and Safe and Equal.

The posts focused on solutions, highlighting that men using family violence have the capacity to change and encouraging them to reach out for help to make those changes.

### **Stop Domestic Violence Conference**

NTV participated in an overwhelmingly positive three days of learning, networking & exploring solutions at the 2024 Stop Domestic Violence Conference. Over 330 delegates attended the conference, sharing an appreciation for the variety of the content covered during both the keynote sessions and the passionate, concurrent presenters.

Our team walked away with a great deal of new information and actionable strategies and new connections to take back to their day-to-day work.

### **SPEAQ Conference**

Our team also attended the SPEAQ Conference last month. SPEAQ does incredibly important work in Queensland supporting its network of practitioners and services working with men to stop them using domestic and family violence to help keep women, children and communities safer.

The Forum's program was built and curated by practitioners themselves meaning delegates were immersed right in the work in all its complexity and with all its challenges.

Our team experienced such important connections, reflections and learnings across the day, with practice wisdom shared and new ideas explored to strengthen practice and strengthen the passion that drives the work we all do, both in Queensland and nationally.

### **2nd National Family Safety Summit**

We were pleased to have our Head of Sector and Workforce Development Caitlin Davies Chair the 2nd National Safety Summit in Perth earlier this month and our Regional Services Manager Jodie Baldwin as a valued expert panellist during the Summit.

The Summit brought together passionate advocates across Australia in the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence sector for robust discussion on family safety and wellbeing, showcasing victim-centric practices and culturally tailored solutions to address the critically urgent issue of family, domestic, and sexual violence in Australia.

### **Safe Steps New Child Safe Resources**

part of their Family Violence Response Centre's journey to becoming a child safe organisation.

These resources were designed to guide Safe Steps work in safeguarding children and young people. Safe Steps are able to share these resources to support your efforts in becoming child safe.

Resources include:

- Training – which you may like to use for your staff and volunteers about the Child Safe Standards and how to implement them meaningfully throughout your organisation,
- A policy matrix - to help identify organisational policies that should be updated, and what to include in those policies, to support implementation of the Standards,
- Model policies - that can be downloaded and adapted for your context,
- Resources for children and young people about their rights, safety and how to provide feedback or make a complaint. These resources have been designed to support children and young people staying in emergency accommodation. You may like to download them, add your logo and print and share with children and young people you are supporting.

To access these materials, please register to use the portal [here](#).

These resources were reviewed and adjusted according to feedback received from Safe and Equal and the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare. The Victorian Commission for Children and Young People has also expressed support for this initiative.

## NTV in the Media

At the Walk Against Family Violence on November 22 our CEO Phillip Ripper was interviewed by ABC News and Channel 9 News, appearing on both stations' news coverage that night.

This week has been a busy one for media as NTV collaborated with valued Victorian partners Victoria Police and Safe Steps Family Response Centre to highlight increased incidence of domestic and family violence during the festive season and to promote support services for men using violence and people experiencing violence.

This led to interviews with [ABC The World Today](#), WIN News and SBS News (to appear on

Today we are also collaborating with national gender-based violence prevention agency Our Watch in a media campaign to highlight the increased use of alcohol and other drugs at this time of year, and how this is linked to increased severity and frequency of violence.

This led to an interview with Phillip on ABC Newsradio Breakfast this morning.

Earlier this month Phillip was interviewed by Ten NEWS at our NTV office in Melbourne in relation to key family violence figures released by the Crime Statistics Agency from the 2023-24 Victorian Family Violence Database revealing that there was a significant increase in the number of family violence incidents recorded by police across Victoria.



## Policy and Research Updates

### Submission to 2025-2026 federal government budget

We have recently submitted [our sector's contribution to inform the Federal 2025/26 budget](#).

NTV advocated on your behalf, asking government to:

- Commit to a national strategy focused on people using violence,
- Extend and expand the Innovative Perpetrator Response Fund,
- Establish a national knowledge hub for work with people using violence,
- Implement a national coordinated approach to people at highest risk of causing highest harm inclusive of our sector, and
- Fund the family violence frontline to thrive.

Thank you for all your contributions which have been pivotal for advancing this work.

We recently worked with ANROWS, Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety and independent writer, trainer and change agent Rodney Vlasis to prepare a paper on MBCP's for the National Commission of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence's recent roundtable on 'The role of men's behaviour change programs in addressing men's use of domestic, family and sexual violence'. This discussion paper will be publicly available early next year.

### **National Members Forums**

We also held two national members forums and our quarterly Victorian members meeting, including our first National Member CEO Forum where we discussed the NTV's Commonwealth election campaign and budget asks.

### **Sector Conferences**

NTV had a busy conference schedule in the lead up to the end of the year. We have contributed to two panel presentations at [Australian Women's and Gender Studies Association Conference](#) in Gold Coast on the preventative power of adopting the practice-based wisdom of specialist practitioners working with people using violence to enhance prevention, early intervention and healing and recovery efforts.

We proudly were a sponsor of the Stop Domestic Violence Conference in Adelaide, where we had an exhibition stand, providing an opportunity to inform the sector about our services.

NTV staff presented at the Hunter Men's Projects Network Forum in Port Stephens, NSW, and the [Central Coast Domestic Violence Conference](#) in Ourimbah, NSW, sharing insights from NTV's advocacy and the family violence political and policy landscape. Staff also attended the [Newkind Social Change Conference](#) in Dja Dja Wurrung Country, Victoria

### **State Budget Submissions**

Currently we are applying the finishing touches to our New South Wales and Tasmanian 2025-26 budget submissions, which we will share to our members shortly. Thank you to all members who took part in our NSW survey and consultations in both states, your insights and perspectives are really appreciated and have guided our budget requests.



# Workforce Development Updates

## **MARAMIS Week panel**

As part of MARAMIS week in Victoria, NTV was invited to participate in a panel of experts in family violence to provide insight into how the Victorian Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework (MARAM) and Information Sharing Schemes are applied in practice in working with adults who use family violence.

The session was opened by an address by the Honourable Vikki Ward, Minister for Family Violence Prevention and MCed by Melanie Heenan, Deputy Secretary, Family Safety Victoria Division, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.

The theme for this year was 'Strengthening our family violence shared understanding and practice' and this was on display with all panel members talking about how training and the practice guides have helped them to collaborate and assess and share risk.

No To Violence continues to deliver the MARAM Adults using Family Violence training across the state to all sectors, organisations and individuals. For details of upcoming training please visit our [training page](#).

## **Mounties Group presentation**

NTV was proud to bring a focus on men's behaviour change to the [Mounties Group](#) Club Industry Domestic Violence Training Program in Sydney last month.

The Mounties Group is a community centered, profit for purpose organisation with 32 venues across New South Wales incorporating hospitality and entertainment areas. The Group has a Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan which outlines their mission around domestic, family and sexual violence being a workplace issue and that they have an important role in identifying and responding accordingly.

The two-day event saw 150 people attend from across Australia. NTV's MARAM and Training Manager Liz Wright featured on a panel that discussed the work that occurs with men who use violence and the change to their behaviors that can occur and also delivered an hour training session on "Abuse Narratives, Misidentification and Resisting Collusion".

## **Training for Q1 2025**

including:

- A revised and refreshed 'The Five Essential Discussion Tools' training package that is perfect for practitioners who are new to working with men using family violence or those who have not explored de-escalation techniques in their work
- Enhanced Five Essential Discussion Tools package for practitioners who have engaged with the Five Essential Discussion Tools before – to refresh knowledge and introduce new topics and practice considerations.
- Engaging Dads Using Family Violence which explores the damaging effects of children witnessing/experiencing violence and abuse and how to shift the focus of interventions to the father's responsibility and accountability for safe parenting.
- MARAM Identification, Intermediate and Comprehensive training.

To learn more and register, click [here](#).

## Sector Development Updates

### **NSWMBC Network meeting**

Last week was the final NSW Men's Behaviour Change Network (NSWMBCN) meeting for the year, held in Sydney and online.

These bi-monthly network meetings are an opportunity for registered Men's Behaviour Change Registered providers to come together to discuss sector updates, share best practice and connect with each other.

As the Secretariat for the NSWMBCN, No to Violence is proud to host and facilitate these meetings and to hear and share the amazing practice experience of these expert and highly valued providers.

## Diversity and Inclusion

### **NTV recognised as a DCA Employer**

We continue to educate our staff by acknowledging days of significance, such as: Intersex, Trans and Pansexual Awareness; Movember and Men's Health; International Day of People with a Disability including days relating to mental health and neurodiversity; Social Inclusion and Human Rights Week; Diwali and, Coffee and Chocolate Day for religious harmony.

During November and December, we held events such as, Trans Day of Remembrance, where we launched our Gender Affirmation Policy and one of our Community Advisors spoke about how important such a policy is for our Trans and Gender Diverse staff.

Staff also attended external presentations on domestic violence for various multicultural communities and women living with a disability.

We are preparing for our next Rainbow Tick accreditation in 2025, alongside designing an internal Language Guide and Neurodiversity Inclusion policy.

## Events



### **4th Annual Engaging Men & Boys to End the Cycle of Violence Conference**

NTV has proudly partnered with The Hatchery and Man Cave to present the 4th Annual 'Engaging Men & Boys to End the Cycle of Violence' Conference on Gadigal Land, Sydney from March 12- 13 2025.

The conference will explore using strength-based, intentional & trauma-focused approaches to enhance practice & intervention

Click [here](#) to register and for more information.

## Follow us on social media



We use our social media platforms to share information, provide expert commentary and prompt discussions around issues related to the family violence sector.



No to Violence acknowledges First Nations Peoples across these lands; the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters. We pay respect to all Elders, past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge a deep connection with country which has existed over 60,000 years.

We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded, and this was and always will be First Nation's land.

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