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No to Violence

Leading the change to end male family violence in Australia



August Members' Newsletter

August 2024

Dear valued NTV member,

It's been another busy few weeks at NTV and across the broader family violence sector.

In Victoria, No to Violence is actively involved in the review of The Orange Door Governance and Accountability arrangements and how the partnership approach to integrated service delivery is functioning in that state.

The Orange Door model is a significant improvement on how the family violence system in Victoria worked before the 2015 Royal Commission, but it is still facing complex challenges in how it functions. Victorian members have expressed concerns around clinical risk management, duty of care and compliance with workplace health and safety and employment law in the current Orange Door governance structures and are keen to see these issues addressed in the review.



Parliamentary Secretary for Men's Behaviour Change, Mr Richardson is leading pioneering efforts to address and reduce men's violence against women. During the visit, Dr Rebecca Buys (NTV Head of Policy and Research) and I shared our insights around the complexities of ending family violence in Victoria with the Parliamentary Secretary along with NTV's commitment to working with the Victorian Government to develop the State's first Strategy for People who use Family Violence.

Still in Victoria, The Centre for Workforce Excellence (CWE) has released 'Best Practice Supervision Guidelines' for the family violence, sexual assault and child wellbeing sector. The Centre is currently producing a video series to support the implementation of the Guidelines and I was pleased to be able to contribute to the introductory video alongside CEOs from Safe and Equal and SAS Vic, and a Principal Practitioner from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing. These practice guidelines will provide a benchmark for good clinical practice in our sector as well as supporting the wellbeing and sustainability of the current workforce. Importantly, they will also help to improve attraction, recruitment and retention in the family violence, sexual violence and child and family welfare sectors.

On Friday 26 July the Queensland Government launched an Australian-first strategy that emphasises responding to people who use domestic and family violence. NTV supported the development of this strategy, and we congratulate the Queensland Government's leadership in this vital area of social policy reform. The strategy, which spans from 2024 to 2028, delivers a significant funding boost for frontline services working with men who use family violence. The strategy builds on significant progress in tracking domestic and family violence and aims to strengthen system-wide and community responses, hold individuals accountable for their harmful behaviors, and support their change.

With this initiative, Queensland is leading the nation when it comes to focusing on men to end family violence, and we call on other governments to follow Queensland's lead. In fact, this is what I said directly during a radio interview on ABC NewsRadio later that day while enroute to Wagga Wagga airport having left a really impressive Men's Leadership Forum in that town.

To me, the Forum highlighted the crucial role of local leadership in ending domestic and family violence in communities and driving positive change. It's clear that community action and mobilisation are vital in transforming attitudes and effectively addressing men's use of family violence – I really believe this kind of coming together in local action, driven by local communities is a brilliant template that needs to be employed right across the country. There is only so much that governments and agencies can do in tackling family violence and for just about everything else, local communities hold the key to driving the radical change we need to end family violence.

A massive shout-out to Wagga Women's Health Centre for their dedication and leadership in this important work – and for their warm generosity in inviting me to participate in their discussions.

Last up, I'd like to once again remind you that our NTV 2024 Conference is just around the corner, and with

If you can make it in person, we're pleased to offer you a special opportunity to attend a three-hour workshop on Monday 2 September for only \$60. The consultative workshop, titled "[New Innovations in Perpetrator Interventions](#)", is interested in hearing about your work as we delve into innovative and potentially game-changing approaches for working with men who use violence against women.

And if you can't make it to the Conference in person, remember as an NTV member [you can attend online for only \\$780](#).

Bring your knowledge, passion and expertise and help contribute to creating radical change!

Hope to see you there,

Phil

NTV in the media

Phillip Ripper was featured in a radio interview discussing how alcohol is just one of the many factors contributing to the epidemic of domestic and family violence in our country. In his interview with Patricia Karvelas on ABC Radio National, Phillip Ripper emphasised that the reasons behind men's use of family violence are complex and require sophisticated, nuanced strategies to address effectively.

[📻 You can listen here](#)



News

Upcoming webinar : ANROWS panel

The Australian National Research Agenda to End Violence against Women and Children 2023-2028 [webinar series](#): Making better use of existing administrative data.

Date: 27 August, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Sally Mills from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare will lead a discussion with experts:

- Dr. Rebecca Buys (NTV)
- Dr. Betty Luu (Western Sydney University)
- Vivian Yue (FACSIAR)
- Professor Maggie Walter (University of Tasmania).

They will explore how to make the most of existing domestic, family, and sexual violence (DFSV) data, addressing the landscape of current datasets, the challenges of accessing data, and ethical issues related to data sovereignty. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights and enhance your understanding of data use in this critical area.

[Click here to register.](#)

The National Aboriginal Child Safety and Domestic Violence Summit 2024: Creating a Space for Change

Key South Australian community-controlled Aboriginal organisation KWY will be hosting The National Aboriginal Child Safety and Domestic Violence Summit 2024: Creating a Space for Change in September. This year's summit will be held in Adelaide and will feature the FOCUS Awards and Gala Dinner, celebrating outstanding contributions across family violence, child protection, homelessness, and disability sectors.

You can nominate an individual or organisation for the FOCUS awards:

Awards Categories:

- **Excellence in Domestic Violence Prevention**
- **Outstanding Child Protection Initiative**
- **Homelessness Advocacy Achievement**
- **Disability Support Excellence**
- **Inspirational Community Leadership**

If you know of an individual or organisation that has made a significant impact in these areas, don't miss this chance for them to be recognised! Submit your nominations by Sunday, August 11th.

Korean Delegation

We were delighted to welcome a diverse delegation of 20 government representatives and practice experts from South Korea to NTV's Melbourne office last month. During their visit, we shared insights into key Australian practices for working with men who use violence, showcased our innovative Men's Accommodation and Counselling Service, and provided an overview of critical policy issues and research trends in Australia. The visit also included a tour of our office. It was a fantastic opportunity to connect with our international colleagues and exchange valuable insights on tackling domestic and family violence on a global scale.



Policy and Research Updates

Victoria

We've made significant progress in our joint efforts to improve processes for reducing and addressing misidentification of the predominant aggressor through our advocacy with law enforcement.

We are preparing for our upcoming budget submission for 2025-2026. We've met with the Council of Social Services and will soon distribute a survey to our members to gather input on budget priorities. Additionally, we recently had our regular meeting with the Minister for Prevention of Family Violence Vicki Ward, where we discussed the third Rolling Action Plan and the new Women's Safety Package.

Queensland

Late last month we saw the release of Australia's first perpetration strategy in Queensland: [Broadening the Focus: Queensland's strategy to strengthen responses to people who use domestic and family violence 2024 to 2028](#). NTV was involved in three rounds of consultations and featured in the Government's [media](#)

South Australian Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence

NTV have been continuing our close work with [Embolden](#) (South Australia's peak body for domestic family and sexual violence) in preparation for the [South Australian Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence](#).

Our Head of Policy & Research, Dr Rebecca Buys led several statewide member consultations, in which she presented on lessons from the Victorian 2016 Royal Commission into Family Violence in Adelaide, Port Augusta, and Mount Gambier.

Online Safety Act

A roundtable discussion on technology-facilitated gender-based violence was held as part of the Statutory Review of the [Online Safety Act 2021](#), NTV contributed our insights on its perpetration and feedback on how the Act and associated processes, including industry initiatives, can reduce the burden on victim-survivors.

Research Sharing Resource: NTV Evidence Echo

The 'Evidence Echo', NTV's research database, is available to you and all other NTV members via the [Members' Portal](#). If you're unsure about your login details, please get in touch with membership@ntv.org.au.

Designed to streamline access to key emerging research for NTV's members, the Evidence Echo compiles the latest studies on family, domestic and sexual violence, perpetrator interventions and related topics in a downloadable database. This month, we have added 54 new articles to the resource, spanning topics of: Sexual Consent Laws, Perpetrator Interventions, Criminal Justice System, Intimate Partner Homicide, Disability, Children and Young People, and more.

If you're interested to learn more, we can arrange a tour of this resource for you! To book your visit, please reach out to Lucy at lucyt@ntv.org.au.

Sector Development Updates

The Hatchery (Hub) conference on 'Ending coercive control, family & domestic violence'.

Last month, our Head of Engagement [Lizette Twisleton](#) and Head of Workforce Development [Caitlin Davies](#), joined fellow professionals and advocates in the family violence sector at the [The Hatchery \(Hub\)](#).

They listened to, learned from, and discussed with other experts and advocates, critical issues such as criminalisation of coercive control, weaponisation and abuse of systems and responses to, and recovery from coercive control.

During the conference, Lizette also led a session on improving sector-wide competencies and confidence when working with men involved in sexual and intimate partner violence, offering valuable insights into workforce development in the family violence sector.



Sexual Violence Knowledge Hub Project

The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare, in collaboration with No to Violence, Safe and Equal, and Sexual Assault Services Victoria are working on the Family Violence and Sexual Violence Knowledge Hub Project (previously the OPEN Expansion Project).

The project aims to support better outcomes for family violence and sexual violence service users as well as family service providers. The project will strengthen practice, identify data gaps and build an evidence base in this sector. As part of the collaboration project, the Centre will be hosting a series of three online events.

The second event in this series, facilitated by [Emerging Minds](#), will focus on understanding the effects of family and domestic violence on children's health, development, and wellbeing. This interactive presentation will help practitioners:

- Assess how family and domestic violence impacts children's mental health and overall wellbeing
- Recognise the significance of being both child-aware and parent-sensitive
- Explore effective strategies for engaging with parents to support and enhance their children's mental health.

This session is particularly valuable for those designing and leading child and family programs, as well as for advocates seeking to integrate children's social and emotional wellbeing into their organisational strategies.

Date: August 22, 2024

Time: 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

[Click here to register](#)

Workforce Development Updates

Launching the Graduate Certificate in Client Assessment and Case Management

This month we commenced delivery of the Graduate Certificate in Client Assessment and Case Management (CHC82015) in partnership with Swinburne.

Participants have undertaken a rigorous interview process to enrol in the 2024 semester 2 cohort. The course has gone through an extensive refresh and redevelopment process led by our training practitioner Laurie Arrowsmith, and the new course delivery is richer and more robust, ensuring graduates are equipped with the knowledge and skills to facilitate Men's Behaviour Change groups with men who are using family violence.

Feedback on the first two day intensive has been really positive, with participants indicating that the sharing of information from such a diverse group during class discussion is an incredible learning experience in itself.

Key areas covered in the course include:

- Facilitation, micro skills and group theory
- Collaborative model of intervention
- Theoretical frameworks that underpin men's behaviour change group work.

Should you wish to undertake the Graduate Certificate in Client Assessment and Case Management (CHC82015) in 2025, or want more information, [click here](#).

Working With Men Using Family Violence Panel

In July, NTV was proud to present a panel discussion on working with men using family violence to the team at [Forte Family Lawyers](#). The panel – which consisted of a training practitioner from the Workforce Development team, a family violence male respondent case manager based at the Neighbourhood Justice Centre, and a family violence support service (FASS) worker at the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia – shared their insights on a number of challenges the lawyers had identified in their work with clients, including identifying common smokescreens to accountability, resisting invitations to collude, and the importance of providing appropriate referrals to family violence support services, such as the Men's Referral Service (MRS).

The discussion was rich and engaging and demonstrated Forte Family Lawyers commitment to furthering their understanding of how men weaponise the legal system against their partners, ex-partners and children and what role family lawyers can play in mitigating systems abuse.



Enhancing Judicial and Court Staff Skills

The WFD team have also been working in close collaboration with the **Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia** to develop the skills of judicial officers and Court staff, including Court Child Experts, in working with people using violence. This joint effort highlights the commitment of Chief Justice Will Alstergren's commitment to family violence prevention and addressing the behaviours of people using violence, including the use of family law and related systems to perpetrate coercive control. To start, we've developed eLearning for recognising and resisting collusion and guidance to understand and identify signs of change in people who have engaged in behaviour change programs.

Training Dates:

Our **public training dates** for the August-October period are available for the following courses:

- The Five Essential Discussion Tools (Enhanced) – **August-September dates are filling very quickly**
- Engaging Dads Using Family Violence
- Introduction to Working with Men Using Family Violence

Go [here](#) for information on **all** our public training offerings and to register for upcoming sessions:

Dates (August-September) for [MARAM Adults Using Family Violence](#) training are still available.

For more information on course delivery options and registration for **all three levels**:

- **Identification**
- **Intermediate**

We'd love to hear your thoughts!

No to Violence is committed to addressing the skills and knowledge gaps of professionals who work with people using family violence across the integrated service system and broader community. To help us address your professional development needs and preferences, we welcome your feedback.

Please complete our professional development [survey here](#) so we can better understand your requirements and build training packages that suit the needs of our skilled and passionate sector workers.

Diversity and Inclusion

At NTV, July was a vibrant month of celebration and reflection. We marked Disability Pride Month with dedicated training for our staff, focusing on the experiences of people with disabilities and the intersections with other identities and domestic violence.

We also observed NAIDOC Week, taking this opportunity to review our current Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and prepare for the next one. Keeping our RAP up-to-date is crucial in our ever-evolving landscape.

August may be quieter, but it brings significant days to acknowledge: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day on August 4 and International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on August 9. Both are pivotal in our work within the domestic violence sector, especially in safeguarding women and children and supporting men who use violence.

The month wraps up with the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Harassment on August 16, a day that resonates deeply with our mission and highlights the impact of bullying and harassment.

Events

No to Violence Conference

Our speakers are set to take the stage, combining the insights of lived experience, policymakers, practitioners, and researchers to collaboratively develop meaningful, human-centred responses to men's use of family violence in communities, families, and workplaces.

We look forward to welcoming you to the conference in Melbourne at Rydges. If you can't attend in person, remember that as a member you are eligible for the discounted price of just \$780 to attend virtually.

Member Meetings:

Below are the dates for our 2024 Members Meetings, invitations have been sent out for each of these meetings from membership@ntv.org.au Please feel free to forward these invites throughout your organisation, especially if you know you are unable to make a certain date or time.

If you don't have the meeting invitations, please contact membership@ntv.org.au

Victorian Member meetings:

- 4th December 10am

National Members Forums:

- 6th November 10am

Please note the membership1@ntv.org.au inbox is not monitored, please direct all membership related queries to the membership@ntv.org.au email address, and only accept meeting invitations from this inbox.

Love U Bro Day

Here's an interesting one from across the ditch! The inaugural [Love U Bro Day](#), hosted by [She Is Not Your Rehab](#), is taking place in New Zealand (Aotearoa) on September 6.

This annual event is designed to foster meaningful discussions about men's mental health and reshape the narrative around mental health.

Men are encouraged to write "Love U Bro" on their face and carry it with them throughout the day, with funds going to Men's Mental Health and Family Violence initiatives supported by the She Is Not Your Rehab Foundation.

SPEAQ Forum 2024 - Curiosity, Challenge, and Change

Location: voco Gold Coast, Surfers Paradise

Dates:

- **Wed, Nov 13:** Pre-Forum Workshops
- **Thu, Nov 14:** Forum Day 1
- **Fri, Nov 15:** Forum Day 2

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SPEAQ FORUM 2024

Curiosity, Challenge, and Change: *Opening space for new possibilities*

voco Gold Coast, 31 HAMILTON AVENUE, SURFERS PARADISE
WEDNESDAY 13 NOVEMBER – FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER
Pre-Forum workshops 13/11. Forum Days: 14/11 and 15/11

EARLY BIRD
Day 1 and Day 2 only: SPEAQ MEMBERS / NON-MEMBERS: \$400 / \$450 incl GST
EARLY BIRD TICKET DISCOUNT ENDS FRIDAY, 19/7/2024



The SPEAQ Forum is Qld's practitioner oriented, interactive conference bringing together Domestic and Family Violence workers involved in interventions with those who perpetrate abuse. We welcome facilitators, counsellors and advocates working with partners and family members, as well as those in related support and management roles.

SPEAQ acknowledges the Kamberri people as the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters of the Gold Coast where the SPEAQ Forum 2024 will be held, and pays respects to elders past, present and emerging.

Supporting Family Safety – Working with Men to End Domestic and Family Violence

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.

To be a part of the conversation, follow:



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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