

Responding to young men's use of intimate partner violence

Sharing findings and exploring pathways to scale

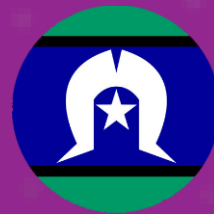
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge 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.



Introduction – Setting the Scene

*Chair – **Annie King**, Survivor Advocate*

*Online Co-Facilitator – **Shawna Marks**, Policy and
Advocacy Advisor, No to Violence*

Roundtable speakers

1. Lisa Wheildon, Research Lead, No to Violence
2. Riley Ellard, Associate Director, Research, Advocacy and Policy, Centre for Innovative Justice, RMIT University
3. Kristine Ziwica, Journalist/Rapporteur
4. Hannah Petocz, Research Officer, No to Violence
5. Kristy Berryman, Manager, Family Violence, & Lisa Robinson, Director Family Safety & Therapeutic Services, Meli
6. Hannah Klose, Youth Council Advisor, eSafety Commissioner
7. Roj Amedi, Women's Legal Service Victoria
8. Wing Hsieh, Scalability Expert

Roundtable participants

- **Tamara Blakemore**,
Name.Narrate.Navigate
Program for Youth Violence,
University of Newcastle
- **Andy Blaney**, Wulgunggo Ngalu
Learning Place
- **Jesse Brown**, Thorne Harbour
Health
- **Shaymaa
Elkadi**, Ruqi Consulting
- **Maggie Hamilton**, YSAS
- **Ellie McGrath**, Berry Street
- **Kate Melvin**, DHS SA (*online)
- **Joelle Peters**, YSAS (*online)
- **Tom Williams**, Uniting Communities.

Project Overview

Responding to young men's use of intimate partner violence: An OPEN Expansion project funded by the Victorian Government

Lisa Wheildon — Research Lead, No to Violence

Why this, why now?

The problem we set out to address

- Rapidly growing political, policy, practice and research attention on young men's use of IPV; but at risk of fragmentation
- Young men who use IPV require distinct responses from adult men's behaviour change programs, yet most frameworks were designed for adults
- Limited specialist services for this cohort, creating a scaling imperative
- The fast-moving pace risks a fragmented and inconsistent response; the cost of uncoordinated action may well be equal to the cost of inaction.

“This project takes a measured, evidence-based approach, to ensure that the moment of attention translates into coordinated, culturally safe responses.”

NTV Project Plan, 2025

A window of opportunity

The policy moment this project was designed to inform

National	\$27.5M Supporting Adolescent Boys Trial — early intervention for young men and boys aged 12–18 with childhood experiences of family and domestic violence
National	\$8.6M Innovative Perpetrator Response Initiative — dedicated focus on specialist early interventions for young people and men, running 2026–2028
National	Consultation on the Second Action Plan (National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032) underway (closes 31 July 2026), with children and young people in their own right a priority.
Victoria	MARAM expansion to include children and young people aged 25 and under — age-appropriate responses to be embedded
Victoria	Minimum Standards under revision — MBCPs currently accessible from age 18 only

What this project set out to do

Three objectives

01

Validate and refine intersectional practice principles

Test draft principles from FSV-funded research* via consultation with our Strategic Advisory Board, AVITH network, NTV member organisations, and community representatives — centring victim-survivor and marginalised perspectives.

02

Understand, translate and share knowledge

Review the research evidence and insights from practice; translate and share to increase cross-sectoral understanding:

1. Evidence Review
2. Meli Case Study
3. Emergent Intersectional Practitioner Guide
4. This roundtable.

03

Analyse scaling pathways and build partnerships

Explore barriers and opportunities to building a coalition to maintain momentum and scale evidence-based interventions.

*Nicholas, L., Hanckel, B., Burgin, R., Kilvington-Dowd, L., Johnston, B., Mills, X., & McGregor, J. (2025). *Improving Responses to Young Men's Use of Intimate Partner Violence: Towards a Best Practice Approach*. Western Sydney University. <https://doi.org/10.26183/ORCT-M487>

Built on Australian research foundations

The evidence base

Improving responses to young men's use of IPV

FSV-funded | Western Sydney University, 2025

Foundational evidence base and source of draft practice principles. Provides Australian data and practitioner insights.



The IVY Study

ANROWS | Riley Ellard, CIJ / RMIT

Concurrent research with practitioners and young people across Australia. Provides complementary evidence, including a national multi-sector survey to map where and how young people are presenting to the service system in relation to their use of IPV and how services are responding.



Seeking help in their own right

Kate Fitz-Gibbon / Seque Consulting for Safe Steps

Young people's experiences of accessing crisis supports when escaping family violence. Service system capacity and gaps.



How we worked — three phases

May 2025 – July 2026

Phase 1

Foundation

May–Dec 2025

- Stakeholder mapping and initial consultation
- Project planning
- Evidence review
- Youth IPV Network meeting (02/10).

Phase 2

Consultation and framework development

Jan 2026–Apr 2026

- Meli Case Study Drafting (Feb)
- Strategic Advisory Board meetings (16/03 & 02/04)
- AVITH CoP (17/03)
- NTV members and staff
- National Briefing (02/04).

Phase 3

Dissemination

May–Jul 2026

Knowledge products (FVSV Knowledge Hub) & dissemination:

- Meli case study
- Evidence Review
- Young person IPV (resource library)
- Delphi study
- This roundtable
- And more.



What we produced

Five outputs from this project



01 Evidence review

Published on FVSV Knowledge Hub — summarising the evidence base on youth IPV and what effective responses look like.

02 Meli Young Men's Group case study

A practice-grounded account of what this work looks like in an Australian service context—Kristy Berryman and Lisa Robinson will speak to this shortly.

03 Emergent intersectional practice guide

Informed by a three-round Delphi consultation with 19 practitioners and researchers across DFV, AOD and youth sectors — the focus of Presentation 5 this afternoon.

04 Young person IPV resource library: FVSV Knowledge Hub

Youth IPV resources on: gender, relationships and youth IPV; international studies; digital dating abuse; impacts; youth attitudes; prevention and intervention; victims in their own right; young parents; intersectional/ diverse experiences; COVID impact — all freely available

05 This roundtable

A convening moment for the field—rapporteur report and outputs to be publicly available.

What this project is part of

An expanding national landscape

Programs now operating in every state and territory:

VIC

Meli · Dardi Munwurro · Berry Street · The Bridge Youth Service

NSW

360 Program (Newcastle) · CentaCare Supporting Adolescent Boys Trial

QLD

Breaking The Cycle (DVAC) · CatholicCare Adolescent Boys Program

WA

Pinakarra Our Way (Nirrumbuk) · Together We Ride · Rising Strong

SA

KIND Program (Uniting Communities / KWY)

**TAS/ACT/
NT**

Home Base · Be.Me. · Grassroots Action Palmerston

The sector is no longer asking whether to work with young people using IPV.

It is asking how to do it well.

The risk is not inaction — it is uncoordinated action: programs proliferating without a shared evidence base, shared principles, or shared language.

This project is NTV's contribution to solving the coordination problem.

What we are hoping for from today

01

Feedback on the guide

Does it reflect the realities of practice? What have we missed? What needs strengthening?

02

Pilot partners

We are looking for organisations willing to further develop and test the draft guide in DFV, AOD, and youth service contexts. If that is you—please say so today or speak to us after the session.

03

A vision for scaling up this work and the formation of a coalition that will make it happen

Today is the beginning of a conversation about coordinated sector action, not the end. What are our collective next steps from here?

And a commitment from NTV:

We will advocate for dedicated funding for First Nations organisations to lead their own work on this issue.

To access the Evidence Review and the Meli Case Study use this QR code or URL:



<https://outcomes.org.au/family-violence-sexual-violence-project-about/events-research/#Young-person-IPV>

Conversation – Rethinking 'Violence as a Choice': Riley Ellard on the IVY Study

*Riley Ellard – Centre for Innovative Justice,
RMIT University*

Kristine Ziwica – Journalist, Columnist, Consultant

Reviewing the Evidence on Youth IPV

Hannah Petocz – Research Officer, No to Violence

Evidence Review

Addressing young men's
use of Intimate partner violence

July 2026

Evidence review:

- Australian and practitioner-focused review of the evidence
- Engagement with the Strategic Advisory Board (SAB)
- Structure of the review:
 - *What do we know about youth IPV?*
 - *What are the pathways to youth IPV?*
 - *What works to address youth IPV?*
 - *Implications for practice and policy*

Pathways into youth IPV:

- Violence in the home and the absence of healthy relationship models
- Young people exiting out-of-home care
- Gender roles, entitlement and the manosphere
- The COVID-19 pandemic and its ongoing legacy

Evidence Review

Addressing young men's
use of Intimate partner violence

July 2026

What works to address youth IPV?

- Centring young women's safety and gender
- The importance of age-appropriate approaches and a developmental lens
- Taking a whole-person approach
- A whole-of-society ecosystem response

Evidence Review

Addressing young men's use of Intimate partner violence

July 2026

Where do the gaps remain?

- The evidence base reflects service contact, not the full population and the knowledge base is emergent and geographically concentrated
- Evaluation of what works remains thin
- Research on effective models for young people aged 15–17
- Research on the role of manosphere content in youth IPV across socioeconomic groups
- Investigation of the protective factors and resilience mechanisms

Evidence Review

Addressing young men's
use of Intimate partner violence

July 2026



Evidence Review

Addressing young men's
use of Intimate partner violence

July 2026

Implications for practice:

1. Centre young women's safety and lived experience
2. Meet young people where they are developmentally
3. Take a whole-person approach
4. Apply a gendered lens
5. Address technology and online spaces
6. Meet young people where they are
7. Establish referral pathways and swift responses
8. Treat accountability as a capacity to be built.

Practice in Action - Meli Young Men's Group Case Study

Kristy Berryman and Lisa Robinson, Meli



What Works with Young Men
Using Intimate Partner
Violence: Insights from the Meli
Young Men's Group



YMG in Practice

- Designed specifically for young men aged 18–25 using intimate partner violence
- Hybrid delivery model: 14 group sessions 10 individual sessions
- Family Safety Contact Worker support for affected family members
- Same practitioner provides individual support and facilitates the group
- Combines accountability with trauma-informed practice
- Flexible and responsive approach: outreach walking appointments, transport support, crisis response
- Practical support and case management are embedded into behaviour change work
- Focus on emotional literacy, healthy relationships, consent, masculinity, trauma and technology-facilitated abuse
- Group provides both accountability and a sense of connection and belonging

What has worked

- Individual sessions build trust before accountability conversations begin
- Strong practitioner relationships increase engagement and retention
- Retention rates increased from approximately 12% to over 80%
- Participants disclose violence more openly and take greater ownership of their behaviour
- Emotional literacy work has become a key driver of change
- Group peer interactions strengthen accountability and challenge harmful beliefs
- Flexible responses keep young men engaged during periods of crisis
- Integrated safety support improves monitoring and response to risk
- Practical assistance (housing, AOD support, employment, transport) creates the stability needed for behaviour change
- Participants are engaging with supports they previously avoided and some have achieved stable housing, employment and recovery outcomes

What working with Young People using IPV has taught us

- Young men using IPV are a distinct cohort and need a different intervention model
- The cohort is largely characterised by trauma, disadvantage, homelessness, AOD issues and child protection involvement
- Accountability and trauma-informed practice are not opposing approaches. They work best together
- Relationship is the primary mechanism for change
- Emotional literacy is foundational to accountability and behaviour change
- Rigid ideas about masculinity remain highly influential for young men
- Young people often have very limited trusted adult relationships
- Readiness to change can emerge suddenly and the response must be immediate
- Stabilisation is often required before meaningful accountability work can occur
- Flexibility is essential, not optional

Key Take Aways

- Young men need developmentally appropriate interventions
- Relationship drives engagement
- Emotional literacy drives accountability
- Stabilisation creates the conditions for change
- Flexibility enables participation
- Accountability and trauma-informed practice can and must coexist

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Dr Hannah Klose

Program Lead – Youth Council
eSafety Commissioner

Thursday 16 July

Track, harass, repeat

Attitudes that normalise
tech-based coercive control



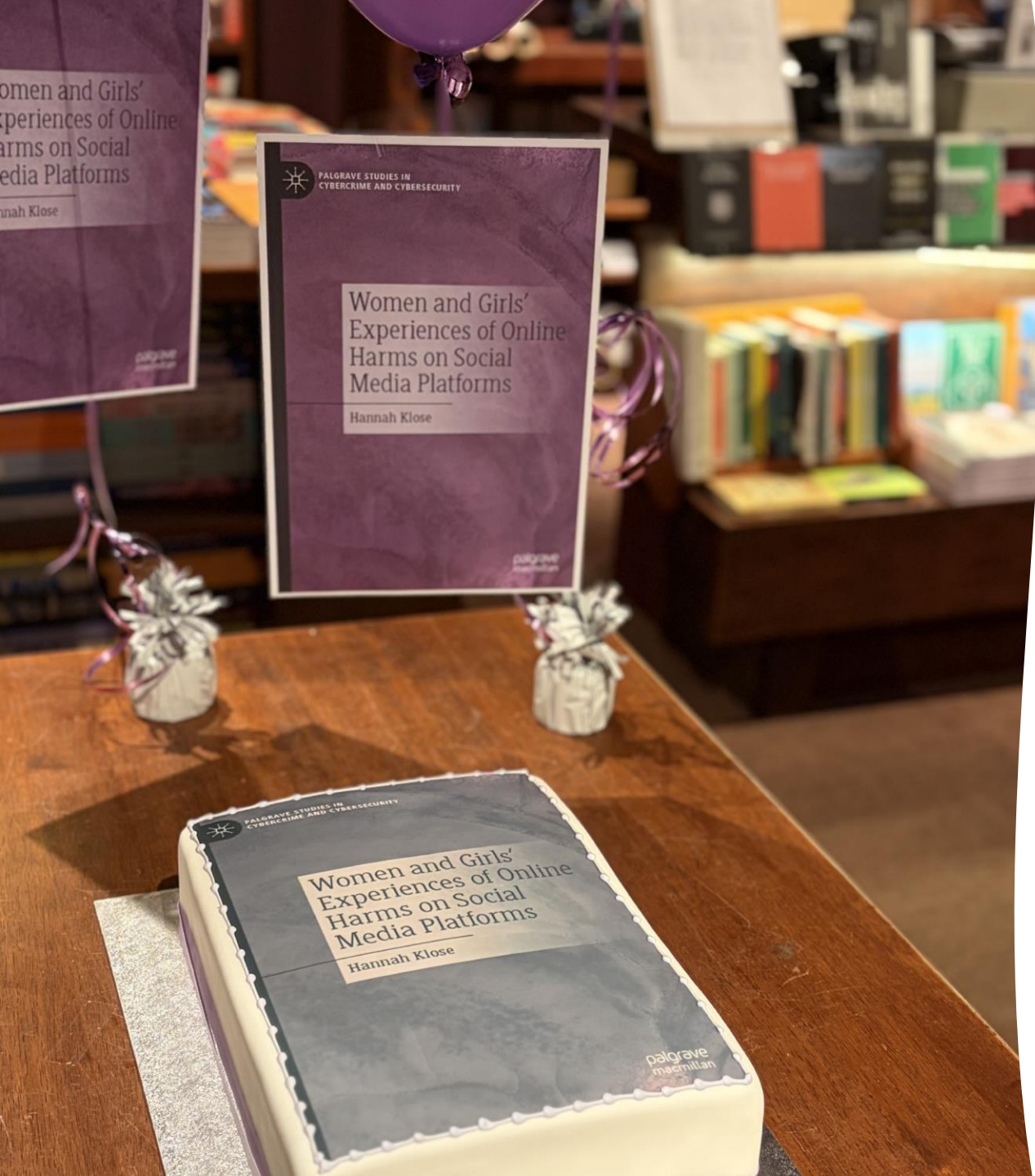
Key findings

Young people showed a **higher likelihood of agreeing** with behaviours that could foster a **controlling dynamic** within intimate relationships, such as:

- constant messaging
- location tracking
- controlling what is posted on social media

There was **significant acceptance** of expected password sharing among younger participants and those in intimate relationships.

Source: eSafety Commissioner (2025) Track, harass, repeat: Attitudes that normalise tech-based coercive control, Canberra: Australian Government.



Links to my research

Public profiles and workplace information enabled perpetrators to gather information and monitor victim-survivors.

Cross-platform convergence was common, with perpetrators moving between platforms to continue harassment after being blocked/ignored.

Location-sharing and geolocation features of platforms increased risks of monitoring and stalking.

The normalisation of abuse meant many women expected harassment as a routine part of online participation.

Source: Klose, H. *Women and Girls' Experiences of Online Harms on Social Media Platforms*. Springer Nature.

Roundtable Discussion 1

What does an effective response to youth IPV look like? (20 minutes)

Working with young people using IPV: Findings from a Delphi study to inform a practitioner guide

Dr Lisa Wheildon – Research Lead, No to Violence

What we set out to do

- No to Violence sought to explore whether a European practitioner guide — developed by the Working with Perpetrators European Network — could be adapted for the Australian context
- To do this we used the **Delphi method**: three rounds of anonymous surveys with a panel of researchers and practitioners from across DFV, AOD and youth services
- 19 participants across three rounds, representing 17 organisations and 4 states and territories (VIC, NSW, QLD, SA)
- The Delphi didn't just tell us what to add or change. It told us **what practitioners need to work with young men using violence.**

WWP EN

Guidelines for working with young men who use violence against their intimate partners



What the European guide does well

- Makes violence visible and locates responsibility with the young person using violence
- The practitioner stance material — particularly the collusion/neutral/persecutory framework — is useful
- Response-based practice principles were well regarded and transferable
- Motivational exercises (value orientation, bus metaphor) are practical
- "Be careful with your words" guidance is excellent
- The guide is a strong foundation—but cannot simply be transplanted. **It needs to be rebuilt from the ground up and to name the impacts of colonisation.**

Five things Australia needs that the European guide doesn't provide

“Neither the choice framing nor the skill deficit framing adequately describes what I observe in practice... The framing I find most useful holds both things — the young person’s history of harm and the harm they are causing — without collapsing one into the other.”

— Round 2 participant

1

An engagement framework

The guide goes straight to technique — with no account of how a young person gets into the room in the first place.

Most essential addition

2

A theoretical foundation that holds both harm and history

The choice framing is insufficient. Some consensus around the Power Threat Meaning Framework as the right integration.



3

Genuine intersectionality — not a section, a lens

Heteronormative throughout. No neurodiversity. No First Nations content. Language and accessibility absent.

Co-design required

4

The Australian legal and system context

Mandatory reporting, coercive control laws, risk assessment models (e.g. MARAM) all absent. Referral pathways inadequate across all three rounds.

5

Conditions of safe use

Some techniques carry real risk. Vicarious trauma and practitioner wellbeing not addressed at all.

What the Delphi produced

A foundational framing paragraph — tested and endorsed:

"This guide does not treat IPV as either a simple deliberate choice or a straightforward skill deficit. It understands harmful behaviours as responses to experiences of power, threat, and harm—responses that cause real harm to others and for which young people are responsible, and that in many cases reflect what has never been modelled, taught or made safe. Practitioners working with this guide hold both things at once: naming harm clearly, and building the relational and emotional capacities that make non-violence sustainable."

What the Delphi produced

An endorsed structure organised around four principles:



A note of caution: The limits of a guide

As one participant put it:

“If it is adopted and taught well, with the epistemic shift held alive rather than written down and shelved, it could be one of the better things in this space. If it is not, it becomes another instruction manual that treats the young person as the whole of the problem.”

- **A foundational shift cannot be transmitted by being written down;** it has to be taught, supported and supervised into practice.
- The guide should be honest about this: adopting it well requires more than reading it.

What comes next

- Round 3 has provided **a guide and a map**
- Today is **an opportunity to further test and develop** that
- The emergent guide will be developed as a **draft resource for piloting**—to be tested, refined and updated
- **First Nations content** should be developed through a separate, First Nations-led process. The guide will include a clear statement of its limitations in this regard.

What the emergent guide will contain

INTRODUCTION

Theoretical foundations · language principles · limitations · how to use this guide · knowledge summary on youth IPV

PRACTITIONER FOUNDATIONS

Who should use this guide · conditions of safe use · sequencing guidance · supervision · vicarious trauma · LGBTIQ+ and First Nations guidance

Organised around four principles:

PRINCIPLE 1

Centre victim-survivor safety

- Safety planning and victim-survivor support integration
- Information sharing and referral to specialist services
- Australian legal context: mandatory reporting and risk assessment

PRINCIPLE 2

Meaningfully and safely engage with young people on their terms

- Engagement framework: getting into the room before the work begins
- Trauma and violence informed practice and accountability
- Understanding this cohort: developmental context, intersectionality, Australian landscape

PRINCIPLE 3

Establish youth-friendly and relatable settings

- Age-appropriate, individualised and intersectional responses
- Embedding specialist workers in existing services
- Centring peer, lived and cultural experience

PRINCIPLE 4

Create pathways to behaviour change

- Adapted exercises from the European guide, sequenced for Australia
- Wrap-around: co-occurring needs and relational continuity
- Strengths-based approaches alongside accountability

Now over to you

The guide belongs to the field—the Delphi is how we tried to make that real

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

- What have we missed? What would make this more useful in your practice?
- Does the guide reflect the realities of working with this cohort?
- What is missing or needs strengthening?

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

- Organisations willing to pilot the draft guide — DFV, AOD, and youth service contexts
- First Nations organisations to be in conversation about a dedicated co-design process
- NTV will advocate for funding to support both



Next: Roundtable Discussion 2 — Feedback on the draft practice guide

How can the guide be tested and further developed? What would a pathway to broader adoption look like? — after the break at 3:35pm

Roundtable Discussion 2

*Thoughts/feedback on the Draft
Practice Guide (20 minutes)*

Scaling What Works and Building the Coalition

Wing Hsieh – Scalability Expert

Roj Amedi – Women's Legal Service

Roundtable Discussion 3

Pathways to Scale –What Would it Take? (20 minutes)

Rapporteur Reflections

Kristine Ziwica – Journalist, Columnist & Consultant

Close

Annie King – Survivor Advocate



No to Violence

Growing a movement to end men's family violence in Australia

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION