

INITIATIVE TO COMBAT THE HEALTH IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



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Site Visits

Rockhampton and Gladstone Health Service Districts have recently expressed interest in joining the DVI. During April, Julie Dawson and Deb Kilcullen visited these sites and met with the District Managers and staff to discuss the DVI. These sessions were well attended and included participants from community agencies as well as hospital staff.

Website

The DVI Website will be updated by the end of May with a section dedicated to the 2001 Forum. The speakers' booklet with abstracts and contact details will be available for download as well as selected papers that were presented at the conference. The DVI Stage 2 Evaluation Report will also be available in the **publications** section.

For both those who were not able to attend the conference and for those who did and wish to refresh themselves as to the full content of some of the presentations this will be a useful page to visit.

The DVI website address is listed on the back of this newsletter.

DVI Roll Out in Northern Zone

The DVI will be rolled out in the 11 districts encompassing the Northern Zone of Qld Health. Screening for domestic violence is already occurring in 4 Northern Zone districts – Cairns, Townsville, Mt Isa and Mackay. Ms Sue Rath has been appointed as the Northern Zone Training Coordinator.

Sue Rath joins DVI as Northern Zone Training Coordinator

The Domestic Violence Initiative is pleased to announce a full-time trainer has been appointed on a temporary basis for a period of twelve months in the Northern Region. This position aims to ensure that DVI trainers in all districts throughout the Northern Zone are properly trained and supported in their work with the Initiative. This position also ensures the DVI's work is sustained in the future.

Sue has trained as a Nurse, Midwife and Child Health Nurse in the UK and has 18 years experience in the Women's and Children's area of health, particularly community focused. She gained experience in rural and remote nursing in the UK in rural Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, on non-Doctor islands in the Shetland Islands and more recently in New Zealand. Sue has nearly completed her Masters of Midwifery and has just finished her Isolated Practise Course with the Rural Health Training Unit.

Sue has been involved with the DVI for the past two years and is delighted to become part of the team and train other health professionals around the Northern Zone on DV screening and increase awareness of DV and it's health impact on victims. She is very much looking forward to continuing her commitment to improving the health care of women.



Conference "Seeking Solutions"

Combined Women's Crisis Services Gold Coast Inc is holding Australia's first joint Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Conference, Seeking Solutions on the 5th, 6th & 7th of September 2001 at the Parkroyal Hotel on the Gold Coast. The conference aims to bring together specialists in the area of domestic violence and sexual assault. Acclaimed keynote speakers will address a broad range of topics encompassing research, emerging trends, innovative programs, responses and practice models relating to Violence Against Women.

Many prominent Australian speakers will be invited to address the conference and International speakers who have agreed to attend the conference include: Kirsty Sword Gusmao, East Timor; Associate Professor Ruth Busch, New Zealand; Roma Balzer, New Zealand; Anne O'Dell, USA; Jim Hardeman, USA; Det. Chief Inspector Peter Sturman, UK and Fiji Women's Crisis Service. Contact Sexual Assault Support Service (07) 5591 2397 or Domestic Violence Service (07) 5591 4222 to be placed on the mailing list for more details.



Domestic Violence Prevention Week 6 - 12 May 2001

This year's campaign is targeting primary prevention through a focus on young people who are forming intimate relationships. The theme is "Expect Respect".

The aim of DV Prevention Week is to prevent DV through raising awareness about DV, the community supports available, and changing attitudes that sustain DV.

Systabytes Training Package

The Domestic Violence Initiative has engaged Maggie Haertsch, of Systabytes Pty Ltd (selected by a tender process) to develop and produce a learning package to enhance the response of Queensland Health professionals to domestic violence. A Steering Committee, consisting of experts in domestic violence, research, education and nursing has agreed that the package will consist of a variety of resources, including an interactive video, and audio-tape comprised of women's stories of domestic violence, a course participant workbook and a facilitator's manual. It is anticipated that this resource will be applicable to health workers in a variety of health settings, including hospital based and community based services, as well as rural and remote health services. Learning outcomes for the package will include :

- Understanding of the health impact of domestic violence on women;
- Skills in asking questions about domestic violence as per protocols;
- Validating the woman's experience in a supportive, non-judgmental manner;
- Knowledge of referrals, legal consideration and safety.

The production of the video and audio-tapes is currently underway, with completion of the package due in October 2001.

Violence in Indigenous Communities

The Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department has recently released a commissioned 122 page report on violence in Indigenous communities. This report includes an analysis and exploration of the issues surrounding domestic violence within Indigenous communities. The report states that Aborigines are more than 45 times more likely to be a victim of domestic violence than non-Aborigines.

The report includes four sections:

1. A review of literature on Indigenous violence
2. Forms of Indigenous violence
3. Violence programs in Indigenous communities
4. Strategies for combating Indigenous violence

The report is available from the National Crime Prevention website: www.ncp.gov.au or by phoning (02) 6250 6711.

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