

# INITIATIVE TO COMBAT THE HEALTH IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



Queensland  
Government  
Queensland Health

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INFORMATION NEWSHEET 29

## Legal Aid Queensland Launches New Domestic Violence Guidelines

Legal Aid Queensland has launched the booklet, *"Best Practice Guidelines for Working With Clients Who Have Been Affected by Domestic Violence"*. There are five different sets of guidelines for different groups who work with victims of domestic violence – Family Report Writers, Lawyers, staff at Legal Aid Old Client Service Centres, Child Representatives, and Conference Chairs. Further information about these guidelines can be obtained by contacting Legal Aid Qld on 1300 65 11 88 or at [www.legalaid.qld.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.qld.gov.au)

## Domestic Violence Prevention Week

Members of the Women's Health team attended the DV Prevention Week Awards and Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Qld Cultural Centre. The Wardjina Cultural Dance Group gave a Remembrance Day Ceremony performance and awards were presented to:

- Education Queensland for its Savvy Schools Project
- The Indigenous Family Violence Project, which was developed by the Domestic Violence Service of Central Queensland (DVSOCQ) and Gumbi Gunyah (women's safe house) in Woorabinda
- The Napranum Kids Club from the Druamalon (Women's) Association
- The North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Service for its project "Non-Violence: What's it all about?"
- The Cairns Police Liaison Officers' Domestic Violence Follow-up Program

In addition to the five winners, the Wadja Warriors Rugby League Club received an encouragement mention at the ceremony.

Members of the DVI Steering Committee also attended a Queensland Police Service luncheon and seminar; conducted a workshop at the Mending Hearts Forum in Nambour; and conducted a training session for graduate midwifery students at the Australian Catholic University. DVI sites around the state also participated in numerous DV Prevention Week activities.

## Northern Zone Rollout

During May, Sue Rath, Northern Zone Trainer, visited a number of Northern Zone sites including Atherton, Mareeba, Mackay, Bowen and Ayr to discuss the DVI with staff and conduct information sessions. Staff represented at the information sessions included Medical Superintendants, Directors of Nursing, and staff from Community Health, Sexual Health, Social Work, Medical and Surgical Nursing, Emergency, Women's Health and Mental Health.

All hospitals showed enthusiasm for the initiative and were keen for training to take place sooner rather than later whilst awareness was heightened. In the next few weeks, Sue will be travelling to Yarrabah, Innisfail, Ingham and Mount Isa.

### Project Co-ordination

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### Project Management

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### Website

<http://www.health.qld.gov.au/violence/domestic/dvi/home.htm>



## Development of DV Training Package Progressing

The Domestic Violence Initiative has commissioned the development of a comprehensive training package to enhance the response of health workers to domestic violence. Maggie Haertsch, of Systabytes and Life Activities has been engaged to develop this package, which will include an interactive video, audiotapes, workbook, and facilitator's manual. It is intended for use in a range of health services, and it has a flexible delivery component. The package is due for release in October 2001, and will be distributed Statewide for use in all participating sites.

## PADV Competency Standards for People Who Come into Professional Contact with Those Affected by Domestic Violence

The Partnerships Against Domestic Violence have developed a final draft of Competency Standards for people who come into professional contact with those affected by domestic / family violence. The National Competency Standards will provide a benchmark to assist a range of service providers and professionals to respond appropriately to clients affected by domestic violence. The Competency Standard units include to:

- Recognise and respond to domestic violence
- Manage own professional development in responding to domestic and family violence
- Provide crisis intervention and support to those who are experiencing domestic and family violence
- Promote community awareness of domestic and family violence
- Counsel clients affected by domestic and family violence
- Provide domestic and family violence support in NESB communities
- Provide support to children affected by domestic and family violence
- Work with users of violence to effect change
- Facilitate debriefing and support processes

The Domestic Violence Initiative has commissioned the development of a comprehensive training package to enhance the response of health workers to domestic violence. This training package will be consistent with the PADV National Competency Standards. The final draft of the National Competency Standards is available at [http://padv.dpmc.gov.au/oswpdf/Version\\_3\\_DRAFT\\_new.pdf](http://padv.dpmc.gov.au/oswpdf/Version_3_DRAFT_new.pdf)

## Coordinating Efforts to Address Violence Against Women (CEAVAW)

CEAVAW is an across government project which aims to improve the coordination of policy and services to assist women who have been subject to violence. As part of this process the project will map the current structure and delivery of services by the Queensland Government and develop strategies to improve coordination between these services.

Julie Dawson, A/Principal Policy Advisor (Women's Health) and DVI Co-manager is the Queensland Health representative on the CEAVAW committee. The CEAVAW Principal Policy Officer is Ms Kim Chandler, located in The Office for Women, Department of Premier's and the Cabinet. Ms Chandler has been invited to attend a future DVI reference group meeting to update the group about CEAVAW.

