

DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

AUGUST 2001

INFORMATION NEWSHEET 1

Violence Against Women Newsheet

From this month the DVI and Sexual Violence newsheets will be combined into one. The DVI and SV newsheets are currently available on the website. Contact details are listed below.



Congratulations Julie

The DVI wishes to congratulate Julie Dawson and her family on the birth of their daughter, Lucy, on the 7th July. Both Julie and Lucy are doing well.

Mary Abbot will take on the role of A/Principal Policy Advisor (Women's Health) from mid August.

New version of screening tool

The DVI has a new version of the screening form which will be launched on September 1st. The changes to the forms reflect feedback and suggestions from the people who are using them, and it is hoped that sites will start using the new forms as soon as possible.

There is a separate version for Early Intervention for Safe and Health Families Initiative (EISHFI) sites which include questions on key risk factors for inclusion to Family CARE. The forms are available electronically at [http://www.womens health site](http://www.womenshealth.gov.au)

Northern Zone Update

Sue Rath, DVI Northern Zone Trainer, has visited a number of northern zone sites recently including Weipa, Yarrabah, Mossman and Thursday Island. Training has occurred in Mackay Ingham and Bowen. Sue would like to thank all participants who have completed Train the Trainer workshops, we now have a total of 18 DVI trainers in these two clinical areas to initiate training to their staff. Train the Trainer workshops for August are planned for numerous sites including Innisfail and Cooktown, Ayr and Mount Isa.



Photo left: Participants from Train the Trainer workshop in Ingham held on 8 August.

Southern and Central Zone Update

Jennifer Petty, Southern and Central Zone Trainer, has now begun work with the DVI and will soon commence training staff in the Southern and Central Zones.

Project Co-ordination- DVI

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Website

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



New Sexual Assault Crisis Response for Gold Coast

A new South East Regional Forensic Medical Service is being set up on the Gold Coast from 9 July. The coordinator of the new office, based at the Southport Police Station, will be Dr Liz Culliford, Government Medical Officer.

A major task for Dr Culliford will be the coordination of the re-established Sexual Assault Forensic and Medical Service, which commences on 6 August 2001 at the Gold Coast Hospital.

A Sexual Assault Crisis Team consisting of social workers from the Gold Coast Hospital and specially trained doctors from the General Practice Community and the Government Medical Office will provide a co-ordinated, integrated medical and crisis counselling response to women and men who are sexually assaulted. Victims will be seen at the Gold Coast Hospital and a referral pathway to provide options for follow up medical and counselling services will also be developed.

There will be close liaison with the Queensland Police Service and the Gold Coast Sexual Assault Support Service.

The establishment of this service will enable improved health and legal responses to victims of recent sexual assault on the Gold Coast and builds upon the service which was previously provided by a group of general practitioners.

Centre Against Sexual Violence Logan Training Opportunities

The following workshops will be held at the Centre Against Sexual Violence and will be conducted by Pauline Widdup, Counsellor/Trainer at the Centre. Pauline is a clinical psychologist with more than 20 years experience. Workshops cost \$44.00 (incl. GST) and are open to counsellors with an interest in sexual assault. The workshops will be held at the Centre which is located at: Unit 2, 21 Station Road, Woodridge Q 4114. For further information contact Pauline Widdup on 3808 3299.

Working with adolescents around the effects of sexual assault

When: Tuesday 30 October

Time: 9.30 - 4.30

Cost: \$44.00 including GST

Documenting therapeutic Conversations

When: Thursday 8 November

Time: 9.30 - 4.30

Cost: \$44.00 including GST



Sandra Eyre, Senior Policy Officer, Sexual Assault, has been appointed to the position of Court Counsellor, Family Law Court of Australia commencing 20th August. Sandra has been developing the Interagency Guidelines for Responding to Adult Victims of Sexual Assault and specific guidelines for Queensland Health service responses. It is anticipated that these guidelines will be launched to coincide with Sexual Violence Month in October this year. We wish Sandra well in her new position.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE WEBSITE – NEW RESOURCES

New information factsheets on drug facilitated sexual assault and supporting victims of sexual assault and have been placed on the sexual violence website and are accessible at:

<http://www.health.qld.gov.au/violence/sexual/resources.htm>