

DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

NOVEMBER 2001

INFORMATION NEWSHEET 3

Introducing, asking and responding to the DVI Questions

This month we commence a 3 part series on asking the DVI Screening questions.

Handy tips for safe and successful DV screening of women: - Ask ALONE:

It is essential to get the woman on her own.

Build up a rapport and almost complete your history taking before asking the **questions** on DV. This way the woman will feel more at ease and will begin to have confidence in you, increasing the likelihood of disclosure.

Take her to another room if the partner or anyone else is present. This could be done by saying that you want to weigh her, have the scales set up in another room safely away from the interview room.

Or saying that you want to complete a urinalysis, take her to another interview room prior to conducting the urinalysis, so that the DV screening questions can be asked safely.

ASK ALONE - ASK SAFELY.

Remember that she won't tell you unless you ask!

Suggested Preamble/Introduction for the DVI assessment tool

"There are a number of questions we ask you about your history so that we can assess your health care needs. Some of these questions may be considered personal and sensitive. For this reason we ask these questions alone so you are provided with privacy, confidentiality and safety. *(If the partner has been present and the health worker has separated the woman from her partner, this provides an explanation of why the questions are being asked without him there.)* We are aware that some women do experience violence in their relationships and this can also affect their health. Because of this, *our health centre* wants to improve our response to women who may be experiencing domestic violence, so we ask all women the same questions about this issue."

Project Co-ordination- DVI

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DVI Training Package

The new DVI training package is due for release shortly, and the DVI trainers will be using the new format for training from its release. The new format is designed to be for flexible delivery, to enable all health service providers to access the materials.

The package consists of an audio CD which contains real-life stories of domestic violence, a video consisting of scenarios where a health professional is asking a patient the DVI screening questions, and a participant workbook with activities based on the content of the CD and video, as well as a facilitator's manual. The new format entails some pre-reading, followed by a 2 hour workshop where participants can practice their domestic violence screening skills. This package replaces the current 4 hour workshop. It is anticipated that this change will make the training more user-friendly and accessible to staff. For staff unable to attend workshops, role-play and feedback will be made available through the use of telelinks and internet chat-rooms.

Many thanks and congratulations to Maggie Haertsch, of Systabytes Ltd for compiling this excellent quality resource for Queensland Health staff, and thanks also to the Steering Committee which oversaw its development.

Training Update

Information sessions and training have been conducted in a number of sites including : Cairns Base Hospital, Mareeba Hospital, Weipa Hospital, Atherton Hospital, Charleville Hospital, Cunnamulla Hospital, West Moreton ATODS Service and Cherbourg Hospital.

Sexual Assault Guidelines and Training Package

The Interagency Guidelines for Responding to Adult Victims of Sexual Assault have been endorsed by the departments involved in the development of the Guidelines. The Guidelines are due to be released in late November. An accompanying training package for health workers will be released soon after.

Upcoming Events

Indigenous Family Violence Forum - Townsville

The 'Talking About Family Violence Forum' will take place in Townsville from November 21-23, as part of the Queensland Government's response to the 1999 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Taskforce on Violence Report. A key purpose of the forum will be to work towards an Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Agreement. The forum will be organised by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Board and the Dept of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy. For more information, contact Helena Graham on (07) 3404 3542.

Forum: Women, Violence and Disability

The Domestic Violence Resource Centre is holding a forum to focus on issues regarding DV and women with an intellectual, learning or cognitive disability.

When: Tuesday 20 November, 2001 at 2-5pm

Where: Diana Plaza, Woolloongabba, Brisbane

Cost: Free

For more information, or to RSVP contact the DVRC on (ph) 3217 2544, (fax) 3217 2679 or email projects@dvrc.org.au