



Annual Report
2019



Supporting Partnerships that Make a difference



Contents Page

CEO Report	Page 4
About Us	Page 5
Activity Report	Page 6
Research	Page 12
Training	Page 14



CEO Report

It's been another shocking year for Family and Domestic Violence (FDV) in Western Australia. Once again, we have seen more deaths than ever before. If we are to change the dangerous trajectory we find ourselves on, and keep women and children safe from fear of violence, we need to come together as a sector and broader community, and work together for change.

At Stopping Family Violence, we believe that partnerships are key to driving this social change. As such the organisation has spent the year focused on supporting partnerships that make a difference. We have done this by expanding our network with organisations directly involved in supporting Family and Domestic Violence services, with community service organisations and with large corporate organisations. We believe there is strength in diversity and that it is only through bringing everyone together that we will begin to change the story of FDV in Australia.

Over the past 12 months a key growth area for SFV has been our training services. We have seen a steady growth in the number of participants in our Safe and Together Training courses, with approaches and enquiries for courses also increasing. In response the organisation has upskilled Project Coordinator, Dawson Ruhl to deliver courses and will seek to increase this training capacity further in the coming financial year. One of the most exciting developments has been the interest in training and professional development in regional WA and nationally. The relationships developed through the various projects and activities have enabled us to generate and support this interest.

We have also seen an increase in the organisations approaching SFV to deliver customised training to their staff. We have been excited by what this increased interest means for both the organisation and the sector. It shows a commitment by the sector to upskill workers and a genuine interest in ensuring perpetrator services are delivered in a consistent way.

As we head into the new financial year, we are also excited to be approaching our first large conference, in partnership with the Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services, Intersectionalities in Domestic Violence.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the team at SFV for their work throughout the year. The team has worked with passion across a wide variety of projects to support the perpetrator intervention sector and ensure all women and children can live safely from fear of violence.

Damian Green



About Us

Stopping Family Violence (SFV) was formed in the belief that everyone deserves to live without fear of violence. The organisation's purpose is to drive the social change that we believe is necessary to put an end to family and domestic violence.

SFV works to keep women and children at the core of everything we do. For us, it is vital that all responses to FDV work to enhance safety and reduce risk for those experiencing FDV. We do this by focusing upon the cause of harm, which all too often is men in our community. It is only through changing men's behaviour that we can hope to end family and domestic violence.

SFV works to drive change: by engaging with men (and the services that support them) to help foster the changes that are necessary for them to stop choosing violence and to

encourage alternative ways of behaving; by working with children and young people to address the trauma they have experienced as a result of FDV and teach them the value of positive relationships; by working with organisations that support men to change violent behaviours; and by working with the entire community to change perceptions about family violence and encourage people to stand together and stand up for anyone they believe may be in danger.

We do this work through: pilot programs and action research, delivery of training programs within and across sectors, provision of counselling and supervision; by supporting organisations who provide men's behaviour change programs or who may engage men who are violent; and by working in the community to raise awareness and change perceptions. As a peak body for perpetrator response work in WA, SFV also convenes the WA Men's Behaviour Change Network.

Board members

Stopping Family Violence Board Members this year include:

Damian Green – Chairman and CEO

Wayne Stevenson – Treasurer

Donna Chung – Board Member

Angela Hartwig – Board Member

Michael Hovane – Board Member

Aimee O'Hare – Board Member

Funding Bodies

Department of Communities

Department of Justice

ANROWS



Kimberley Project

This year one of our biggest projects has been the Integrated Men's Behaviour Change (MBC) and alcohol and other drug (AOD) intervention with a specific focus on Aboriginal perpetrators of FDV in the Kimberley.

Broadly, this Project supports further implementation of the State Government's Safer Families, Safer Communities Kimberley Family Violence Regional Plan 2015-2020 (Kimberley Plan). The aim of the Kimberley Plan is to reduce FDV and improve community safety in the Kimberley Region. However, the main aim of the Project is to conceptualise and ultimately pilot a response to perpetrators who are impacted by the co-occurring issues of FDV and AOD in a place based and co designed way. As such this project provides a unique opportunity to understand and examine the intersection of FDV and AOD, as well as other important considerations such as mental health, diversity and culture, regional and remote interventions.

Since the commencement of the project, Stopping Family Violence has made significant progress in several key areas in the deliverance of this grant. A Project Coordinator was appointed in April 2018. From then, Dawson Ruhl began the important work of engaging with key stakeholders in the AOD, FDV Indigenous sectors in the Kimberley region.

This year has seen the completion of a literature review examining the intersection of FDV and AOD as well as the programming of responses including a scoping exercise to map available literature. This process had been useful in developing our knowledge and expertise in the development of programmatic responses in this area and will continue

to influence our thinking and approach to program login development moving forward. Project Coordinator, Dawson Ruhl, has supported the advisory group with the preparation and facilitation of face to face meetings which have resulted in the establishment of governance arrangements for the group.

In addition the advisory group has worked to develop and implement a strategy to identify the cohort of high risk and resource intensive clients and families and to develop and implement an multi-agency intensive case management framework.

A research methodology has been developed to evaluate the aims and goals of the project.

Fathering

This year Stopping Family Violence has continued to focus on Fathering. A key focus of this work has been to develop relationships with large organisations in traditionally male dominated sectors, such as mining and construction, to help them to develop programs and implement cultural change to place importance on the role of fathers.

This program development has focused on the implementation of policies which provide employees with the space and opportunity to make being a good father a priority, such as parental leave and flexibility to enable attendance at important events or to support mums when children



Monitoring and Quality Assurance Framework

are unwell. Culturally the focus has been on supporting organisation to create a culture where good fathering is encouraged. Particularly in male dominated sectors there is traditionally a pressure to put work first over family, we have been encouraged this year by the organisations who want to change this culture and make family the priority.

We hope to grow our relationships with organisations in the next financial year and further refine our service offering to make it easier for organisation to adopt a fathering first culture.

As a member of the White Ribbon Fatherhood Project Reference Group, CEO Damian Green, has also been collaborating on the development of a series of videos entitled 'Let's Take about what it means to be a father'. The videos are being developed as an evidence-informed initiative addressing the positive influence fathers and male role-models can play in inspiring and shaping a more socially aware and equal generation. They are due to launch on Father's Day.

Damian has also been engaged as a content developer for a fathering eLearning program due to launch at the end of 2019 / early 2020.

SFV has continued to develop and promote the importance of a monitoring and quality assurance framework for the implementation of the Practice Standards. The proposed accreditation framework sets out a clear and achievable plan for the assessment, registration, compliance and quality improvement of programmatic responses to Perpetrators of FDV in WA. Much of the focus this year has been to promote and foster a broad and diverse understanding of the need for this mechanism in Western Australia.

The development process involved a detailed jurisdictional review of eleven jurisdictions including Australia (WA, VIC, NSW and QLD), the UK (England, Wales and Scotland), Alberta, Canada, and New Zealand. The vast issues covered in this jurisdictional review included registration processes, the place of complaint mechanisms, the features of comprehensive accreditation systems, program logic models, and safety and accountability planning.

The consequential quality assurance framework provides detailed recommendations for an accreditation framework and system for WA MBCP providers and includes a timeline for this work.

Based on the jurisdictional review, SFV's understanding of the WA context and outlines of key objectives and principles of accreditation frameworks and systems, five features were identified for a proposed accreditation system in WA and are detailed below.

Activity Report

Monitoring and Quality Assurance Framework cont.

A Three-Yearly Program Audit: Conducted by trained auditors and involving a thorough preparation period to enable the provider to become accreditation-ready.

Less formal check-ins: With the main objective being for the accrediting body to identify if anything has changed since the formal audit or last check-in to suggest any minimum standards are not being met.

Innovation Support: This enables innovation and adaptations to contribute towards an evidence-base for subsequent minimum standards updates, or an evidence-base for how particular standards can be implemented to meet local contexts and conditions.

Encouragement for Peer Reviewed Practice: The potential for positive, sensitive and well-scaffolded peer reflection processes to strengthen practice and program quality is currently untapped.

Complaints Mechanism: The accrediting body needs to develop a mechanism that establishes clear, professional, and transparent processes.

SFV foresees the accreditation framework and system introduced in a staged approach. Early stages would focus mostly on building the capacity of current and emerging MBCP providers to meet minimum standards of practice that apply specifically to MBCPs. As the system progressively develops, a focus on higher level standards applicable to a broader range of perpetrator interventions would feature more strongly.

SFV continues to refine the implementation plan for the accreditation framework including significant engagement with key stakeholders within Government and the FDV sector.

To date this has included discussions with the Departments of Communities and Justice, the Office of the Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence, the Safe Systems Coalition including a significant contribution to Safe Systems 'blueprint for action', and an ongoing engagement with the MBCP sector.

More practically, SFV is progressing with the development of the stages of implementation within the WA MBCP sector. Key stages currently being developed to ensure an effective and robust accreditation framework include:

- A MBCP Practitioner Development and Training Plan;
- The development of a 'reflective tool' to assist MBCP providers' alignment with the minimum standards;
- Engagement with the 'Minimum Data Set' projects occurring within various states and territories as well as nationally;
- Progression of the partner contact research project and development of the evidence review;

These initial stages will inform a much larger project involving the development of a full accreditation framework and system, for a wider range of perpetrator interventions and providers.



Developing an Outcomes Framework in Australia

This year SFV finalised a discussion paper around Outcome Measurement in MBCP work that we successfully launched at the Network Conference in September 2018. It is hoped that a practice-level document, bringing together a range of considerations can be used to assist us to commence consultation around the development and eventual pilot of an outcomes framework for MBCP work.

The need for outcomes measurement across the community services sector is well known and much time and effort has been spent in adopting frameworks such as Results Based Accountability and the Outcomes STAR across the work. However, it is also well established that the FDV field generally and especially the MBCP sector has long struggled with limited research evidence and a poor knowledge base surrounding the work itself. This has translated into poor assessment measures, as well as a wide range of views in terms of what constitutes 'success' in the work. This is further confused by different mandates for providers as well as 'one size fits all' program funding and design despite emerging evidence suggesting a diverse range of interventions is needed. Nevertheless, the evidence base is growing and there exists a significant and important opportunity to develop a dialogue around outcomes and to translate this progress into a framework which can serve as a first step in meaningful outcomes measurement in MBCP work.

To aid in this goal SFV have also continued to engage with the work of the WA Department of Justice (DOJ), specifically the new Connect and Respect contract, in developing the new outcomes measurement and evaluation framework for use within and across the programs area of the Department and

externally. Partnering in this work helps to establish models of measurement and evaluation that are both practical and valid and are therefore relevant to a broad range of stakeholders.

Outcomes Measurement is an ambitious and long-term goal but one that is essential if we are to move forward into a more nuanced understanding of perpetrator response and the meaningful measurement of outcomes in this work.

National MBCP Evaluation Work

SFV have spent the year building and developing our expertise in program evaluation and outcomes measurement as part of our capacity building in preparation for the implementation of an accreditation framework in WA. To date this has involved our engagement in projects across a number of areas and jurisdictions including Tasmania, which provided us with a unique opportunity to assess programs from other jurisdictions, as well as directly apply the Practice Standards to a program review. The experience gained from this project (as well as our other activities) has enhanced our capacity to undertake this work in WA as well as increased our exposure as a nationally significant independent organisation. As such, SFV worked closely with a relatively new MBCP service provider in WA to review their program logics and help develop a detailed evaluation framework for their Men's Behaviour Change Program.

The framework was closely guided by the relevant Practice Standards for Men's Domestic Violence Behaviour Change

Activity Report



National MBCP Evaluation Work cont.

programs to ensure it met national standards as well as the emerging practice requirements. SFV was able to offer expertise and guidance across various areas in the development of the framework including; theoretical theories of perpetrator interventions, risk assessment and management, accessibility, inclusivity, and cultural appropriateness, partner and family support, pre-program intake, assessment and program discontinuation, partnership agreements with other organisations, program administration, program review and evaluation.

Following the successful completion of a contract to evaluate a Tasmanian MBCP in 2018, these opportunities allows the agency to actively work with the standards, guidelines and contracting nationally, and to subsequently use this experience to help inform our work within the WA context. It also develops our capacity to assess and audit programs as well as develop nationally relevant frameworks for the WA sector.

These projects continue to aid SFV in our goal to ensure best practice across the sector nationally and strengthen the evidence base for MBCP work, which remains one of the highest priorities for SFV as it is currently evident that there is still an unacceptable level of uncertainty in terms of under what circumstances these programs work, in what way, for whom, and why. It is hopeful that this work will serve as a starting point for the development of a long-term evaluation strategy for MBCP programs and will pave the way for future, similar opportunities for the agency. Additionally, this project marks a pivotal opportunity for future positive collaboration with other jurisdictions in Australia.

Early Intervention in High Schools

In 2019 Stopping Family Violence's work has expanded across the continuum of perpetrator interventions and response work. One of these areas of focus has been on early intervention and building partnerships with the Department of Education and secondary schools in WA. In particular, earlier in 2019 SFV took the opportunity to partner with the Womens Council, Palmerston Drug and Alcohol Service, and Relationships Australia WA to deliver an interactive and responsive FDV workshop to year 11 and 12 students at Sevenoaks Senior College.

The program focused on educating students on respectful behaviours, Family and Domestic Violence whilst empowering the students to recognise they had the opportunity and 'power' to make a positive difference in the lives of others, in particular their female friends, partners, teachers, and family members. Discussions were facilitated to allow the participants to use their own past or current examples which allowed the students to lead the conversation and come up with their own strategies to help develop safe behaviours in the future.

The response to the program was very positive. The group showed a genuine engagement in the discussion and demonstrated a clear understanding, and appreciation, of what a respectful relationship looks like.

SFV has maintained good working relationships with Sevenoaks and have since been invited to provide a series of four follow up workshops in June 2020



WA Men's Behaviour Change Network

Since its inception, the Men's Behaviour Change Program (MBCP) Network has continued to focus on the development of a collective, powerful voice for perpetrator programs in WA. The Network has worked through a number of challenges related to the changes to the Department of Justice contracts, which took effect early 2018. This period saw a 'settling' of this transition and a consolidation of the relationships across the sector.

This year the Network has continued to foster this settling process by providing opportunities for providers to come together and discuss the 'bigger picture' and set both short term and long-term goals.

SFV has also continued to develop trusting and supportive working relationships with providers, who are in the development of MBCPs or have recently commenced the facilitation of MBCPs. As part of this process SFV have worked closely with Outcare, a relatively new MBCP provider in WA. This working relationship continues to be nurtured and SFV continue to provide support and guidance to both established and new MBCP providers.

Key areas on the Network's agenda for this year include:

- The development of collaborative relationships to help establish consistent and practical outcomes across the sector. Discussions continue to progress in regard to the Practitioner Level Group to cultivate support, collaborative practices and a forum for cross-organisational communication among MBCP facilitators. This was formalised by the Network with the first WA MBCP Peer Practitioner Forum launched

on the 11th April 2019. The meeting consisted of 18 participants and was the first of its kind in WA.

- Supporting the development of the research agenda relating to sector issues, including active participation of the Network in activities that help to develop the evidence base for MBCP work.
- Further definition and development of the Network's collective voice in terms of responding to policies and the conveyance of key messages as a sector, rather than individual organisations speaking alone;
- The need to raise greater awareness of the importance of pivoting the system response to the perpetrator through further discussion with FDV practitioners, and women's services.

Research



ANROWS Partner Contact Project.

In October 2017 SFV, in partnership with Curtin University, received a research grant from ANROWS to carry out a two-year national research project exploring partner contact practice in Men's Behaviour Change Programs, in both metropolitan and regional areas. This study is internationally and nationally significant as it is the first of its kind to generate such a level of evidence and detail about partner contact practices and their capacity to promote women's and children's safety.

Background

Whilst recognised as imperative, there is currently very limited research in the Australian context around how partner contact is incorporated into program delivery. This Project will provide a deeper level of understanding of the way in which MBCPs support women and children through partner contact. This includes programs designed to cater for diverse populations including Aboriginal or culturally and linguistically diverse and diverse sexuality and gender.

Current Progress

The Project has finalised a literature review of partner contact practices of Australian MBCP providers and this information is currently being used to inform the finalisation of the survey instrument. Additionally, the Project is also finalising a survey of women whose partners have attended a MBCP along with a survey of MBCP providers nationally (this section of the project has been extended slightly to allow for higher numbers of engagement). This MBCP provider survey will be complemented by in-depth interviews with managers, facilitation and PC providers. We have also completed work on a database of all MBCP programs nationally and have

commenced work on an engagement strategy for the survey and interviews. The understanding gained from the literature review and surveys will later contribute to improved quality of services provided to victims by identifying gaps between theory and practice and providing practice guidance and considerations for the field.

The Project has undertaken the survey data collection process throughout this period and also completed the second progress report which was submitted to ANROWS in December. The program was completed and the final report was released in April.

Invisible Practices

Report title: Invisible Practices: Intervention with fathers who use violence: Research report

This Project aimed to provide an evidence base for intervening with fathers who use domestic and family violence (DFV), in order to enhance support for women and children living with DFV. The Project was a part of ANROWS's Perpetrator Interventions Research Stream and has been completed, with a report released through ANROWS.

The Project delivered an evidence-informed Practice Guide for workers and highlights the need for organisations to undertake systemic change to embed new practice approaches.



Prioritising women's Safety in Australian perpetrator interventions

Research Title: Prioritising women's safety in Australian perpetrator interventions: the purpose and practices of partner contact.

Background

This Project has provided a deeper understanding of how MBCPs support women and children's through Partner Contact (PC). This understanding has contributed to improved quality of services provided to victims by identifying gaps between theory and practice and providing practice guidance and considerations for the field.

It is a well-established expectation of the perpetrator intervention system that women and children are provided appropriate support, and this research will help identify how best to achieve this. It has also highlighted the importance of PC as an opportunity for meaningful engagement; a key accountability and quality assurance measure within perpetrator interventions; and to provide a means of minimising collusion and increasing accountability around self-reporting.

This Project has helped to establish perspective on considerations for good practice across all of this diversity. It will provide an important and internationally significant influence to the development of quality responses, adding to the evidence base for this work.

Current Progress

This year a literature and scoping review were completed. SFV also completed surveys and in-depth interviews, including partner contact surveys with practitioners and completed the first draft which has been submitted for peer review.

Next steps include the finalisation of the research component and the development of practice guidance to help disseminate findings and practice implications to key stakeholders.

Training

Safe and Together™ Certified Training

This year SFV CEO Damian Green and Operations Manager Mark O'Hare became fully accredited as trainers in the Safe and Together CORE training as well as other shorter introductory workshops.

The SFV team also continued to develop their plans for sharing their acquired knowledge and skills to the WA FDV sector as well as broader, but related, sectors. It is our view that the Safe and Together model has policy and practice implications for a variety of professionals and systems including Department of Communities, Department of Justice, women and children's service providers, domestic violence specialist services, alcohol and drug services, mental health, police, Health, and the legal system.

Stopping Family Violence held the first official training session of the Safe and Together Model to 20 key stakeholders in Western Australia on the 29th May 2018. Since then, SFV have provided Safe and Together Training to more than 175 participants. This has included two overview days, three CORE 4 Day Safe and Together trainings and at a number of shared events.

SFV continue to be strategic with its delivery of FDV training with one of its main objectives being to bring organisations together to work more collaboratively in the work to keep families safer in WA. This is achieved by SFV providing external Safe and Together to the public, as one of only two agencies nationally providing external training. Opening training to the public addresses a key issue identified, being a lack of communication and coordination across services. It allows participants to build stronger working relationships,

learn from experiences and skill sets and develop a better understanding of systems across partnering agencies.

The first regional Safe and Together CORE training was implemented in Kalgoorlie from the 5th- 8th November 2018 and consisted of 37 participants. The training created a 'DV informed group' and feedback already indicates that the group are utilising the same framework and language when working with their 'shared' clientele.

Further Implications for the Western Australian FDV Sector

As the only Western Australian organisation hosting Certified Trainers, it is hoped that SFV will offer an impetus for a shift in practice around FDV perpetrators in WA, thus further consolidating our work in the area. SFV aims to implement evidence-based good practice across the sector, through a training agenda that supports an increased awareness and practical skills that can help facilitate a professional and cultural shift in this area.

The Safe and Together Model training will be best implemented through training that is adapted to the WA context. Thus, while SFV foresees the ability to implement Safe and Together Model Training for a broad audience we believe it will be most effective when individual training sessions are tailored to the specific needs of different service settings. Furthermore, SFV plans to utilise our positive professional connections with a number of aboriginal, and culturally diverse, organisations to facilitate training in partnership with them to ensure they are meeting the needs of those communities.



SFV were invited by the Department to run a “FDV Masterclass” to over 40 Aboriginal Practice Leaders, remote workers and Aboriginal Intensive family support workers. It was requested that, due to the Department’s commitment of the implementation of the Safe and Together Model across the state, SFV could take the opportunity to deliver a half day presentation on the Safe and Together model integrated with DV-informed documentation.

The interactive presentation allowed for some awareness raising of the Safe and Together Model and the importance of having a DV informed practice and systems in order to create safety for the families that the participants are working with on a daily basis, particularly in the regional and remote areas.

Caring Dads Certified Training

Stopping Family Violence hosted the first Caring Dads Facilitator Training in WA on June 2017. The intervention program is for fathers (including biological, step, common-law) who have physically or emotionally abused or neglected their children, or exposed their children to domestic violence. The training provides an opportunity for service providers to come together and engage with facilitator training that shifts the system’s focus of accountability and visibility back onto the perpetrator, with emphasis on his fathering.

This year training was delivered by CEO, Damian Green, together with Sarah Webb (University of Toronto) to 20 participants from various WA stakeholder organisations including Outcare, Centrecare, Relationships Australia, Dept.

of Communities and Women’s specialist services. Participants in the WA version of Caring Dads training expressed recognition of the real ‘gap’ that exists in the State in terms of services for men and fathers who perpetrate violence against women and children and emphasised the value of implementing the Caring Dads program. The need for greater communication, information-sharing, coordinated case management and partnerships to be formed across the various women’s and perpetrator services to aid such an implementation was highlighted.

SFV has also partnered with Centrecare to implement the first Caring Dads pilot program in WA. This is an exciting Project and a positive way forward working with fathers who use violence.

SFV Showcase

In April Stopping Family Violence held a ‘What’s New in FDV Interventions’ showcase. The showcase was attended by over 60 people representing 27 different community service organisations and departments across WA.

The Showcase provided attendees with the opportunity to hear from a number of speakers from across the sector. A key theme of the day was the need to become DV informed across an entire organisation.

Attendees also had an opportunity to hear about the Department of Communities 10 Year Strategy for Reducing Family and Domestic Violence and participate in a workshop to contribute to the development of the strategy.



Supporting Partnerships that Make a difference

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