

Annual Report 2017-18



Domestic Violence Prevention
Centre
Gold Coast Inc.

President's Report

This year, the DVPC Board has been particularly focused and invested in providing stability and consistency for the service both in its deliverance to the community and its staff. DVPC has been through a period of change in the last few years, and this year there has been a drive to build on the strengths that have arisen out of that and identify the areas that require attention.

The DVPC Board has attended to adding to their governance skills by participating in courses and assessments to improve on those skills. We have also investigated the skill sets that the members of the Board bring and offer and identified the key areas to expand into. We have been successful in recruiting several new members to the Board to complement the skills of the existing Board for the benefit of the service that DVPC can provide.

DVPC continues to be in high demand by people in need of assistance yet is continuously also having to advocate for funding to support the demand and need whilst being subjected to high levels of accountability for the service that is provided. A suitable balance of this may never be achieved yet the service that DVPC provides by its staff is driven by genuine commitment and determination to provide assistance for women and children of our community.

Celebrating DVPC's 25th anniversary this year has been a tremendous milestone.

Of notice, in 2018 DVPC has:

- Made significant progress with the Strategic Plan of the organisation.
- Been identified as the Duluth training provider in Australia. This is a significant achievement and one that the organisation should be extremely proud of.
- Delivered the Safe after Separation Symposium which was attended by over 140 participants
- Delivered the Community Breakfast launch of DV Prevention Month at Q1 which was attended by 140 stakeholders and community members
- Updated and improved Management Account reporting processes.
- Secured the premises from which DVPC's great work is delivered from for a further 12 months and made headway into securing its own premises for the future.
- Established and strengthened its relationship with key stakeholders in the Domestic and Family Violence sector.
- Implementation of the cloud-based DVPC client database.
- Accredited against the Human Services Quality Framework.
- Further implementation of the new intake model.

Moving forward, DVPC has promising and exciting times ahead of it. DVPC is committed to continuing to support and walk with the women and children of our community who are experiencing or exposed to Domestic and Family Violence. I take this opportunity to mention the following:

- To thank the members of the Board for their ongoing commitment and time that they volunteer.
- To thank and acknowledge the tireless work of the CEO of DVPC, Rosie O'Malley. Rosie's passion and desire for DVPC, the service that it provides and its commitment to the women and children of our community, is nothing but admirable and commendable.
- The staff of DVPC for their great work and commitment to assisting the women and children of our community.
- To wish DVPC and the Board of the DVPC the very best for the future.

Rebecca Gee

Chair of the Board of the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre (2017-18)

Director's Report

When thinking about writing this year's report it would be easy to point to the great things that have happened between July 2017 and June 2018. Things like DVPC passing our Human Services Quality Framework audit, getting our new database rolled out - which has been a complete game changer, getting another men's program session funded, our organisational governance moving to a new level and all the other amazing things which you can read about in other parts of this report.

However, throughout those 12 months whenever I connected with colleagues and we checked in with how each other was travelling, the standard reply was "it's insane", "it's crazy busy", or "we're under the pump". These comments became the standard responses whether it was from colleagues working in systems agencies, other NGOs, other DV services, or private practitioners. These responses seemed to be a step up from the usual "we're busy", "just keeping my head above water". There was a different energy and urgency in what colleagues were naming.

For us at DVPC we too have felt the step up in pace, volume, and complexity of the work coming through our doors and telephones. While the data we collect always points to the scale of the work we have been doing: well over 2000 telephones coming into the service each month, advocates working with caseloads of 80 and 90 women, and working collectively with over 6000 women in various ways during those 12 months. What was more difficult to witness was the toll this was taking on our advocates, support staff, facilitators, and coordinators.

We saw experienced advocates who have been doing this work for years deciding they could no longer carry on; we saw team members struggling to enact any type of self-care and becoming unwell more often; we saw frequent Friday nights (or any night) when 4-5 staff are still working at 6:30-7pm, either directly supporting women, or just trying to catch up on case-notes, finalise risk assessments or safety plans, or write Support Letters or external referrals. All of this is practice – it is not admin related work that can be put on the back burner for the glorious day (which rarely if ever comes) when a few hours miraculously appear and they can catch up.

I do not say any of this to garner sympathy or appreciation for how busy and hardworking DVPC is. EVERY single colleague and organisation we work with, and who make it possible for us to do our work, is expressing the same sense of overwhelm.

And yet we all keep showing up every day: doggedly, stubbornly, passionately, collectively, collaboratively, and with integrity. Every day in every way we show up for the people who need our support, our responses, our groups, and the very best that we can offer. And every day and in every way, we show up for each other. I want to stop in this moment and just stand and reflect in awe at that.

And the question needs to be asked – Why? Why do we all choose to do this? There are easier ways of making a living, of paying our rent and mortgages, so it is not that. Some may argue we are loony left idealists who want to save the world. Anyone who has been doing this work for any length of time has left idealism or saving the world off their To Do list ages ago. So it is not that. Some of the criticism specifically of DVPC may be that we are a bunch of angry feminists who want to take down patriarchy and subjugate men. Actually, some of that is true! We are feminists, some days we are angry, and we definitely want patriarchy to end. But we absolutely do not want to at any time, in any place, in any way, to subjugate men. Why would we ever want to replicate Power and Control, the very thing we are working to dismantle?

So collectively, what is our big Why?

In my humble opinion, I believe it is three things.

- The small things we do every day for a woman, a child, a young person, or a man that make big changes to their lives. That in some way moves them closer to living lives free from violence, abuse, control, pain, or being stuck in destructive beliefs or recurring patterns. We see those small moments and we see the big difference it means to someone, and we want to be part of more of those happening.
- The devastation we feel when the opposite happens. When someone experiences violence, abuse, control, pain, or remains stuck in destructive beliefs and recurring patterns. The pain we see when this happens is real, and the pain we feel witnessing it, is real; and we want to be part of less of this happening.
- We see what happens when we do this work collectively and collaboratively. We see the big changes that can happen on the Gold Coast. The Specialist DV Court and its weekly Operational Work Group meetings, the Integrated Response, the Local Level Alliance, the Specialist Police DV Taskforce with twice weekly Triage meetings. What we do together is unique, necessary, and on any given day it is world class. And we all want to be part of more of this happening.

Elie Wiesel, Auschwitz survivor, and Nobel Peace Prize winner says that he did not spend his life fighting evil, he said that is too hard. He said he has spent his life fighting indifference. He said that:

- the opposite of love is not hate, it is indifference
- that the opposite of knowledge is not ignorance, it is indifference
- that opposite of beauty is not ugliness, it is indifference

He says that it is indifference that enables everything that is bad to exist. We often do this work in communities and in a country that is indifferent. People we share this country with who can look at the recent number of women who have been killed (11 in 22 days in September/October), and barely register this loss because it is accepted as our way of life in Australia.

I do not believe that any of us who do this work feels that type of indifference. I do not believe we shake our heads, or shrug our shoulders, and move on to the next woman, child, young person, or man we are working with, as if nothing has happened.

I believe that we carry that pain, that loss of potential of what they could have created in the world, of what problem they had the answer to; that we carry the significance of their lives and deaths, and their humanity. We carry it into every piece of work that we do with those who come to us looking for support, looking to be believed, looking to live safer, better, and easier lives.

Elie Wiesel encourages all of us in whatever we do in life to “Think higher and to feel deeper”.

We can fund more responses, more programs, pass new legislation, evaluate everything we do, looking all the time for better ways of doing this work (and all of these things are essential). But if I think about re-imagining how to do this work in the coming year, I think Elie Wiesel is on the right track. Ultimately if we do not find ways to fight indifference, in our communities, in each other, and in ourselves; all of this work is a gong clanging, it will not bring the change we need.

For everyone reading this who does the work at the front line, we are the witnesses. We are the allied soldiers driving in jeeps and tanks into Auschwitz and witnessing the deaths, the violence, the abuse, and the oppression.

For everyone reading this who does not work at the front line in domestic violence, Elie says “that by listening to a witness is to become a witness”. By listening to us talking about the work, by listening to the stories we capture about the people we are working with and what they are experiencing; by seeing the numbers that show the depth and breadth of the violence, abuse, and oppression of domestic violence; you too become witnesses.

So let us join together to ‘Think Higher and to Feel Deeply’ and to find ways to wrestle with the indifference that makes it so hard for the work we do to change the overwhelming numbers of those experiencing domestic violence.

Let us define ourselves by this question, even if our answers change, or come and go over time, let this question remain - how do we end the indifference?

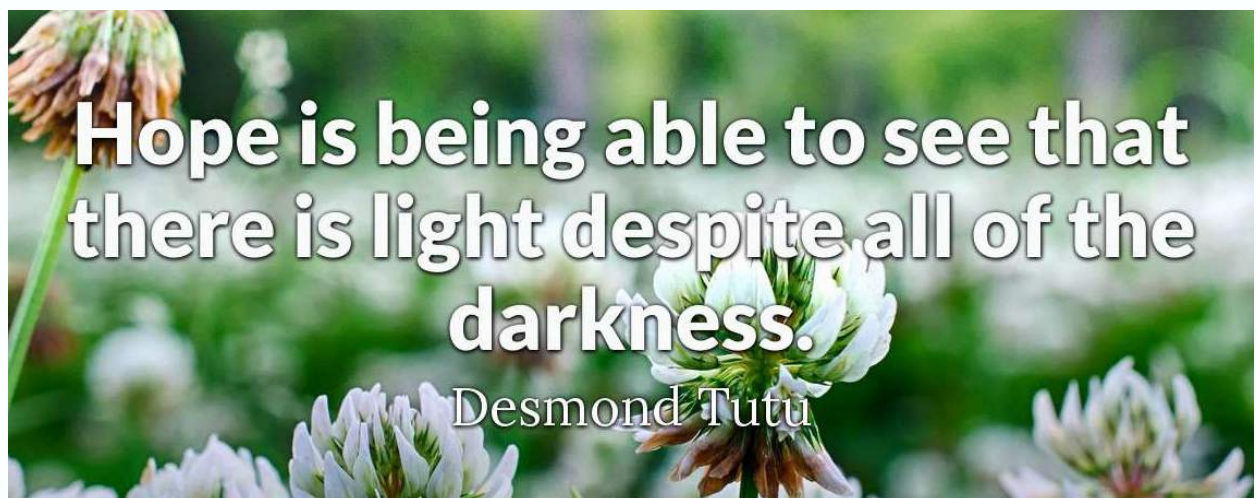
With revolutionary love always

Rosie

Rosemary O'Malley

Proudly and humbly

CEO of DVPC



WOMEN'S COUNSELLING

**2,206 Women
Supported**

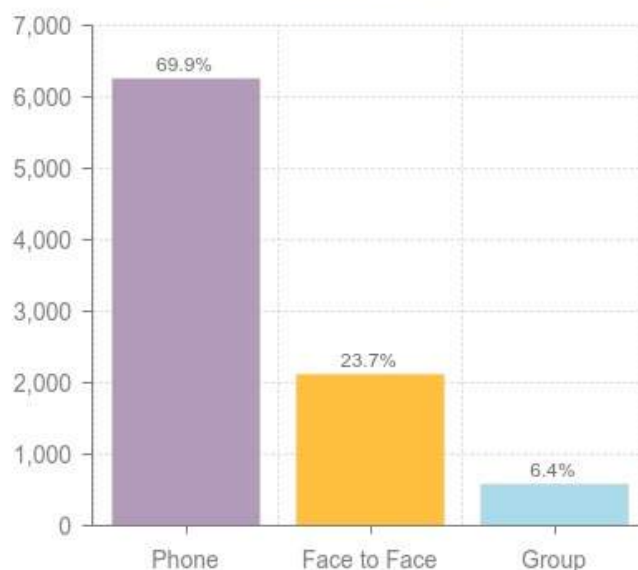
11,761 hours of support delivered
10,338 Contacts

**2,714 Community
Enquiries**

**934 Police
Referrals**

Support Hours Delivered

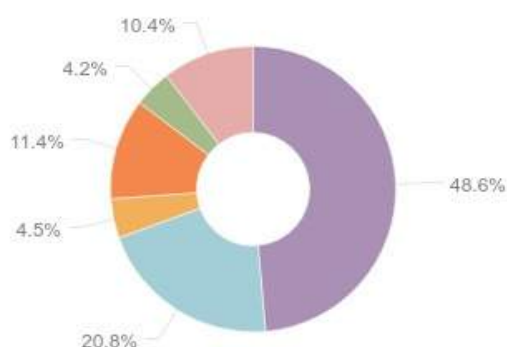
Southport DVPC



Safety Related Expenditure

Client Expenditure by Category

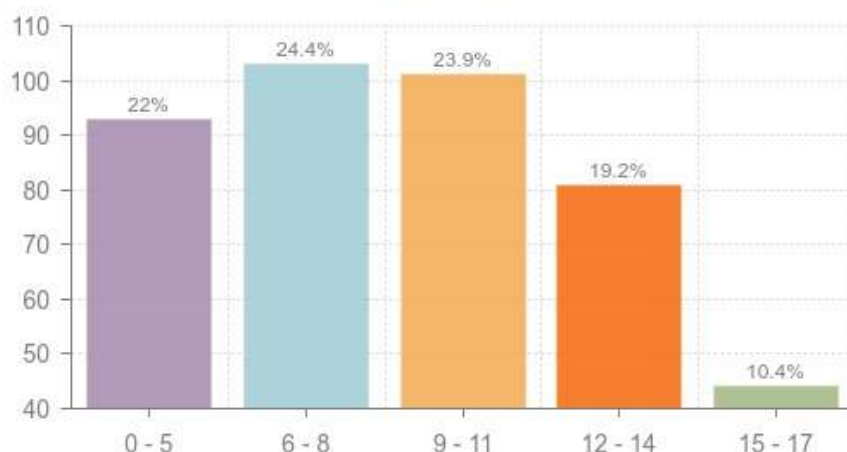
Southport



Home Modifications	\$ 23,340	Safety Devices	\$ 9,996	Travel / Fuel	\$ 2,142
Accommodation	\$ 5,496	Telephones	\$ 2,037	Food Vouchers	\$ 5,000

CHILDREN'S COUNSELLING

Age Distribution
Southport DVPC



422
Children &
Young People
Supported

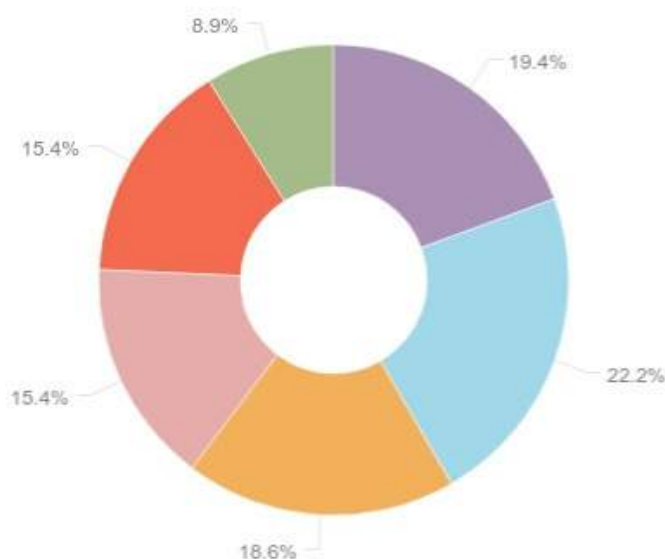
2,272
hours of
support
delivered

COURT ADVOCACY PROGRAM (CAP)

5,967 Hours of Support Delivered

1,111
Occasions
of In-Court
Assistance
Provided

Court Support by Service Type
No. Women Supported



5,748
Contacts

Advocacy	1,057	Information	1,212
Safety Planning	1,015	Practical Support	841
Referral	837	Counselling	487

BEENLEIGH/EAGLEBY/NORTHERN GOLD COAST DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE OUTREACH SERVICE

**1,319 Women
Supported**

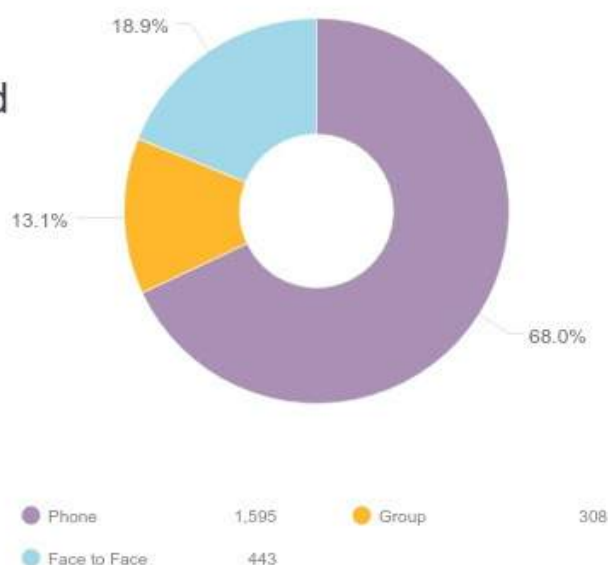
3,527 hours of support delivered
9,397 Contacts

116 Community
Enquiries

740 Police
Referrals

Support Hours Delivered

BENDFVOS



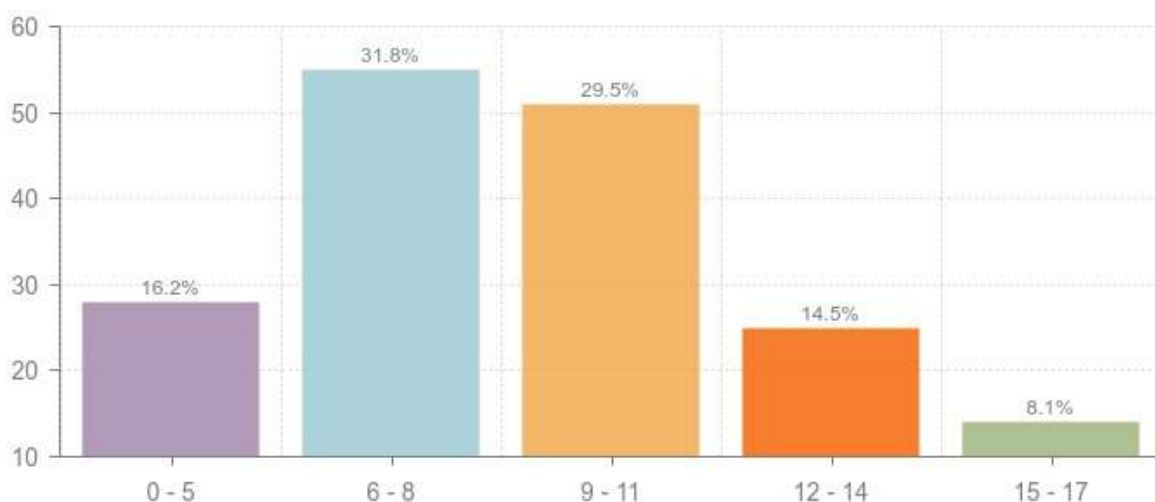
CHILDREN'S COUNSELLING (BENDFVOS)

173 Children & Young People Supported

781 hours of support delivered

Age Distribution

BENDFVOS



MEN'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EDUCATION AND INTERVENTION PROGRAM (MDVEIP)



174

Men
Participated
in Gold
Coast/Logan
Programs



256

Women Supported by
Women's Advocate

4,131

Contacts

1,481

Hours of Support
Delivered

ASSESSMENT SERVICE CONNECT (ASC)

2,515 Hours of Service Delivered



58 Families

Self-identified as being Aboriginal or
Torres Strait Islander



36 Families

Self-identified as being from a Culturally or
Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Background

***Note:** This data was calculated manually from the reports submitted to the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women. The requirements for reporting were modified by the Department during the 2017-18 financial year.*

INTEGRATED SERVICE SYSTEMS (ISS)



199*

Women who received High Risk Coordination

** This data relates to the 3 months from April - June 2018. This was a new role resulting from organisational / program re-structure.*



11

Domestic Violence Integrated Response (DVIR) Meetings Convened

100%

Stakeholder commitment to the DVIR through changes of structure and format

SOURCES

DPVC (Gold Coast) InfoExchange Database

CREATED BY

Domestic Violence Prevention Centre (Gold Coast) Inc.



Women's Counselling - Southport

This year in recognition of the strategic direction of DVPC, the workers became known as Advocates. Their role is to Resource and be an Advocate for women who need our support. Each and every Advocate works tirelessly for women, to increase their safety and access to support and resources. They are amazing, passionate and committed and it shows everyday.

The team continually delivers high quality services and support to women who contact us. We receive referrals from many sources including Police, Hospitals and community partners however self-referrals still make up over 50% of the women whom we support.

A large proportion of the work of the Counselling Team is crisis support. As a specialist domestic violence team, the initial interventions with women consist of assessing safety through specialised risk assessment, safety planning and response planning. A women-centered counselling approach is taken and considers the woman's safety, needs and choices.

Undoubtedly we are seeing an increase in not only the number of women seeking support but also an increase in the severity of the violence they are experiencing and the complex issues that they are facing. This can lead to challenges in finding appropriate referral pathways for women and our Advocates are skilled at finding creative solutions.

In July 2017 a new database, specifically designed to meet the needs of all casework at DVPC was introduced allowing for a more comprehensive assessment, recording and follow up processes. This really has been a game changer for the team providing evidence based information about the woman's situation and the Advocates response.

The database enables us to extract statistics for our reporting to our funding body but also inform our service partners about the level of risk and what DV looks like on the Gold Coast. Some of the stats confirm what we have felt for some time such as the high number of women who have experienced strangulation and threats to kill. Other statistics include the number of women who have been physically assaulted or threatened with a weapon or held against their will.

The introduction of the High Risk Coordinator has also been a great bonus and another game changer for the service. The High Risk Coordinator supports all DVPC Advocates to provide improved and integrated responses for women who are assessed as high or at imminent risk of harm or lethality.

As well as providing one on one support to women, we have continued to deliver the Reflections Group for women and during 2018 we began delivering info sessions for women. Additionally, a team member jointly delivers the Turning Points Program with the Court Advocacy Program to support women who have used violence in their relationships. We also deliver programs in the Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre and Numinbah Correctional Centre to women who are incarcerated. We have been delivering these Programs since 2015 and received funding to continue to do so until June 2019. These Programs are well received by the women, some of whom make contact with DVPC after they are back in the community.

This inspirational team listens to women's stories, their fears and their hopes. They believe and validate women, they provide comfort and support and in doing so make a difference everyday.

Re imagining the Work

Let's paint a picture of a world re-created, where violence against women and children within the home no longer existed. Where relationships between men and women flourish and children grew up in an atmosphere of overwhelming safety and support.

Future generations would look back in dismay to the time in history where abuse and violence occurred in a large percentage of households and where predominantly woman and children suffered at the hands of those they loved, sometimes losing their lives.

I am sure that in the looking backwards this emergent society would view with incredulity, shock and disbelief, and wonder how that society allowed such a scale of violence and oppression to occur to 1 in 3 of its female population. Why did this promising culture allow such devastation among its members at such human, economic and health costs? What was occurring that enabled homicide, infanticide and suicide to flourish and allowed the effects of domestic and family violence to be propelled into future generations. With the presence of hindsight these societies continued to hide the shame behind closed doors, closed minds, and seemingly impenetrable social structures?

The above utopian society may sound imaginary, fanciful, unlikely or even impossible to achieve, however at the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre a "Life Free from Violence" where both men, women and children can live in harmony is seen as a worthwhile long term and achievable goal. Along with other agencies that are involved in the work of domestic violence, both nationally and globally, DVPC continues each year to challenge the structures that enable the oppression of women and children, and which also prevent husbands, partners and boys from enjoying the benefits of respectful and equal relationships.

The 're-imaging process' occurs at DVPC on discrete individual levels and through programs tailored specifically to women, children and men. The losses survivors experience from domestic violence are multiple and incalculable in human and social terms. The foundations of a 'safe world' are shaken as families flee and try to make sense of shattered lives. Through engagement with the various programs at DVPC, individuals are supported to re-imagine relationships that are stable, safe, healthy and to conceive and move towards a future free from violence for themselves and their families



Court Advocacy Program

A New Court Model

In the past financial year, a new Court Model was introduced by the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre.

The new model offers a permanent team including Court Coordinator and five Women's Advocates to assist women across two locations, Southport Magistrates Court and Coolangatta Court.

Our Court Charter

One of the first collective efforts made by the permanent court team was to review the Court Charter, our program name and develop our mission statement for the future. The Court team wanted to simplify our program name and it was agreed to change the name from Domestic Violence Support Information Advocacy Referral to Court Advocacy Program (CAP).

Our mission statement is:

Enhancing women and children's safety by advocating and influencing systems.

Embracing the Mission Statement

To embrace our mission statement there has been a leadership focus on building the team dynamic internally, building professional chemistry and social connections to ensure not only our productivity in service provision but that all team members remain in solidarity with each other to forward our women centred work directly with clients and with external stakeholders. The court team developed further professional biographies to provide to our external stakeholders including specialist Magistrates to provide information about our qualifications and skill base in domestic violence work.

The Work

Currently the CAP team provides service within supported safe spaces for women at both Southport Magistrates Court, five days per week, and Coolangatta Court one day per week.

The scope of the work was envisioned from the previous financial year to provide to women a full service that replicated the DVPC within the Court space and enables a continuum of support thus enhancing best practice principles of working with women impacted by domestic and family violence.

There is a strong focus on ensuring completeness of risk assessment for all women consenting to ongoing service from both CAP and DVPC together with dynamic safety planning whilst a court matter is in progress. The CAP is further enhanced in service delivery through the coordinated and integrated work of the High Risk Coordinator enabling multiple agency engagement external to the court spaces to provide imminent and high risk response to women.

The Court Coordinator attends weekly Operational Working Group Meetings with respect to the Specialist Magistrates Court, which is well attended by multiple agencies including the specialist Magistrates, DJAG representatives and registry staff, Queensland Police Service, Queensland Corrective Service, Legal Aid Queensland and duty lawyer representatives, Centacare, Women's Legal Service, Kalwun, GC Community Legal Centre and Prosecutions.

This meeting provides for predominately operational issues within the specialist court to be raised by stakeholders however it has become more common also for stakeholders to offer insights into systemic trends and gaps arising across Queensland Magistrates Courts.

One of the most important trends that the CAP team has been following and seeking to advocate on regularly with stakeholders is the making of protection orders against women, who are also victims of domestic violence and the making of cross-applications by the Queensland Police Service against both parties to a domestic violence incident/s. The Court Coordinator provided a comprehensive 'ad-hoc' brief for senior Police Prosecutor to present to senior QPS management to further the advocacy for the identification of 'predominant aggressor' in domestic violence incidents. This brief provided examples of eleven women respondents and a comprehensive list of the impacts both systemic and personal of QPS action taken against women. This advocacy was raised throughout the year during Operational Working Group meetings and supported by Legal Aid Queensland, who have extended pathways for respondent women to obtain urgent legal advice where there are complex and multiple legal complications i.e. domestic violence, family law conflict, child protection intervention, CALD background.

Supporting women in court

Supporting women in the court space has diversified since the commencement of our new model together with stakeholders' increasing understanding of the services we can provide. Currently the CAP team supports women across two courts - every day at Southport and 1 day per week at Coolangatta.

However, during the past financial year the CAP team has been directly contacted by QPS and the Director of Public Prosecutions to seek support in providing services to women appearing as witnesses in criminal trials against ex-partners. Our team has supported women in criminal trials in both the Magistrates Court and District Court of Queensland. In addition to this our specialist Magistrates have requested our support in civil Domestic Violence trials for women giving evidence.

Our ongoing building of relationships with stakeholders has afforded the CAP team permission from the specialist Magistrates to assist women and duty lawyers with specific advocacy at the bar table in court across both mentions and with women self-representing at trials. Our advocacy has proved to be vital to women securing adequate conditions on their Applications for Protection Orders particularly with respect to offering specialist understandings of the coercive controlling nature of abuse.

During the past financial year, the CAP team have further focused on creating a far higher visibility of CALD and ATSI women advocacy in the court space including increasing use of interpreter services pre-court and advocacy during court mentions. We currently have a specialist bi-cultural worker who leads this work together with collaboration from the SARA program staff who attend the support room where there are mutual clients in attendance.

Turning Points Program – A non-violence curriculum for women

The need for programs for responding to women who use violence in their intimate partner relationships gained momentum in line with the Recommendations of the Not Now Not Ever Report and the implementation of the Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Court.

The Court Coordinator is currently overseeing and facilitating Turning Points together with a specialist group facilitator and Woman's Advocate from DVPC. The Turning Points Program has transitioned from a Counselling team group program to sit under the new court model.

Having Turning Points sit under the court model has become beneficial from the perspective that the CAP team can directly assess women respondents for group when they appear as respondents or defendants to Applications for Protection Orders and or criminal charges.

During the last financial year two 16-week groups were facilitated with small groups of women successfully completing. The group is specifically available to women who are involved in hetero or same sex intimate personal relationships

The 'Turning Points Program-A nonviolence curriculum for women', is the Duluth Model designed and written program for women who are experiencing coercive controlling abuse from their partner or ex-partner and have used self-defence and/ or resistive violence in response, which has then led to a systems intervention such as a Protection Order against them or a criminal charge.

The four primary objectives of the program are:

1. Women understanding their experiences of violence in the context of the social systems in which they live.
2. Assisting women to see the myths that may have contributed to this being 'their lot in life'.
3. Enabling women to explore their own use of violence and the violence being used against them with the idea that women can begin to plan their own future based on a life free of violence, abuse and coercion and;
4. Creating a space for women to come together in a safe, non-threatening, non-controlling environment with professional and highly skilled facilitators who have a thorough and in-depth knowledge of themselves, their feminist principles and the use power and control.

The future of this program is looking bright with recent adoptions made to condense the program from 16 weeks to 10 weeks, to provide four groups per year, during school terms.

....As someone who has been in and out of these kind of units in Sydney and Melbourne for years due to a very abusive relationship, I had never felt this level of safety before and I knew everything would be ok because every time I went to court, I knew A would be there to guide me and support me. She's a truly amazing woman and I just wish that victims in other States and cities could get this kind of level of care and support that I got here on the Gold Coast - because, I promise you, it truly does make a massive difference*

Excerpt from a letter from a woman supported at Court

RE-IMAGINING THE WORK

The CAP team has reflected on our ability through the Specialist Domestic Violence Court to make headway into coordinated responses with the family law jurisdiction. To offer women support through more than one jurisdiction to enhance their understandings of legal systems, their rights and obligations. Given the current review of the Family Law Act in Australia and the identification within this review to date of the need for hubs where clients can be supported in a holistic manner that incorporates service for domestic violence support, risk assessment and safety planning, we believe specialist DV workers who can straddle State and Federal jurisdiction to provide this service represents action and advocacy that can be transformational systemically.

Internally

The court team is looking forward to an injection of new tech resources which we believe will enhance our daily practice for the coming financial year. Given the dynamic and crisis nature of the work at court our team is very focused on contributing to DVPC's ability to measure and place language around the high level of specialist service provided in the Gold Coast region for the protection of women and children from domestic and family violence.

The CAP team will have its own database 'workgroup' whereby we will be able to report very specifically on our provision of services and engagement with internal and external stakeholders.

International inspiration

The CAP team members attended QDVSN Conference: Developing Integrated Responses to Domestic and Family Violence in Australia: The Next Step in May 2018 which provided our team with opportunities to reimagine our work through the lens of the Eight Principles developed by Duluth Model for coordinated community response to domestic and family violence. This opportunity has inspired us to reflect further on our engagement with stakeholders and to make further commitment to understanding how other stakeholders organise their roles and how we can add value to their work in the future.

Queensland inspiration

In July the Court Coordinator and a Court advocate represented DVPC at DVCAN Forum on the Gold Coast to forward the work of court advocates in our region. It was our opportunity also to nominate for the role of DVCAN conveners for the State of Queensland and our nomination was accepted.

We have many ideas moving forward to enhance the voices of court advocates within the legal system in the near future and we look forward to progressing this work with such a strong foundation as the GCDVIR and Specialist DV Magistrates Court.

Ultimate in Imagination!

Ultimately, the CAP team has future goals to continue to role model excellence in service for women experiencing domestic violence and share our learnings across Queensland and beyond about excellence in court advocacy.

Integrated Service Systems

GC Domestic Violence Integrated Response (GCDVIR)

The Discovery Project commenced in 2017 as an initiative to further inform planning and decision making based on network interviews and service mapping. The final report was published in October 2017 and identified twenty-seven (27) opportunities for the GCDVIR to consider.

The 27 opportunities were drafted in to a work plan, grouped and prioritised appropriately and now just over 12 months later 10 have been completed, 13 are underway, and ongoing, and two are about to begin.

The opportunities identified could be categorised in to 4 areas:

1. Increase capacity and capability of workforce and system
2. Monitor and Measure success and impact
3. Improve service delivery and outcomes
4. Communication and information sharing

There have been several staff and structure changes in the DVIR since the Discovery Project report was published, the most significant being the splitting of the DVIR Coordinator role in to two separate roles. There is now both a DV Integrated Response Coordinator and a DV High Risk Coordinator in the DVIR. This separation has strengthened the effectiveness of the IR since, with a single dedicated staff member responding to High Risk situations we are now able to respond to more high-risk situations with greater consistency and efficiency. This also allows for the IR Coordinator to focus entirely on system and service development.

Also, the 2018 DVIR gatherings have evolved from the original model, a smaller and more robust group with consistent membership and a clear function, to a far broader group now including most of the Gold Coast organisations that provide services and programs to people experiencing DFV. The Discovery Project findings were a catalyst for this change with many sector stakeholders declaring a strong desire to be included in the GCDVIR. As a response to this interest, membership was opened to include a wider group. Managing this change has been a challenge as we've felt the logistical tensions between keeping opportunities for others to be involved open whilst at the same time protecting trusting relationships by creating safe environments for delicate discussions and sharing to take place ...but together we have found solutions.



Re-imagining the GCDVIR...

The foundation that has been laid by DVPC and the DVIR is considerable. There are strong and stable relationships in place, not only with individuals but more importantly between the organisations with a long history of membership with the DVIR. This foundation creates a platform for action and not just conversation. As one of our partners said, the DVIR... 'Brings key stakeholders to the table for a true integrated response to support unmet needs and gaps (it follows through – integrated is not just a name, but an action response)' . The DVIR has an outstanding reputation as a group of doers.

The opportunity before us is to not rest on past success but to use this foundation as a platform to build on and reach from. It was identified by another DVIR partner that one of things we do well is 'Providing social leadership to its members.' Which begs the questions, if we are pursuing a re-imagined future, then where else can we lead?

There are two significant talking points in the Domestic and Family Violence sector at present, these are 'elder abuse' and 'violence and abuse against people with disability'. With the increased aging population and the role out of the NDIS these are two critical issues that will soon demand more attention. A re-imagined DVIR would use its existing influence to include a coordinated community response to provide better support for these vulnerable people.

The solution to our earlier mentioned tension, positions us well for this expanded response. We have now separated the DVIR and re-branded the larger group as the DV Interagency Group (DVIG) which is a name that better represents the group's function. This change has released us from the confines of thinking about just an Integrated Response function and enabled us to extend our reach, invite more broadly and open conversations that were previously outside the scope of the DVIR.

This expanded network provides us the platform to share, train, encourage, shape and advocate in ways that we haven't been able to before. The opportunities then for us to lead outside the traditional DFV boundaries have been broadened.

Recognising that intersectionality creates oppression and discrimination, a reimagined GCDVIR is no longer bound with constraining mindsets but through increased membership via an active and vibrant DV Interagency Group, it is now deliberately pursuing and including voices and people who represent different disenfranchised groups.

In addition to our older people, there is also another significantly disadvantaged and vulnerable minority group, they being people with disability experiencing DFV. With the significant disruption that the NDIS brought to the disability sector including the imminent withdrawal of the Qld Government Department, Disability Services Queensland, there is and will continue to be an expanding gap in support services for people with disability experiencing DFV. As social leaders in the DFV sector, DVPC and the DVIR would be regarded as key partners and community resources for responding to and addressing this human rights issue.

The years of experience that the DVIR has in shaping a successful coordinated community response to DFV on the Gold Coast positions DVPC well to provide training, consultancy and resources to various community stakeholders. As a credible resource provider, we could also engage in critical dialogue with the community and its leaders. The nature of this dialogue would be grounded in exposing the four pillars that Ellen Pence suggest support the existence of Domestic and Family Violence. In fact without these, Ellen suggests, DFV is unsustainable.

1. Hierarchy - The notion of hierarchy
2. Submission - The ability to force those at the bottom of the hierarchy to submit
3. Objectification - of those at the bottom of the hierarchy, and
4. Absence of Accountability - The ability of those at the top of the hierarchy to use punishment, violence and coercion without consequences.

A re-imagined future then is this, DVPC and the DVIR are sought after communicators, requested to conduct information sessions, community conversations, workshops and audits to consider the use of power and control either deliberately or subconsciously in organisations, communities and systems.

More importantly though, we embody and model the principles of non-violence in ourselves and our organisation:

- We are mindful of our privilege and entitlement
- We demonstrate empathy and pursue understanding
- We respect everyone, especially those we lead and work with
- We seek and receive guidance, feedback and insight from others

When all is said and done, we are the change we want to see.



Children's and Young Persons Counselling - Southport

The desire to have a DVPC response to all children on the Gold Coast who might be experiencing domestic and family violence in their homes or their intimate partner relationships propelled the re-imagining of the children's program to introduce a Young Persons Worker.

The role provides a specific and tailored service response to 12 – 18-year-old young people. The role has linked with various agencies that connect with young people throughout the year including YHES House, Headspace, Life Without Barriers, Gold Coast Project for Homeless Youth. The role is also embedded one day per week within Youth Justice offering support to young people and professionals. One of the significant developments of this role has been uncovering pockets of risk largely hidden or not known previously within the schools where there is Family Violence and Intimate Partner Violence. The Young Persons Role now has a presence with School Health Nurses and Guidance Officers.

The work with younger children continues to grow particularly as the result of strong networking within the community sector and links with the Assessment Service Connect team embedded at Nerang Child Safety. This latter referral pathway enables connections to be made with mothers and children have come to the attention of child protection. The numbers continue to grown as internal referrals increase as well as referrals from external agencies.

Children's and Young Persons counselling is going from strength to strength with the numbers of individuals supported greater than any previous years. While this is welcomed, we always continue to hold the tension that demand could outstrip the capacity of the team.

With this in mind, the children's work re-imagined is one of expansion, where the space, time and tools needed to work with the children is readily available. This might mean that the service offers extended hours and days so children can have access at times that don't mean they need to miss out on other important aspects of their lives. It also means that That the spaces used for children's work are well equipped and the staff are resourced, supported and trained to fulfill their roles.



Men's Domestic Violence Education and Intervention Program (MDVEIP)

What were some of the highlights?

A number of highlights throughout the year included the following:

Training- With new facilitators in the training process a Saturday morning training session was conducted. The training involved practicing the “logging” process. Feedback from facilitators suggested it was well received and supported professional development of facilitators.

Facilitator Levels- There are currently 14 facilitators able to be rostered on for the Program. Nine facilitators are Level 3, with one of those being on Maternity Leave until early 2019. One facilitator on Level two and four facilitators on Level one with two of the facilitators identifying as Aboriginal. The implications of having a large pool of trained and competent facilitators means that coverage for 50 weeks of the year is consistent and manageable. This will help to maintain program integrity and meet the needs of cultural diversity represented within the participants of the MDVEIP.

This year, facilitators were inducted as Casual employees of DVPC and provision was made for them to be financially supported for Professional development and attending quarterly meetings. This process was well received and has been a seamless transition.

The Women's Advocates role has been formalized as a four day per week position based at Southport to adequately support four programs each week.

Who's new to MDVEIP?

The Program Co-Ordinator position was taken up by a new member of the DVPC staff in March this year, with a focus on a thorough handover. The out going Coordinator took up another position within the organization.

Four facilitators have commenced, who come from a variety of backgrounds. These facilitators will continue to be mentored and supervised over the course of the year and into 2019. The vision is to have both a Male and Female Aboriginal co facilitating an Indigenous Men's Program. There is also one Trainee facilitator currently attending the observation session with the view to commence program early 2019.

How are the programs going?

Programs were running at full capacity over the year to manage the waitlist and although there are invariably absences each week, full capacity meant 16 men, 2 facilitators and up to two observers.

Observers from QPS, QCS, DVPC and several NGO services have attended and provided positive feedback from their observations of the program.

During the 2017-18 period 174 men participated in the program.

256 Women were supported by the Women's Advocate

Feedback from observers:

“Overall I believe this program is very much needed and it felt like the guys are getting something out of it even if they are forced to be there” “It was really good! I hear a lot about the program, so it was really good to see it from the inside. It was really interesting getting to see how everyone interacts, and how the men are challenged on certain behaviours and thought processes. I'm looking forward to going again in September and seeing another different topic and how it is addressed.”

Feedback from participants:

“ I was unlovable, now I understand why. I don't have to resort to violence. ”
“I can consider different ways of being a respectful partner and a father who is available.”
“My life, relationship and beliefs have changed and my use of violence in the past and the tactics I used were my way of manipulating and controlling.”

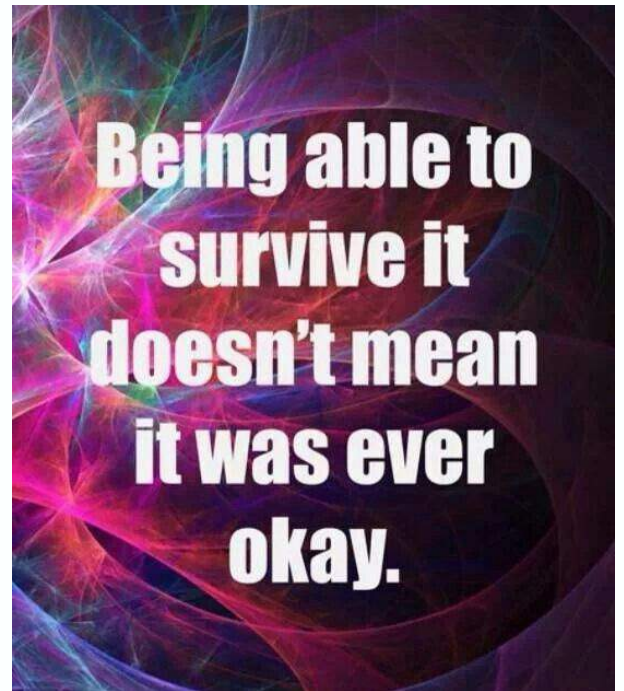
Feedback from Partners:

Women reported seeing noticeable change in their partner's behaviour; and indicated that they have watched their partner better manage themselves at times of conflict and heightenedness. The women have stated that they believe that is the result of their program learnings.

What about our stakeholders?

Having strong stakeholder support and involvement with MDVEIP is critical to mitigate risk and to align with the Duluth Model. Regular liaison with key stakeholders, particularly with Probation and Parole Officers again proved essential over the year. This involved having conversations to ensure DVPC are advised of any dynamic risk changes relating to the men and ensuring there is sufficient men and ensuring there is sufficient information on the MDVEIP Assessment Referral Pack regarding risk.

The monthly/six weekly meetings are a vital forum for items of concerns and regular review of how these are addressed. QCS has invited Probation and Parole Officers to attend the monthly/six weekly meetings which has proved to be an invaluable resource of information, assisting with risk assessment and collateral information for WA.



REIMAGINING- Where do we want to go and why?

To reimagine is to reinterpret (an event, work of art, etc.) imaginatively. The DVPC MDVEIP has now been delivered for 19 years and has a solid reputation. It can be argued that the sustainability of the program is due to the communication pathways between the key stakeholders, commitment from facilitators and support from founders of Duluth Model in provision of training and development.

The MDVEIP facilitators have proven again this year to be open to new learning and ideas for the betterment of their facilitation practice and the outcome for the men in the program.

As we reimagine the work and look to a “modern approach” we see that the core is the same however the “Marketing is different”. Looking at how we market or “rebrand” the program is vital to maintaining the enthusiasm of using it within the Mens’ Intervention space. It is imperative that we connect with the wider sector and focus on the strengths of a long-standing program with the ability to adapt to meet the language of current climate.

Main Vision – Secure Long-Term Funding for DVPC MDVEIP Strategic Planning: The MDVEIP Teams

To reimagine a MDVEIP Research and Development program with researchers who gather the vast and profound data regarding men who are referred to the program, that now spans over 18 years, for publishing in relevant journals and presenting at national and international conferences.

To reimagine having a team of facilitators and a team of MDVEIP trainers who are well resourced to be able commit to strengthening the sector in the work. Both teams would be led by the MDVEIP Co-ordinator who would be solely focused on developing practice and supervision. The provision of an MDVEIP Administrator who would be solely focused on the program administrative tasks.

To reimagine MDVEIP training team that could compose of existing or past facilitators who educate the community and share the stories from the men in the program from the men themselves (audio/visual) and/or from the facilitator’s experiences, the conversations between the men, the men’s perspectives on life and relationships and the beliefs that are held by the men. Sharing these amongst the community in some way could prove to be preventative as well as educative and contribute to the dispelling of myths and assumptions about men in domestic violence programs.

To reimagine having the WA train and mentor WA’s working within the DVIR Men’s program. To develop and facilitate training to raise awareness within the sector of the WA role in this context. The linking of MDVEIP team of facilitators and trainers to the work of the MDVEIP WA work and the work at DVPC with women and children to create an inclusive DVPC culture.

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More programs –

To reimagine secure funding for five programs per week including a day program on the Gold Coast and similar for Logan/Beenleigh.

To reimagine a program that works with the men on the MDVEIP Waitlist with someone who contacts them regularly (phone) while they are waiting to enter the program to help them to 'warm into' the program.

To reimagine delivering more groups that are delivered during the day as well as the evening (open and closed groups / shorter programs / individual programs) that could be modified and have a specific focus to meet the complexities men come with (i.e. parenting after separation). In addition, a refresher program for men who have completed the program and would like to stay connected and engaged with this type of group forum.

Internal Relationships –

The reimagining use of a shared language with an understanding that language is powerful and can have a huge impact on us, our work and those we work with. 'Violent men/offenders' is a totalling term contributes to the belief that there is no room for change. Whereas participants of a men's program for 'men who use/have used violence' in their close relationships contributes to a different belief. Again, the political tension with language is difficult to navigate and some may view the latter as watering down the violence, rather than creating room/space for difference. As facilitators, working from a framework that has space for difference is crucial for building a working relationship with each participant of the program over 27 weeks.

External Relationships -

The reimagining of working closer together with external stakeholders that is robust and tangible with methods to capture and record women's experience, offender risk and participant recidivism

The reimagining of having a permanent seat on all HRT meetings in Logan-Beenleigh to ensure information is accurate and responses are formed that has considered the unintended consequences for women. A vision to ensure the MDVEIP remains visible to QCS by having the MDVEIP Co-ordinator and/or MDVEIP WA work one day a week from each QCS DO to work closely with PPO's – be present at assessments / facilitate risk unpacks / discuss dynamic risk factors and unintended consequences / conduct inductions, reviews (instead of facilitators). In addition, having a point of contact at DVTask Force or SVT for reciprocal case consults, collaborative risk assessment initiatives, proactive information sharing from QPS re: HR offenders, and QPS interventions.

The re-imagining of the MDVEIP establishing and maintaining robust relationships with other specific services for men to assist with their specific needs – (i.e. Drug and Alcohol programs, Mental Health Services, Housing Org's, Individual counselling) and engage in regular case consults/management with such services regarding men to develop a tailor made individual case management plan for prior/during/and post program.

Beenleigh, Eagleby, Northern Gold Coast Domestic and Family Violence Service (BDFVS)

DVPC Beenleigh continues to be a key service in responding to women and children who have experienced DFV in the Beenleigh, Eagleby and Northern Gold Coast areas. We have been working closely with the Specialist Court and the we continue to strengthen relationships with Logan HRT and the Integrated Service Response network. During the year DVPC Beenleigh worked with 23 women clients who were referred to HRT from various agencies including QPS, Probation & Parole, IFS, FACC and DVPC.

DVPC Beenleigh continues to work collaboratively with GCDVIR and the recruitment of a High Risk Coordinator has been invaluable in this process for consultation on cases assessed as imminent/high risk by streamlining processes required to advocate with external key stakeholders particularly QPS including DV Taskforce and Triage meetings.

In August 2017 together with DVPC Southport, provided "In Their Shoes" Training to Registry and Court Staff of both Southport Specialist DV Court and the new DV Specialist Court at Beenleigh. It is always an interesting workshop that helps staff from other agencies understand the challenges and often limited choices that women face. The interactive nature of the training was possibly challenging for some participants but feedback indicated it made them more aware of the experiences women and their children face when attempting to access both government and non government services for protection and safety.

At DVPC Beenleigh we have run a successful group for women called i.Reflect which was held over 6 weeks. A core group of 8 women participated and attended regularly. i.Reflect was also very privileged to have the last day of lunch and lovely gift bags provided by the Beenleigh Soroptomist International. They brought everything with them including cutlery, plates, serviettes and took it all away again!

We have been very fortunate to have the support of SI Beenleigh members. They have partnered with us on a number of activities including Little Feet Part 2 which was displayed during Child Protection Week. SI Beenleigh also had a display in the Beenleigh Library for DV Prevention Month showcasing Little Feet Part 1 and the Puzzle Pieces of Life.

We appreciate and value their ongoing support and commitment to our agency and the women and children.



REIMAGINING THE WORK

CONTINUING THE COLLABORATIVE WORK WITH PARTNER AGENCIES

Enhance collaborative work by streamlining procedures and processes with partner agencies particularly in the Logan area by implementing the use of technology for direct referral pathways.

Building stronger professional relationships with partner agencies by regularly attending High-Risk Team meetings, Integrate Service Response meetings and the Local Level Alliance.

i.Reflect WOMEN'S GROUP

DVPC Beenleigh has identified that to continue providing women's groups which require two facilitators is not sustainable within the current budget. The aim for 2018/2019 is to source co-facilitators from a range of partner agencies to continue and expand the provision of group work to women.

THERAPEUTIC ART PROJECTS

DVPC Beenleigh has undertaken a number of creative art projects, many with the support of Soroptimist International Beenleigh, and would welcome support and funding to diversify and expand working using this medium for women and children's healing. The power of the medium in the healing process cannot be minimised. It provides a powerful visual depiction which is an articulate representation of the trauma experienced and assists women and children to process their experiences.

We will continue to actively attempt to source partnerships and funding to increase the provision of therapeutic art projects from various sources and will showcase, with consent, the work at community events such as Domestic & Family Violence Prevention Month and 16 Days of Activism against Violence to women.

BECOMING VISIBLE AND EXPANDING THE WORK

Pimpama/Coomera Cluster: a lack of services in this location was identified at a meeting with local agencies in August 2017 some interesting statistics, which identifies the uniqueness of the community.

- * GC residents average age 38 years, locally 29 years.
- * 25% increase in GC, with 85% locally in the same period.
- * 1 QPS officer per 2400 persons, much higher than the state average.
- * Significant projection of compounded population growth in area.

DVPC to review and source additional funding to respond to the increased need of women and children experiencing domestic violence in the Gold Coast Northern Corridor.



Organisational and Community Development

The Community and Organisational Development Co-ordinator role contributes to keeping women and children safer, by guiding the organisation, overseeing compliance with contractual and legislative requirements, preparing acquittals and reports and ensuring they are accurate and delivered on time. It sources funding for projects and activities, rattles the tin to get resources and speaks to groups to raise awareness of DVPC and the issue of DV in the community. It really is a mixed bag and can be challenging, exciting, frustrating, humbling and energising all in the space of 5 minutes.

2017 -18 did bring some big shifts forwards such as the HSQF Audit and the accreditation. It was a milestone for DVPC and the certification hangs proudly in our office.

2017-18 was also the year that we delivered events to celebrate 25 years of service. We started with an acknowledgment morning tea for our key partners who we work so closely with every day - we can't do this work alone and we don't.

We held an International Women's Day Trivia Night which was well attended and challenges have been thrown down for the one to be held in 2019. DV Prevention Month was one of our biggest with a breakfast launch at Q1 that attracted over 140 people to listen to Kay McGrath who presented at the event. We also launched the Gender Equality Cards which were funded by a grant from the Queensland Government and presented the DV Prevention Awards in recognition of contributions of an amazing group of people. We held a candlelight vigil at Southport that had over 250 attendees who stood together with us to remember those who had been impacted by and who had died as a result of DV. We then delivered a fantastic symposium "Safe after Separation" which was attended by over 150 professionals who were in awe of all the amazing presenters who came from the America and Victoria. We also delivered workshops and attended events held by others. It was a very busy month indeed. Some of the events were funded by grants from the Queensland Government and Gold

Coast City Council and we are very grateful for their support. We were also successful in getting grants to continue to deliver Program to women in Prison, to print more copies of the Purple Book, to purchase new computers and to develop resources for young people.

2017-18 has been a big year, much was achieved but there is still so much to do and so many exciting things to come for DVPC, of that I am sure. Last year I wrote the following for my vision

"The vision for DVPC from an Organisational Development perspective is a service that has its own purpose-built premises, adequate resources to meet the demand and has maintained and built on the foundations of governance and compliance established this year. From a Community Development perspective, community attitudes around domestic violence change, the increased awareness in the community continues to grow and we partner with existing and new allies to work to create a safer community and the increased accountability for those that choose to use violence in their relationships"

These still remain my vision for DVPC and form part of my work plan for the coming year.

In re-imagining the work, I am imagining a time where the pace is not so frantic and the resources not so scarce, however this only an interim step on the way to a time when organisations like DVPC are no longer required. To achieve the end goal of a society free from gender-based violence, where communities come together to celebrate safety rather than remembering those who have been harmed or died, we need much more work addressing the key drivers and enablers of domestic violence. My reimagining is where we can engage more individuals in conversations about gendered violence, where we can work towards and achieve gender equality and its benefits for everyone. This means more prevention and early intervention work with communities and individuals and the necessary funding and commitment from governments to do this as well as the recognition that this is important and necessary work that must be done if we ever want things to change. I believe that there is a growing awareness within the community of what needs to be done and a willingness to be part of the change and I believe DVPC can and should be leaders in and of this change.



The Domestic Violence Prevention Centre GC Inc. is delighted to advise that the

SAFE AFTER SEPARATION SYMPOSIUM

is now open for bookings

The symposium will be held on 11th May 2018 at QT Surfers Paradise.

A limited number of free tickets are limited to 5 per Organisation

bookings at www.trybooking.com/370713

Tickets can be purchased for \$100 per ticket at www.trybooking.com/370717

The allocation of tickets (free and purchased) are limited

The program will be downloadable from the website from 5th April 2018 at [dvpc.com.au/events](http://www.dvpc.com.au/events)



ASSESSMENT SERVICE CONNECT (ASC)

'The need to approach others positively and with enthusiasm for difference is absolutely critical to any change'. -Kissling

The Landscape

In May the ASC turned one. An overview of the year calls for an understanding of the landscape which ASC navigates as an NGO program co-located within Nerang Child Safety. The three Gold Coast Child Safety Investigation and Assessment teams are situated there and are contractually our sole referrers.

During this AGM reporting period the University of South Australia released its report into a review of child protection notifications in that state. What they found was 1 in 4 children became known to child protection services by the age of ten, with the majority having further reports pertaining to them and repeated trauma (Better Start, 2017: 2) (Puddy, 2018). In Queensland the statistics are similar to South Australia, with 1 in 4 (24%) children known to Child Safety, and nationally 1 in 50 children enter some type of out of home care (Better Start, 2017: 7). Far from being based in over-reporting, or from overly cautious notifiers, the study highlighted the abuse and neglect was at a significant level and warranted screening in as an investigation (Puddy, 2018). Professor Arney warns of a child protection system in crisis across Australia, "If we are talking about one in four children, we don't have a system that is equipped to meet the demand" (Puddy, 2018). The local Child Safety staff who belong to the three local investigation and assessment teams at Nerang work in this gap, in the pressure, under public scrutiny, and with a specific mandate.

Staffing

ASC consists of a small team of three people in the following roles: Fathering Consultant (FTE 0.6), Woman and Children's Advocate (FTE: 0.9), and Coordinator (FTE: 0.7). After some changes, staffing has been stable since December 2017.

The Work

"I have learned that change comes about at the margins. I've always believed that. People in the centre are not going to be the big change makers. You've got to put yourself at the margins and be willing to risk in order to make change. But more importantly, you have got to approach difference, as I said, with this notion that there is good in the other." Kissling, 2018

A DVPC ASC worker are what Tippetts refers to as "bridge people" who connect, but do not merge, the statutory child protection system and domestic violence women services. ASC is the first DVPC program to require, via the Human Services Quality Framework (HSQF), the Child Protection Act 1999 be reflected in policy and practice. We are there as both specialist DFV consultants to CSYW (assessment role) and as frontline DFV workers engaging families. Much of this year has been spent on what the afore-mentioned bridge could look like in real practice in a fast-paced high stakes environment. We are in the middle of an ongoing vulnerable conversation with Child Safety (and our Act for Kids ASC partners) around how can we do this work together. As such, since the QDVSN conference in May, attention has been turned to developing a greater understanding of Child Safety's mandate, practice procedures, and what the investigation and assessment phase looks like in detail, in order to become more effective and create practice that can create forward movement.

This developing understanding is what will ultimately bring value to victims and to Child Safety. And as our site was the pilot of the Assessment and Service Connect program it's also been about how the state-wide ASC operational guidelines outline our function, how the co-location impacts workflow and culture, and what ASC specific tasks of the "bridge people" could look like.

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The other part of our ASC role is connect -to directly work with or on the behalf of families; responding to DV risk, and helping families connect into informal and informal support to reduce the likelihood of them re-entering the child protection system. We had only 67 referrals which translated to direct work with families, and the other 62 were indirect consultation. It became very apparent it wasn’t just the number of referrals translating to direct being low that was problematic, but more so from a contractual standpoint how we could meet outputs if an indirect referral equated to minimal consultation. Given Child Safety is our ONLY referrer, there is a need to work differently moving forward.

The Men’s Engagement Worker role received extremely low referrals and has remained under capacity for the life of the program. This means it’s difficult to achieve a core ASC aim of reducing the family coming back to the attention of Child Safety because we are simply not working with the perpetrators. This also means women and mothers, partly because it is also their household being investigated if he’s out of the home, are continuing to be ‘held responsible for the violence, while the perpetrator is disappeared from the analysis’ (Strega, 2009). Another impact is equity of staff workload and its impact on staff culture, with the Woman and Children’s Advocate carrying more work than the Fathering Consultant. In an attempt to address this, the role was altered to a Fathering Consultant, in which our worker could attend initial home visit with the CSO as the CSO’s consultant if the male gave permission upon arrival for him to stay at the meeting.

This year:

- We immediately responded with outreach visit to some women (risk prioritisation based) where she had given permission to the CSO for us to be involved
- We provided community outreach (prison, hospital) and home-visiting. Removing some barriers of accessing services (petrol, children, social anxiety, mental health)
- Fathering Consultant worked directly with men around increasing safety and linking to support
- We participated in Family Group Meetings and host stakeholder’s meetings.
- We provided advocacy around Visas
- We transported families to child contact
- We helped families better understand and navigate the child protection system
- We brought the family’s lived experience to the investigation
- We referred to services
- Assessed risk and safety planned with families and systems
- Brought hope, tried to reduce shame, and increase human connection

- We went to court
- We transported to and attended appointments with families
- We were available immediately to see families, in work hours, based on risk prioritisation
- We listened and changed practices accordingly
- Provided DV education
- Helped families house hunt
- Organised emergency relief
- Worked with mother where children had been removed under temporary assessment orders
- Advocated for perpetrator accountability
- Met with schools

Data

While CSYW estimated the ARC database would be delivered by the end of 2017, no database was delivered to the service in the reporting period. Case note keeping was paper file based with output data inputted into an excel spreadsheet data tool created by CSYW. Our data collection is therefore not as nuanced as other sites in which SRS is used.

The Work Re-Imagined **(Imagining a significantly different future beyond the current work)**

Re-imagining the work begins with an increasing orientation in all aspects of community and personal life to what Pat McCabe phrases as our “design for Thriving Life” or “Thriving Life Plan”, that we may all be “in service to life”. What better place to start than on the edge of life; it’s beginning. Supported pregnancy, non-coercive birth supports and systems, and birthing on country. May birth be non-violent for all involved (infant, mother, father, community, professionals) and designed for Thriving Life.

Families (and everyone) would have essential resources which enable them to move beyond survival mode and create a foundation where child safety (and safety for all) is more likely. ‘The escalating levels of child protection system involvement are associated with an increasing prevalence of characteristics that may be related to the experience of disadvantage’ (Better Start, 2017, 8). Due to this we need our equality to expand beyond gender equality. This would mean:

- The services and resources we provide and the policies we have in Australia are consistent with the “design for Thriving Life”.
- Women and children could remain in their homes if violence occurred.
- Therapeutic services would be fully funded with best modalities to suit the need.

Men would call themselves to account for the violence they enact on each other, and on women and children. It would be their collective first priority to attend to as they pivot toward a ‘service to life’ way of being as they heal.

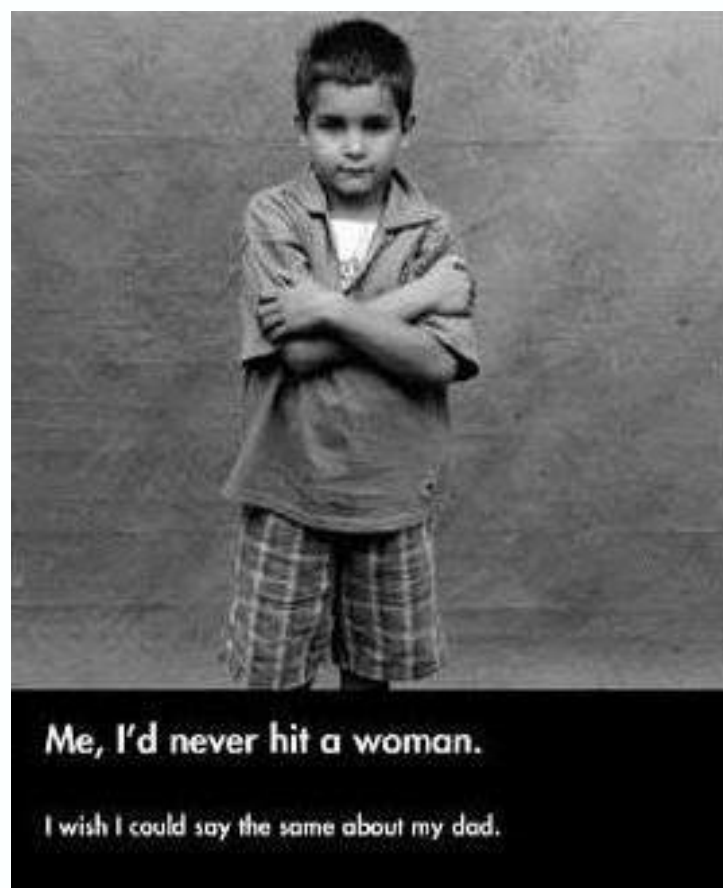
Where regionally possible, Social Work and Human Services undergraduates would spend a three-month practicum period within a domestic violence service or under a specialist domestic and family violence practitioner due to the prevalence of domestic violence in the populations they will encounter.

Child Protective Services would be adequately resourced in line with the demand. There would be embedded Fathering Consultant roles in the statutory sector and policy would mandate this consultant works with every father/male in a parenting role using power and control in a child's life. We would see the man using violence become the centre of the investigation and assessment and subsequent interventions rather than mothers and female partners being held responsible for someone else's use of violence. Systems would be integrated to ensure a consistent, certain, and swift process of accountability around his use of domestic violence. Policies and procedures of Child protective services and legislation would make this response the response expected and similarly through legislation, policies, and procedures other systems agencies would have an extremely integrated response to domestic violence, which didn't rely on the survivor having to put her neck on the line again and again.

On the increasingly small occasion someone would experience domestic and family violence they could go to the police, know what to expect because of the consistency, and be listened to.

Police and the courts would be well resourced at level of demand. Policies, procedures, and legislation would consistently mean holding perpetrator accountability, survivor/victim safety, and holding a pathway forward which re-connects the person using violence to their own design for "Thriving Life". The process would be one which is "set to win" from the start with how evidence is collected, for example use of Body Worn Cameras and accurate strangulation assessment. Survivors would never be guilty or punished by the system.

Because of the above measures being put in place, Our degrees and careers as domestic violence and child protection workers would be redundant and our jobs would eventually no longer need to exist due to their being no need. Instead we would have "Thriving Lifers" who would support people in the times of the life where they needed to have someone midwife their re-orientation to their own 'design for Thriving Life'. These Thriving Lifers would be the most vibrant and healthy individuals.



Summary Financial Report

DVPC would like to thank Robert Martin, Linda Robinson and Henderson's Chartered Accountants for completing the audit in a smooth, timely and professional manner.

This is a summary of the DVPC financials for 2017-18. Full financials are available in the Audited Financial Statements.

Income:

Total income received for the financial year period 2017/2018 - \$3,740,668

Received from:

Grants received - \$3,670,877

Interest - \$39,749

Other Income -\$30,042

Expenditure:

Total expenditure for the financial year period 2017/2018 - \$3,461,910:

Salary related expenses - \$2,733,839

Rental & Property Expenses - \$223,025

Client Costs - \$85,910

Computer and Database expenses - \$49,652

Management costs - \$5,000

Printing & Stationery - \$41,203

Telephone – 70,055

Special Events - \$39,161

Staff Training & Development - \$50,264

Other Organisational Costs - \$163,801

Additional Grants received:

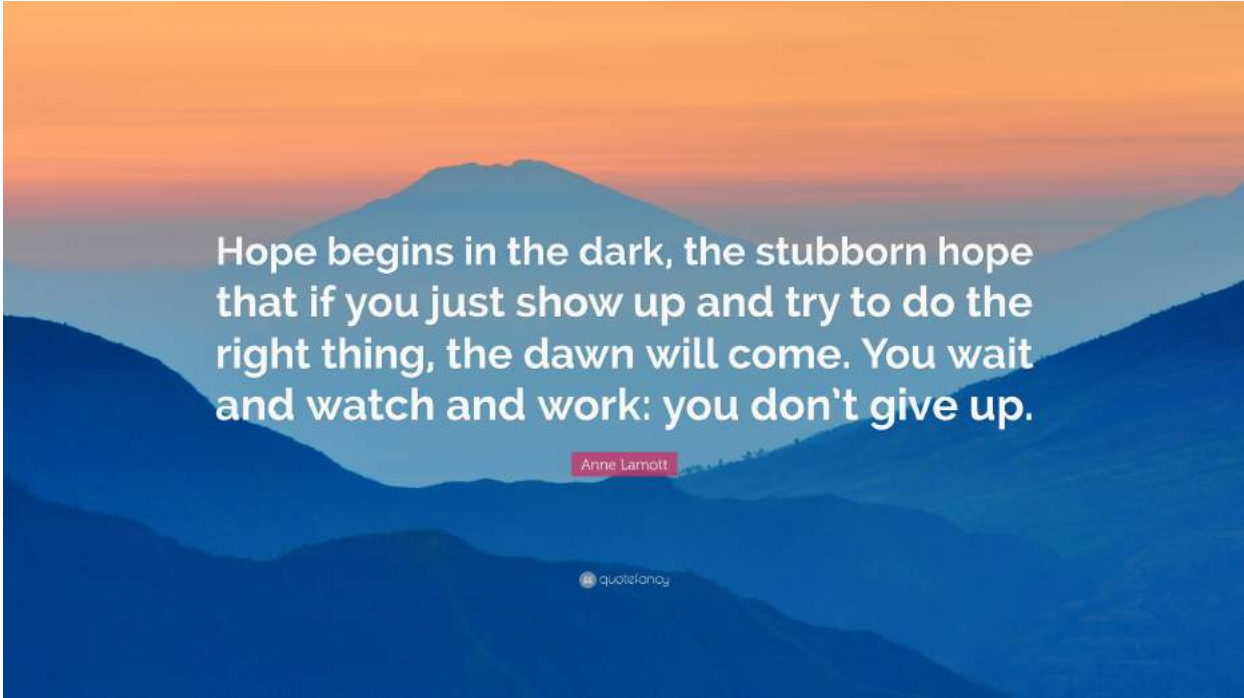
- Dept. of Communities, Domestic Violence Prevention Month - \$5,000
- GCCC – Domestic Violence Prevention Month \$5,000
- Gold Coast City Council – Purple Book production \$7,804
- Gold Coast Suns – Torso Project \$2,500
- Department of Justice – Hosting the Safe After Separation Symposium \$22,000

Two Scholarships of \$500 were provided to clients funded from the DVPC GC Inc. Gift Account.

Over \$6000 in financial donations were received and a range of in-kind donations of personal care items were donated during the year. DVPC acknowledges the generosity and kindness of all donors.

DVPC acknowledges the generous support of the following organisations and individuals :

RizeUp
GC Suns
RACV Resorts
Myer Community Fund
Commonwealth Bank
Soroptomist International
Zonta
Gold Coast City Council
Country Women's Association
Rotary Club - Coomera Valley
Brisbane Airport Corporation
Red Heart Campaign
Share the Dignity
Michael Crandon MP



Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope
that if you just show up and try to do the
right thing, the dawn will come. You wait
and watch and work: you don't give up.

Anne Lamott

 quoteafanoy