



Domestic Violence Prevention Centre

*working to bring about lasting solutions to the harm caused by
domestic and family violence*

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



HEARING AND HOLDING THE
VOICES OF CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE

Dedicated to all the children and young people who have shared your experiences, your fears and your joys with us this year.

You remind us how important this work is.



We hear you

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About DVPC

Our vision

EVERYONE IS SAFE TO LIVE WITH JUSTICE,
FREEDOM AND HOPE IN THEIR
FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND COUNTRY.

Our mission

ADVOCATE RELENTLESSLY TO ACHIEVE CHANGE.

COLLABORATE TO IMPROVE SAFETY AND TO BUILD AND
SHARE KNOWLEDGE.

INNOVATE BY LISTENING TO THOSE MOST IMPACTED BY
DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE AND FINDING THE
SOLUTIONS THAT CREATE A RADICAL AND POSITIVE
CHANGE IN THEIR LIVES.

Our strategic priorities

A POSITIVE CULTURE & SKILLED, SUSTAINABLE
WORKFORCE

SERVICE DELIVERY THAT IS INFORMED AND GUIDED BY
OUR CLIENTS EXPECTATIONS, WANTS AND NEEDS

A SUSTAINABLE & SCALABLE ORGANISATION BASED ON
SOUND GOVERNANCE & DECISION MAKING

STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

DVPC Board 2022-23

Chairperson - Ms Melissa Donnelly



Melissa is Chief of Staff at global tech company, FIN-PAY, and also spearheads their communications and brand strategy. Prior to joining FIN-PAY in 2021, Melissa owned and operated Affinity Communications for more than 10 years serving small and mid-market companies and not-for-profits. Her role was to support those organisations navigate significant changes in their industries and markets, both in Australia and internationally. Melissa has delivered strategic communications and brand outcomes for more than 30 years to multi-national brands, government bodies, financial services and tech companies, as well as not-for-profit organisations.

She is widely acknowledged as a leading strategist and innovator in building highly valuable brands and high performing, engaged teams. Melissa's focus is on spearheading transformations in the approach to, and implementation of, communications, brand and marketing in dynamic, rapidly changing environments.

She joined the DVPC Board in November 2018 and has held the roles of Treasurer in 2020 and deputy Chair in 2021.

Vice Chair - Ms Marie Cone



Marie Cone is a Project Director for Halcyon (creators and managers of over 50's lifestyle communities) where she has been responsible for overseeing the delivery of projects on the Gold Coast and in Brisbane. In this role, Marie has played a lead role in the delivery of sales, construction, community management and budgets of circa 100 million.

Marie has also held roles as Group Sales Manager and Resales Manager. Marie was also the lead in creating Bellas Sanctuary – purpose-built transitional accommodation for Domestic Violence victims and their children. This project was a joint venture between Halcyon / Mirvac and DV connect.

Marie has been recognised for her contributions to leadership and communities via the following awards:

2017: Runner up in Qld & Frasers Property, Women in Leadership Award for Excellence.

2019: Gold Coast Business Women's Award: Category Creating Change (for Bella's Sanctuary).

2020: Top 100 Women in business and construction: Award for community excellence and contribution and QLD Domestic and Family Violence honour roll.

Marie has been a member of the Qld State Government's Corporate Round table since 2020.

Secretary - Mr Mike Gilbert



An experienced hands on executive, Mike is a strategic business developer who, after commencing in public practice, transitioned to the corporate sector over 20 years ago. Mike assists organisations on the path to stable and rapid growth, while also bringing a heightened level of governance and organisational structure. Mike has held leadership roles within multiple industries and listed organisations across both Australia and Europe, and more recently held Chief Executive positions in the property and retail sectors.

A Gold Coast native, Mike holds a Bachelor of Business from QUT and has been a member of Chartered Accountants Australia & New Zealand for over 25 years.

Mike joined the Board in June 2022 in a non-executive capacity, with a desire to bring perspective gained from working across five continents. Mike is currently the interim Treasurer.

Treasurer - Ms Catherine Hand



Catherine Hand has 22 years of senior management experience in government and non-government sectors. She has made significant contribution to the criminal justice sector serving on multiple boards and committees including Domestic Violence Integrated Response, Queensland Parole Board, Drug Court Reference Group and Serious Offenders Committee. She has had oversight of the development of management practices that respond practically and therapeutically to the effect of violence.

Catherine has an incisive understanding of the intergenerational effect domestic and family violence has on women and children.

Through the DVPC Board she is committed to supporting the DVPC in their mission to position women and children at the very centre of this complex issue and amplify their voices and lived experiences.

Retiring Board Members

Mr John Gorman



John has been a member of the DVPC Board since 2013 and has held the position of Secretary for most of this time. He has been instrumental in supporting the Board in its development of sound governance practices that underpin their decision making and record-keeping. His minutes were described by the HSQF Auditor as being "the most comprehensive she has ever seen."

John assisted DVPC in the Financial Management Improvement Project (FMIP) which was significant in assisting DVPC in implementing the current financial processes and systems.

John has brought his wisdom, integrity, knowledge and humour to all his roles at DVPC and his contributions to DVPC are immeasurable. His commitment and willingness to step up and help out will be sorely missed. He has however agreed to continue to support the organisation by contributing to projects and working parties as needed, and for that we are very grateful.

Board Member Resignations

Dr Robyn Cameron

Dr Robyn Cameron joined the Board of DVPC in 2020 as a Board member and became the Treasurer in 2021. She resigned in August 2022

Ms Tanya Atwell

Tanya joined the DVPC Board in 2021. as a non executive member. She resigned in September 2022.



**WHAT IS THE ESSENCE OF
LIFE? TO SERVE OTHERS
AND TO DO GOOD.”**

ARISTOTLE

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

It's been a privilege to serve this year as Chair of the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre (Gold Coast), and humbling to work alongside my fellow Directors and DVPC's incredible team led by CEO, Rosemary O'Malley. I present with pleasure the 2021-22 annual report to our members.

It shines a light on DVPC's milestones and achievements, as well as some of the headwinds the Organisation is navigating, as we serve and advocate for women and children living with domestic and family violence.

This year's focus is on our work with children and young people. Our current Children and Young Person's (CYP) team is staffed by five extraordinary specialist Advocates. This multi-disciplinary team hold qualifications in numerous disciplines and come from diverse backgrounds and work experience. This ensures they have:

- The ability to serve a continuum of age groups (4-18 year-old males, females, and gender-diverse identities)
- The capacity to shift lenses, frameworks and experiences if one approach is not working for an individual client
- The skills to ensure they deliver rigorous and robust individual and collective work

Highlights of the year include:

- Successful HSQF audit: Completion of our fourth unqualified Human Service Quality Framework Audit (HSQF). This reflects DVPC's commitment to sound governance and the integrity of our policies, processes and Practice Guide that informs and supports our Service Delivery.
- Additional funding: Securing an additional \$750,000 in funding for three non-mandated MDVEIP programs and a trial of our proposed Case Management Model for male respondents as their matters proceed through Court.
- First online MDVEIP programs: Completion of the funded pilot for delivery of the first online Men's Domestic Violence Education and Intervention Programs. The pilot was selected as a case study for demonstrating Promising Practice in the 2022-2032 National Plan to End Violence Against Women And Children.
- In Her Shoes: Delivery of our unique In Her Shoes workshop to policy makers from the Department of Premier and Cabinet, members of the DV Prevention Council, and colleagues from QPS High Command and DJAG. This was an important opportunity to make the lived experiences of women and children living with or trying to leave DV visible to stakeholders who can influence systemic change.
- Southport Police Station pilot: Conclusion of a 9-month funded pilot to locate a DVPC Advocate in the Southport Police Station. The pilot was subsequently evaluated by Dr Molly Dragiewicz from Griffith University, who provided excellent recommendations to inform future rollouts.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Launch of the critical new resources:

* Let's talk: safe relationships, sex and consent. The content was informed by focus groups with the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) convened by Headspace.

* Resourcing Mothers resource detailing the impact of DFV on babies, children and adolescents, how it affects mothering, and how mothers can support their children.

DVPC's service delivery continues relentlessly in the face of sector-wide challenges, the most prominent of which are:

- **Homelessness and limited housing options:** Women are remaining in abusive/violent relationships, or they are leaving and then returning to these relationships when they realise they cannot secure safe, stable/ongoing accommodation for themselves and their children.
- **Increased demand:** The Recommendations arising from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, the Independent Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service responses to domestic and family violence, and the new proposed Coercive Control Legislation, will inevitably lead to greater demand for DVPC's services. DVPC Advocates currently hold caseloads of 50-60 clients assessed as High Risk, while non-High Risk clients, to whom we are unable to deliver individual services, are waitlisted. Without requisite additional funding to respond, we will be unable to meet any further increase in demand.

While it's not always possible, we endeavour to maintain a maximum caseload of 50 as we believe this is the only way of providing case management with integrity and without burning out our workforce.

To close the year, I want to thank the Board, DVPC leadership team, staff and Rosie for showing up without question, without doubt, and with full integrity. I stand proudly alongside these amazing individuals who choose to determinedly lean into the challenges each and every day.



Melissa Donnelly
Chairperson
DVPC GC Inc.

CEO REPORT

Hi Everyone; this year's DVPC Annual Report theme is Hearing and Holding the Voices of Children and Young People. We have chosen this theme to spotlight the powerful work that DVPC does with children and young people.

For the past 30 years, DVPC has been known for its work supporting women on the Gold Coast who are experiencing domestic violence. For the past 25 years, we have been leaders in Australia with our Integrated Response, and our Men's Program has also won national awards over the past 23 years. However, our work with children and young people is less known and acknowledged.

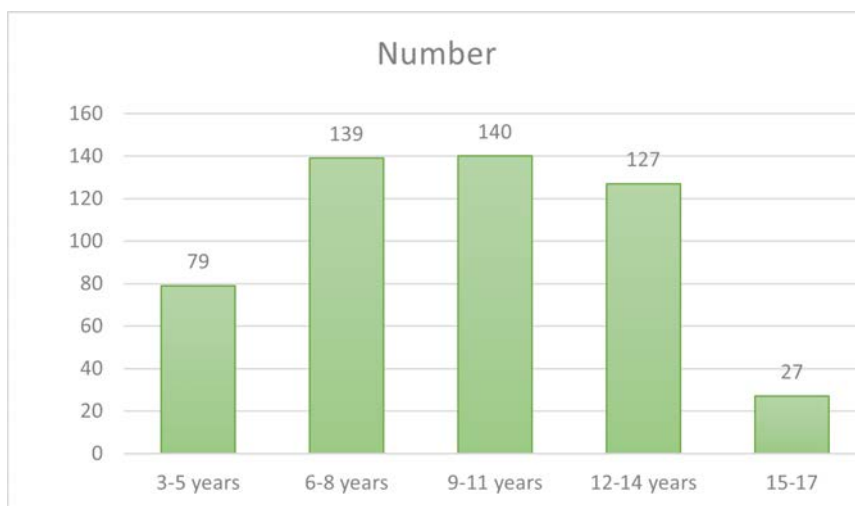
For the past 30 years, DVPC has worked with children aged 4-18 years.

During the 2021-2022 financial year, we had a team of three Children and Young People's (CYP) Advocates from diverse academic frameworks and work experience who are true specialists within our specialist organisation.

Further in this report, you will read case studies of some of their work with children and young people who have experienced domestic violence, and read what the children and young people and their carers say about the impact of the work. Hopefully, from this, you will get a sense of the breadth and depth of their practice.

What we know for sure is that this work is the strongest prevention work we do at DVPC. If we can disrupt the pattern of intergenerational trauma for children and young people, we can lay the foundation to reduce the chance of these patterns being replicated. As one young man said to an advocate, "this stops with me".

From 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, we worked with 512 children and young people: 235 females, 275 males, and 2 with alternative gender identities who had experienced domestic violence in their families. The ages of these children and young people range from 3 to 17.



Additionally, we worked with 75 young women under the age of 18 years who were recorded as Aggrieved in dating relationships and who are therefore counted in our women's data.

Our data from 1764 risk assessments show us that:

- 11% (196) of women were pregnant or had given birth within the past 14 days
- 67% (1186) had children in the family
- 92% (1088) of 1186 of the families with children, the children were present/witnessed the violence

Of the 1186 families with children:

- 26% (304) of children were subject to threats of harm
- 10% (122) of children were subject to threats to kill

What research tells us about the impact of children experiencing these threats and domestic violence in the home is:

- Children exposed to DFV have a 49% increased risk of mental health service contact when compared with non-exposed children.
- Children exposed to DFV may experience delays in cognitive and emotional development.
- Internalising behaviours they may experience include: depression, anxiety, withdrawal, suicidal ideations, eating disorders and phobias. Externalising behaviours may include the outward expression of harmful behaviours such as aggression, hyperactivity, and disobedience.
- PTSD in children exposed to DFV may be misdiagnosed as another childhood condition, such as hyperactivity, depression or anxiety, because psychological health assessments may be made without being informed by or without the knowledge of the traumatic DV incidents, resulting in treatments more likely to be behavioural and medical interventions rather than trauma-focused therapies.

(Orr, Sims, Fisher, O'Donnell, Preen, Glauert, Milroy, Garwood ANROWS Research Report July 2022)

From this research, it is clear the work we do with children and young people can profoundly impact their mental and physical well-being, their sense of themselves, and future relationships. If we can change this story, we can change the world!

In addition to their work with children, our CYPAs have been very active in providing Professional Development in our DV Interagency Group, 70 School Guidance Counsellors on the Gold Coast, and our Youth Justice colleagues. They have also presented at the Griffith University Perinatal Mental Health Symposium.

They have also been working with Dr Melissa Scaia from Minnesota to develop a contemporary DV-informed curriculum for delivering groups to children of different ages. In addition, a Working Group is being formed to research and resource the development of a Risk Assessment for Adolescent to Parent Violence.

They have also significantly contributed to the development of two new resources for DVPC:

- Let's Talk: Safe Relationships, Sex, and Consent – for teenagers
- Resourcing Mothers: to assist mothers in supporting their children who have experienced domestic violence.

These have been well-received and appreciated by stakeholders, and I encourage everyone to access them on our DVPC website.

Author Elizabeth Lesser notes that the term First Responder is usually used to describe and celebrate the brave men and women who rush to those who need help in fires and floods, mass shootings and war zones, and their courage is worthy of our respect. But she states this term can also be used to describe people who work every day to prevent catastrophes before they happen. She calls them the *First First Responders*.

First First Responders are those who quietly serve to heal and educate. They try to save lives before they need to be saved. They teach children emotional intelligence skills like self-awareness, empathy, and impulse control. They model how to ask for help, take responsibility, admit wrongdoing, and value themselves so they can love others.

This very accurately describes the work of our Children and Young People's team, so please join us in celebrating and appreciating these extraordinary *First First Responders* at DVPC, whose work largely remains invisible but which actively changes the world every day.

I also want to express massive respect and heartfelt thanks for the commitment, passion, hope, knowledge and skills that all of our Advocates and Facilitators bring to their work every day. Thank you to our patient, professional, collaborative, and innovative Coordinators and Team Leaders at DVPC. Your integrity, work ethic, critical thinking, and courage to question everything shapes DVPC every day.

Thank you to all of our colleagues doing the first responding (and *First First Responding*) with us from the DVIR, DVIG, and beyond. They have remained vigilant about doing the best we can together every day to make things better for those experiencing domestic violence on the Gold Coast.

Thank you to the DVPC Board of Directors for your colossal commitment to DVPC in the 2021-2022 Financial Year. Without your keen governance, diverse range of skills and experience, and enviable energy, DVPC would not be the thriving organisation it is today.

I want to thank Robyn and Tanya, who are stepping down this year; you both did a stellar job of juggling the demands of your academic roles while contributing to Board meetings and decisions.

I would also like to welcome Mike and Catherine to the Board. You have contributed so much already. The knowledge and experience you both bring are a huge asset to DVPC. Words cannot do justice to thanking John, who is stepping down after nine years serving as Secretary on the DVPC Board. If there was an Olympics for minute-taking, archiving, keeping meetings on task, and governance, you would be bringing home the gold medal for Australia. Equally, you would receive a gold medal for your commitment, generosity, and integrity.

DVPC is the contemporary, well-governed, sustainable organisation it is today through your efforts. Everything from your contributions to our strategic planning, the Financial Management Improvement Plan, and using technology to improve communication has vastly improved how we do our work. I know you will continue to contribute to DVPC through Working Groups, so thank goodness we will still have the opportunity to hear your world-class catchphrases on a regular basis. Again, thank you for giving up so much of your own time, energy, and sometimes sanity to support our work and for everything you do to contribute to ending gender-based violence.

Yours in solidarity (and hope) always

Rosie

Rosemary O'Malley
CEO



Service Snapshot



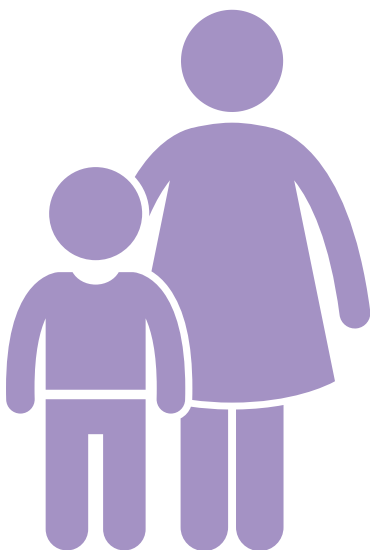
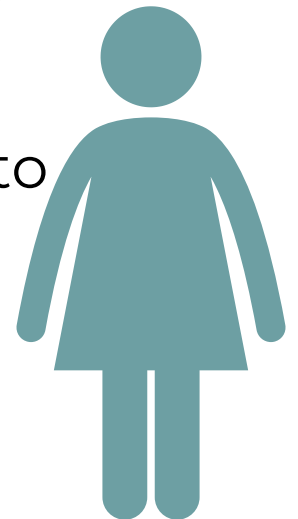
2392 phone enquiries were received
808 callers were enquiring for themselves

1512 calls were about another person

866 stakeholders contacted the service- an increase of 25% from the previous year

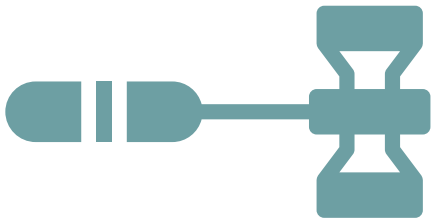
18394 hours of support delivered to women

5608 women supported



2699 hours of support delivered to children and their mothers

512 children and young people supported - an increase of 25% on the previous year



1485 women had contact with the team at Court



6742 hours of support provided

Client Expenditure

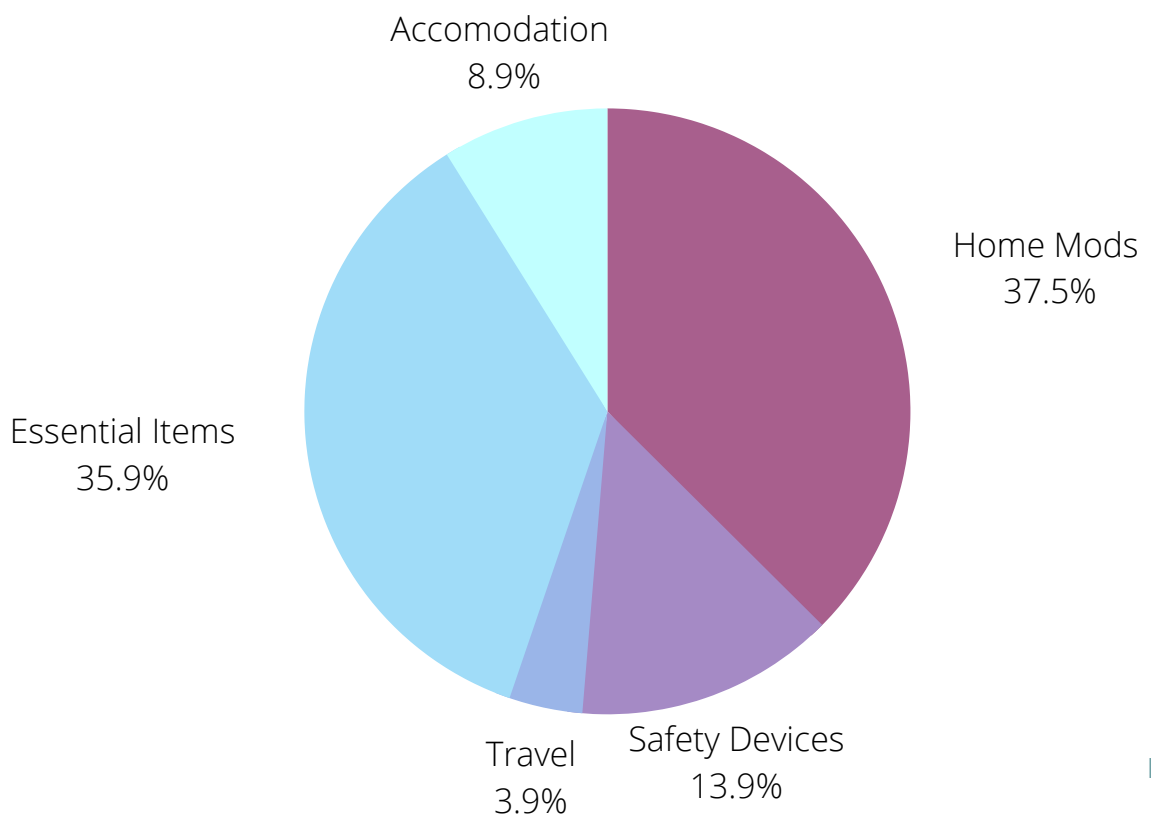
\$19,011 Home Modifications

\$1,987 Travel

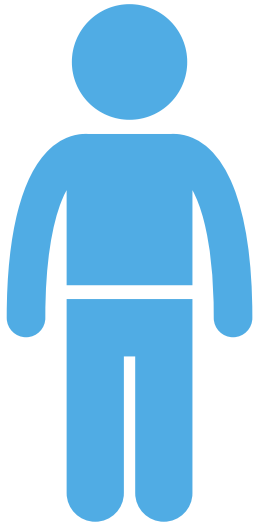
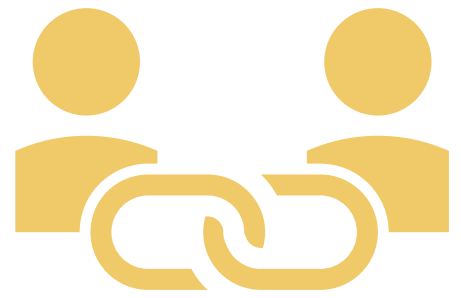
\$7,037 Safety Devices

\$18,208 Essential Food & Clothing Vouchers

\$4,514 Accommodation

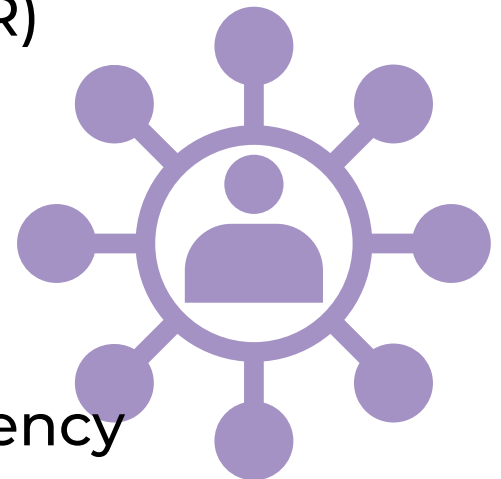


3735 Police Assisted Referrals (PARS) received
12% of total PARS in QLD



11 Programs were delivered
150 men inducted into the Program
213 women contacted and offered support by the Women's Advocate

9 Gold Coast Domestic Violence Integrated Response (GCDVIR) meetings were held
21 members representing 18 different organisations



9 Domestic Violence Interagency Group (DVIG) meetings were held
200 'members' (on the mailing list) representing 45 different organisations

In May 2021, DVPC launched its strategic plan to guide us to 2024. The foundation for the delivery of the plan is our purpose and mission which is to Advocate, Collaborate and Innovate.

We action all three every day in the work that we do with and for women and children and young people.

This year we want to shine a spotlight on the work we do with children and young people.

We have chosen 3 case studies and the words of the children and young people and their mothers to illustrate how we are:

"HEARING AND HOLDING THE VOICES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE"

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Case Study 1

The Department of Child Safety referred a 6-year-old girl to DVPC to support the reunification with her mother. The DVPC Children and Young People's Team completed the intake with the child's mother, who expressed her hope that her daughter would be supported with her experiences of anxiety due to separation, her self-confidence and her sense of feeling safe at home.

The child began attending regular sessions with her allocated CYP Advocate. Despite her initial feelings of shyness and nervousness, which are not uncommon in the initial session, the Advocate noted that she soon began to feel more comfortable and appeared excited to attend the service each fortnight. The mother shared how her daughter was after the initial session saying, "she was on a high after her appointment with you. She really enjoyed your company".

During the time with the Advocate, the young girl was able to express and explore what was important to her with themes of family, safety, and grief and loss identified by the Advocate. She enjoyed art-based therapeutic activities that helped her identify family and other people that had meaning for her. She was able to speak freely about who she considered as 'safe' and 'unsafe' people, both within and external to her family, such as counsellors and teachers. She also began to share her experiences of domestic and family violence and what sense she made of these. Informed by child-centred practice, the Advocate was guided by the child, and further awareness and understanding were offered by providing age-appropriate psychoeducational.

Further sessions were able to explore more about the child's feelings around the losses she had experienced at a young age due to the domestic and family violence she and her siblings had experienced. From ensuring the use of child-centred approaches, she was able to express her experiences and feelings safely and freely, and an understanding for herself was indicated when she proclaimed to the Advocate, "me and mum are connected whenever we are apart".

Nearing the end of the work together, the young girl also announced, "I am safe" and "I'm proud of myself". She told the Advocate that she had enjoyed the sessions with her. After some weeks following the final session, her mother reported to the Advocate, "she's doing really well."

Case Study 2

A mother called DVPC wanting support for her two teenage children, a 17-year-old female and a 15-year-old male. She wanted support for her children due to her separating from their father after an incident of family violence that involved the children. She spoke about damage to her property, threats, intimidation, stalking, verbal abuse, emotional abuse, financial abuse and also her experiences of systems abuse following the separation.

The two young people were referred to the DVPC Children and Young Persons (CYP) Team. An Advocate was allocated who met individually with them, providing the opportunity to discuss their own experiences and goals in engaging with the service. Both young people wanted to go over what happened following the incident. By providing this time and listening without judgement, they were supported in making some sense of how they were feeling and thinking. The young people were open to learning, including exploring safe and healthy relationships, hierarchal vs. equal relationships, and the role rigid gender roles and stereotyped constructions of masculinity and femininity can play in establishing and maintaining domestic and family violence.

The young people were offered DVPC resources that included the DVPC Youth resource 'let's talk: safe relationships, sex and consent, which was referred to during their discussions with Advocates.

The young people were able to reflect on their own dating experiences, and this enabled the work to focus on equality vs. power and control in intimate relationships and ways of coping with relationship breakups. Discussions also included the use of technology in relationships where there is power and control and how apps can be used, for instance, with location tracking and monitoring.

The sessions with the young people also explored grief and loss that can be experienced with changes to family dynamics following separation, safety planning, coping strategies and self-care. The use of expressive therapies included letter writing and a dance performance that provided an opportunity for the young people to safely and creatively express what was important to them about their experiences of family violence.

At the end of the work together, the young people reflected on their time at DVPC. The young woman said, "I'm not as overwhelmed anymore; I know how to deal with it". The young man reflected that he appreciated the non-directive approach during their time together and how the Advocate was a "help in tough situations" and was there to "talk me through my options."

Case Study 3

A young man, 12 years of age, and his siblings were referred to DVPC after the Police attended their home and took out a Police Protection Notice due to Domestic and Family Violence. The children's father was named as the respondent. When first speaking with the children's mother, she described her son as "not doing well" and completing the intake for service was prioritized.

This process was completed by a DVPC Children and Young People's Advocate and the children's mother was asked what her hope and goals were. She said that she wanted counselling for her son to help him develop his own strength and feel more confident in setting boundaries. She said she wanted him to enjoy being his age without having additional and inappropriate expectations placed on him as she believed this would support his self-esteem and healthy coping strategies.

The young man began attending regular sessions with his allocated Advocate. Initially he spoke about his worries about the violence that impacted his thoughts in his head that he found loud and intrusive without being able to change them. He wanted to have the language to articulate his feelings and what they meant for him to help with his relationship with his mum and his siblings.

In subsequent sessions, the young man engaged in psychoeducation that included the circle of control. This helped him to understand that the person using violence is the only person responsible for their actions. He was also able to unpack the conflicting feelings he experienced from loving his father, however being upset by his actions and behaviours. The advocate was able to validate and normalize his feelings, letting him know that it's ok and natural to both love and be upset with dad rather than one or the other. The young man provided an example of the conflict he can experience by talking about a Father's Day card, despite his father being "too busy with his friends on Father's Day", and how his brother had to give it to him a day late. He said that he knew his father got the card and he expressed disappointment when he said that his dad hadn't said or done anything, "not even a letter back".

Expressive therapies were also used in the work with this young man who participated in art-based therapeutic activities that explored family systems, roles, and relationships in families, how to identify conflicting feelings and potential ways of working through them. During one pivotal session the young man drew the sadness that was in his head, and as the drawing came to life on the paper, he identified this as the sadness that he felt moving through the body. At the end of the drawing the young man stood up and tore the paper and the feelings into tiny little pieces, proclaiming "I deserve to be safe", "I deserve to be loved", "I deserve not to be broken".

Case Study 3

The pieces of paper were turned into a pulp and were used as a resource to create a small shape that was dried and decorated by the young man, hence a creation of something beautiful from moving through the emotions.

Towards the end of the support period, the young man said that his thoughts had changed and how well things were going for him. He expressed his sadness about the work together finishing, however referred to the shapes that he created, saying how these will be helpful for him to remember how helpful our time together was for him.

He also said he knows he can come back anytime in the future if he needs further support for the impact of domestic and family violence.



In their own words:

"THEY ENJOYED YOUR SESSIONS AND I NOTICED A REALLY POSITIVE CHANGE WITH THEM AND THEIR COPING STRATEGIES"

MOTHER OF 9Y/O AND 11Y/O SIBLINGS AT CLOSURE.

'IT'S HELPED ME TALK TO DAD AND TELL HIM HOW I'M FEELING'

(12 Y/O)

'IT FEELS REALLY GOOD TO TELL YOU I'M HAPPY'

YP (18 Y/O) AT CLOSURE

IN COUNSELLING I LEARNED... 'THAT IF YOU'RE SAD OR ANGRY YOU'RE ABLE TO LET IT OUT. YOU DON'T NEED TO HOLD IT'

11Y/O IN FINAL SESSION

"IT'S REALLY HELPING A LOT. I JUST FEEL LIGHTER WHENEVER I LEAVE"

16 Y/O

'I'M FOCUSING ON MYSELF AND TALKING'

17 Y/O

"THANK YOU EVER SO KINDLY FOR YOUR WORDS, SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT. MY CHILDREN HAVE FOUND JOY WITHIN THEMSELVES, AND IN LIFE. IT IS WONDERFUL TO SEE THEM BOTH SMILING AGAIN AFTER THE TRAUMA THEY EXPERIENCED.

FROM MOTHER OF 7Y/O AND 4Y/O SIBLINGS

'I'M NOT AS OVERWHELMED ANYMORE, I KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH IT'

17 Y/O

'HOW TO CONTROL MY VOLCANO...WALKING AWAY, HAVING ALONE TIME OR SORTING OUT THE SITUATION SO I DON'T EXPLODE'

10Y/O

"I FEEL A LOT BETTER MENTALLY. I'M STRONGER THAN I WAS BEFORE. I LEARNT IT'S OKAY TO OPEN UP ABOUT THINGS. I FEEL LIKE I CAN GET THROUGH ANYTHING NOW. THANK YOU SO MUCH"

13 Y/O

'I FEEL A LOT MORE CONFIDENT IN MYSELF'

18 Y/O

"I'VE GOTTEN TO UNDERSTAND MYSELF SO MUCH BETTER ONCE I STOPPED BEING AFRAID OF MY OWN FEELINGS"

16 Y/O FEMALE

Treasurers Report

It is with pleasure I present the financial results for the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre Gold Coast Incorporated (“the Organisation”) for the year ended 30 June 2022.

These financial statements were prepared in accordance with the ACNC Act 2012, and the Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations of the Australian Accounting Standards Board. They have been audited by Crowe Audit Australia to meet the mandatory requirements of Australian Auditing Standards, and I’m pleased to confirm a positive audit opinion was achieved.

The Organisation is pleased to report for the 2022 financial year a net current surplus of \$470,609. This represents an increase of \$150,053 on the 2021 net surplus of \$320,556. The additional surplus is attributable to a number of components:

- i) A 1.9% increase of \$94,000 in grant income, primarily attributable to an increase in grant funding from Department of Justice and Attorney General.
- ii) Net expenses were \$3.79M compared to \$3.86M in 2021; a 1.8% decrease of \$70,000. While this represents solid cost control and reflects the cost-conscious nature of the group, the Organisation invested significantly more in 2022 in two areas:
 - The design and production of two important resources: the Mothering resource, and The Purple Book video series. Both investments drove an increase in Professional Costs, funded by additional grant revenue. They were designed with the purpose of improving access by women to information relevant to their needs in an easily consumable format.
 - The replacement of the Organisation’s complete fleet of computers, which were over 5 years old, at an overall cost of \$79,000, inclusive of setup and peripherals. This is reflected in increased Depreciation charges, but has had immediate and significant benefits for staff in terms of reduced downtime.
- iii) The surplus is also attributable to government funding which was received in the later part of the financial year and in the current labour market the inability for all positions to be recruited for resulting in vacancies for up to two months.
- iv) Interest costs also increased by 44% to \$39,000. This resulted from the accounting treatment of the premises lease which was in place for a full year, noting in 2021 the premises lease was only in place for a part year. Corresponding savings were made on Tenancy expenses recognised for the prior premises.

For a detailed analysis of grant revenue and other income please refer to Note 2 of the Financial Statements. It should be noted that DVPC’s income is recognised only when it can deliver services in line with its performance obligations, and there is a further

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\$251,000 of unearned income yet to be recognised and held on the balance sheet. For the prior year this amount was \$468,000, reflecting the incremental success the organisation has had in delivering services this past year.

In addition, total comprehensive income for the year rose to \$570,609, driven by a further \$100,000 gain on the revaluation of the Sinclair House property to now recognise that asset at an unencumbered value of \$430,000. A revaluation was endorsed by the Board to ensure the value of land and buildings accurately reflected the current property market.

For a detailed analysis of expenses, please refer to the Statement of Profit and Loss Statement and Other Comprehensive Income and the accompanying notes. From a stability perspective DVPC made steady gains in its cash and cash equivalents at 30 June 2022, noting an increase of \$161,000, or 8%, on the prior year. This exhibits strong cash management in a year where a sizeable investment was made in enhancing property, plant and equipment for use by the teams.

Despite the significant headwinds impacting the entire sector across Queensland and nationally, DVPC remains in a sound and sustainable financial position. The Board and Leadership Team continue to monitor our external and internal operating environments to identify how we can improve the utilisation of our funding and capital to best serve women and children experiencing domestic violence.



Mike Gilbert
Treasurer



Thank You

DVPC would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to the following people and organisations for their support

Janda Events
Miley Campbell
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Myer Community Fund
Katrina Mc Clintock
Roger Lenehan
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Vicky M

We can't do this work alone and we want to acknowledge our sector partners, our funding body and their staff. We also want to recognise and applaud the dedication and tenacity of the staff at DVPC, who show up every day with heart and hope.



Finally, we want to acknowledge and thank the women, young people and children that come to our service for support, you inspire us and motivate us to keep doing better every day.

You teach us how to do this work.

We thank you for sharing your stories with us, for telling us your hopes and your fears and for trusting us enough to do so.

Our commitment to you is that we will always work hard to be worthy of that trust.