

# MEET THE SPEAKERS



**The Honourable Amanda Camm MP**

*Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence*

In her second term in Queensland Parliament, Minister Amanda Camm has taken over the crucial role as Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. The North Queensland MP plays a critical role in the Crisafulli Government in delivering reform to improve outcomes for some of Queensland's most vulnerable people. Minister Camm recently announced a Commission of Inquiry into Child Safety and is working towards reforming the domestic violence system, all within the first six months of taking her seat in Government. Minister Camm is also an advocate for people with disability and is committed to improving accessibility and inclusivity across the state, while listening to the experiences of people living with disabilities to help improve their daily lives.



**Amanda Shipway**

*Director, Integrated Service Responses, Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety of Queensland (DFS DSCS)*

Amanda Shipway is the Director of Integrated Service Response, Office of the Chief Practitioner, Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety. In her role, Amanda oversees the 11 High Risk Teams across the state, which are multi-agency teams designed to address high risk domestic, family, and sexual violence (DFS V). She is committed to embedding a whole-of-systems approach to preventing, identifying, assessing, and responding to DFS V. Amanda collaborates with Queensland Government agencies, the DFS V sector, and the broader service system to ensure statewide consistency and best practices across all parts of the integrated service system. Her work involves uniting various sectors, including justice, health, education, child safety, disability, housing, aged care, and domestic and family violence services, under one overarching system. This integrated approach aims to improve outcomes for individuals and families affected by domestic and family violence, ensuring a coordinated and effective response across Queensland.



**Ainslie Wiegold**

*Family Support Specialist, DFV Refuge and Mobile Support Programs, 54 Reasons*

I am an experienced human services professional with a strong background in domestic and family violence support, drug and alcohol services, and early intervention programs. Over my career I have worked across diverse client groups, providing trauma-informed care, crisis intervention, and tailored support to individuals and families. My practice is grounded in collaboration, empowerment, and evidence-based approaches, with a focus on fostering safety, resilience and long-term well-being.

SPEAKERS

# SPEAKERS



## **Betty Taylor AM**

*Founding Director of the Red Rose Foundation, with 35+ years' experience driving domestic and family violence reform and spearheading Australia's first Strangulation Trauma Centre*

Betty Taylor is the Founding Director of the Red Rose Foundation. She has worked across the domestic and family violence sector for the over 35 years. Her career has spanned service development and management, training, advocacy, law reform, consultation and collaboration.

In 2002, Betty was awarded a Churchill Fellowship which enabled her to study collaborative responses to domestic violence in the USA and Canada. It was through this study that Betty first learnt of both domestic violence death reviews and the potential lethality risk of strangulation.

On returning to Australia, Betty established the Queensland Domestic Violence Action Group with several other legends from the domestic violence and sexual assault sectors, with the aim of lobbying the Queensland Government for the establishment of a domestic violence death review board and a stand-alone offence of strangulation within the Criminal Code. In 2008, she wrote 'Dying to Be Heard'. Betty was appointed to Queensland Domestic & Family Violence Death Review Board when it was established in 2016. During her career, Betty established the Gold Coast Domestic Violence Prevention Centre (DVPC), chaired the Queensland Domestic Violence Council for 2 terms, and more recently established Australia's first Strangulation Trauma Centre. Betty remains passionate about the prevention of the violent deaths of women and has been pivotal in pushing for more effective responses, systems and laws to provide better protection for women and children.



## **Carolina Leyton Zamora**

*Domestic and Family Violence Peak Transition Lead, QCOSS*

Carolina Leyton Zamora is the Domestic and Family Violence Peak Transition Lead at QCOSS, leading the co-design and establishment of Queensland's new independent Domestic and Family Violence Peak Body. She holds a PhD in Social Work, focusing on technology-facilitated abuse experienced by culturally and linguistically diverse women in Australia. Her work is grounded in intersectional, trauma-informed practice, informed by a deep understanding of oppression and violence affecting migrant, refugee, and First Nations communities. Originally from Bolivia, Carolina has extensive experience in the domestic and family violence sector both in Australia and internationally. She is passionate about amplifying culturally and linguistically diverse women's voices in systems reform.



## **Catherine Hand**

*Longstanding domestic and family violence advocate, with 25 years' connection to DVPC and expertise in offender accountability and system reform*

Catherine's association with the Gold Coast Domestic Violence Prevention Centre (DVPC) spans 25 years. During that time, she has represented Queensland Corrective Services on the Domestic Violence Integrated Response (DVIR) and, for the past three years, has served on DVPC's Board.

The DVIR provided Catherine with invaluable exposure to the inadequate structure and design of the established systems available to hear, protect and provide justice to victims of domestic and family violence, and hold perpetrators of violence to account. She counts her involvement with the DVIR as a motivating force behind her continued service with DVPC. As a board member, Catherine continues to steadfastly advocate for clear-sighted scrutiny of policy and practice, which not only ensure that justice, safety and dignity for victims of domestic and family violence are positioned at the very centre of this complex issue but equally demands and supports accountability from perpetrators of domestic and family violence.

# SPEAKERS



## **Associate Professor Chris Emzin**

*Aboriginal and South Sea Islander Associate Professor at Queensland University of Technology (QUT), with 37 years' experience in policing, legal practice, and Indigenous justice leadership*

Christopher Emzin is an Aboriginal and South Sea Islander man and Associate Professor of Indigenous Practice in the School of Justice at Queensland University of Technology (QUT). He is the Academic Lead, Indigenous, and leads Work Integrated Learning across the school. He holds a Master of Laws and was admitted as a Barrister-at-Law in 1999.

Christopher served for 37 years with the Queensland Police Service, retiring as an Inspector. His roles included criminal investigator, prosecutor, legal advisor, and senior operational manager. He was also one of the original members of the Gold Coast Domestic Violence Integrated Response (DVIR).



## **Chris Hoy**

*Family and Domestic Violence Housing Specialist, Macleod Refuge*

Chris has worked in the Gold Coast welfare sector since 1992; Over this time she has worked across many sectors including Q Health - mental health and alcohol and other drugs, complex needs - job services, rural women's support programs, indigenous community services (NT) and the domestic violence sector. Chris has enjoyed a long history of community engagement within the Gold Coast /Tweed Heads region in frontline services and community programs and events, with a focus on disadvantaged and marginalized women and families.

Chris has been connected with Macleod Refuge since joining the management committee in the early 2000s and remained involved until commencing employment in 2015 after returning from the NT. Chris has held several different roles at Macleod over the years. Her role as Family and Domestic Violence Housing Specialist evolved from the growing housing crisis and the challenges in the sector to provide the basic need for safe, secure and affordable housing for women and children affected by domestic and family violence. Over this time Chris has seen many changes as the domestic and family violence sector emerged as a high priority social issue demanding the recognition and attention from our governments at all levels, and a whole of community response.

Chris has been a member of the Gold Coast Domestic Violence Integrated Response (DVIR) Housing Pathways Group since its inception, and was previously a member of the Advance to Zero panel - the response to the pandemic housing crisis. The GCDVIR is an invaluable resource for domestic and family violence services providing information, support, and prioritizing and achieving vital housing support and outcomes for domestic and family violence refuge clients during these unprecedented and uncertain times.



## **Debra Phillips**

*Detective Senior Sergeant, Queensland Police Service*

Detective Senior Sergeant Debra Phillips is the Queensland Police Disability and Elder Abuse Program Coordinator. Her unit is within the State Domestic Family Violence and Vulnerable Persons Command.

Debbie has over 34 years of policing experience, including 24 years as a Detective in child abuse and as a Domestic and Family Violence Coordinator.

She developed the concept of embedded detectives in Domestic Violence Units and case management of high risk domestic violence offenders. This process has now been adopted statewide. She was part of the team that created the Gold Coast Domestic Violence Taskforce, for their work they were awarded the National Crime Prevention Award. She is a former Gold Coast Police Officer of the Year. She has a Diploma of Policing and Justice, an Advanced Diploma of Police Investigations, and a Graduate Certificate in Domestic Violence (Queensland University of Technology).

Her passions are prevention, safety, and collaboration; she strives to keep people safe and hold perpetrators of harm accountable.

# SPEAKERS



**Girija Dadhe**

*Domestic Violence Integrated Response Manager and Turning Points Facilitator, Domestic Violence Prevention Centre*

Girija is the manager of the Gold Coast Domestic Violence Integrated Response (DVIR), at Domestic Violence Prevention Centre. She holds Master's Degrees in Counselling and Psychotherapy, and in French Literature and Translation. With over 15 years' experience in community services, Girija has worked in frontline roles across the domestic and family violence and alcohol and other drugs sectors, and in interpreting.

Girija is deeply committed to advocating for improved systemic responses to individuals and families impacted by domestic and family violence through a culturally responsive, intersectional feminist framework.



**Georgina Dimopoulos**

*Associate Professor, Southern Cross University*

Dr. Georgina Dimopoulos, is an Associate Professor of Law at Southern Cross University and a leading socio-legal scholar specialising in children's rights and family law. She focuses on enhancing children's meaningful participation in decision-making, especially in family law and family violence settings. Dr. Dimopoulos authored 'Decisional Privacy and the Rights of the Child' (Routledge, 2022), presenting a pioneering model to amplify children's voices. She has led research involving children as co-researchers to guide legal reform. With a PhD in Law and extensive legal experience, she is an expert in ethical, child-centred research.



**Jess Malloy**

*Detective Sergeant, Queensland Police Service  
Experienced Specialist in Domestic and Family Violence Investigations*

With 23 years of policing experience, Jess began her career with the Northern Territory Police Force before transitioning to the Queensland Police Service (QPS). Jess served for eight years with the Gold Coast Child Protection and Investigation Unit (CPIU) before joining the Gold Coast Domestic, Family Violence and Vulnerable Persons Unit (GCDFV&VPU) in 2022.

Jess spent two years as an investigator in the Serious Violence Team, focusing on complex and high-risk domestic violence cases. She currently holds the position of Detective Sergeant, overseeing Multi-Agency Triage Meetings. In this role, Jess coordinates inter-agency collaboration and manages high-risk domestic violence matters requiring urgent attention. Jess's extensive experience reflects her strong commitment to protecting vulnerable individuals and fostering community safety through effective partnerships and decisive action.



# SPEAKERS



## **Jo Mason**

*Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), WorkHaven*

Jo is a social entrepreneur, speaker, coach, advocate, and survivor of domestic violence. Guided by the mantra, "Our curve balls don't define us," Jo founded WorkHaven, an organisation dedicated to helping workplaces and communities respond to domestic violence in meaningful and practical ways. Since its inception, WorkHaven has reached over 100,000 employees across Australia. Jo's leadership is driven by a relentless commitment to raising awareness, reducing the impact and incidence of domestic violence, and developing innovative solutions to community challenges. One such innovation is Verdella — a unique program that supports people affected by domestic violence to move forward and rebuild.



## **Kristie Doyle**

*Senior Principal Lawyer, Legal Aid QLD*

Kristie became a solicitor in 2007 and commenced her career in private practice in South East Queensland working in criminal law, domestic violence law and child protection. In 2013, Kristie was appointed Principal Lawyer of Legal Aid Queensland's Mackay office. During her three years in Mackay, Kristie implemented a number of new projects and pilots including a domestic violence duty lawyer service. Over this time Kristie became familiar with the unique challenges faced by regional court jurisdictions. In 2016, Kristie was appointed Legal Aid Queensland Gold Coast office's Principal Lawyer of the Crime team and then in 2018 to her current position as Senior Principal Lawyer managing the Gold Coast office including the crime and family law teams.



## **Kym Tighe**

*Experienced social worker and first Domestic and Family Violence Coordinator for Gold Coast Health, domestic and family violence sector leader, trainer, and prevention advocate*

Kym Tighe is an experienced social worker with a strong commitment to supporting individuals and families impacted by domestic and family violence. With a career spanning frontline practice, Kym has worked as the first Domestic and Family Violence Coordinator for Gold Coast Health following the initial establishment of this role in Queensland in 2017 and was a member of the Gold Coast Integrated Response Team (Dvir) for 14+ years. In 2020, Kym was named as an inductee on the Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Honour Roll. Beyond direct service delivery, Kym has contributed her skills and knowledge at both state-wide and national levels, representing the sector on various advisory committee's and working groups. She is a passionate educator and has delivered training and presentations at universities and the Stop DFV Conference, with a focus on workforce development, sector capacity-building and sustainable practice in high-pressure environments. Central to her work is a strong commitment to professional supervision which she believes is essential in sustaining a skilled, ethical and resilient workforce, particularly for those working in the domestic and family violence sector.

# SPEAKERS



## **Laura Williams**

*Strategist, Consultant and Trainer*

Laura Williams, MPA, HSDP is a strategist, consultant, and trainer focused on ending gender-based violence. Through Wise Action Consulting and the Global Alliance for Women's Safety and Equality (GAWSE), she supports international efforts to improve systemic responses to violence against women. She also consults with UN Women and has led or contributed to projects in Haiti, Georgia, the Bahamas, the Philippines, and the U.S.

Laura was co-founder and Director of the Sexual Violence Justice Institute (SVJI) at the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault and spent over 13 years advancing multidisciplinary responses to sexual violence. Most recently, she served as Director of Systems Advocacy at Global Rights for Women.

She co-authored several international tools and reports and currently co-leads an 18-month systemic reform training in Queensland, Australia. Laura holds a Master of Public Affairs from the University of Minnesota and a certificate in Human Systems Dynamics. Her work centers on how policies and practices shape outcomes for survivors and communities. She also promotes youth resilience and primary prevention through her involvement with the Institute for Community and Adolescent Resilience (ICAR-US, LLC).



## **Lucy Gregory**

*Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Domestic Violence Prevention Centre*

Lucy Gregory is the Chief Executive Officer of the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre (DVPC) on the Gold Coast and is the current Chair of Ending Violence Against Women Queensland.

Lucy has had the honour of working in the domestic and family violence space for over 20 years, in both direct client service delivery and program and policy development. Prior to joining DVPC, Lucy was working for Family Safety Victoria, responsible for the practice and operational guidance for the state-wide The Orange Door Network.

Highlights of Lucy's career include being Senior Advisor to Rosie Batty, supporting the establishment of the Victim Survivor Advisory Council in Victoria and working on the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Lucy is a qualified lawyer and sociologist and is committed to ending violence against women and girls globally.



## **Marica Ristic**

*Practice Leader, Domestic Violence Prevention Centre*

Marica Ristic is currently employed as the Practice Leader at the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre. She has worked in community services for over 20 years, most recently at the Multicultural Families Organisation as the manager of the SARA Program, the domestic and family violence support service for women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, which she co-founded with the late Cornelia Babbage.

Marica is deeply passionate about social justice and the elimination of domestic and family violence. She holds a Master's Degree in Social Work, a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, and a Diploma in Counselling.



**Melissa Scaia**  
*Domestic Violence Expert and Trainer*

Melissa (Petrangelo) Scaia has worked to address gender-based violence for over 25 years locally in Minnesota, nationally, and globally. She works part-time at Domestic Abuse Project in Minneapolis, MN. She works with UN Women to provide training and technical assistance globally and provides training and technical assistance on working with criminalized survivors through Domestic Violence Turning Points. In her current work, she brings a wealth of experience as the former Director of International Training at Global Rights for Women, co-founder of Pathways to Family Peace, and executive director of Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs (DAIP), also known as “The Duluth Model.” Before working in Duluth, she was the executive director of Advocates for Family Peace (AFFP) for 17 years, a local domestic violence advocacy program where she advocated for victims of domestic violence. She has also led and organized three Coordinated Community Responses (CCRs) to address domestic violence in Minnesota. She has been a consulting trainer for many national training organizations on domestic violence and child abuse, including the Center for Court Innovation (CCI), the Battered Women’s Justice Project (BWJP), and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ). As a qualified expert in the state of Minnesota, she testifies as an expert witness on domestic violence in court cases in Minnesota and Wisconsin. She wrote her master’s thesis on the effects of domestic violence on children and wrote her doctoral dissertation proposal to address supervised visitation, children and domestic violence. She co-wrote a curriculum and DVD for working with men who batter as fathers entitled ‘Addressing Fatherhood with Men Who Batter’. She also co-authored a curriculum and DVD with Ellen Pence, Ph.D., and Laura Connelly for working with women who have used violence in intimate relationships entitled ‘Turning Points: A Nonviolence Curriculum for Women’. Most recently, she authored ‘Safe Consultations with Survivors of Violence Against Women and Girls’, a guide with UN Women on how to conduct focus groups and interviews with survivors. She has been selected for numerous roundtable advisory discussion groups for the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) through the National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence. She has served on a National Consulting Group on Batterers Intervention Programs, as a National Advisory Committee Member for Law and Order: SVU actress Mariska Hargitay’s Joyful Heart Foundation for survivor-based healing, and chairs the Women Who Use Force (WWUF) Committee of the National Batterers Intervention Program Network. Hamline University awarded her the Lifetime Achievement Award for Women in Public Service this past year. Outside of work, she is a mother of two, a Minnesota State High School League volleyball referee, and has a passion for photography.



**Michael Maloney**  
*Executive Director of Civil Justice Services, Legal Aid Queensland, with 30 years’ experience in criminal, mental health, and civil law leadership*

- Completed law degree / legal practice course at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland November 1994;
- 1994 – 2005 – various positions in the Criminal Law Division at Legal Aid Queensland (LAQ) in Brisbane and during this time I also relieved in legal officer and Principal Lawyer positions at three regional offices (Townsville, Bundaberg and Rockhampton);
- 2005 – 2018 – Principal Lawyer / Senior Principal Lawyer LAQ Southport office;
- 2009 – 2011 – Principal Policy Officer Department of Communities (on secondment from above Southport role) including working on the review of the domestic violence legislation;
- 2018 – 2024 – Assistant Director / Director General Crime and Mental Health Law LAQ Brisbane office;
- 2024 – present – Executive Director Civil Justice Services LAQ Brisbane office.

# SPEAKERS



**Councillor Naomi Fowler**

*Division 2, Mayoral Safer Suburbs Forum Chair, Gold Coast City Council*

Cr Naomi Fowler is the Councillor for Division 2, which covers the suburbs of Oxenford, Helensvale, and Hope Island, and serves as Chair of the Mayoral Safer Suburbs Forum.

Naomi is an experienced leader with a business background and is committed to advocating for the needs of her community. She is particularly focused on creating safer suburbs, improving local roads, tackling congestion and supporting grassroots community initiatives.

Naomi has lived in Division 2 for most of her life and is a true local. In her business career she was awarded the Gold Coast Young Entrepreneur of the Year for four years in a row, the Gold Coast Women in Business – Business Achiever of the Year, the Australian Young Entrepreneur of the Year for PR-Media, and was listed in the top 40 under 40 entrepreneurs in the country.



**Nikki Zabawa**

*Detective Sergeant, Queensland Police Service*

Nikki Zabawa, Detective Sergeant of the Gold Coast Domestic, Family Violence and Vulnerable Persons Unit (GCDFV&VPU) Investigations Team. With over 24 years' experience as a Detective primarily on the Gold Coast, she was seconded to the then known Gold Coast Domestic and Family Violence Taskforce which commenced in 2016. Since this time the GCDFV&VPU team has implemented innovative strategies designed to change the way police respond to domestic and family violence incidents on the Gold Coast. Implemented a truly integrated approach to domestic and family violence with the inception of multi-agency case management approach to identifying and managing high risk cases which influenced the governments decision to implement High Risk Teams throughout the state.



**Peter Smales**

*DVPC board member since 2023, with a previous 40 years' experience as a Senior Public Servant in Queensland and Commonwealth Government Agencies*

Peter spent 40 years working as a senior public servant in Queensland and Commonwealth Government Agencies. These included Corrective Services, Child Protection, Disability Services, Youth Justice, Housing and most recently the National Disability Insurance Agency. Since leaving Government in 2021, Peter has served on two community-based non-government organization boards in the Aged Care and Domestic Violence Prevention Sectors. Peter is currently the Board Chair of Aspire4Life which provides assessment services for older Australians seeking support at home or in supported accommodation. He has also been a member of the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre Board since 2023. He rates his contribution to Integrated Responses to domestic and family violence, and the development of Men's Perpetrator on the Gold Coast in the 1990s, as one of his greatest achievements.



# SPEAKERS



**Rachel Apelt**

*Visual Artist, Founder of Artbalm*

Rachel Apelt is a visual artist and founder of Artbalm, an illustration and graphic recording practice based in Magandjin (Brisbane). She has worked in the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention sector for over 25 years, using art to support awareness, education, and connection.

As the graphic recorder for the conference, Rachel will visually document key themes and ideas as they unfold. Her approach combines attentive listening and real-time illustration, to help make complex conversations more accessible. With 13 years of experience in graphic recording, she values the opportunity to keep learning and to support meaningful dialogue through visual storytelling.



**Rachel Briggs**

*Program Delivery Officer, Community Housing Limited*

Rachael's first full time job was as a receptionist at a Real Estate office before moving into a Property Manager role, which opened her eyes to the very real issues surrounding affordable housing. Realising she wanted to do 'more' she then transitioned to work within the homelessness sector originally for Churches of Christ and now for Community Housing Limited. Rachael's role – Program Delivery Officer – is quite varied allowing her to work alongside members of the community and stakeholders to work towards a world without housing poverty.



**Silke Meyer**

*Leneen Forde Chair in Child and Family Research, Griffith University*

Silke is the Leneen Forde Chair in Child and Family Research at Griffith University, with a background in criminology and social work. Her research focuses on domestic and family violence, including women and children's safety, men's accountability, and the unique challenges faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. With experience at the Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre, she's an expert in creating holistic, evidence-based solutions to support families and drive policy reform.



# SPEAKERS



## **Taylah Excell**

*Supervisor, Community Corrections, Queensland Corrective Services*

Taylah Excell holds a Bachelor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, commencing her career with the Department of Justice within the courts system. This foundational experience provided Taylah with a solid understanding of the intersect between law enforcement and social support systems. Building on this knowledge, Taylah joined Queensland Corrective Services in 2018, having now accumulated over seven years of frontline practitioner experience, and enhancing community safety through promoting and facilitating evidence based behavioural change. During this time, Taylah has developed expertise in managing complex perpetrators of domestic and family violence (DFV) and a passion for working collaboratively across systems for improved outcomes.

In her current role within South Coast Region, Community Corrections, Taylah oversees the frontline management of high-risk perpetrators and victim survivors, ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable for their behaviour, and that victim survivors receive the necessary support and protection they deserve. Taylah is a key representative within the Gold Coast Integrated Service Response, playing an integral role in coordinating efforts across agencies to provide a holistic approach to addressing DFV including within the Southport DFV Specialist Court Operational Working Group, DFV Triage Response and partnership with the GC DFV&VPU and within the DFV Interagency Group.

With a strong belief in the impact of collaboration, Taylah is dedicated to contributing to a whole-of-system response to reducing domestic and family violence, with a focus on promoting accountability and fostering systemic change.



## **Tess Blundell**

*Manager, Men's Domestic Violence Education Program, Domestic Violence Prevention Centre*

Tess is the Manager of the Men's Domestic Violence Education and Intervention Program at DVPC, where she has held a longstanding role. With a strong background in public and community services, Tess has worked extensively with women experiencing domestic and family violence, as well as with men who use violence in their relationships.

A proud Kombumerri Saltwater Woman from the Gold Coast, Tess is dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage, connection to country, and traditions of her people, ensuring they remain visible and valued amidst the region's rapid urban development. Her work is guided by a deep commitment to social justice and a vision for a community free from domestic violence, built on safety and respect.



## **Thilini Jayathilake**

*Service Delivery Coordinator, Centacare Gold Coast*

Currently in a job share role as a Service Delivery Coordinator for the Domestic and Family Violence Services at Centacare Family and Relationship Services, Gold Coast leading a team of skilled domestic and family violence practitioners.

Holding a Bachelor of Arts (Sociology, English, and International Relations) and a Master of Social Work. Experience and skills in risk assessment and safety planning, and collaboratively working towards improving service delivery models.

## **Jese Norriss**

*Domestic and Family Violence Court Coordinator, Southport Specialist DFV Court*

Jese Norriss has a 22-year career with the Department of Justice and Attorney General. Appointed to the Southport Magistrates Court in 2002, Jese spent eight years as a registry clerk before transitioning to a management position at the Southeastern State Coroner's Office. In 2015, he returned to the Registry in a management role, where he developed extensive expertise in court policy and procedure. In 2019, Jese joined the Southport domestic and family violence (DFV) registry as the deputy registrar and had opportunities to act as the DFV Court Coordinator. In 2023, Jese was permanently appointed as the DFV Court Coordinator.

## **Karen Edwards**

*Domestic and Family Violence Service Manager, yourtown*

Karen Edwards holds a Master's in Counselling and brings over two decades of dedicated experience in the domestic and family violence sector. For the past 15 years, she has led yourtown's Domestic and Family Violence Service, which includes the organisation's therapeutic refuge; an innovative model of care that integrates trauma-informed support with safe accommodation. Karen's commitment to advancing therapeutic responses has extended nationally, including her collaboration with the Western Australian (WA) Government to co-design a therapeutic refuge in WA. She is an active member of the Gold Coast Domestic Violence Integrated Response (Dvir), contributing to systemic improvements and interagency collaboration in the field. Karen's work is grounded in compassion, evidence-based practice, and a deep commitment to empowering women and children affected by violence.

## **Katrina O'Connor**

*Senior Registrar, Southport Courts*

Katrina O'Connor boasts a 30-year career with the Department of Justice and Attorney General. She has served in Queensland's Supreme, District, Magistrates, and Children's Courts, both in central and regional areas. Currently, Katrina is a Senior Registrar at Southport, where she leads the domestic and family violence, and child protection teams. As an integral part of Southport's leadership team, she drives the Excellence in Practice framework and implements beneficial changes for both Southport and the Logan Gold Coast Region.

## **Manon Barwick**

*Sergeant Police Prosecutor, Domestic Violence Module Manager, Gold Coast Police Prosecutions*

I have been a police officer for 14 years and a Police Prosecutor for 11 of those years. My experience in domestic and family violence extends state-wide, having worked at Rockhampton, Townsville, Airlie Beach, Mackay, Bowen, Proserpine, Emerald, Biloela, Woorabinda, Coolangatta and Yeppoon. I have been the Domestic Violence Module Manager at Gold Coast Police Prosecutions Corps (Southport) since 2024.

## **Skye Worth**

*Principal Solicitor, Gold Coast Community Legal Centre*

Skye Worth is the Principal Solicitor of Gold Coast Community Legal Centre. Skye was admitted to practice law in 2009 and commenced her career in private practice.

Early in her career, Skye joined Gold Coast Community Legal Centre, having an interest in access to justice. She has worked primarily in domestic and family violence and family law. Skye has been involved in commencing domestic and family violence duty lawyer services at Southport, Coolangatta and Beaudesert Magistrates Courts, and is still carrying out duty lawyer work.

## **Vanessa Wiseman**

*Officer in Charge, Gold Coast Domestic and Family Violence and Vulnerable Persons Unit, Queensland Police Service*

Detective Senior Sergeant Vanessa Wiseman is the Officer in Charge of the Gold Coast District Domestic, Family Violence and Vulnerable Persons Unit (DFV&VPU). The DFV&VPU works collaboratively with external partners in the Gold Coast Domestic Violence Integrated Response (DVIR), and Southport Specialist Court Operational Working Group, to enhance the safety and outcomes for vulnerable people in the Gold Coast community.

Vanessa has been a Queensland police officer for thirty-two years and has demonstrated her commitment to protecting vulnerable people whilst working in general duties, the Child Protection and Investigation Unit, Criminal Investigation Branch, Child Protection Offender Registry, Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect Team and the DFV&VPU. Vanessa has been influential in shaping how police respond to, and investigate, domestic and family violence offences as a member of Queensland Police Service reference groups and the State Domestic and Family Violence Training Team. She is committed to enhancing police responses and client outcomes. Vanessa was awarded the Australian Police Medal in 2023 in recognition of her distinguished service.