

LIVED EXPERIENCED VOICES



MONDAY 8 SEPTEMBER, 2025

7:00 AM REGISTRATION OPENS

8:00 AM CONNECTION TO COUNTRY
Smoking Ceremony

8:30 AM DOORS OPEN

9:00 AM INTRODUCTION + WELCOME
MC - Jo Mason, Founder and CEO of WorkHaven
Lucy Gregory, CEO, Domestic Violence Prevention Centre

10:00 AM SURVIVOR-CENTRED BY DESIGN: INTERVENTIONS THAT ADDRESS THE SAFETY, WELL-BEING AND AGENCY SURVIVORS

- What do survivors need from community and government organisations beyond addressing their safety needs?
- How do you include the voices and leadership of survivors in the design, development, and/or evaluation of your program/intervention?
- When deciding a recommendation for systemic change, how will you know if the implementation will address the needs of survivors?
- Is your agency prepared to hear the feedback from survivors?
- How does your intervention account for a survivor's well-being and agency to make their own decisions?
- Are you engaging with survivors from marginalised communities?

This session will encourage all participants to reflect on how they can improve and enhance their interventions by including the voices and leadership of survivors. This session will describe how to go beyond "lived experience consultations" and how to include the voices and leadership of survivors in the design and re-design of interventions.



Jo Mason
Founder and CEO,
WorkHaven



Lucy Gregory
CEO, Domestic Violence
Prevention Centre



Melissa Scaia
Domestic Violence Expert and Trainer



Laura Williams
Strategist, Consultant and Trainer



11:00 AM

MORNING TEA

11:20 AM BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS

ROOM #1 VISIBILITY, VICTIMHOOD AND VOICE: RECOGNISING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AS VICTIM-SURVIVORS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE ‘IN THEIR OWN RIGHT’

Governments in Australia have embraced the language of ‘rights’ and ‘recognition’ in responding to the scourge of domestic and family violence. The National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032 identifies the need to ‘recognise children and young people as victim-survivors of violence in their own right’. A focus on listening to, and learning from, children and young people strives to drive targeted policies, services and systems that respond effectively to their safety and recovery needs.

This presentation will engage with findings from the ‘Children’s Voices for Change’ research project, funded by the Victorian Government, which sought to understand the features of effective supports for children who have experienced family violence. The project analysed government data on children’s pathways into and through Victoria’s family violence service system; surveyed 320 practitioners; and engaged with 23 children and young people to understand their experiences of support services and to co-create the CHANGE Children’s Feedback Tool.

The presentation will expose three normative assumptions underpinning the policy commitment to recognise children and young people as family violence victim-survivors ‘in their own right’ – visibility, victimhood and voice. It will argue that these assumptions, when woven together, are problematic and must be accompanied by a fourth – validation – to support children and young people to fulfil their potential as ‘agents of generational change’ to end gender-based violence in Australia.



*Georgina Dimopoulos
Associate Professor,
Southern Cross University*

ROOM #2 MEANINGFUL SYSTEMIC CHANGE THROUGH CONSULTATION WITH VICTIM-SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Join us for a powerful panel discussion on ‘Meaningful Systemic Change through Consultation with Victim-Survivors of Domestic and Family Violence’. This session will feature a panel of lived experience advocates who will share their insights on what true consultation looks like, and how systems must evolve to genuinely listen, respond, and act. Through honest, grounded conversation, we’ll explore how centering victim-survivor voices can lead to lasting, systemic change across services, policy, and practice.

ROOM #3 CENTRING THE VOICES OF VICTIM-SURVIVORS THROUGH RESEARCH

Lived experience is a critical aspect of informing policy, practice and legislative reform. This presentation draws on victim-survivor input into research across different projects to shape policy, practice and legislation.

Examples include the National Consultation Project to inform for the current National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032, a national project examining victim-survivor expectations around the criminalisation of coercive control and Men’s Behaviour Change Program evaluations drawing on victim-survivor voices to better understand potential change among men who use domestic and family violence.



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

12:35 PM

LUNCH

1:30 PM BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS

ROOM #1 NOT ALL DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE IS THE SAME: IDENTIFYING AND INTERVENING IN CASES OF RESISTIVE VIOLENCE

Not all domestic and family violence is the same.

Are the women who are being named as respondents using coercive-controlling violence and abuse, resistive violence, or neither?
 Does integrated response have a differentiated response or are all cases of domestic and family violence treated the same?
 What are effective interventions that address resistive violence?

This session explores the answers to these questions. We will also describe effective intervention programs for women who use violence and the Turning Points curriculum, including exploring the learnings from Turning Points programs facilitated on the Gold Coast at Domestic Violence Prevention Centre.



Melissa Scaia
 Domestic Violence Expert and Trainer



Girija Dadhe
 DVIR Manager and Turning Points Facilitator, Domestic Violence Prevention Centre

ROOM #2 FROM INSIGHT TO ACTION: BUILDING SCALABLE AND MEANINGFUL DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE RECOVERY SUPPORT

Jo Mason is a survivor, social entrepreneur, and changemaker on a mission to turn insight into real-world impact. As the founder of WorkHaven, Jo has helped over 100,000 employees across Australia engage meaningfully with domestic and family violence issues in the workplace and beyond.

In this powerful session, Jo will share how lived experience and innovation can drive scalable solutions that don't just raise awareness—but actively support recovery.

With heart, clarity, and a fierce commitment to change, Jo will challenge us to reimagine what recovery support can look like and how communities and systems can step up to meet the moment.



Jo Mason
 Founder and CEO, WorkHaven

ROOM #3 SURVIVOR LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

With deep global experience and a systems-thinking lens, Laura Williams brings a compelling perspective to survivor-led change. A strategist, trainer, and advocate for over two decades, Laura has shaped responses to gender-based violence from the U.S. to the Philippines and currently co-leads a systemic reform initiative in Queensland.

In her session, Laura will explore what it truly means to partner with lived experience—not just listen. Drawing on her work with UN Women, grassroots organisations, and policy reform projects across the globe, she'll challenge us to rethink traditional consultation and shift towards survivor-led systems transformation. Expect practical insights, big questions, and a clear call to action.



Laura Williams
 Strategist, Consultant and Trainer



2:45 PM

AFTERNOON TEA

3:05 PM **HERE I STAND: REAUTHORING THE STORY OF LIVED EXPERIENCE IN THE DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE WORKFORCE**

Embedding lived experience in domestic and family violence policy, practice and legislation underpins the work of the domestic and family violence sector. More and more frequently our wider domestic and family violence service system has been working in partnership with victim-survivors to amplify the voice, the wisdom and the experience of lived experience.

What is not often talked about is the victim-survivor workforce that has always existed in the domestic and family violence sector. Those with a lived experience have been drivers for change and advocates for best practice, however their rich contribution has not had the recognition it deserves.

Through narrative practice, the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre has embarked on the journey of giving voice to those with a lived experience within our workforce.

'HERE I STAND' is an anthem for the victim-survivor workforce, as we work to honour, to learn from, and to amplify the voices of our survivor sisters.

4:00 PM

END OF DAY ONE CONFERENCE

COCKTAIL NETWORKING EVENT

5:30-7:30 PM

The Boatshed, Sea World Resort

Unwind after Day 1 of the conference with a complimentary evening of meaningful connection on the stunning Gold Coast Broadwater. Hosted at Sea World Resort's The Boatshed, this exclusive networking event offers the chance to gather with fellow delegates as the sun sets over the water, taking a moment to reflect, reconnect and recharge.

PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION



TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER, 2025

8:30 AM ARRIVAL + REGISTRATION

9:00 AM INTRODUCTION + WELCOME

MC - Marica Ristic, Practice Leader, Domestic Violence Prevention Centre



Marica Ristic
Practice Leader,
Domestic Violence Prevention Centre

9:15 AM 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 Queenslander plays a critical role in the Crisafulli Government in delivering reform to improve outcomes for some 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."



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.



PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION

TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER, 2025

9:30 AM AGENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY: CHANGING THE SYSTEM NOT THE SURVIVOR

As a community we know that we need to work in an integrated, coordinated way to promote the safety, wellbeing and agency of victim-survivors of domestic and family violence.

But what does this mean?

What are the foundations of a well-functioning integrated response?

What are the current challenges our integrated responses are facing?

What is the current Queensland Governments' vision for our integrated domestic and family violence system?

These questions will be answered in this session, as our speakers share insights from Duluth, the Gold Coast and the Queensland State-wide perspective.

Hear how systems, not survivors, can change to create sustainable, meaningful responses to domestic and family violence when services work together with a shared commitment to safety, accountability, and healing.



Lucy Gregory
CEO, Domestic Violence
Prevention Centre



Amanda Shipway
Director, Integrated Service
Responses, DFSDSCS



Melissa Scaia
Domestic Violence Expert
and Trainer

10:30 AM PANEL DISCUSSION - LEARNING FROM OUR FOUNDERS: THE CREATION OF THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTEGRATED RESPONSE (DVIR)

Facilitated by: Girija Dadhe, Domestic Violence Integrated Response Manager, Domestic Violence Prevention Centre

This session takes us back to where it all began, the origins of the Gold Coast Domestic and Family Violence Integrated Response (GCDVIR). As one of Australia's leading models for an integrated community response, the GCDVIR is built on strong partnerships, shared values, and a relentless commitment to safety, accountability, and collaboration.

Hear from the change makers who created the GCDVIR and explore how their motivation to see change in our community led systemic change and inspired Queensland's Integrated Service System.



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



Chris Emzin
 Aboriginal and South Sea Islander Associate Professor at QUT, with 37 years' experience in policing, legal practice, and Indigenous justice leadership



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



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



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



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

12:45 PM BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS

ROOM #1 TECHNOLOGY FACILITATED ABUSE AND THE DIGITAL SILENCING OF IMMIGRANT WOMEN

Explore how technology-facilitated abuse impacts women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. This session unpacks the digital silencing of immigrant women, the systemic barriers they face, and how integrated, culturally safe responses across legal, health, and community sectors can support their safety, voice, and recovery.



Marica Ristic
Practice Leader,
Domestic Violence Prevention Centre



Carolina Leyton Zamora
Domestic and Family Violence
Peak Transition Lead, QCOSS

ROOM #2 THE RIPPLE EFFECT: RIPPLES OF SUCCESS FROM THE CREATION OF THE DVIR AND INTO THE FORMATION OF THE SOUTHPORT DFV SPECIALIST COURT

Hosted by: Jese Norriss, Southport Specialist Domestic and Family Violence Court; Tess Blundell, Domestic Violence Prevention Centre; Vanessa Wiseman, Queensland Police Service; Katrina O'Connor, Southport Magistrates Court; Manon Barwick, Gold Coast Police Prosecutions; Kristie Doyle, Legal Aid QLD; Skye Worth, Gold Coast Community Legal Centre

2025 marks the 10-year anniversary of Queensland's first Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Court, established in Southport. Learn how the advocacy of the Domestic Violence Integrated Response led to the pilot of the Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Court, how the court has evolved and grown over the decade and how local innovation continues to respond to the needs of victim-survivors and persons who use violence, and continues to influence systemic change across the state.

ROOM #3 FROM CRISIS TO STABILITY: DVIR HOUSING PATHWAYS GROUP

Hosted by: Chris Hoy, Macleod Refuge; Rachael Briggs, Community Housing Limited; Ainslie Wiegold, 54 Reasons; Karen Edwards, yourtown; Thilini Jayatilake, Centacare

Lack of access to secure, safe and stable housing for domestic and family violence victim-survivors has reached crisis point in Australia. Discover how the Domestic Violence Integrated Response (DVIR) Housing Pathways Group is turning collaboration into impact. This session highlights innovative strategies and cross-sector partnerships that are helping individuals and families move beyond crisis, building bridges to safe, stable, and dignified housing, and a future free from violence.



1:45 PM

SHORT BREAK

2:00 PM BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS

ROOM #1 TRIAGE: INNOVATIVE INTEGRATIVE RESPONSES TO HIGH RISK DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

When lives are at stake, the way we respond matters.

Explore how innovative, integrative triage models are intervening in high-risk domestic and family violence cases—strengthening coordination, driving accountability focused interventions, and improving safety for those most at risk.



Jess Malloy
Detective Sergeant,
Queensland Police Service



Tess Blundell
Manager, Men's Domestic Violence
Education Program, Domestic Violence
Prevention Centre

ROOM #2 THE WEB OF ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PERSONS USING VIOLENCE

What does true accountability look like for those who use domestic and family violence?

This session dives into the interconnected systems, justice, community, services, and culture, that must work in tandem to disrupt violence, drive behaviour change, and centre victim-survivor safety in every response.



Nikki Zabawa
Detective Sergeant,
Queensland Police Service



Taylah Excell
Queensland Corrective
Services

ROOM #3 NUMBER CRUNCHING: WHEN DATA BRINGS PARTNERS TOGETHER

Discover how data becomes a catalyst for collaboration in this insightful session.

By linking information across health and justice systems, presenters reveal how shared analysis can identify key intervention points, enhance coordinated responses, and drive real systems change in the fight against domestic and family violence.



Kym Tighe
Experienced social worker and first Domestic and Family Violence Coordinator for Gold Coast Health



Deb Phillips
Detective Senior Sergeant, Queensland Police Service



Lucy Gregory
CEO, Domestic Violence Prevention Centre

3:00PM

AFTERNOON TEA

3:30 PM THE TIME TO DISRUPT IS NOW

This final session brings us together to reflect, refocus, and reignite our collective commitment to ending domestic and family violence. It's a call to action—an invitation to think boldly, act courageously, and disrupt the systems, attitudes, and barriers that allow violence to persist.

Together, we'll look ahead to what's possible when a community refuses to accept the status quo.



Lucy Gregory
CEO, Domestic Violence Prevention Centre



Councillor Naomi Fowler
Division 2
Mayoral Safer Suburbs Forum Chair
Gold Coast City Council