

LIVED EXPERIENCE VOICES



MONDAY 8 SEPTEMBER, 2025

INTRODUCTION + WELCOME

9:15 AM

MC - Jo Mason, Founder and CEO of WorkHaven

Lucy Gregory, CEO, Domestic Violence Prevention Centre (DVPC)

SURVIVOR-CENTERED BY DESIGN: INTERVENTIONS THAT ADDRESS THE SAFETY, WELL-BEING AND AGENCY OF SURVIVORS

10:00 AM

Melissa Scaia, Domestic Violence Expert and Trainer

Laura Williams, Strategist, Consultant and Trainer

- 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 victim-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.



Melissa Scaia

Domestic Violence Expert and Trainer



Laura Williams

Strategist, Consultant and Trainer

VISIBILITY, VICTIMHOOD AND VOICE: RECOGNISING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AS VICTIM-SURVIVORS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE 'IN THEIR OWN RIGHT'

11:20 AM

Georgina Dimopoulos, Associate Professor, Southern Cross University

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.

DAY 1

ONLINE PROGRAM

LIVED EXPERIENCE VOICES



MONDAY 8 SEPTEMBER, 2025

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*

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

1:30 PM

*Melissa Scaia, Domestic Violence Expert and Trainer
Girija Dadhe, DVIR Manager & Turning Points Facilitator, DVPC*

Not all domestic and family violence is the same. Are the women who are being named as respondents or arrested using coercive-controlling violence and abuse, resistive violence, or neither? Does the Integrated Response (IR) 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 answer to these questions. We will also describe effective intervention programming for women who use violence and the Turning Points curriculum that is used and explore 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 & Turning
Points Facilitator, DVPC

Please note: Some sessions may be updated prior to the event. Further details to come.

DAY 1

ONLINE PROGRAM

LIVED EXPERIENCE VOICES



MONDAY 8 SEPTEMBER, 2025

**HERE I STAND
REAUTHORING THE STORY OF LIVED EXPERIENCE IN
THE DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE WORKFORCE.**

3:05 PM

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 DFV service system has been working in partnership with survivors to amplify the voice, the wisdom and the experience of victim survivors.

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, advocates for best practice, however their rich contribution has not had the recognition it deserves.

Through narrative practice, DVPC 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.

END OF DAY 1 CONFERENCE

Please note: Some sessions may be updated prior to the event. Further details to come.



ONLINE PROGRAM DAY 2

INTEGRATED RESPONSE



TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER, 2025

INTRODUCTION + WELCOME

MC - Marica Ristic, Practice Leader, DVPC

9:00 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



9:15 AM

AGENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY: CHANGING THE SYSTEM NOT THE SURVIVOR

Lucy Gregory, CEO, DVPC

Amanda Shipway, Director, Integrated Service Responses, DFSDSCS

Melissa Scaia, Domestic Violence Expert and Trainer

9:30 AM

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 from 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

INTEGRATED RESPONSE



TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER, 2025

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

*Facilitator - Girija Dadhe, DVIR Manager, DVPC
Panelists - Betty Taylor, Catherine Hand, Chris Emzin, Kym Tighe, Michael Maloney, and Peter Smales*

This session takes us back to where it all began, the origins of the Gold Coast Domestic and Family Violence Integrated Response (DVIR). 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 DVIR and explore how their motivation to see change in our community led drove systemic change and inspired Queensland's Integrated Service System.



Betty Taylor



Chris Emzin



Peter Smales



Catherine Hand



Kim Tighe



Michael Maloney

TECHNOLOGY FACILITATED ABUSE AND THE DIGITAL SILENCING OF IMMIGRANT WOMEN. 12:45 PM

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.



Carolina Leyton Zamora
DFV Peak Transition Lead at QCOSS



Marica Ristic

INTERGRATED RESPONSE



TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER, 2025

TRIAGE: INNOVATIVE INTEGRATIVE RESPONSES TO HIGH RISK DFV 2:00 PM

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



Tess Blundell
Manager, Men's DV Education Program at DVPC

THE TIME TO DISRUPT IS NOW 3:30 PM

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.

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