



Domestic Violence Homicide in Far North Queensland

Domestic and Family Violence has significant impacts on victims, with the most permanent and devastating consequence being death. The **Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board 2017-18 Annual Report**, has found that between July 2006 and June 2018 there have been 294 domestic and family homicides in Queensland.

Females are significantly over-represented in the incidences of intimate partner homicides with statistics reflecting that women are 4 times more likely than a male to be killed as a result of Domestic and Family Violence. Over 80% of these women were killed by a male perpetrator. This is compared to 45% of male victims of Family and Domestic Violence being killed by a female homicide offender. Of the 39 female homicide offenders, 20 had a history of Domestic Violence with the deceased male as the primary perpetrator.

Between 2006 and 2018, the highest number of recorded homicides (78 deaths) occurred in the Northern Region, this includes 44 deaths in Far North Queensland.

These findings of the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board identify that too many people are the victim of domestic violence homicide, with a majority of those being women killed by male perpetrated violence.



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Mareeba Office Update

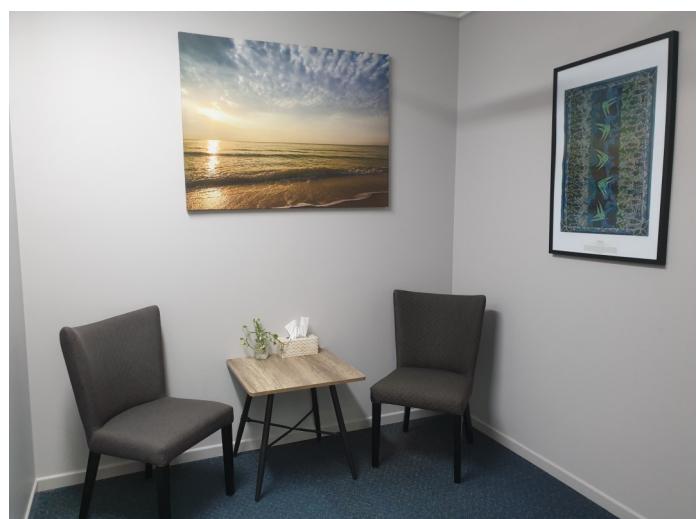
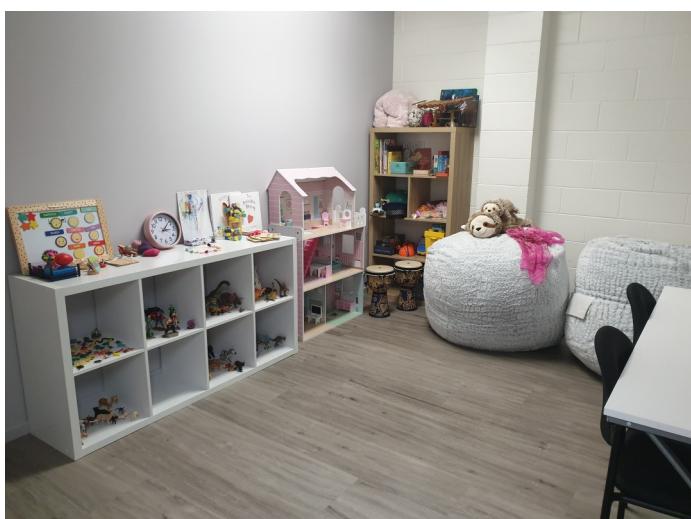
Our Tablelands team has grown since our last newsletter with the opening of a new office in Mareeba. Our Tablelands team are passionate, enthusiastic and it has been a pleasure welcoming new staff into our service. While we have been offering services to Mareeba for some time it's made a huge difference having a dedicated office space. Our official opening was well attended by local services and councillors, and we have felt the community has been very welcoming of our presence.



Our Mareeba Service offers crisis and ongoing support for adult victims of domestic violence as well as child counselling and court support. We've had some great feedback from clients since we opened our doors and it has been wonderful to work so closely with other services in supporting the needs of our clients and their children. Mareeba has such a strong community focus and we are very pleased to be building our local partnerships and contributing to strengthening the community to ensure it is safe for all.

We are always happy to chat or answer questions, please feel free to call our office on 4092 3290 or pop into our office at 3/159 Walsh St, Mareeba.

The Mareeba Team



Keeping Women Safe in their Home

Cairns has been one of the four locations in Queensland to trial the Keeping Women Safe in their Home (KWSITH) initiative funded by the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women via Federal funding. Technology-facilitated abuse is a growing contributor to violence against women, with perpetrators increasingly accessing digital means to monitor, stalk and control a victim's movements.

This initiative has worked towards improving safety for women and children escaping domestic and family violence with emerging technologies by enabling them to remain in their own homes following the completion of a comprehensive risk assessment as part of a safety plan.

Trials commenced in September 2016 and the following technologies have been available:

- personal duress alarms with 24x7 monitoring through an external security service
- CCTV home security cameras linked to devices to record data
- victim-focused smartphone technology applications
- electronic sweeps, scans and debugging of victims' homes and belongings for surveillance technology.



Since the trial commenced, Cairns Regional Domestic Violence Service has supported over 70 women with various technologies however the trial is scheduled to cease in June 2019.

So what does this mean for our clients? Existing clients who have a personal duress alarm have been contacted and advised that if the funding ceases they would need to cover the cost themselves for monitoring , otherwise they are required to return the device. Similarly any new clients who are eligible for the funding may only be able to be supported for the next few months with the need to cover any ongoing costs themselves.

Clients have reported feeling safer with having access to these technologies and surveillance footage has provided further evidence for any orders that have been breached. We continue to advocate for the funding to be available post June 2019 but this is dependent on many factor including election promises.

Welcome Social Work Student: Sandhuni

Hi I'm Sandhuni, a 3rd year Bachelor of Social Work student currently studying at James Cook University (JCU). I am doing my first placement here at Cairns Regional Domestic Violence Service. It has been an amazing placement so far, by the end I hope to have developed many social work skills and a foundation of knowledge on domestic violence. This is so one day I may make a difference in the lives of people affected by domestic violence - just as the workers at CRDVS currently do!



Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention



Staff from CRDVS recently attended a 2 day workshop in Brisbane with the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention.

Non-lethal strangulation has been identified as one of the most significant red flags to homicide and premature death from strokes and other health issues. Strangulation is an ultimate form of power and control where the perpetrator can demonstrate control over the victim's next breath: it may have devastating psychological effects or a potentially fatal outcome.

The training identified the signs and symptoms of non-fatal strangulation cases; understand and recognize the anatomy and medical aspects of surviving and non-surviving victims and enhancing victim safety through trauma-informed advocacy services.

Visit: <https://www.strangulationtraininginstitute.com> for more information.

New Family Violence Law Help Website

Legal Aid Queensland has launched a **National Legal Aid's Family Violence Law Help website**.

This new website helps to empower people by giving them simple and clear information about domestic and family violence, family law, child protection, and domestic violence protection orders. It also has detailed information about where you can get help and advice Australia wide. There are a range of easy-to-read factsheets that you can view, download or print to help resolve any legal problems.



Visit: www.familyviolencelaw.gov.au for more information.

Cairns High Risk Team Update

The Cairns High Risk Team (HRT) for Domestic and Family Violence has been operating in Cairns for 12 months and is one of eight teams that have been rolled out across Queensland to ensure a coordinated response to those who are at most risk of injury or death from violence in the home.

The HRT is part of an Integrated Service Response Program that is seeking to address a number of recommendations from the Not Now, Not Ever Report into Domestic and Family Violence. In particular, the report identified that a lack of coordination and communication across government and non-government agencies was a common factor in domestic violence homicide.

This finding also led to amendments to domestic and family violence legislation which allows prescribed agencies to share information without the consent of parties if it is required for risk assessment and safety planning. In addition a Common Risk Assessment and Safety Framework is being utilised by all agencies in the HRT.



Critical to the success of the Cairns HRT will be building strong relationships between government and non-government agencies and innovative responses so that those who are most at risk have their safety enhanced and the perpetrator is held accountable.

Cairns is fortunate to have a strong and well-connected sector that is represented by the Cairns Collective Impact on Domestic and Family Violence (CCIDFV). This has been acknowledged by a recent decision to formally identify the CCIDFV as the cross-agency advisory group for the Integrated Service Response Program.

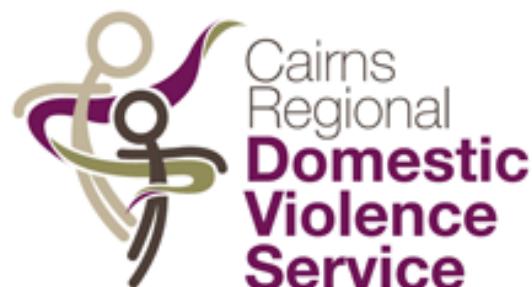
The HRT team consists of representatives from Child Safety, Youth Justice, CRDVS, Victims Assist, Department Housing and Public Works, Corrective Services, Magistrates Court, Queensland Police Service and Queensland Health.

For more information contact Kim Adams at kim.adams@csyw.qld.gov.au

Employment Opportunities

CRDVS is looking for passionate, enthusiastic and skilled workers to join our team.

We are currently recruiting for the following positions:



- **Senior Practitioner - Domestic and Family Violence Counselling** Visit <https://applynow.net.au/jobs/110534-senior-practitioner-domestic-family-violence-counselling> for more information.
- **Lead Case Manager (High Risk Team)** - Visit <https://applynow.net.au/jobs/110977-lead-case-manager-high-risk-team> for more information.

Myth's about Domestic Violence

MYTH: WoMen COULD LEAVE a vIOLENt RELATIONSHIP IF tHEY WANTED TO...

FACT: The most extreme violence, including murder, often occurs when a woman tries to leave a relationship. When it is assumed that a woman who is a victim of domestic violence stays by choice, blame is taken away from the perpetrator. This puts the responsibility for dealing with the violence on the victim, who might not be able to leave a relationship because she fears for her life or the safety of her children.

MYTH: MaNy WoMen MaKE FALSE CLAiMS about dOMEStIC vIOLENCE OR SeXUAL ASSAULT...

FACT: False claims of domestic violence or sexual assault are extremely rare. 80% of women who experience current partner violence don't contact the police about the violence. The same is true with sexual assault; 80% of women do not report sexual assault to police.

MYTH: THeRe'S NOTHiNG wRONG WITH a SeXiST JOKE...

FACT: The most consistent predictor for support of violence by men is their agreement with sexist attitudes. Sexist jokes reflect and reinforce sexist attitudes. They excuse and perpetuate the gender stereotyping and discrimination against women that underpins violence. If no one speaks up when a sexist comment or joke is made, it sends the message that this behaviour is ok.

MYTH: WoMen are MoSt LiKELY to be raped by a Stranger IN a PUBLIC PLACE...

FACT: Both men and women are more likely to be sexually assaulted by someone they know than by a stranger. The stranger danger myth is one of the reasons that women are less likely to report a sexual assault perpetrated by someone they know.



For more information on common myths about Domestic and Family Violence check out www.ourwatch.org.au

Want to contribute to this newsletter?

Want to receive it via email?

Want to unsubscribe from emails?

Please let us know by contacting Eliza

Ph: (07) 4033 6100

Email: commed@dvcairns.org



What's On?

Guess who's not coming to dinner?

Table settings reflecting lives lost due to domestic violence in 2019 will be on display at the Douglas Shire Lobby and the Westpac Bank in Atherton during the Domestic Violence Prevention Month of May.

Behind Closed Doors Project



Doors painted by local community members of Mareeba will be on display at the Mareeba Markets on 11th of May and at the Mareeba Rotary Field Day on 29th, 30th and 31st of May.

Professional Development Training

Stratford Library 29th, 30th and 31st October

- October 29th and 30th—Module 1 (Recognise and Respond to Domestic and Family Violence)
- October 31st—Module 2 (Effects of Domestic and Family Violence on children and young people)

Contact Community Educator Eliza on 4033 6100 or commed@dvcairns.org for more information.



- Domestic Violence Prevention Month May
- NAIDOC Week Voice. Treaty. Truth. Let's work together- 7-14 July 2019
- National Child Protection Week - 1-7 September 2019

Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month Breakfast

**Friday 31st May at 7.00am
Ballroom, The Hilton, Cairns**

This is a ticketed event and tickets must be organised and paid for prior to the day. Tickets are \$35.00. Please contact Jan at office@dvcairns.org to organise.

Our guest speaker this year is **Associate Professor Molly Dragiewicz**, School of Justice, Faculty of Law at Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane. Ms Dragiewicz is an internationally award winning criminologist whose research focuses on violence and gender.

She won the 2018 Domestic Violence Prevention Leadership Award from the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre Gold Coast; the 2017 Robert Jerin Book of the Year award for *Abusive endings: Separation and divorce violence against women* from the American Society of Criminology Division on Victimology; the 2012 Critical Criminologist of the Year Award from the American Society of Criminology Division on Critical Criminology; the 2009 New Scholar Award from the American Society of Criminology Division on Women and Crime; and the QUT Vice Chancellor's Performance Award in 2016.

Ms Dragiewicz is the author of *Abusive endings: Separation and divorce violence against women* (2017) with Walter DeKeseredy and Martin Schwartz; author of *Equality with a vengeance: Men's rights groups, battered women, and antifeminist backlash* (2011), editor of *Global human trafficking: Critical issues and contexts* (2015), editor of *The Routledge handbook of critical criminology* (2012, 2nd ed. 2018), and editor of *The Routledge major works collection: Critical criminology* (2014) with Walter DeKeseredy.





Cairns Regional Domestic Violence Service

Services We Provide:

Cairns Regional Domestic Violence Service provides free and confidential services for family members experiencing domestic violence.

There are many issues that you can discuss with our staff, such as:

- ◆ Information about your rights and the rights of your children;
- ◆ Steps that may help you to protect yourself from further domestic violence;
- ◆ Information and assistance in making an application for a Domestic Violence Protection Order;
- ◆ Court support;
- ◆ Counselling for you or your children to recover from the effects of domestic violence.

Our staff can also refer you to other support services for financial assistance, crisis accommodation, relationship counselling, legal advice on matters such as family law, parenting education and many other issues.

Professional interpreters can be requested.



CRDVS is funded by the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, Queensland

Useful Contacts



Follow us: <https://www.facebook.com/dvcairns/>

Telephone Contact Numbers:

If a crime is happening or you are in danger:

call 000

Policelink: 131 444

DV Connect: 1800 811 811 (QLD 24hr DV Line
for women: call for advice or safe accommoda-
tion (refuge)

DV Connect Mensline: 1800 600 636

Healthy Happy Families: 4080 1000

Stopping Family Violence: 1300 364 277

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Useful websites:

- www.communities.qld.gov.au/communityservices
- www.dvrcv.org.au
- www.respectme.org.au
- www.noviolence.com.au
- www.ourwatch.org.au
- www.burstingthebubble.com
- www.ntv.org.au
- www.dvconnect.org
- www.whiteribbon.org.au
- www.1800respect.org.au
- www.thehideout.org.uk
- www.anrows.org.au
- www.areyouok.org.nz

**Look out
for the
next issue
in
October
2019**

OPENING HOURS

Phone - Monday to Friday 9am-5pm
Face to face - Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri
9am-5pm & Wed 12pm-5pm

TABLELANDS MAREeba

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EMAIL mareebaoffice@dvcairns.org

TABLELANDS SOUTH

3 Bolton Street, Ravenshoe
PHONE 1300 909 250
EMAIL dvttablelands@dvcairns.org

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EMAIL mossmanoffice@dvcairns.org

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