



On the agenda

2022 ANROWS NATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Evidence to inform contemporary policy priorities
addressing violence against women

Conference communique



Thank you to everyone who joined the 2022 ANROWS Conference – “On the agenda: Evidence to inform contemporary policy priorities addressing violence against women” – which took place from 22 to 25 February 2022.

Conference delegates worked together with our dedicated ANROWS team, valued partners, inspirational researchers and keynote speakers, and facilitators from the ANROWS Board to share fresh perspectives and foster a critically important national conversation about the evidence base on violence against women and children.

Through the presentation of new research, diverse views, lived expertise and practice knowledge the conference brought new directions in policy and practice to the fore – truly informing what needs to be “on the agenda” now and as we move into the next National Plan.

This paper is a summary of the Evidence Presentations and key outcomes from the subsequent Evidence to Action Workshops, categorised by the following six themes:

- Theme 1: Intimate partner homicide
- Theme 2: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander healing
- Theme 3: Believing women
- Theme 4: Justice and the law
- Theme 5: Data and measurement
- Theme 6: Children and young people

Please note that different terminology was used in each workshop, and therefore the below summaries, to reflect the different aspects of violence against women that were being discussed.

SESSION 1:

Intimate partner homicide

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE PRESENTATION 1: WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

What we know about intimate partner homicide in Australia is, overwhelmingly, what we know about intimate partner homicide *offenders*. Insight into victims is crucially lacking, due to the lack of quality and consistent data that can be extracted from the results of coronial inquests.

In the opening session of the ANROWS National Research Conference, Dr Kyllie Cripps (University of New South Wales) demanded that we take cultural safety seriously, honour the lives of First Nations women and children and the inherent value of their experiences, and genuinely invest in Indigenous-led research.

Dr Hayley Boxall (Australian Institute of Criminology) and Anna Butler (Australian Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Network) also presented compelling evidence that we must move beyond common stereotypes of what perpetrators and victims look like. We must believe men when they tell us they will kill their partners.

RESOURCES

[THE "PATHWAYS TO INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE" PROJECT](#) [\[PROJECT, REPORT AND RESOURCES\]](#)

This report examines the life course trajectories of male intimate partner homicide offenders, aiming to identify potential opportunities for intervention along the pathway to intimate partner homicide. See also fact sheets summarising key findings.

[INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE HOMICIDES 2010–2018](#) [\[RESEARCH REPORT\]](#)

This report presents data that provides a national picture of the characteristics present in intimate partner violence homicides, both male- and female-perpetrated, in Australia.

[DFV LETHALITY: UPDATED FACTS ABOUT INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE](#) [\[FACT SHEET\]](#)

This fact sheet explores intimate partner violence homicides that occurred across Australia following an identifiable history of domestic violence.



It's a paradigm shift. DFV has always been seen as a side issue ... need a shift to see it as core business for anyone working with families. It impacts everything.

Workshop participant

EVIDENCE TO ACTION WORKSHOP 1: MOBILISING EVIDENCE TO PREVENT INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

Following the Evidence Presentation, representatives from No to Violence facilitated a workshop to further unpack the significance and limitations of homicide data and explore the findings of the two newly launched ANROWS reports on intimate partner homicide. No to Violence specialises in effective evidence-informed engagement with, and interventions for, men. Its primary concern is the safety and wellbeing of women and children.

The workshop focused on the circumstances surrounding intimate partner homicide and potential sites for intervention. There was discussion among participants about moving away from the primacy of the criminal justice system, which does not support victims and can be manipulated by perpetrators. Participants also discussed the need to ensure the delivery of caring and socially supportive legal and procedural responses, in part through careful recruitment and training of police and policing staff.



HOW ARE SERVICES MOBILISING EVIDENCE TO PREVENT INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE?

See the [Safe & Together Institute](#) mapping tool – one of the Institute's resources for domestic violence-informed training, systems consultations and tools.

SESSION 2:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander healing

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE PRESENTATION 2: PUTTING ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALING AT THE HEART OF TRAUMA-INFORMED POLICY AND PRACTICE

Led by First Nations women – Professor Bronwyn Carlson, Sandra Creamer and Fiona Cornforth – this session examined what it means to put Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander healing at the heart of trauma-informed practice, and focused on the key themes of self-determination; the role of culture as a protective factor; and the need for holistic, well-resourced and Aboriginal-led research and solutions. These solutions must include First Nations men and care for the Aboriginal workforce whose wellbeing is critical to community-embedded care.

RESOURCES

WHAT WORKS? EXPLORING THE LITERATURE ON ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALING PROGRAMS THAT RESPOND TO FAMILY VIOLENCE [\[RESEARCH REPORT\]](#)

This research report provides a summary of family violence, trauma and healing literature on what works for family violence programs and healing in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

RANTE-RANTE AMPE MARLE AND URREYE: IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY AND PRACTICE [\[RESEARCH SUMMARY\]](#)

This resource is a high-level summary of the research report *Rante-rante ampe Marle and Urreye: "Safe, Respected and Free from Violence" projects evaluation*, including key findings and recommendations for policy and practice.

IMPROVING FAMILY VIOLENCE LEGAL AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES: KEY FINDINGS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS [\[RESEARCH SUMMARY\]](#)

This is an edited summary of key findings from two ANROWS research projects exploring family violence legal and support services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF LAW AND CULTURE IN ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES IN RESPONDING TO AND PREVENTING FAMILY VIOLENCE: KEY FINDINGS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS [\[RESEARCH SUMMARY\]](#)

This resource captures the key findings from a project exploring the role that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Law and Culture plays in prevention of, intervention in and healing from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family violence, and how this can be supported.



Honour the strengths of those with lived experience and privilege the knowledge, and support it by having no role whatsoever in doing more harm.

Fiona Cornforth, The Healing Foundation CEO

Evidence and solutions don't need to be created from scratch – it's all there to be grabbed and used.

Workshop participant

EVIDENCE TO ACTION WORKSHOP 2: INCORPORATING ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER KNOWLEDGE INTO POLICY AND PRACTICE

Building on the Evidence Presentation, the Healing Foundation facilitated a workshop encouraging participants to consider how they address healing and trauma in their own practice through examples and storytelling.

The Healing Foundation is a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation that provides a platform to amplify the voices and lived experience of Stolen Generations survivors and their families. Using a survivor-led approach, the Healing Foundation promotes trauma-aware, healing-informed practice to inform government, policymakers and workforces about their role in intergenerational healing.

Workshop participants considered future opportunities and who needs to be included in those. They strongly identified the need for culturally safe and trauma-informed care in all services, from the frontline to decision-making, along with more trauma-informed and co-design practices in policymaking. These must be led by community voices and needs, with underlying awareness of inherent power imbalances in the government environment and colonial setting.

ANROWS notes that the term “co-design” is not the preferred term for all people: in particular, we have heard from First Nations people on this topic who identify as community members working for change, not as outsiders working “with” community.

Participants agreed that a focus on healing should include a move from “trauma-informed” to “healing-informed”, with Aboriginal organisations leading the way to put culture at the centre of healing.

Recognising there is no healing without justice, and the individual and personal nature of the healing journey, there was significant discussion around addressing ongoing systemic issues in the correctional system, such as the interruption of cultural practices.



HOW IS THE WORKFORCE PUTTING HEALING AT THE HEART OF ITS SERVICES?

[WorkUp](#) and affiliate organisations are helping address workforce-related challenges and working to improve support for current and future workers in the Queensland sexual violence, women's health, and domestic and family violence sector.

Sexual violence is core political business. It is as political as the economy. It is as political as national security. It is as political as any other responsibility or obligation of government.

*Associate Professor Michael Salter,
University of New South Wales*

SESSION 3:

Believing women

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE PRESENTATION 3: BELIEVE ALL WOMEN

Recent ANROWS research highlights that as many as four in 10 Australians mistrust women's reports of sexual violence. In this presentation, Kate Minter (ANROWS), Scarlett Franks and Associate Professor Michael Salter highlighted the impacts of mistrust and disbelief when survivors speak out about gender-based violence and institutions, the community and the service system are ill-equipped to respond.

Professor Kelsey Hegarty and survivor Fiona (WEAVERS) spoke compellingly about the trauma of having experience as a victim denied. Emeritus Professor Andrea Durbach and her research assistant, Angela Griffin, focused on how we change ingrained structural issues, power and privilege in institutional settings.

RESOURCES

“CHUCK HER ON A LIE DETECTOR”: INVESTIGATING AUSTRALIANS' MISTRUST IN WOMEN'S REPORTS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT – KEY MESSAGES [\[FACT SHEET\]](#)

This fact sheet captures the key messages from the report *“Chuck her on a lie detector”*: *Investigating Australians' mistrust in women's reports of sexual assault*, looking at Australians' mistrust in women's reports of sexual violence.

SUMMARY FINDINGS FROM THE 2017 NCAS [\[FACT SHEET\]](#)

This summary captures the key findings from the 2017 *National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey* (NCAS).

“A DEEP WOUND UNDER MY HEART”: CONSTRUCTIONS OF COMPLEX TRAUMA AND IMPLICATIONS FOR WOMEN'S WELLBEING AND SAFETY FROM VIOLENCE [\[RESEARCH REPORT\]](#)

This report provides a comprehensive picture of how complex trauma is being constructed in public policy and practice, and how it is viewed by women with experiences of complex trauma.

WOMEN'S INPUT TO A TRAUMA-INFORMED SYSTEMS MODEL OF CARE IN HEALTH SETTINGS: THE WITH STUDY [\[PROJECT, RESEARCH REPORTS AND RESOURCES\]](#)

This project aimed to understand how we promote and embed a trauma-informed organisational model of care, responsive to women and practitioners, into the complex system of mental health and sexual violence services.



COVID has caused isolation and separation from key support networks, as well as a surge in violence.

Workshop participant

EVIDENCE TO ACTION WORKSHOP 3: PREVENTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST MIGRANT AND CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE WOMEN

ANROWS research used in the companion Evidence Presentation, “Believe all women”, observed that barriers to women reporting sexual violence, such as mistrust, are magnified for some groups of women, including culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) women and migrant and refugee women.

In this workshop, the Multicultural Centre for Women’s Health (MCWH), a national, community-based not-for-profit organisation, shared how they work to prevent sexual violence being perpetrated against CALD and migrant women. The MCWH facilitators employed an intersectional feminist approach and drew upon their experiences working with migrant and refugee communities in the promotion of gender equality and the prevention of all forms of violence against women.

Participants discussed how to prevent and respond to sexual violence in their own policy or practice areas – especially in the current environment, where COVID-19 has further isolated and separated people from support and resulted in higher levels of violence.

They agreed on the need to approach this issue from a human rights perspective with a focus on systemic inequalities and structural issues. They highlighted the challenge of the visa status of some women, which can be used as a tool of coercion by people choosing violence and create another barrier to accessing vital services like housing and childcare.

This approach should be coupled with more community education for women from migrant and refugee backgrounds to increase their awareness of the definition of sexual violence in Australia; the differences between criminal and civil offences of DFV; their rights; and the availability of support and advocacy services to help them overcome barriers to reporting sexual crimes, including the fear of stigmatisation, shame and isolation.



BELIEVING WOMEN AND INVOLVING MEN

Silent Witness Network is a multicultural network including men and boys which leads community education and training for primary prevention of family violence within multicultural communities.

SESSION 4:

Justice and the law

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE PRESENTATION 4: GENDERING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW

Several Australian jurisdictions are currently considering the introduction of a coercive control criminal offence. A panel of experts drew upon Australian and international evidence in this presentation to examine the importance of gendering the implementation of existing and future domestic and family violence law.

Dr Marsha Scott drew upon insights gained through the creation and early implementation of coercive control legislation in Scotland, while Thelma Schwartz (Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service) spoke of the nexus of intergenerational poverty and trauma, intersectional disadvantage, and the disproportionality of legal impacts. Similarly, Diana Sayed (Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights) discussed the context of racism and the unique experiences of Muslim women in a post-9/11 world, where further criminalisation risks compounding the trauma of violence. Dr Heather Nancarrow stressed that any coercive control legislation must be holistically implemented.

RESOURCES

ACCURATELY IDENTIFYING THE "PERSON MOST IN NEED OF PROTECTION" IN DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE LAW [RESEARCH REPORT]

This report identifies areas of improvement in police and court practice for identifying the person most in need of protection in cases where there are cross-applications or cross-orders.

ACCURATELY IDENTIFYING THE "PERSON MOST IN NEED OF PROTECTION" IN DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE LAW: KEY FINDINGS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS [RESEARCH SUMMARY]

This is a summary of key findings from the ANROWS research report *Accurately identifying the "person most in need of protection" in domestic and family violence law*.

DEFINING AND RESPONDING TO COERCIVE CONTROL: POLICY BRIEF [ANROWS INSIGHTS]

This policy brief is designed to assist policymakers developing legal or policy and practice frameworks to prevent or respond to coercive control in relation to domestic and family violence.



For people to share their story [but] who don't want to pursue legal avenues, recognition and acknowledgement from police officers can be healing. There is a sense of hope that people can learn and understand, but there is so much work to do, particularly with uniformed officers.

Workshop participant

EVIDENCE TO ACTION WORKSHOP 4: WORKING WITH IMPERFECT LEGISLATION

Following the outline of issues with legislation and its implementation in the Evidence Presentation, Women's Legal Service NSW (WLS NSW) led workshop participants through how they currently work to get the best outcomes for women who experience sexual, domestic and family violence and abuse. WLS NSW is a specialist, accredited, women-led community legal centre that aims to achieve access to justice and a just legal system for women in New South Wales.

Participants identified key issues emerging in discussions to further criminalise coercive control in New South Wales and other jurisdictions, and how to address them. Participants strongly supported practice informed by both intersectional and human rights frameworks. Issues with policing of sexual, domestic and family violence and abuse was another common theme. Participants discussed the importance of having diverse women in leadership roles, including in the police force, as well as a lack of consistency in how police apply legislation. They also described how incident-based policing can create barriers to engaging with police and other services.

Other key issues raised included the need to improve relationships between services and the legal system; inconsistent legal requirements across jurisdictions; the re-traumatisation of victims and survivors; the inadequate legal response to victims and survivors who experience non-physical forms of sexual, domestic and family violence and abuse; the misidentification of women as predominant aggressors, the impact this has on women and children, and the further work required to ensure accurate identification of the person most in need of protection; and a need for more trauma-informed and gendered violence-informed training across all sectors, including the legal system.

A multiagency risk assessment and management framework, better connected systems, cross-agency collaboration, further workforce development and better funding of services are fundamentally required to address these issues and achieve better outcomes for victims and survivors. This includes valuing the expertise of specialist services, including specialist women's services, and more and greater recognition of the actions women take to keep their families safe.



LOOKING BEYOND LEGISLATIVE REFORM TO ADDRESS SEXUAL, DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

Participants discussed the Queensland Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce report *Hear Her Voice* which focuses on the need for extensive cultural reform prior to criminalising coercive control.

SESSION 5:

Data and measurement

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE PRESENTATION 5: HOW DO WE ENHANCE THE USE OF DATA TO IMPROVE WOMEN'S SAFETY?

In this discussion, presenters shared contemporary thinking about using data to enhance women's safety and the utility of several data sources for measuring the success of the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022*. The session also explored how qualitative data and lived experience can be understood as an evidence source, and what that can mean for decision-making.

Will Milne (Australian Bureau of Statistics) and Louise York (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) emphasised the importance of interpreting numbers in context. Statistical data does not exist in a vacuum – it needs to be contextualised and cross-checked against other resources. Gaps need to be understood and addressed. Anthony Morgan (Australian Institute of Criminology) said we must look for multiple sources of data and move beyond binary measures of abuse to include the complexities of coercive control, financial abuse and psychological harm, before Dr Christine Coumarelos (ANROWS) drove home the potential of data, like those drawn from the NCAS, from which a rich evidence base can be expanded. Survivor advocate and founder of the Accountability Matters Project, Lula Demebele, challenged researchers to question the point of evidence collection if not to make change.

RESOURCES

FAMILY, DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN AUSTRALIA: CONTINUING THE NATIONAL STORY 2019 [\[AIHW REPORT\]](#)


This report explores the impact of family, domestic and sexual violence among vulnerable groups.

FAMILY, DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE DATA IN AUSTRALIA [\[AIHW WEB REPORT\]](#)

This web report brings together a range of sources to report a core set of data in an interactive format and summarise changes in measures of family, domestic and sexual violence over time.

EXAMINATION OF HOSPITAL STAYS DUE TO FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 2010–11 TO 2018–19 [\[AIHW REPORT\]](#)

This report examined public hospital data for all Australian jurisdictions except Western Australia and the Northern Territory over the period 2010–11 to 2018–19.



Who is deciding what we collect? Who analyses the data, how does that translate into telling a different story? Who owns the data at the end? As researchers, we should give back the information to the people who gave it to us.

Workshop participant

[VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: ACCURATE USE OF KEY STATISTICS \[ANROWS INSIGHTS\]](#)

This is a quick reference guide to key statistics on violence against women in Australia and is designed for use by the media and other commentators including government officials, academics, sector leaders and community advocates.

[SUMMARY FINDINGS FROM THE 2017 NCAS \[RESEARCH SUMMARY\]](#)

This summary captures the key findings from the 2017 NCAS.

[AT A GLANCE: RESPONDENTS' EXPERIENCES OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE \(IPV\) SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC \[FACT SHEET\]](#)

This resource illuminates findings from ANROWS-funded research based on a survey of 10,000 women that captured women's experiences of intimate partner violence (IPV) during the first 12 months of the pandemic.

EVIDENCE TO ACTION WORKSHOP 5: HOW DO WE ENHANCE THE USE OF DATA TO IMPROVE WOMEN'S SAFETY?

In this workshop, led by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, participants considered whether current approaches to domestic violence policy development are adequately informed by evidence – and if not, why not, and how can this be improved? There was an emphasis on general evidentiary and policy gaps, gaps for vulnerable populations, examples of good practice, and requirements for achieving and measuring the success of the new National Plan.

The discussion revealed a need to use the same policies across multiple agencies to ensure consistency in data use and understanding. Currently, different jurisdictions have different experiences. Data should also be fed back to the individual and service sources from which it came, for transparency and to build the capacity of communities to engage with their own data. Seeing how their data can influence change would greatly enhance victims' and survivors' healing journeys.



CASE STUDY ON A FAILURE TO USE DATA PROPERLY

BOCSAR presented a case study highlighting a missed opportunity to integrate data and evidence into domestic violence policy. In mid-2015 the NSW Police rolled out the Domestic Violence Safety Assessment Tool (DVSAT) to identify victims at high risk of repeat victimisation. A 2018 assessment by BOCSAR found the DVSAT performed little better than chance at predicting re-victimisation. Despite this result, no changes were made to the DVSAT. Since then more effective, alternative measures have been suggested on a number of occasions but none have yet been implemented and the original tool remains in use.

SESSION 6:

Children and young people

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE PRESENTATION 6: INVESTING IN THE FUTURE: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO EXPERIENCE DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

The importance of investing in children and young people is recognised as the number one priority under *Australia's National Research Agenda to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children: ANRA 2020–2022*. This presentation unpacked children's and young people's experiences of domestic and family violence and their interaction with systems, including child protection.

Panellists outlined how policies and services can be delivered to meet the needs of children and young people. The conversation ranged from explorations of early intervention to the greater use of jurisdictional administrative data and wraparound approaches, including culturally appropriate practice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

RESOURCES

CRITICAL INTERPRETIVE SYNTHESIS: CHILD PROTECTION INVOLVEMENT FOR FAMILIES WITH DFV, ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG ISSUES, AND MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES [\[RESEARCH REPORT\]](#)

This critical interpretive synthesis interrogates the evidence base regarding the prevalence and impacts of DFV, alcohol and other drug issues, mental health issues and child protection in family environments.

THE PIPA PROJECT: POSITIVE INTERVENTIONS FOR PERPETRATORS OF ADOLESCENT VIOLENCE IN THE HOME [\[RESEARCH SUMMARY\]](#)

The PIPA project explores how the legal system responds to adolescents who use violence in the home, and the impacts of this response on adolescents and their families.

SAFE & TOGETHER ADDRESSING COMPLEXITY FOR CHILDREN (STACY FOR CHILDREN): KEY FINDINGS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS [\[RESEARCH SUMMARY\]](#)

This project explored the co-occurrence of DFV when parents experience challenges relating to mental health and the use of alcohol and other drugs.

WORKING AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE, PARENTAL SUBSTANCE MISUSE AND/OR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES [\[RESEARCH REPORT\]](#)

This project was an action research study that investigated and developed practitioner and organisational capacity to drive improvements in collaborative and holistic service provision for children and families living with DFV where there are parental issues of mental health and/or alcohol and other drugs.



**INVISIBLE PRACTICES: INTERVENTION WITH FATHERS WHO USE VIOLENCE
[RESEARCH SUMMARY]**

The Invisible Practices project investigated what skills and organisational supports are necessary to allow child protection practitioners, specialist DFV practitioners, justice services and family services practitioners to work well with fathers who use violence.

**INVISIBLE PRACTICES: INTERVENTION WITH FATHERS WHO USE VIOLENCE: KEY
FINDINGS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS [PRACTICE GUIDE]**

An evidence-informed practice guide for workers that highlights the need for organisations to undertake systemic change to embed new practice approaches.

**THE COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD PROTECTION AND SPECIALIST
DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICES—THE PATRICIA PROJECT: KEY FINDINGS
AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS [RESEARCH SUMMARY]**

The PATRICIA project is an action research project focused on the collaborative relationship between specialist community-based DFV support services for women and their children, and statutory child protection organisations.

**CRITICAL INTERPRETIVE SYNTHESIS: CHILD PROTECTION INVOLVEMENT FOR FAMILIES
WITH DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE, ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG ISSUES, AND
MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES [RESEARCH REPORT]**

This resource links to the first of two research reports to come out of a broader research project which aims to inform the use of a public health model that can reduce risk and enhance protective and resiliency factors at the individual, familial and community level for children and families with intersecting domestic and family violence and other risk factors.

**NEW WAYS FOR OUR FAMILIES: DESIGNING AN ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER CULTURAL PRACTICE FRAMEWORK AND SYSTEM RESPONSES TO ADDRESS
THE IMPACTS OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
[RESEARCH REPORT]**

This resource links to the first of two research reports to come out of a broader research project which aims to identify the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people exposed to domestic and family violence who come in contact with child protection systems through Family Wellbeing Services in regional and remote contexts in Queensland.

**WRAP AROUND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING ADOLESCENT VIOLENCE IN THE HOME
(AVITH): TOWARDS A COLLABORATIVE SERVICE RESPONSE [PROJECT]**

This resource provides a link to the project page of forthcoming ANROWS-funded research.



We need to start with an understanding that children are the experts about their own experiences and needs and this needs to be the starting point for all policy or services.

Workshop participant

EVIDENCE TO ACTION WORKSHOP 6: CENTRING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN POLICY AND PRACTICE

It is essential when designing policy and practice to consider the impact of DFV on children and young people, and to hear their voices. The Queensland Family and Child Commission Youth Advisory Council (QFCC YAC) facilitated this workshop, leading participants through a discussion on how to better centre children and young people in their work.

The QFCC YAC champions the voices of children and young people to provide youth perspectives and leadership to the Commission, which is committed to building rights-based awareness and accountability for all Queensland children.

The workshop also explored ways to hear directly from children and young people, including identifying and addressing barriers to engagement.

Several key themes and issues emerged including the need to involve and listen to children and young people in all stages of policy and program development; working with young people in their own environments and through their preferred channels; giving young people opportunities to provide information directly; ensuring the views of young people influence decision-making; increasing awareness of how the information they provide is used; and young people's right to consent.

Key suggestions discussed during this workshop included challenging the assumption that re-traumatising children and young people is a barrier to working with them, training young victims and survivors to be advocates, and using their stories told in their own words to overcome legislative and structural barriers.

Other suggestions included working with siblings to build trust, engaging through schools to capture young people who are not already engaged, training counsellors in schools to identify signs of DFV, and always considering diversity within young people as a cohort. The need for early intervention so that victims do not become perpetrators was also emphasised.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IS NOT COMPLICATED

Hearing directly from children and young people does not have to be difficult or complicated. The workshop participants discussed the *QFCC Model of child and youth participation*, which includes four key elements:

1. proactively seeking out opportunities to **connect** with children and young people
2. providing appropriate **support** to help children and young people express their views in meaningful ways
3. **amplifying** what children and young people say
4. ensuring their views **influence** decision-making.

Applying this model to our work allows children and young people to be at the centre of the decisions, policies and services we implement, leading to better outcomes for everyone.



On the agenda

ANROWS NATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE
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policy priorities addressing
violence against women