



Newsletter



Barbara Wilson, Les Jackson, Pam McLean, Sylvia Vermaat, Amanda Currie, Carolyn McGuigan, Katrina Robertson, Cathy Knezevic, and Rikki Kemp enjoying a moment on the verandah of the Centre after the Official Opening on 15 October.

Editorial

Welcome to the second edition of the Centre's Newsletter! The last three months have required a strong commitment from all involved with the Centre. Apart from continuing to develop and implement the Centre's operational structure, we held our first teleconferences with each of the newly created Research, Education and Evaluation Advisory Groups. All the staff are quite enthused by the calibre of these Groups! I thank and congratulate all those members who have offered their valuable expertise, skills and time, to help the Centre achieve its core objective - to reduce tolerance to violence in our communities.

I am really excited about Heather Nancarrow's appointment as Director. The Centre is so fortunate to have attracted the calibre of someone like Heather, whom I believe has the skills, experience, knowledge, tenacity and determination to be a creative and innovative leader of the QCPDFV.

I was truly heartened by the support shown for our community forum and official opening. Thanks to all those who attended, especially those who travelled to be part of our celebration, and who attended via video link from Cairns, Rockhampton, Mt. Isa, Gladstone, Bundaberg and Brisbane.

(cont'd page 2)



HEATHER NANCARROW JOINS THE TEAM AS DIRECTOR

Heather is seen here participating in the Community Forum as part of the Centre's Official Opening on 15 October.

FULL STORY — PAGE 9

November 2002

Volume 1 Number 2

Inside this issue:

Editorial	1
<i>Domestic Violence Integrated Responses: Reflection from the USA and Canada</i> Betty Taylor	3
News From Around the State	6
Forum Speakers	8
Our New Director	9
Centre News	10
Centre Diary	11
Project Updates	11
<i>Domestic Violence and the Criminal Law</i> Heather Douglas and Lee Godden	12
Multimedia Update	13
Funding Opportunities	14
Workshops, Conferences, Date Claimers	14
Photo page	16

Editorial (cont'd)

I would especially like to thank **Kym Daly**, **Jackie Huggins AM**, **Brian Kerle** and **Assoc. Prof. Helen Waite** for their great forum oratories, which challenged us to review the ways we have become accepting and tolerant of violence across many aspects of our lives.

The very successful community forum, which inspired much discussion and debate, was followed by the official opening of the Centre by the **Hon. Anna Bligh** MP, Minister for Education. Almost 150 people gathered under the marquee adjoining the Centre, and were welcomed by **Assoc. Prof. Phillip Clift** (Head of CQU Mackay Campus) who chaired the afternoon. I would like to thank **Prof. Glenice Hancock** (Vice Chancellor and President CQU) for her participation in our community forum and the support she has given to the development of the QCPDFV.

Mr Phillip Kemp spoke on behalf of his Mother **Mrs Nita Kemp**, respected elder of the Yuibera people (traditional owners of the land), and as a descendant of the Yuibera people. In summary, Phillip stated that within the multicultural society we live in, domestic and family violence does not discriminate across any race or social group, and that it has taken some time for governments (especially in Queensland and Western Australia) to address recommendations made from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

Phillip said he hoped the QCPDFV "would play a significant role in curbing the major problems of incidence and denial of violence that happens in our communities". He followed by saying that "communities are isolated in ways which hinder access to information, knowledge of rights and responsibilities, and this isolation is not only geographical, urban women too, are unaware that they have options and that violent behaviour does not have to be tolerated. As the concept of reconciliation and integration progresses, and as our young people are coming through and being educated, I believe attitudes will change for a better future for the whole community".

I would describe **Ms Sylvia Sommerfield** as a very proud and courageous young woman, who has a disability. Sylvia is a survivor of violence and has always surprised and inspired me with her capacity for strength despite the challenges she faces. I thank her for her courage to stand up and speak at the official opening. Sylvia stood up in front of the 150 strong crowd and stated (in summary) that "I have a disability

and am a survivor of many kinds of violence. And no matter who you are—violence of any sort is wrong."

Thank you also to the Minister for Education the **Hon. Anna Bligh**, who happily cut the ribbon to officially open the QCPDFV. Prior to the cutting of the ribbon the Minister said that the new Centre would meet the training, resource and support needs of regional services and research best practice in the sector. "Over the past five years the State Government has reviewed policy, legislation and service response for people affected by domestic and family violence."

"The work being undertaken by this Centre will complement the new Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2002." The legislation has been broadened to include people in non-spousal domestic relationships such as relatives and informal carers.

Tim Mulherin MP, Member for Mackay, also spoke, and congratulated CQU on its commitment to tackling this important social issue. He said that "CQU will examine domestic and family violence within Indigenous communities as well as elder abuse and abuse of people with disabilities."

A big thank you to **Artspace Mackay** for the loan of an exhibition of their paintings, and especially to Artspace Mackay Curator, **Cathy Knezevic**, who was generous with her time in installing the exhibition, which was shown for 10 days. Cathy selected pieces by *Sally Morgan*, *Bronwyn Bancroft* and local artist *Glen Skien* that reflected issues of family, home and relationships. To **Robert Heather (Director)** and staff of Artspace Mackay, best wishes for your official opening in February 2003!

In this issue there are articles by **Heather Douglas** and **Lee Godden**, and **Betty Taylor**. There is so much to create healthy debate at present! Our first online forum will begin soon and will centre around issues raised by Betty, and Heather and Lee's article, as well as **Dr Mick Dodson's** and **Jackie Huggins'** speeches at their respective conferences.

I'd like to encourage you all to participate in the initial and subsequent online forums, to assist with reinforcing thought and practice which you believe has validity, and to challenge and debate historical and current ways we are responding to domestic and family violence across sectors.

Best wishes,
Have a safe and joyful holiday season.

Katrina Robertson

Domestic Violence Integrated Responses: Reflection from the USA and Canada

Betty Taylor

It is with renewed energy and excitement that I write on my Churchill Fellowship study tour of the United States and Canada. It was through my work with the **Gold Coast Domestic Violence Integrated Response** that I was granted a Churchill Fellowship to investigate successful overseas intervention models. I was particularly interested to discover what elements contribute to the development of a successful coordinated or integrated community response to domestic violence – what works and what doesn't.

During my eight weeks in the USA and Canada I was able to visit 11 cities: Vancouver, Calgary, London and Toronto in Canada; and Chicago, Minneapolis, Duluth, Plymouth, Boston, Seattle and San Diego in the United States. I was privileged to visit many excellent programs in a diverse range of settings – and had the opportunity to meet with many dedicated and visionary individuals. While drawing out highlights and comparisons is difficult, I was particularly inspired and excited by the collaborative programs in Duluth, Minnesota and San Diego in the USA as well as the Centre for Children & Families in the Justice System of the London Family Court Clinic and the Homefront Program, both in Canada. All of these programs were underpinned and built on the premise of criminal justice reform.

The 'Duluth Model' is perhaps the better known of the successful coordinated programs and I found the 'reality' of Duluth as inspirational as the 'legend'. In 1981, Duluth became the first community in the US to develop a coordinated community response to domestic violence. Fifteen city, county and private agencies in Duluth adopted policies and procedures which coordinated their interventions in domestic violence assault cases. Formal agreements with agencies that deal with domestic violence have been developed including victim advocates, law enforcement officers and administrators, prosecutors, probation officers, court administrators, mental health services, policy makers and judicial officers. The purpose of developing a coordinated community response in Duluth was to protect victims of domestic violence from further acts of abuse and to systemically hold abusers accountable for their behavior. They have achieved this through combining legal sanctions, court mandated behavior change programs and where necessary incarceration. Victim safety is the central focus of all project development and interventions.

The key activities of the Duluth Model fall under one or more of eight activities:

- Creating a coherent philosophical approach which centralises victim safety
- Developing 'best practice' policies and protocols for intervention agencies
- Reducing fragmentation in the system's response
- Building monitoring and tracking into the system
- Ensuring a supportive community infrastructure
- Intervening directly with abusers to deter violence
- Undoing the harm violence to women does to children
- Evaluating the system's response from the standpoint of the victim

The Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (DAIP) (1996) is the coordinating agency for the project. Duluth has been successful in developing an internationally acclaimed program of system reform which continues to challenge conventional thinking on responding to domestic violence.

Duluth, San Diego, Calgary and many other jurisdictions in the US and Canada have been able to adopt a specific criminal justice reform perspective to domestic abuse. There are many different ways in which they have achieved this; for instance, the Domestic Violence Unit of the San Diego City Attorney's Office has adopted the following approaches:

- Aggressively prosecute misdemeanor domestic violence cases in order to stop the violence
- Provide early intervention at the misdemeanor level in order to prevent the escalation of offenders' behavior to felony level conduct
- Shift the focus from victim responsibility for prosecution to a focus on offender accountability
- Enhance victim safety by safety planning, strong victim advocacy and use of state-of-the-art technology to assess lethality
- The development of a strong multi-disciplinary, inter-agency response to family violence (*contd..*)

(contd. from previous page)

- Promote community awareness about domestic violence, elder abuse, child abuse, statutory rape and stalking cases
- Hold batterers accountable by not dropping or reducing charges at the request of victims.

Casey Gwinn, City Attorney San Diego (2001), advocates that a successful criminal justice system intervention with or without the victim's participation, is the best way to stop the violence and hold the batterer accountable. He further suggests if a case is properly investigated and prepared for trial (evidence based prosecution), the victim's testimony is not necessary to obtain a conviction. In San Diego, 70% of victims will choose not to testify and research suggests that victims of domestic violence may be safer if they can choose not to testify against their abuser.

There are many facets to criminal justice reform which have been adopted in various programs in a variety of settings in both the United States and Canada. Most have incorporated the following strategies into their programs:

- Implementation of pro-arrest policies
- Development of predominant aggressor policies
- Introduction of no-drop and 'victim assisted' approaches to prosecution
- Establishment of domestic violence fatality review committees
- Conducting systems safety audits of the criminal justice system
- Development of stronger child protection links
- Using court mandated perpetrator programs as a viable sentencing option
- Establishing specific domestic violence criminal courts using a 'problem solving' court model

These strategies have all been a significant deterrent in reducing domestic abuse and domestic homicides in the communities in which they have been introduced.

In Queensland domestic violence is still largely considered a 'domestic' or social problem best dealt with outside the criminal justice system. In Australia over the past fifteen years, all states and territories have enacted civil legislation which provides for the protection of victims of domestic violence through court ordered protection orders. Governments have streamlined processes for obtaining protection orders as well as expanding the coverage of legal protection to other groups of people affected by violence and abuse. While access to legal protection through civil legislation has been enhanced, the road through the Criminal Code is still mostly difficult and arduous.

Research undertaken by Douglas & Godden (2002), suggests that domestic violence between intimate partners is rarely prosecuted as a criminal offence in Queensland. They further argue that civil legislation has trumped the operation of the Criminal Code and as a result violent perpetrators are not held publicly accountable for their dangerous behavior. Similar concerns were raised with the *Queensland Report Of The Taskforce On Women And The Criminal Code 2000* which found that men are rarely charged with criminal offences relating to acts of domestic violence. The only charges of a 'criminal nature' generally laid were for breaches of protection orders. A recommendation of the Taskforce was for further research on why domestic violence offences are not dealt with through the Criminal Code.

How have overseas systems responded? The people I met with in Duluth say their biggest challenge was to make a single incident focused adversarial criminal justice system responsive to the kind of crime which needs to be understood in context. Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior committed over time rather than a single criminal act dislocated from prior acts of violence. When victims of domestic violence call police seeking intervention, they are ringing into a complex adversarial system which is usually single incident focused and rarely takes into account the previous history of violence and abuse.

(contd..)

Our War on Terror at Home: Indigenous Family Violence

was the title of **Jackie Huggins'** speech at the National Indigenous Domestic Violence Conference (Gold Coast -22 October 2002). Her words made an impact on the audience by calling on indigenous men to "wake up to themselves and see what they are doing to our communities, our culture and our children." Jackie stated that "It is time for us to put a stop to the abuse and the violence that too many of our men have inflicted."

For full text see our website www.noviolence.com.au

Dr Mick Dodson (Chairman of Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre), delivered a speech entitled ***Healing Body, Mind and Spirit – It's About Time We Took a Stand***, at the National Indigenous Men's Issues Conference on the Gold Coast (25 October 2002). Dr Dodson started by saying "Being asked to speak on the position of Indigenous men in Australia today, particularly in a positive light, is something of a tough call". Dr. Dodson's speech challenged men to take responsibility for their behaviour, saying that Indigenous men must "understand the worth (of women) and not treat them as rubbish", and "honestly and unreservedly take ownership of our flaws and shortcomings". Dr Dodson said Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men had "gone from warriors to victims" under the devastating impact of colonisation, and he continued by saying "the blow dealt to us has been crushing, but it need not be fatal".

For full text see our website www.noviolence.com.au

(contd. from previous page)

While the legal statutes in North America are different to Australia, there are many core issues and elements that could be adapted in an Australian setting. From my years of experience working in the domestic violence sector, I am acutely aware that victims of domestic violence need services and supports that go beyond the criminal justice system - health, counselling, financial and social supports - all of which should be freely and widely available. However, if we are ever going to turn the tide on domestic abuse, the focus cannot rest solely on providing services and support to victims. Abusers need to be held systematically accountable for their behavior. Civil and criminal legislative responses are both needed and should work in tandem to provide the highest possible framework to address and stop violence. Victims of domestic violence need simpler, safer and more efficient pathways through the criminal justice system to address the violence perpetrated against them.

There is often a marked incongruence between community awareness messages that say 'domestic violence is a crime' and the reality of very few 'domestic crimes' prosecuted through the criminal justice system. While there is some excellent work happening around the country on the coordination and collaboration of justice response, I believe we have much to gain in further progressing criminal justice reform in relation to domestic violence crimes. The implementation of pro-arrest policies, predominant aggressor policies, no-drop and 'victim assisted' approaches to prosecution, domestic violence fatality reviews, systems safety audits, stronger child protection links, court mandated perpetrator programs and specific domestic violence criminal courts who undertake rigorous monitoring of abusers could all enhance existing responses and interventions.

Through our work on the Gold Coast with the Domestic Violence Integrated Response, we have achieved the creation of a holistic justice systems response to domestic violence - many women have indicated that they not only feel safer in their 'personal space' but they also 'feel safer within the systems'. However, from my time in both the United States and Canada, I believe we need to continue to improve the coordination of criminal justice and social service systems responses that provide a lifeline to those who suffer from domestic abuse.

References

- Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, 1996: *Coordinated Community Responses to Domestic Violence Cases: A Guide to Policy Development* Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, Duluth Minnesota
- Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, 2002: *Creating a Public Response to Private Violence* Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, Minnesota
- Douglas, H., & Godden, L., (2002): *The Decriminalisation of Domestic Violence*, Griffith University research & Development, Brisbane
- Gwinn, C., 2001: *Prosecuting Domestic Violence Cases Without The Victim's Participation Or Evidenced-Based Prosecution*, Conference Paper, San Diego
- Taylor, Betty, 2001: *Clearing Pathways - Reforming Systems: A Reflection of the Achievements and Existing Challenges of the Gold Coast Domestic Violence Integrated Response*, Seeking Solutions Conference 2001, Gold Coast
- Taylor, Betty, 2002: *Churchill Fellowship Report* Churchill Fellowship Trust, Canberra
- Women And The Criminal Code Taskforce, 2000: *Report Of The Taskforce On Women And The Criminal Code*, Office of Women's Policy, Brisbane

Betty Taylor has extensive experience in the area of violence against women including direct service provision, program development and training. She is the founder and Coordinator of the Domestic Violence Service Gold Coast, a position she has held for the past ten years. Betty was Chairperson of the Queensland Domestic Violence Council 1994-1997 and earlier this year she was appointed to a second term as Chair of the Council. Betty was awarded a Churchill Fellowship for 2002 to enable her to further progress the work she has done in establishing integrated responses to domestic violence.

News from Around the State...

Gold Coast Domestic Violence Service

Celebrates 10 years. September 27th marked the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Domestic Violence Service Gold Coast. Co-ordinator Betty Taylor said:

'For us at the service, it brings both a time of celebration but also one of reflection. From its humble beginnings in two rooms at the Gold Coast Hospital, the service has grown to become a widely known and highly regarded organisation, contributing significantly to the development of enhanced legislative, systems and service responses to domestic violence. Over the past ten years, the service has had over 100,000 contacts for support, counselling, groups, training, resources and other services. Almost 9,000 individual women and children have accessed the service. It is these women and children who have challenged us to strive for more – more services, improved quality of services, new ways of responding, better legislative responses, dealing with new emerging issues, better court outcomes, safer systems, increased accountability and more. They have done this not by making demands of us but through the sharing of their stories, courage, frustrations, determination and victories. We continue to draw our inspiration from them. We also reflect on the 16 local women who were victims of domestic homicides during the past ten years – how easily they can become statistics. We also continue to learn from their experiences.

Our journey on the Gold Coast has been a remarkable one and certainly one that has brought many positive changes. We thank all who have been associated with the service over the past ten years and have contributed to its development. Together we can make a difference.'

Queensland Police Service has appointed the new Police Liaison Officers for its LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) Project. A program of State-wide LGBT PLO training was recently completed. See website www.police.qld.gov.au/pr/program/lgbt/lgbt.htm.

A trial Regional Outreach Support Program in Cairns has received funding under Future Directions. This is a collaborative service of four organisations: Ruth's Women's Shelter, the Regional Domestic Violence Service, the Women's Information and Referral Centre, and Warringu Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation. It will provide outreach support to families experiencing domestic and family violence, and provide community education.

Bundaberg Area Sexual Assault Service

also received Future Directions' funding to deliver prevention and early intervention services including: individual and group counselling for children aged up to 18 years; individual counselling and family therapy for carers of abused children; a therapeutic pre-school for children aged 3 to 5 years; counselling and support for foster children and carer families; community education; resources; and some outreach.

Sunshine Coast Women's Crisis Service

received Future Directions funding for a Sexual Assault Service to deliver counselling and support to children, young people and their carers. The service will also provide intervention for children under 12 who display sexual offending behaviour following abuse.

The Australian Institute of Criminology,

on behalf of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care, is undertaking a research project called Interventions To Prevent Crimes Against Older Australians. The initial stage will involve cataloguing existing crime prevention programs for older people (aged 50 years and over). The AIC would like information about any current programs. There is a survey form available online at: <http://www.aic.gov.au/research/olderadult/interventions.html>.

The Campaign for Family Friendly Legal Aid

was initiated as a response to the increasing difficulties experienced by women and children in accessing legal representation in family law matters where there are domestic violence issues. The purpose of the campaign is to lobby for fair and equitable access to Legal Aid for women and children, through a coalition of a broad range of individuals and organisations. Initiated in NSW, the campaign is now aiming to become national. For more information contact Pamela Foster at the NSW Women's Refuge Resource Centre on phone: 02 9698 9777 or email: wrrc@bigpond.com.

SCOPE (Sunshine Coast Outreach, Prevention and Education)

is the newest domestic violence regional service. Louise Peach is Regional Co-ordinator. As well as working for SCOPE Louise lectures in Community Work Skills at the University of the Sunshine Coast. Prior to lecturing she was Regional Co-ordinator for Women's Infolink on the Sunshine Coast and before that was community development worker and manager of the Caloundra Community Centre.

The Improving Women's Safety Project, commissioned by the Office of the Status of Women, will hold forums in Brisbane on 25 and 26 November. The aim of this project is to identify ways that women and children who are victims of domestic violence or family violence can remain safely in their homes while the perpetrator leaves. As part of the project, the Queensland forums will be held at the Gallery Room, Yungaba, 120 Main Street, Kangaroo Point. Times are as follows:

Women's Issues

25 November, 9.30am - 12.30pm

Perpetrators' Issues

25 November from 1.00pm - 4.00pm

Diverse Communities

26 November from 9.30am—12.30pm

To register for any of the forums online, go to website <http://www.hoi.com.au/iws/forums.htm>. To register by phone, ring Tanya Berry on 08 8363 3699.

Training on the new domestic violence legislation is being run by Department of Families around the State up to the end of March. Department staff have already travelled to Longreach, Ipswich, Charleville, Roma, Prompuraaw, Weipa, Thursday Island, Lockhart River and Cooktown, with more regional centres to follow. The first of the Brisbane sessions has been run, with others scheduled in Brisbane for December, February and March.

'Breaking new ground: Women researchers in a regional community' is the title of the second bi-annual conference of Women in Research, Bundaberg group. The conference will be held on 7-8 February 2003 and women researchers are invited to submit a full paper, concise paper or poster for presentation. Keynote speaker is Professor Erica McWilliam from the School of Cultural Language Studies, University of Queensland. To register ring Darlene on 4150 7051.

Legal Aid Queensland's report on their Rural and Regional Strategy was launched on World Rural Women's Day (15 October), with a teleconference by Zoe Rathus. Zoe is a board member of Legal Aid Queensland, and Co-ordinator of Women's Legal Service. The Strategy incorporates the legal service component of LAQ's Women's Justice Network pilot project which ended on 30 June and provided a legal information and advice service through internet and videoconferencing.

The Australian Institute of Criminology, in collaboration with the Australian Bureau of Statistics, is calling for papers for the "Evaluation in Crime & Justice: Trends & Methods" Conference in Canberra on 24-25 March. Emphasis will be placed on research and evaluation methodologies, including research and evaluation in the policy environment. For more details ring Marie Segrave on 02 6260 9224 or see the AIC website: www.aic.gov.au/conferences/evaluation/.

Professional Opportunities

The Domestic Violence and Child Protection Plan, Mackay has recently been granted funding for a consultant/project worker to develop, trial and establish working protocols across agencies in the Mackay region. The project aims to enhance an integrated response to children and families affected by domestic and family violence. Written expressions of interest should be forwarded to Mackay Regional Council for Social Development, PO Box 984, Mackay 4740. For further information ring Sylvia on 4957 3888 or Debbie on 4951 5920.

Advisory Group Meetings

Our new Director, **Heather Nancarrow**, will be chairing all future Advisory Group meetings. Please contact Aithne if you need more information.

Dates and times of the next meetings are as follows:

- **Research Advisory Group**
4.00pm, 26 November 2002
- **Education Advisory Group**
10.00am, 3 December 2002
- **Evaluation Advisory Group**
10.00am, 10 December 2002

Who Were Those Great People?

FORUM SPEAKERS AT OUR OFFICIAL OPENING



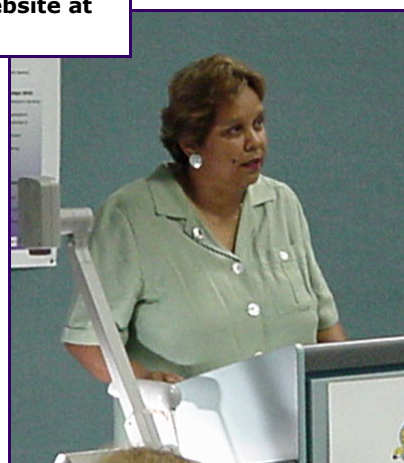
KYM DALY, Coordinator, Working Against Violence Support Service; Secretary, QDVSN

Kym challenged us to ask "How did we come to be so tolerant?" "The answer lies largely in the portrayal, representation and reporting of violence in the media, advertising and entertainment industries". Kym continued by saying that "the media are a powerful and influential institution in Australian life. The press is often complicit in the manipulation and perpetuation of myths, stereotypes and mixed messages, which have a direct bearing on the community's understanding of domestic violence". Kym asked us to no longer passively accept the information we are given, but rather to question its authenticity and capacity to influence intolerance to violence.

Kym's and Jackie's speeches can be found on our website at www.noviolence.com.au.

**JACKIE HUGGINS AM, Dep. Director ATSI Studies Unit, UQ
Co-Chair Reconciliation Australia**

Jackie addressed the need for a Coordinated National Approach to Domestic and Family Violence. Jackie pleaded for *no more research*, and said that Indigenous people had been 'researched out'. She said it was time to learn from practices in other indigenous communities and to empower communities to act in decisive ways to stamp out this behaviour. Jackie continued by saying that domestic and family violence was a tough issue to handle, with poor local governance and complex governmental arrangements where issues are handled by a low pecking order body. These are some of the factors which are contributing to the exacerbation rather than a reduction in problems. Jackie also noted the importance of building and supporting community initiatives that are already working!



**BRIAN KERLE, Dept of Sport and Recreation.
Player & Coach Olympic Basketball Team,
Four time NBL Championship Coach**

Brian challenged the commonly held belief that violence in Australian sport is nowhere near the level of violence in sport in the USA. "If we continue to be complacent regarding violence in sport (on and off the field), it will not be long before comparisons can be made!" Brian stated that we have often glorified aggression in sport, and then we question why we see such aggression in junior sport. "We (coaches parents administrators, spectators, policy makers) all need to take responsibility for doing things differently. Let's teach our young sporting enthusiasts that sport is about having fun! At the same time allow them the opportunity to learn physical, social and emotional skills, which can only enhance their capacity to negotiate life".



**Associate Professor HELEN WAITE
School of Psychology & Sociology, CQU Mackay**

Helen posed some thought provoking questions when discussing the construct of social capital, and the issues which are yet to be researched, such as:

- How can we position domestic and family violence as a major public health issue?
- In what ways might a human rights framework be useful for building a non violent future?
- Why do so many young people, particularly young women feel unsafe?
- How can high levels of trust and safety be established in individuals, families, schools, communities and social systems?
- What are the social origins of violence in diverse Australian communities?



Heather Nancarrow (pictured) has been appointed Director of The Queensland Centre for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, and will take up the position in January 2003.

On accepting the appointment, Heather said she was very excited about the position. "The Centre not only offers an exciting opportunity for me personally, but also for people directly affected by domestic and family violence" she said.

"It is critical that those of us entrusted to develop responses to domestic and family violence, and particularly those doing so with public funds, base our work on knowledge of what works and what doesn't, as far as possible."



Heather continues, "This knowledge is essential to minimise the risk of harm and maximise the opportunities for ending violence in peoples lives."

"The QCPDFV will facilitate this knowledge through its statewide research and evaluation functions and can impart learnings from these through its education functions. The Centre, in conjunction with other organisations responding to domestic and family violence, is an extremely valuable resource for the Queensland community and I will continue to promote community participation in, and ownership of, the Centre's activities."

"The team, under the leadership of Associate Professor Helen Waite and Katrina Robertson, has done a fantastic job in establishing the Centre to date, and I feel privileged and humbled to be taking up the leadership role in January."

Heather is very much looking forward to living in regional Queensland again, as well as strengthening old networks and building new ones across the state and across sectors responding to domestic and family violence. "I am also looking forward to new adventures given I will be living in such a beautiful part of the world - maybe learn to sail and scuba dive - as this is not only a new and exciting job and lifestyle for me, but also a new and exciting lifestyle for my son, Fidel."

"I am looking forward to Fidel marvelling at the platypus at Broken River and I also look forward to the turtle hatching season. Actually I think turtles and I have much in common: we are calm and determined, able to carry great responsibility without taking unnecessary burdens, and we get the job done well in a timely manner" she concluded.

WELCOME HEATHER, FROM THE STAFF OF THE QCPDFV



The following is a summary of Heather's achievements, which reinforce quite strongly why so many believe that Heather has the skills, experience, knowledge, tenacity and determination to be a creative and innovative leader of the QCPDFV.

Heather has over 20 years' experience in the domestic and family violence field, both in community and government organisations. She is currently Manager of the Violence Prevention Unit with Department of Families, Youth and Community Care. She is also a member of the National Partnerships Against Domestic Violence Taskforce, representing the Queensland Government, in which role she chairs the Project Advisory Group on Children and Domestic Violence.

In November 2002 Heather will complete her Masters of Criminology and Criminal Justice (Hons) at Griffith University, on submission of her dissertation "In Search of Justice in Domestic and Family Violence". This examines Indigenous and non-Indigenous women's views on the application of the criminal justice system, and restorative justice practices, in cases of domestic and family violence.

(contd..)

(contd. from previous page)

Previously Heather was Director, Adoption Legislation Review where she managed the operational activities of the Legislation Review, and Team Director, Office of Domestic Violence Prevention, Families, Youth and Community Care Queensland where her major achievements included:

- The development of a national model of domestic violence laws
- Implementation of the *Kids and DV* project
- Substantial amendments to the *Domestic Violence (Family Protection) Act 1989*
- Release of Consultation Paper on *Legal Protection Against Family Violence, Abuse by Carers and Abuse in Dating Relationships*
- A review of the State's responses to domestic violence to inform policy and planning
- Development of *Safer Families – Safer Communities*
- A significant increase in funding to address Indigenous family violence through locally developed and community-driven counselling and healing services

As a Consultant in 1995, Heather undertook a project to research and develop a Policy and Procedures Manual for the Queensland Working Women's Service (QWWS), and in 2000 she was the only Australian invited to lead a training workshop on domestic and family violence in South Korea, funded by the World Bank. Heather was responsible for developing and delivering a two-day workshop for Senior South Korean professionals and academics to develop strategies for co-ordinated inter-agency responses to domestic and family violence.

In 1992-93 Heather worked with the Office of Cabinet as a Policy Officer, and Senior Policy Officer within the Women's Policy Unit, where she assisted in the development and implementation of the Stop Violence Against Women Policy, and contributed to the development of the stalking legislation (the first to be enacted in Australia).

In 1989-92 when the issue of domestic violence was first recognised as a major issue for mainstream service providers, Heather was Program Co-ordinator, Community Education with the Domestic Violence Resource Centre in Brisbane. Heather's role was to develop and deliver state-wide community education programs.

During 1981-89 Heather held positions of Counsellor, Children's Worker and Co-ordinator in several women's refuges and was at the forefront of the movement to put domestic violence on the political agenda in Queensland.

Centre News

The Centre welcomes **Barbara Hearl** as a research assistant at the Centre. Barbara has extensive experience in community health and welfare. She also works as a researcher at the Centre for Social Science Research, Central Queensland University on ISLIP (Indigenous Students Link with Industry Project) which aims to encourage Indigenous students to complete education to Year 12. The students participate in a range of structured learning experiences including literacy and numeracy related to the workplace, career awareness and work preparation, computer studies, cultural understanding, work experience and personal development. Barbara attended the National Indigenous Domestic Violence Conference on the Gold Coast on 21 and 22 October.

Scholarships available

CQU has increased the number of scholarships available for full time postgraduate research studies next year. In addition to five Indigenous scholarships, there are up to 20 others available. If you are interested in discussing ideas for your research project at the Centre, please contact

Assoc. Prof. Helen Waite on (07) 4940 7474, email h.waite@cqu.edu.au.

Application kits are available from **Jenny Brett** on 4923 2602, email j.brett@cqu.edu.au.

Applications close on 13 December 2002.

For more information visit www.cqu.edu.au/research/research.htm.

Centre staff will encourage as many people as possible to attend a two-day training on 10 and 11 December on '*Criminal Victimisation of People with an Intellectual, Cognitive or Learning Disability*'. The training will be provided by Catherine Davis of the Disability Training Program, Victims of Crime – auspiced by WWILD Sexual Violence Prevention. Training can be provided anywhere in Queensland - enquiries can be directed to Cathy on 3862 4066 or email at disvoc@gil.com.au.

(contd..)

(contd. from previous page)

Centre Staff are developing a comprehensive database of domestic and family violence education resource materials, research, literature and works in progress.

Centre staff, under the guidance of Multimedia Officer Clinton Rawsthorne, are currently reviewing the feasibility of interactive education for children and adolescents on our website. Although this will be a long-term project, the staff are keen to challenge different ways of educating and information sharing with young people about domestic and family violence.

The Centre will be closing on 18 December and re-opening on 2 January 2003. Staff wish a happy holiday season to everyone.

Project Updates

Local Council Partnerships

This project involves developing strategies for the QCPDFV to work with local government in developing community intolerance of family violence in rural and remote Queensland. Local councils are targeted for a variety of reasons.

Every community has its own local government council with salaried workers and elected representatives who are part of the community; therefore every rural and remote community has access to and/or receives information from their local government council. Regardless of other organisations within the town or area, the one consistent feature is the council.

The participation of local councils in this type of project enhances access to relevant information for rural and remote communities. Most strategies can be implemented without additional expenses using current communication methods such as rate notices, newsletters, etc. Other strategies would be relatively cheap to implement, or may involve shifting the focus of other council initiatives. Given the specific issues within rural and remote communities, this type of project does not involve any member of the community needing to identify as victim, perpetrator or witness. The distribution of information and statements of intolerance rest with the community as a whole through the one organisation repeatedly located in each rural and remote area.

Councils, despite existing State-wide, are generally representative of and specific to the communities they serve. Therefore each

council may have an understanding of what works best and can inform and implement strategies which fit most favourably within the culture of its community.

The first stage of the project has involved a request to each local government council across Queensland to provide information regarding any strategies/programs it may be implementing to create intolerance of domestic and family violence within its community. The responses are still coming in, and will be collated and sorted prior to the end of October when they will be presented to the Queensland Local Government Community Services Association Annual Conference.

Annual Omnibus Survey

The QCPDFV has been successful in its submission to the Centre for Social Science Research (C4SSR) at CQU Rockhampton to have ten questions assessing attitudes to domestic and family violence included on its Annual Omnibus Survey. The survey is delivered by telephone to 1200 households in Central Queensland to assess attitudes to a variety of issues. The Centre's ten questions relate to issues surrounding people's attitudes towards violence in the home and, in particular, violence towards children by spectators at junior sporting events.

The responses will provide the Centre with valuable information on attitudes to domestic and family violence in Queensland. Analysis of the responses will be used as a starting point for many of the Centre's future projects and will inform the direction of research being undertaken at the Centre.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

25 November 2002

**For further information
visit the *Events* page on
our website**

www.noviolence.com.au

Domestic Violence and the Criminal Law

Heather Douglas and Lee Godden

In 2001 Griffith University funded us to research the role of the criminal law in domestic violence matters heard in the magistrates court. This article discusses the findings of the research. In 2001 we inspected all the files in the Brisbane registry of the Magistrates Court, Queensland for the year 2001. We identified 804 files which related to matters arising under the Domestic Violence (Family Protection) Act 1989 (Qld) (DVA) and we examined these files in detail. In order to contextualise the research we also interviewed twelve domestic violence workers across Queensland in order to obtain workers' views about the use of the QCC in domestic violence matters.

The statistics

694 files involved applications for Domestic Violence Protection Orders. Of these files, only seven (1%) were identified in relation to possible investigation for prosecution of criminal offences under the Criminal Code (Qld) (QCC). Three (0.4%) of these files resulted in a prosecution for a criminal matter under the QCC. 126 files related to prosecutions for a breach of a domestic violence protection order. Six (5%) breach files resulted in prosecutions under the QCC. In the 800 files related to domestic violence matters, where the gender of the parties was known, 82% (658) of those in need of protection were women.

The interviews

All workers interviewed commented that police should undertake more thorough investigations in relation to the possibility of criminal prosecutions in domestic violence matters. All workers interviewed agreed that there should be more criminal prosecutions in domestic violence matters although respondents differed in their assessment of the viability and effectiveness of such prosecutions. Some workers were concerned that some women would be more reluctant to ask for police assistance if they believed criminal prosecution was more likely.

Workers interviewed generally agreed that fines were an inappropriate penalty for domestic violence matters prosecuted under the QCC or for breaches charged under the DVA. Workers agreed that mutual domestic violence protection orders were inappropriate. Workers suggested that such orders were common but the statistics gathered from the court files did not support this. A number of workers suggested that the role of women in the criminal prosecution of violent partners needed to be further debated. (For example; should prosecutions under the QCC proceed even where women experiencing domestic violence are reluctant to act as witnesses?)

Workers interviewed suggested a range of reasons for lack of criminal prosecution and police investigation.

Their suggestions are listed below:

1. Women lack information about the possibility of pursuing concurrently a domestic violence protection order application and criminal prosecution
2. Women fear retribution and further relationship breakdown will eventuate from pursuing criminal prosecution
3. Women are uncomfortable about police involvement and court processes, and are cynical about sentencing outcomes (especially where they have had previous contacts with police and courts)
4. There is a perception that police often believe there is a lack of evidence
5. There is a perception that some police believe women do not want to prosecute or that they will make unreliable witnesses
6. Despite official policy to the contrary many police do not perceive domestic violence as a crime.

Overall conclusions of the research

Overall our research found that domestic violence between intimate partners is rarely prosecuted as a criminal offence in Queensland. *(contd..)*

(contd. from previous page)

Domestic violence continues to be perceived as a private, social issue rather than as a public matter and a concern for the criminal law. The Domestic Violence (Family Protection) Act 1989 (Qld) (DVA) has essentially trumped the operation of the Criminal Code (Qld). This approach leaves violent perpetrators, who are usually men, publicly unaccountable for their inappropriate and often dangerous behaviour.

Future directions

Over the next year we hope to expand our examination of the interaction of the criminal law and DVA in Queensland. We hope to look at the case files in a number of magistrates courts across Queensland and to interview a broad range of people who are working or effected by the operation of the law in this area. We hope to interview women who have applied for protection orders as well as police, prosecutors, lawyers and domestic violence workers. One of the questions we will be trying to answer is whether the criminal law has a role to play in domestic violence. If interviewees believe that the criminal law does have a role to play we will be asking what changes need to be made to current laws and procedures to make sure the criminal law responds appropriately. Currently we are applying for further funding from a variety of possible sources.

For a full copy of the report 'The Decriminalisation of Domestic Violence' see: <http://www.gu.edu.au/school/law/slrc/reports.html>. For a hardcopy please email Heather Douglas: H.Douglas@mailbox.gu.edu.au.

Heather Douglas is a member of the QCPDFV Research Advisory Group.

Centre Multimedia Update With Clinton Rawsthorne

It has been a very busy and productive time for me at the Centre over the last few weeks. Finally, however, I am pleased to announce that the restructuring of our website is complete. The new site is now online at **www.noviolence.com.au**. Some of the new material includes:

- Emergency contacts
- Contact details for all 13 regional domestic and family violence services in Queensland
- Research projects
- News column
- Events page
- Advisory group lists
- Online forum
- Guestbook
- Photo Gallery
- Speeches

If you have a spare moment, please feel free to look through the site and see all the latest features for yourself. If you would like to provide feedback or make comments on any of the content listed on the site, you are invited to do so by using the guestbook or by emailing the Centre. These facilities are available on the "Feedback" page of the website. On a final note, I would like to announce that our website received it's 25,000th visit on the 11th November. Hopefully this is one of many milestones that we will achieve at the Centre.

Join the Centre's online forums at our website. The Centre encourages as many people as possible to be involved in our online forums. We encourage healthy debate, and our next forum will centre around issues raised in this newsletter's articles by Heather Douglas Lee Godden and Betty Taylor, and around the issues raised recently by Dr. Mick Dodson and Jackie Huggins (see pages 4 and 5).

www.noviolence.com.au

Funding Opportunities

Brisbane City Council has \$330,000 available each year under its Community Development Assistance Grants Program. Applications addressing a number of issues, including domestic violence, will be considered. Closing dates each year occur in January and August. Applicants are advised to discuss their project proposals with a Community Development Officer prior to submission. Further information can be obtained from Brisbane City Council on 3403 8888 or visit their website: www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/council_at_work/support_community/community_grants/index.shtml.

Have you ever thought about obtaining funding from international sources?

The *David and Lucille Packard Foundation* (California, USA) provides international funding for projects under their *Breaking the Cycle of Violence* Program. The goal of this program is to protect children from the harm of violence at home, in school, and in the community, and to support the development of non-violent problem-solving skills. Grants totalling at least \$US250 million are expected to be funded each year. Visit their website: www.packfound.org/index.cgi?page=childbreak

The Phillip Morris Companies also have international funding which will support projects focussing on domestic violence. An American partnership is required. For further information visit their website: www.philipmorris.com/philanthropy/grants/grant_guidelines.asp

If you would like to discuss the possibility of locating and obtaining funding, please do not hesitate to contact the research staff at the Centre on 4940 7834 or enquiries@noviolence.com.au.

Workshops, Conferences and Date Claimers

25 November to 10 December

Annual Global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign

It includes:

- International Day Against Violence Against Women on 25 November
- World AIDS Day on 1 December
- International Day for the Disabled on 3 December
- International Human Rights Day on 10 December.

Further information: www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days02/2002Announcement.html

28-29 November

Annual ACOSS Conference

Hobart

Further information: tel. 02 9411 4666

Email: acoss@hotelnetwork.com.au

28-29 November

11th International Women In Leadership Conference

University, Edith Cowan Perth

For further information: tel. 08 9382 3799

<http://www.ecu.edu.au/ses/research/ISP/wil/conference/>

Email: enquiries@keynotewa.com

2-3 December

National Indigenous Children's Issues Conference

Cairns

Further information: tel. 4945 7122

Email - icskoori@mackay.net.au

9-11 December

Global Alliance for Justice Education Regional Conference

University of Sydney

Further information: tel. 02 9351 0351

Email: gaje@law.usyd.edu.au

9-11 December

Opening Law: Making Links Crossing Borders 20th Annual Law & Society Conference

University of Wollongong

Further information: tel. 02 4221 3382

Email: fmartin@uow.edu.au

12-14 February 2003

Aust. Institute of Family Studies Conference

Melbourne

Further information: tel. 03 9417 0888

Email: afrc2003@meetingplanners.com.au

12-14 February 2003

Making the Youth Justice System Work Better

Bond University

Further information: tel. 3238 3024

Email: jmcdonal@legalaid.qld.gov.au

About this Newsletter

In our bi-monthly newsletter we will be encouraging you to participate by contributing to the various sections. If you have any information that our statewide readers may want/need to know (eg events, updates, research, projects, comments) please contact us at the Centre.

If you would like to be included on our mailing list for this newsletter, please ring Aithne on (07) 4940 7834, or email a.archibald@cqu.edu.au. Also let us know the most convenient way (email or print) for you to receive the Queensland Centre for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (QCPDFV) newsletter. Please tell others about the newsletter and invite them to subscribe. We are happy for you to reproduce and distribute this newsletter.

Next Issue (February 2003)

- Message from Director Heather Nancarrow
- Resilience in Child Witnesses to Domestic Violence
- People with an Intellectual, Cognitive or Learning Disability as Victims of Abuse
- Indigenous Domestic Violence Conference—Barbara Hearl

Contact Us

Mail	PO Box 5606, Mackay, Qld, 4741
Email	enquiries@noviolence.com.au
Web site	www.noviolence.com.au

Administrative Staff:

Aithne Archibald Centre on 4940 7834	is the Administration Officer. Aithne can answer all your general enquiries about the Centre and re-direct your call as necessary.
---	--

Katrina Robertson Centre Coordinator on 4940 7837	is the Public Relations Officer and primary contact for the Centre. Contact Katrina to establish any formal links with the Centre, to discuss activities of a promotional nature and for Centre management information.
---	---

Other Centre staff include:

Ruth Wood	Research Officer
Barbara Wilson	Education Officer
Clinton Rawsthorne	Multimedia Officer
Barbara Hearl	Research Assistant

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the Queensland Government, Central Queensland University, or Centre for Social Science Research.

Whilst all reasonable care has been taken in the preparation of this publication, no liability is assumed for any errors or omissions.

The Queensland Centre for the Prevention of Domestic & Family Violence is linked to the Centre for Social Science Research, based at the Central Queensland University Faculty of Arts, Health and Science.

Funded by the Queensland Government Department of Families, supported by the Central Queensland University and Centre for Social Science Research, to inform an integrated statewide approach, to develop a culture of intolerance of domestic and family violence in Queensland communities.



Sylvia Sommerville, guest speaker, accepting a gift from the Minister.



Prof. Glenice Hancock, CQU Vice Chancellor and President, welcomes guests.



We are Officially Launched! Ms Anna Bligh MP, Minister for Education, cuts the ribbon with support from Professor Hancock

Philip Kemp, of the Yuibera People, believes that "attitudes will change for a better future for the whole community."



Big Al and Jo, very talented local musicians entertained the crowd!

