



IPSWICH
WOMEN'S CENTRE
AGAINST
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE



October—December
2010

Volume 2, issue 1

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IWCADV NEWSLETTER

New Look for the Ipswich Women's Centre Against DV

The Ipswich Women's Centre Against Domestic Violence has changed its look. Our logo has been re-developed, we have new brochures, a new website and new business cards. In the coming year all our resources will be re-developed to update them to fit in line with the new look.

If you want a bunch of our new brochures to display and hand out please give us a call on 07 3816 3000.

Our new website is particularly fantastic! The aim of the site is to offer easily accessible information about domestic and

family violence, our services, court processes as well as safety. You will find some interesting information on internet safety in the Domestic Violence section that may be useful.

The website also has information about how to volunteer with the IWCADV and will list any position vacancies within the organization that you may want to apply for.

The website offers an opportunity for anyone to register and post comments on our public forum. There is also the opportunity to complete surveys, to check events and to register for

training.

The other important feature is that you can now donate directly on-line to the IWCADV as well. Any money donated goes towards improving services, camps for women and children and providing emergency relief for women and children.

Check out our new Website on www.iwcadv.org.au

Complete surveys about how we can improve our service, what training you would like us to do, how you have found our Crisis Response, Court Support and Counselling and let us know if you think we should have other surveys. Just click on the survey button to the right on the home page.

Make donations on line and support women and children who experience domestic and family violence at;

[http://
www.givenow.com.au/
iwcadv/](http://www.givenow.com.au/iwcadv/)

We hope you enjoy our new look!!

Special points of interest:

- Check out our new Website
- Interesting Reading
- Do's and Don'ts
- Myths and Facts
- Fundraising dinner
- Preparing for Court



Women of Ipswich Your Voice Matters

**Come together and work against
domestic violence**

**Attend a free LUNCH at Ipswich
Women's Centre against Domestic
Violence**

TO TALK ABOUT

- *Domestic violence in our
community**
- *What is being done**
- *What needs to be done**
- *Your experiences**

**Childcare and transport can be
provided**

**A small gift will be included as
part of our appreciation for
coming**

**Your voice matters
You can impact your community**

Why Your Voice Matters

IWCADV wants women to have the opportunity to be heard and contribute to combating domestic violence in our community.

Central to this objective, is hearing how the Ipswich communities systems of support are operating, and either assisting or hindering women in self determination and liberty.

Over lunch, we hope to hear from women the services, people or things that they feel have been of most help to them in their, their friend, or family's situation and what has made things worse. We intend to keep women updated as to their contribution and how their stories have assisted us in providing better service to the community through a forum on our new website.



When: 11:30am

5th November 2010

Cost: FREE!

Register: call 3816 3000

**Where: To be advised on
registration**

**"Feminism directly
confronts the idea
that one person or
set of people the
right to impose defi-
nitions of reality on
others" Liz Stanley
and Sue Wise**



Support Group for women.



The Ipswich Women's Centre Against Domestic Violence would like to invite you to our **free** Women's Domestic Violence Support Group **to be held at our service**. This group will provide the opportunity to **meet other women, share stories and learn** from each other's experiences. The first session together will be an opportunity to get to know one another while discussing what we would like to do together over the next few months.

Bring along your hopes and ideas for the group!

Free morning tea will be provided and some assistance with child care costs can be negotiated on a needs basis.

Please RSVP to Martha by the 6 October 2010 on 3816 3000.

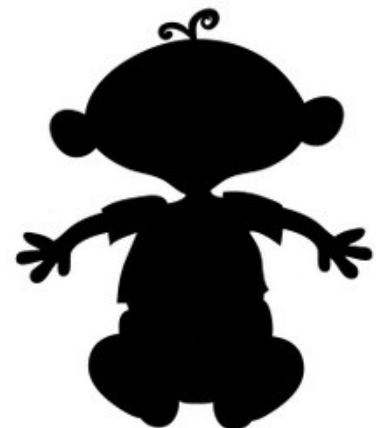
Change to Position

The team at IWCADV are really happy to announce that our Program Coordinator is expecting another little boy. Bec will be going on parental leave late January 2011 and we will be advertising the 9–12 month locum position in November 2010 hoping to find a suitable candidate.

The Program Coordinator position is crucial to the flow of service provision as well as our training programs in the region. The Program Coordinator provides ongoing formal and informal supervision to other direct service delivery staff within the organisation. The Program Coordinator is also responsible for providing services directly to women, service providers and the community in general. This includes the provision of information and referral, crisis support, individual short term crisis counselling, community education and training. The Program Coordinator is primarily accountable to the Manager and the Management Committee however, given the collaborative nature of the organisation, all staff members are also accountable to the staff team.

The Program Coordinator is also required to undertake a level of organisational and administrative work in addition to the supervisory and direct service delivery functions of the position.

If you think you might be the right person for this job please contact the Manager Gabrielle at 3816 3000 for position info.



Feminism is the radical notion that women are people. ~Cheris Kramarae and Paula Treichler



COMMUNITIES IN SOLIDARITY Unite Against Violence - Black tie fundraising dinner

The **16 Days Campaign** against violence against women brings local, national, and global attention to the various forms of violence that women face.

This year, Ipswich Women's Centre against Domestic Violence invites you to attend an evening event to demonstrate

"COMMUNITIES IN SOLIDARITY"

against violence against women.

The night will include an address from **Guest Speaker Betty Taylor.** Betty is the founder and previous Director

of the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre Gold Coast and chair of the Queensland Domestic & Family Violence Council for two terms, 1994-1997 and 2001-2004.

Betty was awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 2002 to investigate multi-agency interventions to domestic violence across the USA and Canada and has overseen the successful development of the Gold Coast Domestic Violence Integrated Response. Betty has undertaken various projects at a local, state and national level.

Entertainment by Dancing Tiggers.

Join us for an evening to come together and **UNITE**

AGAINST VIOLENCE

When:

Friday 26th November
6:45pm for 7pm start

Where:

Queens Park Cafe Function Room
10a Merle Finimore Ave, Ipswich

Cost:

\$40

Includes a three course meal and soft drink

RSVP and Payment:

14 October 2010 to 3816 3000

Some Myths and Facts!

MYTH: Abused women could leave their partner if they really wanted to/ Women subjected to violence in relationships enjoy being abused or like the drama/attention

REALITY:

Repeated attempts to leave violent relationships are often made, but victims are prevented by:

Increased violence /control tactics. Fear of reprisals

The period of greatest risk for victims is often during or immediately following separation.

Barriers to separation – The best predictors of women staying are economic dependence, poor self-esteem, uncontrollable fear, lack of

knowledge of support services and isolation.

There are many other reasons why women stay. Have a think and register to tell us on our website!

MYTH: Only a certain type of person is violent. E.g. Abusive men share the following characteristics:

**lower socio-economic status;
particular cultural background;
alcohol and drug abuse, and/or;
mental illness.**

REALITY:

Abuse in relationships happens across a range of income levels, cultures, geographic locations, and age groups.

Families from middle socio-

economic backgrounds with access to more resources may be better able to hide the abuse.

Indigenous Australians are over-represented as both victims and perpetrators of all forms of violent crime in Australia. However, DV is prevalent in all countries and cultures.

Drugs or alcohol can act as a disinhibitor or escalate a violent incident, but they are not the cause. Alcohol and drugs often = denying responsibility/ excusing violent behaviour.

Clinical studies of men who abuse their partners do not support the view that mental health is a factor in the abuse of a partner. Most abusers are not suffering from a mental illness.

Coordinated Community Response to Domestic and Family Violence

A Coordinated Community Response (CCR) model of domestic violence illustrates the inter-relationship of agencies and levels of response for tackling domestic violence. It recognises and makes explicit that no one agency can deal effectively and safely with the effects of domestic violence.

A CCR can be lots of different things. For example:

A partnership between police and DV services to perform joint risk assessments and safety plans for victims;
Con-current groups between perpetrator programs and DV services;
Mandating perpetrators into appropriate programs at court or as part of parole conditions;
Regular case meetings between police, court, DV ser-

vices, perpetrator programs and child welfare agencies. The IWCADV has a strong focus on developing a coordinated community response to domestic and family violence in our region! We have recently hosted forums and meetings to progress this process and hope to introduce some firmer partnerships with a variety of key stakeholders!

There are 4 critical principles or priorities of a good CCR:

Victim safety and autonomy is paramount;
Offender Accountability – Opportunities and inclination for abuse is removed/reduced;
System Accountability – responsibility for the preceding points ultimately rests with the system;
Community/Societal toler-

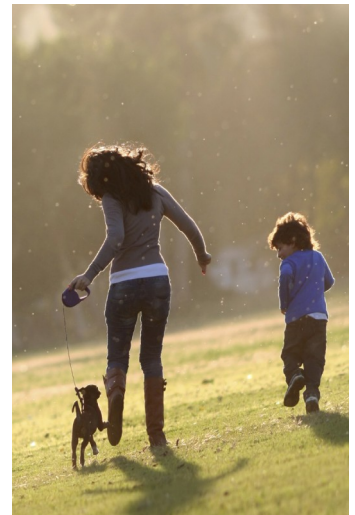
ance for violence against women and children is reduced.

It is really important to think about how we as individuals, families, organisations, government departments and politicians can create a system in our region that work towards those principles. The IWCADV will in the coming years facilitate a number of meetings to ensure that we engage the community as well as key stakeholders.

What makes an effective CCR?

Written policies that centralise victim safety, offender accountability;
Practices that link intervening practitioners and agencies together;
An entity that tracks and monitors cases and assesses data;

An interagency process that brings practitioners together to dialogue and resolve problems;
A central role for victim advocates, shelters, and women who have experienced DV in the process;
A shared philosophy about domestic violence;
A system that shifts responsibility for victim safety from the victim to the system;
Call the IWCADV for more info.



Interesting Reading!

“53 WAYS TO LEAVE YOUR LOVER” article by Dr Shirley Patton School of Sociology and Social Work University of Tasmania Journal: Women Against Violence, Issue Twenty One 2009

This article discusses women’s perceptions of the pathways, both formal and informal 53 women used in leaving an abusive male partner.

Of particular interest in the study were some of the turning points women identified which enabled them to

contemplate leaving. Central to identified turning points was a woman’s change in beliefs. This included new beliefs that “staying was not in the best interest of their children, the male partner was responsible for the violence, the violence was not going to stop, the violence and abuse was not normal and or acceptable and that certain religious views on marriage could be challenged”(Patton, 2009:10).

Women also noted that significant factors and practice

principles that contributed to the effectiveness of pathways included a response that was:

Focused on women’s safety whilst respectful of women’s choices

Was non judgemental, culturally sensitive, believed women’s accounts of the violence and abuse

Was active in information provision and referred women to formal supports

Enhanced women’s insight into their situation and sense of agency

Located responsibility for the violence and abuse with the male partner

Also of interest were the results of the study which indicated that for over half of the women, domestic violence specific services were the key pathways to leaving. Dr Patton notes that how we as a community respond to domestic violence has serious implications for women and children in their care. The findings of the study inform us in how to best do so.

Counselling

Half way into the year and many changes have taken place (as previously outlined in the last two newsletters) that has had a direct impact on the counselling programs run by IWCADV. Things are running more smoothly now however the number of people who are been turned away are significant. In conjunction with the Crisis Intervention program, the counselling team is working towards a better system of referrals for those women and families who are been turned away. We are hoping to get other service providers on board and have up to date information about each service within the region that provide counselling so that when

families and/or women are referred to them we know that there are services for them to go to. We certainly will keep you updated regarding the outcome of this project.

The women's counselling program is currently running its second last therapeutic group for the year. We have really good attendance and are hoping for the same for the next group schedule to start in October 14th 2010 at 9:30am. The group will be an opportunity to meet with other women, share stories, and learn from each other's experiences. Some of the

topics discussed in group are:

- What is Domestic and Family Violence
- What are the Effects on women and children
- Boundaries and Assertiveness
- The Inner Critic
- Healthy Relationships

On the side is a photo of the work that was done by the current group regarding effects of D&FV on women. It was such a fantastic externalising exercise. If you would like more information regarding group please do not hesitate to contact the service.

Training

The IWCADV takes pride in assisting a range of other services and professionals to offer a variety of training opportunities in the Ipswich region. The focus is on providing low-cost and accessible professional development prospects that have relevance to both domestic and family violence and the shared work that all community service professionals engage in.

All human services workers will encounter domestic and family violence in their work at some point, and the skills required to respond to this effectively are complex and varied. In addition, training in a range of dif-

ferent practice areas offers workers a chance to hone their skills, develop insight and knowledge, as well as meet other practitioners in their field and region.

IWCADV has a strong commitment to offering training that is low-cost but high quality, effective and relevant, with the recognition that most workers have access to limited training budgets and can ill afford the time to go training that does not meet their needs.

Some of the training that the IWCADV has hosted or facilitated recently includes:

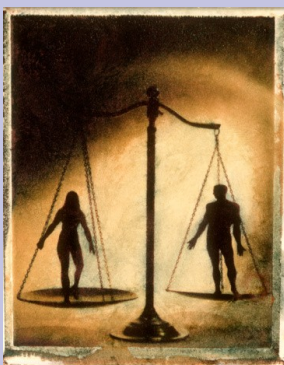
Hosting NAPCAN to deliver the first Love Bites training program in Ipswich;

Facilitating the delivery of training on "Dealing with Conflict and Difference in the Workplace" in partnership with Kent Smith.

Some of the opportunities and topics planned for the next year include:

Technology & Domestic Violence Attachment, Trauma & DV;

Some general modules on subjects such as predictors of risk, identifying the predominant aggressor and responding to victims of domestic and family violence.



You don't have to be anti-man to be pro-woman. ~Jane Galvin

Court Support

There is no need for women to book into this program, our workers will be there (see above) usually around 30min before DV court is due to begin. However, women are welcome to contact IWCADV over the phone prior to their DVO Mention with any questions that they may have about the process. Every matter for the DVO Mention is summoned to court at the same time, meaning that people can be in for quite a wait before

their matter is called into court – especially if it's a long list! It's usually a good idea to arrange for someone to babysit kids for that time, and to bring a book or magazine to read!

Preparing for court:

Arrange a babysitter for the kids if you can

Bring a book or something to do just in case you have a long wait

Bring any questions you have about the process

If you have a solicitor, bring their name and contact details with you in case they are delayed

Bring your paperwork with you – your copy of the DVO application

If you are concerned about your physical safety, you are able to contact security at the courthouse directly and they can make arrangements for your safe arrival and departure

from the courthouse

You are welcome to bring a support person with you, but keep in mind that DV Court is a closed court and they may not be able to go into the court room with you.

You have the right to speak with legal advice prior to coming to court. This is available from:

Legal Aid (1300 651 188)
Women's Legal Service (3392 0670)

For more info Call IWCADV

Crisis Support

The Crisis Intervention Program is running smoothly at present and with the recent restructure and improvements to the risk assessment tool that is used when engaging with women (as outlined in the previous newsletter); there has been a noted increased service response to women.

A friendly reminder about the program and what it offers (please note that this is not an exhaustive list):

Phone support to women who are experiencing or who have experienced domestic and family violence. This usually entails thorough risk assessment, safety planning and generalist support i.e. information and referral, emotional support;

Capacity for face to face appointments with women (referrals welcome from other services). Capacity at

present only allows for two appointments daily (one in am and one in pm). This is to cater for clients who present to the service in need of an immediate crisis response and

Crisis Counselling (this is a screened process that requires a worker to speak directly with the client – where possible).

It may be helpful to keep in mind that our service is currently only funded to work with women at present.

Some helpful do's and don'ts of what you can do if someone shares with you that they are experiencing domestic or family violence:

Do

- Believe their story.
- Express concern and ask if something is wrong.
- Encourage and assist

with linking them in with a local domestic violence service/legal advice.

- Support his or her decision.
- Seek out some support for yourself if you are struggling with information that someone has shared with you.

Don't

- Tell them that everything will be ok.
- Judge or blame.
- Wait for him or her to come to you.
- Give advice.
- Place conditions on your support or make demands or mandates.
- It is crucial to remember that when supporting someone who is experiencing domestic or family violence that



they are not responsible for the abuse or violence.

Helpful Services:

Ipswich Women's Centre Against Domestic Violence

07 3816 3000

DV Connect **1800 811 811**

Legal Aid **1300 651 188**

Women's Legal Service :

07 3392 0670



PO Box 964, IPSWICH QLD 4305

Phone: (07) 3816 3000

Fax: (07) 3816 3100

E-mail: info@iwcadv.org.au



Phone Opening Hours:

Monday 9 am—4:30 pm

Tuesday 1 pm—4:30 pm

Wednesday—Friday 9 am—4:30 pm

The Ipswich Women's Centre Against Domestic Violence (IWCADV) has operated as the regional Domestic Violence Service since April 1994 and is a community-based service located in Ipswich. IWCADV is a feminist organisation committed to working towards the elimination of domestic & family violence throughout the community. To this end, IWCADV is actively involved in supporting women and children survivors of domestic & family violence, in addition to coordinating a community response to this issue.

IWCADV provides a range of services to the community of Ipswich and the regional communities of Gatton, Laidley, Esk, Toogoolawah, Lowood, Boonah, Goodna and Inala. The primary focus of the IWCADV is direct service provision to women and children survivors of domestic & family violence. This includes telephone information, referral and support services, court support for women, counselling services, group work and children's work. In addition to this, IWCADV has a lead agency role in the community providing an integrated response to domestic & family violence issues within this area. This role involves the provision of training and resourcing to workers, networking with other organisations and services and the provision of community education on domestic & family violence.

We're on the Web—www.iwcadv.org.au



Find us on Facebook - log in to your account and Search for:

Ipswich Women's Centre Against DV and click 'Like' to receive updates!!

Donate on line at <http://www.givenow.com.au/iwcadv/>

Community Development

Our Community Development Program has undergone a change of leadership since our last newsletter as Community Development Worker Katie Petrie has taken on an AYAD placement in Tonga for a year to volunteer at a Women's Refuge. Katie will be returning to the service in August 2011. In her place, Phillipa Johnson has assumed the role and will continue the exciting projects and events for the coming year. Coming up are:

- Schools Domestic Violence Workshops
- Co-ordinated Community Response Forums

- International Day Against Violence Against Women and 16 Days of Activism

The Community Development Program is dedicated to promoting the right of women to live lives free from fear and abuse. Our aim is to empower our community to strategically address and condemn all forms of violence against women. Central to this goal is furthering our community's awareness that domestic violence is supported by broader social systems, structures and norms. In order to impact domestic violence we hope to contrib-

ute to a co-ordinated community response that stretches across various services and systems of support. In the coming year, we particularly hope to enhance communication and collaboration with our Indigenous and Multicultural communities. We expect that through our programs and events, together, we will achieve a greater awareness and response to domestic violence in our community.

For more information about our Community Development program contact cdworker@iwcadv.org.au or call 3816 3000.

