



PRECIS

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE SYMPOSIUM: *AT THE INTERSECTION OF KNOWLEDGE & PRACTICE*

17-18 May 2018

University of Southern Queensland

Domestic violence in Australia is widely recognised and acknowledged as one particular social issue that consistently remains at the forefront of the political, legal and social agenda. Historically, domestic violence has been perceived as a private matter, not to be interfered with by anyone outside the private sphere. Although this perception is slowly changing, many barriers still exist. Many of these barriers centre on the challenges created by patriarchal attitudes and traditional gender roles, which are generally held responsible as the primary catalyst for the perpetration of domestic violence. Regardless of why it happens, the problem lies with the stark reality that it continues to happen.

Despite a widespread awareness throughout the community and commitment to reducing the rate of domestic violence, in Queensland, the domestic violence incidents reports increased from 58,000 in 2011-12 to 66,000 in 2013-14. For as long as domestic violence remains a pervasive social, legal and criminal concern, efforts to intervene and prevent its occurrence will continue to be a worthwhile investment. Nevertheless, developing effective response strategies is no mean feat due to the complexities associated with domestic and family violence. Carefully planned responses are imperative for vulnerable people who are victims or at risk of victimisation, including those who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, disabled, children, elderly, LGBTQI, and those from rural and remote locations.

In the report, *Not Now, Not Ever: Putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland*, a significant emphasis was placed on the need for integrated service responses in order to be effective in meeting the needs of those affected by domestic and family violence. To achieve this, “knowledge of the particular needs of those affected by domestic and family violence is key to the appropriate design and resourcing of response and support services”. Accented in this recommendation is the importance of bringing together knowledge and services to guide appropriate and effective responses to domestic and family violence.

As of next year, the School of Law and Justice at the University of Southern Queensland, is contributing to increasing this knowledge by way of a new course being offered to students, *Family Violence and Child Protection*. To reinforce the importance of expanding knowledge and also to promote the importance of working collaboratively in the prevention of domestic and family violence, a proposal is put forth for the University to host a two day conference. The primary aim of this conference is to bring together government agencies, criminal justice agencies, non-government organisations, legal services, social support services and the broader community for the purpose of sharing knowledge and fostering an integrated approach amongst all relevant stakeholders in responding to domestic and family violence.

‘At the Intersection of Knowledge & Practice’ is the theme of the conference. This theme springboards off the recommendation made for working collaboratively to share knowledge and deliver services to those affected by domestic and family violence. The intersection of what is known about domestic and family violence, focusses on knowledge at the conceptual level, shared from various professional, research and personal perspectives. It is also about intersecting services at a more

practical level, to encourage and strengthen collaboration in developing practical ways by which knowledge can be shared in accordance with an integrated service delivery model.

It is anticipated this conference will consist of keynote presentations, a panel discussion, and smaller thematic paper presentations. A number of possible presenters from a broad range of areas have been approached to seek their interest in participating, with more yet to be sent a preliminary invitation. These include current researchers, criminal justice representatives, legal profession personnel, victims services representatives, emergency services representatives, an ex-perpetrator of domestic violence, as well as a survivor of domestic violence.

A list of invited contributors is attached to this precis. Also attached is a proposed schedule for the two day event, a projected budget and a proposed marketing strategy. The dates selected for the conference, 17-18 May 2018, have been chosen to coincide with Domestic Violence Prevention month. In addition, calls for papers to be presented during the thematic paper presentations to encourage attendance and participation in the event.

For more information, contact:

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