



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE CONFERENCE



Wednesday, 9 November 2022

The University of Sydney Law School

A one-day conference of academic researchers and community professionals who are working to improve our understanding of and response to Domestic and Family Violence.

#USYDDFV



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional owners of the land, the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. It is upon their ancestral lands that the University of Sydney is built.



Follow directional signage to the Law School Building and Annex

MAP and LOCATION

[Sydney Law School \(F10\)](#)
[New Law School Building](#)
[Eastern Avenue, Camperdown](#)
[The University of Sydney,](#)
[Camperdown](#)

GETTING TO CAMPUS

[Get directions](#)
[Getting to campus](#)

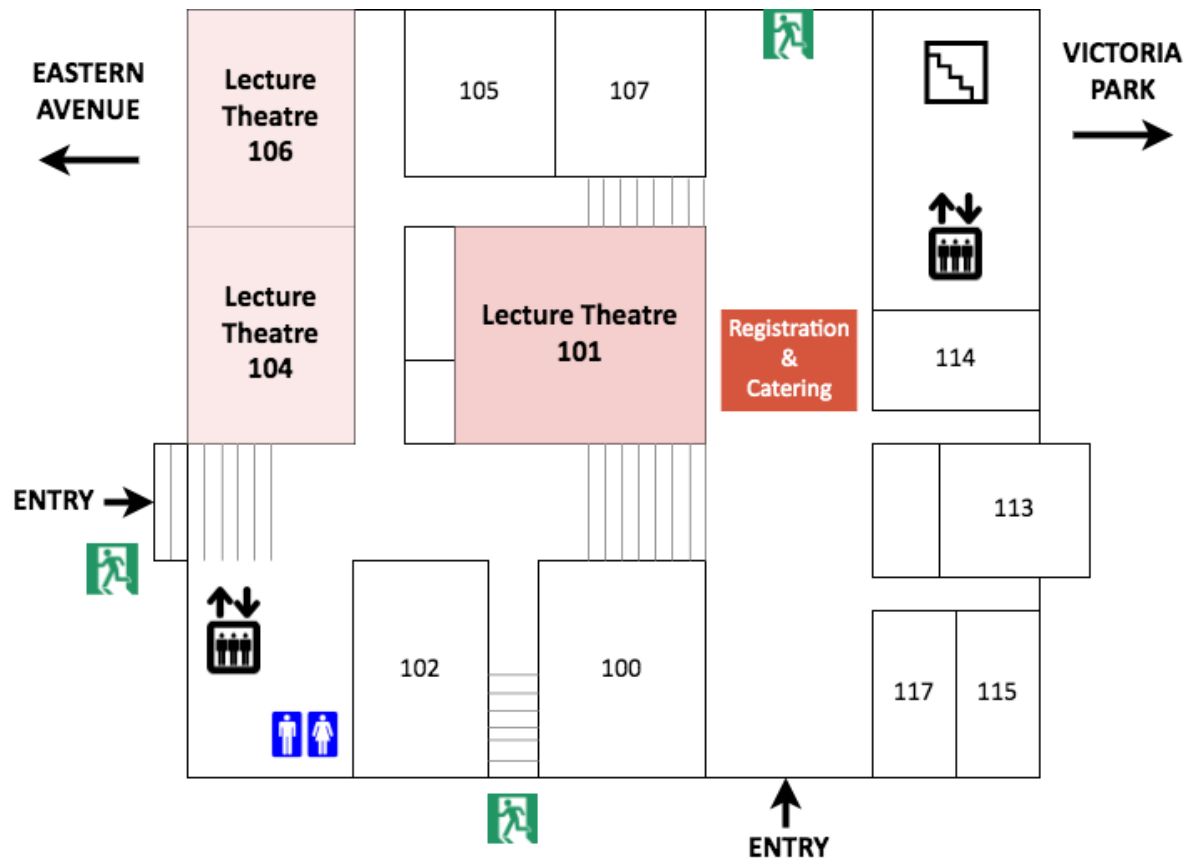
PARKING

We have some parking options for drivers, but we also promote more environmentally friendly ways of getting to campus, such as cycling and using public transport. *Note, there is no parking available at the Law School*



**GENERAL INFORMATION
AND HOUSE KEEPING**

Level 1, Law Building Annex (F10A) Venue Map



Please note that the Eastern Avenue street level main entrance is on Level 2. You will need to take the stairs or elevator down to Level 1.



GENERAL INFORMATION AND HOUSE KEEPING

WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY!

This conference is hosted by the Sydney Institute of Criminology, and is supported by the University of Sydney Law School; the School of Psychology; the Women at Sydney Network; Diversity and Inclusion; and the Research Centre for Children and Families.

REGISTRATION DESK

The registration desk is located on Level 1 of the New Law School Building (F10A). Staff will register delegates from 8:30-9:00 am. Staff and volunteers will be available throughout the conference to assist with any queries.

INTERNET ACCESS

WiFi Instructions

Step 1: Enable wireless on your device and select the network

UniSydney-Guest

Step 2: Open your browser. You will be automatically directed to a login page

Step 3: Enter the username

LawConference1 and password:

19151554

CONFERENCE ROOM FACILITIES

The conference rooms are equipped with AV facilities including laptop and projectors for PowerPoint presentations, and internet access. Should there be specific requirements for presentations, please inform AV staff dedicated to each of the conference rooms. Microsoft PowerPoint presentations are the preferred format.

BREAKS

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will take place on Level 1, New Law Building Annex (F10A), outside of Lecture Theatre 101.

MOBILE PHONES

As a courtesy to your fellow delegates and speakers, please ensure that your phone is switched off or on silent during all Conference sessions.

PRESENTATION TIME LIMITS

Each presentation can be an absolute **maximum of 15 minutes** (including questions and setting up/changing to the next speaker). Please be respectful to your fellow speakers and conference delegates by staying on time.



GENERAL INFORMATION AND HOUSE KEEPING

CONTENT NOTE

- The content we will talk through today may be confronting. It may be uncomfortable or trigger some emotional responses that are unexpected.
- Even if you have not directly experienced trauma, it is important to look out for your own emotional and mental wellbeing.
- If you experience any distress during the event, we have a psychologist on hand to assist you

LOOKING AFTER YOURSELF

USYD Support Services

Safer Communities Office
(Mon-Fri, 8.30pm-5.30pm) 8627 6808 or
safer-communities.officer@sydney.edu.au

EAP - Benestar
1300 360 364 (available 24/7)
[Counselling, coaching and support - Intranet - The University of Sydney](#)

External Support Services

1800 RESPECT
(24/7) 1800 737 732 or
www.1800respect.org.au

Lifeline
(24/7) 13 11 14

NSW Sexual Violence Helpline
(24/7) 1800 385 578 or <https://fullstop.org.au/>

RPA Sexual Assault Service
9515 9040 (Mon-Fri, 8.30am-5pm)
After hours on 9515 6111

8:30–9am	Arrival and morning tea
9–9:15am	Acknowledgement of Country Professor Simon Bronitt (Head & Dean of Sydney Law School) Welcome and Conference Logistics A/Prof Helen Paterson
9:15–10:30am	Session 1 (Lecture Theatre 101)
	A/Prof Helen Paterson Recalling repeated events A/Prof Susan Heward-Belle Evidencing better practice: Why representations of domestic violence matter Professor Tom Denson Misogynistic tweets correlate with violence against women Maha Abdo OAM Purpose in Action: Supporting Multicultural Women, Families and Communities Dr Ellen Reeves ‘I don’t blame them for arresting me, but...’ <u>Chair:</u> Helen Paterson (University of Sydney)
10:30–10:45am	Morning tea break
10:45–11:45am	Session 2
Stream A (Lecture Theatre 104)	A/P Ghena Krayem and Dr Amira Aftab The impacts of COVID19 on domestic and family violence service provision in CALD and faith-based communities Dr Belinda Liddell Family violence as a key risk factor for psychopathology in refugees Laura Vidal Examining forced marriage in Australia Aman Ravindra-Singh The Lack of Legal Enforcement Against Domestic and Family Violence in Fiji <u>Chair:</u> Ghena Krayem (University of Sydney)
Stream B (Lecture Theatre 106)	Danielle Allen Beyond the Headline - Exploring collaborative responses to domestic violence victims who have experienced non-fatal strangulation and head injury Dr Emma Buxton-Namisnyk and Anna Butler Learning from fatal cases: Opportunities to promote knowledge, improve practice and progress reform through domestic violence death review



Stream B (Lecture Theatre 106)	Orla Burke The role of local government in the prevention of domestic and family violence. Abbey Newman and Courtney Lucanto Developing an intersectional systems understanding of the mental health evidence based risk indicator <u>Chair:</u> Danielle Allen (Western NSW Local Health District)
11:45am–12pm	Break
12–1pm	16 Days of Activism Panel Discussion (Lecture Theatre 101)
1–1:30pm	Lunch
1:30–2:30pm	Session 3
Stream A (Lecture Theatre 104)	Miranda Kaye How the Hague Abduction convention is being used as a tool of coercive control Rebecca Campbell and Amelia Klein Addressing Financial Abuse through Legal Collaboration Marisa Moliterno CRC's Miranda Project: Resistance to Violence and Ways of Healing <u>Chair:</u> Miranda Kaye (UTS)
Stream B (Lecture Theatre 106)	Dr Celine van Golde Too Much Information? Understanding the Influence of Background Information on Jurors' Assessments of DVEC statements Lilly Darke Gaslighting and memory: covert methods of control Julia Boyle Event Frequency, IPV Interpretation and Eyewitness Memory for Ambiguous Relationship Interactions Iana Wong The pathway from insecure attachment to intimate partner violence (IPV): A meta-analysis and systematic review of mediators <u>Chair:</u> Celine van Golde (University of Sydney)
2:30–2:45pm	Afternoon Tea Break
2:45–3:45pm	Session 4 (Lecture Theatre 101)
	Dr Bridgit Mottram and Renata Field Policing of Domestic and Family Violence in NSW Sal Dennis Seeing possibilities – beyond the reproduction of service-centric design and review



	<p>Dr Faye Nitschke Using trauma education to support accurate decision-making in criminal trials for sexual violence</p> <p>Joanne Yates What's next for the domestic violence reform agenda? <u>Chair:</u> Susan Heward-Belle (University of Sydney)</p>
3:45–4:30pm	Discussion (Lecture Theatre 101)
	Topic: Working together to improve our understanding of and response to Domestic and Family Violence
4:30–5pm	Drinks

Session 1

Associate Professor Helen Paterson

Recalling repeated events: How event repetition affects the credibility of witnesses and victims

Eyewitness testimony can provide critical leads in investigations, and it can be extremely persuasive in court. However, inconsistencies or inaccuracies in eyewitness accounts can undermine the perceived credibility of the witness and the value of the evidence. This is particularly problematic when witnesses are required to recall details of crimes that occur over a number of recurring episodes, which is characteristic of many Domestic and Family Violence cases.

In this presentation I will describe empirical research on the memory and credibility of repeated event witnesses. Such research shows that witnesses of repeated events may find it difficult to particularize details of one event and they may confuse one instance with another. Even more concerning is that the narratives provided by genuine witnesses recalling a repeated event may be perceived as less credible than that of both single-event witnesses and liars. I will conclude my presentation with ways to improve the accounts/perceptions of repeated event witnesses.

Bio: Helen Paterson is an Associate Professor in Forensic Psychology at the University of Sydney. She investigates ways in which psychological research and theory can help witnesses and victims of crime. Her research predominantly focuses on best practice techniques to collect accurate and complete accounts from eyewitnesses, while preserving their psychological wellbeing.

Co-author: Sarah Deck

Associate Professor Susan Heward-Belle

Evidencing better practice: Why representations of domestic violence matter

Lawyers and child protection workers are actively engaged in the process of constructing and representing domestic violence and risk through the processes of collecting, documenting and presenting evidence. These processes frequently reflect the application of dominant gendered stereotypes commonly perpetuated within patriarchal societies through institutional practices. Such practices commonly include: constructing mothers who parent in the context of domestic violence as failing to protect their children, rendering invisible domestically violent men by collecting limited evidence about their perpetration patterns and fathering practices and decontextualising survivors' mental distress and/or problematic substance misuse. Drawing on feminist theory and using the example of legal practice in the Queensland statutory child welfare department, this presentation argues that hegemonic gendered representations frequently disadvantage women mothering in the context of domestic violence. The presentation will illuminate how domestic violence informed capacity-building activities catalysed practice improvements particularly in relation to how evidence is collected, documented and presented.

Bio: Sue Heward-Belle is an Associate Professor at the University of Sydney and is a recognised leader in domestic and family violence research. Sue has almost 30 years experience in the domestic violence and child protection fields and has conducted many studies in these areas.

Co-author: Tracey De Simone (Head Solicitor, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia)

Professor Tom Denson

Misogynistic tweets correlate with violence against women

How online social behavior covaries with real-world outcomes remains poorly understood. We examined the relationship between the frequency of misogynistic attitudes expressed on Twitter and incidents of domestic and family violence that were reported to the American Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). We tracked misogynistic tweets in more than 400 areas across 47 American states from 2013 and 2014. Correlation and regression analyses found that misogynistic tweets were related to domestic- and family-violence incidents in those areas. A cross-lagged model showed that misogynistic tweets positively predicted domestic and family violence 1 year later; however, this effect was small. Results were robust to several known predictors of domestic violence. Our findings identify geolocated online misogyny as cooccurring with domestic and family violence. Because the longitudinal relationship between misogynistic tweets and domestic and family violence was small and conducted at the societal level, more research with multilevel data might be useful in the prediction of future violence.

Bio: I am a Professor in the School of Psychology at UNSW. My primary research focus is on the causes, consequences, and prevention of anger-driven aggression. I have published over 100 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters.

Co-authors: Dr Khandis Blake, Dr Siobhan O'Dean, and Mr James Lian

Maha Abdo OAM

Purpose in Action: Supporting Multicultural Women, Families and Communities respond to Domestic and Family Violence

Muslim Women Australia brings almost 40 years of experience supporting multicultural communities and Muslim women experiencing domestic and family violence, homelessness and settlement and has been a leader in advocating for culturally, linguistically and religiously appropriate service provision.

MWA has been a specialist frontline provider of domestic and family violence support for over 25 years. MWA established the first ever Muslim women refuge in Australia and now delivers the Linking Hearts Multicultural Family Violence and Homelessness Service, delivering holistic support options for women and children escaping family and domestic violence, men and children homeless providing safe and supported crisis and transitional accommodation, rapid rehousing and intensive support for clients with complex needs.

In this presentation, we will speak of our best practice approaches to service provision utilizing our therapeutic model of healing, that is client-centred, trauma informed and culturally, linguistically and religiously appropriate. The importance of centering safety within a strength-based, intersectional, human rights framework in supporting victim-survivors from multicultural and faith-based communities; alongside the importance of trust and empowerment in prevention initiatives that are inclusive of men and 'whole of community' approaches to ending gendered violence.

Bio: Maha Krayem Abdo OAM is a passionate advocate for social justice and uses the common language of faith to clarify in the community how Islam regards justice and equality. She serves as the CEO of Muslim Women Australia (MWA), a representative body for Muslim women working to enrich humanity, advocating for equality and the rights of all women, through authentic leadership based on Islamic principles. Maha knows the migrant experience firsthand having moved from Lebanon to Australia with her family in the 1960s. She has completed a Bachelor of Social Work, a Masters in Social Science, and Graduate Diploma in Family Dispute Resolution. Today Maha represents and gives voice to Muslim women abroad as well as in Australia. She advises government on policy, services and strategies to create a harmonious community for Muslim and non-Muslim women. In 2022, Maha was appointed as a Panel Member of the NSW Treasurers' Women's Economic Opportunities Review. In 2021, Maha was awarded the Committee for Sydney Unsung Hero Award, in 2016 Maha was the NSW Seniors Week Ambassador as well as the BreastScreen NSW Ambassador. In 2015 Maha was a finalist for the Australian Human Rights Commission's Human Rights Medal, and in 2014 she was the NSW Human Rights Ambassador for 2014-15.

Dr Ellen Reeves

'I don't blame them for arresting me, but they didn't have to smash me to the ground': LGBTQA+ victim-survivors experiences as respondents to family violence intervention orders

Research in Australia and beyond is increasingly capturing the lived experiences of women family violence victim-survivors who are misidentified as 'predominant aggressors' within the criminal legal system. Much of this research, however, implicitly or explicitly captures the experiences of cisgender heterosexual women, mirroring a key shortcoming of the broader domestic and family violence scholarship. Misidentification also occurs within the context of LGBTIQ family violence – that is, family violence occurring within a queer relationship, or family violence perpetrated against an LGBTIQ+-identifying person. In fact, in the absence of the gender binaries that the legal system so often relies on to determine victims and perpetrators, LGBTIQ+ victim-survivors may be at an increased risk of being incorrectly labelled a perpetrator. This presentation explores LGBTIQ+ victim-survivors experiences of being listed as 'respondents' on family violence intervention orders in Victoria, Australia. The paper looks at the circumstances in which participants came to be listed as a respondent, the outcome of the intervention order application in court, and the impact of being listed as a respondent on their future safety and wellbeing.

Bio: Dr Ellen Reeves is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre. She was awarded a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) at Monash University in 2017, and went on to complete her Doctorate in 2021. Her PhD thesis explored the misidentification of women as predominant aggressors in Victoria's family violence intervention order system. Ellen's work and research is focused on the unintended consequences of domestic and family violence law reform on victim-survivors. Currently, Ellen's work is particularly interested in the experiences of LGBTQA+ victim-survivors' with the criminal legal system, and in challenging binary conceptualisations of victimhood and family violence perpetration.

Session 2 (Stream A)

Associate Professor Ghena Krayem & Dr Amira Aftab

The impacts of COVID19 on domestic and family violence service provision in CALD and faith-based communities

It is well known that there has been a rise in domestic and family (DFV) violence during COVID19. It is also well known that victims from CALD (culturally and linguistically diverse) and faith-based communities face compounding barriers to access to justice and access to DFV services. However, due to the contemporary nature of the problem, very little is known about the impacts of COVID19 on DFV violence in CALD and faith-based communities. Working with community and client survey data provided by Multicultural Family Support Service - Linking Hearts - this project investigates the various impacts that COVID19 has had on DFV service provision in the Western Sydney area beyond the simple narrative that DFV is 'on the rise'.

Bio: Dr Ghena Krayem is an Associate Professor at Sydney Law School, University of Sydney, Australia. Since 2000, Ghena has been a legal academic teaching in the areas of public law and family law. She has researched and published in many areas to do with Islam in Australia, particularly focusing on Muslim women. She has authored/edited several books; *Islamic Family Law in Australia: to Recognise or Not to Recognise* (2014); *Accommodating Muslims under Common Law* (2016) and *Understanding Shariah Processes, Women's experiences of Family Disputes* (2021) and *Muslim Women and Agency (Australian context)* (2021). Ghena is currently working on several research project focusing on the importance of understanding lived experience when responding to family violence and the impact of Covid on victim/survivors of family violence in Western Sydney.

Dr Amira Aftab is a Lecturer in the School of Law at Western Sydney University. Her research interests include feminist legal theory, religion and the law, and family law. Amira's current research examines gender in state institutions, with a focus on family dispute resolution, as well as the experiences of domestic and family violence in culturally, linguistically, and religiously diverse communities.

Co-author: Dr Balawyn Jones (Latrobe University)

Dr Belinda Liddell

Family violence as a key risk factor for psychopathology in refugees

Refugees are at increased risk for psychological disorders compared to the general population due to high levels of pre-migration trauma exposure and significant daily stressors experienced in the post-migration environment. Family violence is also commonly reported in refugee populations, but it is unclear whether its occurrence uniquely contributes to psychopathology. In a group of 560 refugees settled in Australia, we tested whether self-reported lifetime exposure to family violence specifically increased risk for psychopathology while also accounting for the contributions of demographic (sex, age, language, time in Australia), pre-migration trauma and post-migration stress (general and COVID-19 pandemic-related). Results showed that experiencing or witnessing family violence was reported by 13.6% of the sample, and that it was independently associated with increased severity of PTSD, depression, anxiety symptoms and impaired functioning. These findings highlight the importance of evaluating the presence of family violence in resettled refugees due to its strong association with psychopathology, and support the need for considering the impact of refugee trauma and forced displacement on family functioning.

Bio: Dr Belinda Liddell is a Senior Research Fellow in the School of Psychology at UNSW Sydney and the Deputy Director of the Refugee Trauma and Recovery Program. Her research program implements a neuroscience and psychological science framework to understand the biological, social and cultural mechanisms underlying the psychological effects of refugee trauma and stress. Belinda's research is funded by the Australian Research Council and NHMRC, and she works closely with industry partners including STARTTS, Australian Red Cross, Settlement Services International and International Committee of the Red Cross.

Laura Vidal

Examining forced marriage in Australia: establishing context and critiquing responses

Forced marriage has been categorised in Australia as a form of modern slavery. Emerging evidence has begun to challenge this conceptualisation with complex familial and relationship dynamics coming to the fore to suggest that gendered and family violence frameworks may be better placed to respond to the phenomena. Drawing on recent PhD research findings, this paper will present understandings of forced marriage and challenge current frameworks and criminal justice responses to the issue. It poses critical questions for considering how, when framing forced marriage within the broader context of gendered and familial violence outcomes for victim-survivors may be enhanced.

Bio: Laura Vidal is a Francine V McNiff Scholar in the final year of her PhD candidature in Criminology as Monash University Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre. Prior to commencing her PhD she worked as a Social Worker both in direct and indirect practice for over a decade. Ms Vidal's work has been centrally focused on women's experiences of gendered violence including human trafficking and slavery, and culturally and linguistically diverse women's experiences of family violence. Laura brings practice experience to her research prioritising the ways in which empirical evidence can enhance policy and practice responses.

Aman Ravindra-Singh

The Lack of Legal Enforcement Against Domestic & Family Violence in Fiji: Institutional Failures within the Fiji Police Force and Prosecutions

Fiji is ranked amongst the worst countries for domestic violence in the world. For a little country with less than 1 million population this is a very shocking and horrifying reality.

This presentation will examine the existing legal frameworks in place which deal with domestic violence and how the legal framework responds to the needs of victims of domestic and family violence when a complaint is lodged with the Police and what transpires thereafter.

There will be proper examples of how the legal system fails victims of domestic & family violence. Questions explored will include - How victims are denied justice after lodging complaints against perpetrators of domestic violence? Whether the legal framework is adequate or is there a need for further laws to strengthen response? What factors have promoted institutional failures when dealing with victims of domestic & family violence in Fiji? Justice for victims?

The experiences of everyday Fijians and actual cases will be discussed during this presentation. This presentation will explore the reality on the ground and how victims of domestic violence and family violence are further victimised in Fiji due to institutional failure in the Police Force and the prosecutions

Bio:

- Human Rights Lawyer.
- Bachelor of Laws & Bachelor of Arts (University of Waikato) NZ; Master of Laws (Human Rights) King's College London, (University of London).
- Former State Counsel-Office of DPP, Fiji Prosecutor-Revenue & Customs Prosecutions Office, Human Rights Lawyer—Treasury Solicitors and Criminal Litigation Lawyer—UK Border Agency, British Government, London, UK.
- Lecturer in Human Rights, Criminal Law and Advocacy at the University of the South Pacific, Fiji.
- Areas of interest & practice: Human rights law, criminal law & constitutional law. Barrister & Solicitor - High Courts of New Zealand & Fiji, Solicitor - Supreme Court of England & Wales.

Session 2 (Stream B)

Danielle Allen

Beyond the Headline - Exploring collaborative responses to domestic violence victims who have experienced non-fatal strangulation and head injury in the USA and Canada, Winston Churchill Fellowship Report.

Non-fatal strangulation and head injury are not uncommon forms of physical assault in gendered violence. They have serious health implications and are an indicator of increased lethality for victims/ survivors. The USA and Canada are leading the way with developing collaborative cross-sector responses and research, to hold those who use these forms of violence to account and to ensure victim/survivors are offered the support and health assessments that they need. Sharing the learnings from her recent Churchill Fellowship research, Danielle will discuss recommendations for service improvements and potential areas for future research in Australia, including highlighting the importance of listening to the voices of those with lived experience. The findings of this report are relevant to four key areas in Australia:

1. Prioritising education and training across the sector to strengthen workforce capacity and support the implementation of recent legislative changes.
2. Developing guidelines for collaborative assessment, safety planning, and referral for and with victims/ survivors.
3. Building community awareness around the health implications and risks of non-fatal strangulation and brain injury in domestic, family, and intimate partner violence.
4. Advocating for a whole of system approach to providing support and service improvements for and with victims/ survivors.

Bio: Danielle has 25 years' experience in counselling, group work, advocacy, training and community development in the domestic, family and sexual violence sector. She has worked in health settings in metropolitan, regional and rural areas of NSW. Danielle works for Western NSW Local Health District as a Safer Pathways Coordinator. She is conducting research into emergency department responses to domestic violence victims who have experienced non-fatal strangulation. She completed a Winston Churchill Fellowship in March 2022, learning from colleagues in the USA and Canada about collaborative responses to victims of non-fatal strangulation and traumatic brain injury.

Dr Emma Buxton-Namisnyk & Anna Butler

Learning from fatal cases: Opportunities to promote knowledge, improve practice and progress reform through domestic violence death review

Domestic violence death review teams (DVDRs) were first established in the United States during the 1990s and the first DVDR was established in Australia during the late 2000s. Today, versions of these teams operate in most Australian states and territories, collaborating nationally under the auspices of the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Network. DVDRs operate to examine fatal cases of domestic and family violence to recommend improvements to domestic and family violence service responses and, ultimately, prevent future deaths. In this presentation two researchers from academia and government collaborate to reflect on what our community can learn from the review of fatal cases of violence, drawing on examples of academic research conducted with DVDR files, DVDR case review findings, and reform efforts that have been leveraged from DVDR recommendations. The authors also reflect on a range of possible future directions for DVDR research and work in Australia, particularly in light of renewed national commitments to reduce and, ultimately, eliminate violence against women under the draft National Plan.

Bio: Emma Buxton-Namisnyk is a Lecturer at the School of Law, Society and Criminology at UNSW. Her research focuses on domestic and family violence responses, with a particular emphasis on responses to violence against First Nations women. Emma was the inaugural Research Analyst on the NSW Domestic Violence Death Review Team (2012-2021).

Anna Butler is the inaugural Manager of the Domestic Violence Death Review Team (2011-) and the Chair of the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Network. Anna was previously the Executive Officer of the DNA Review Panel and NSW Sentencing Council.

Orla Burke

The role of local government in the prevention of domestic and family violence

Domestic and family violence (DFV) is a form of violence against women, as it is gendered. Therefore, the application of Change the Story, the national framework for the primary prevention of violence against women and their children, is an effective approach.

Local governments have been addressing DFV for many years via community development approaches with the community and policy initiatives with their staff. In NSW, the work of local government in preventing DFV is now being recognised. This presentation will demonstrate how local governments are leading the development and delivery of evidence-based primary prevention and capacity building initiatives.

The work of three metropolitan Councils will be discussed: City of Sydney, Inner West and City of Parramatta. We will highlight City of Parramatta's journey in the development of their Prevention of DFV Action Plan; Inner West Council's network response to delivering Respectful Relationships programs in a sustainable way; and City of Sydney's co-design of primary prevention and capacity building programs with domestic violence specialist services. These examples though varied, highlight how local governments utilise their unique community assets to lead responses to prevent and address DFV.

The presentation will also emphasise the challenges and opportunities in gathering localised data and implementing evaluation processes.

Bio: Sharmila Falzon is the Community Capacity Building Officer-DFV at City of Parramatta; and an intersectional feminist with 20yrs experience in policy and project management across the community services and local government sectors.

Orla Burke is a Project Manager within the City of Sydney's Safe City Unit, responsible for implementing the Safe City Action Plan, including initiatives related to addressing and ending DFV.

Matthew Balane is a Community Project Officer at Inner West Council responsible for coordinating the Inner West DV Committee; a NAPCAN approved trainer and co-ordinator of NAPCAN's Love Bites training in partnership with local DFV services.

Co-authors: Sharmila Falzon and Matthew Balane

Abbey Newman & Courtney Lucanto

Developing an intersectional systems understanding of the 'mental health' evidence based risk indicator

Recent Royal Commissions into Family Violence, Mental Health, Institutional responses to child abuse, violence and neglect of people with disabilities, elder abuse, all identified that sectors work in silos.

Commissions acknowledge all sectors/systems are assessing for risk pertaining to the presenting issue of their service. Within these assessments risk related to intersecting systems/client needs are often represented as a tick box, but not properly understood/explored due to practice frameworks, language, and intersectional understanding.

The recommendations from these Commissions all call for more streamlined information sharing and collaboration, however, do not acknowledge the challenges across intersecting systems with often competing priorities, service models and practice frameworks.

This presentation explores:

- the mental health evidence-based risk indicator within family violence risk assessments
- expanding the tick box to deepen the understanding of risk and develop language for practice.
- developing language required advocacy and effective collaborative practice in the intersect of family violence and mental health systems.
- intersectional systems opportunities and challenges for victim/survivors (adult, young people, and children) and people using violence

Bio: Abbey is an AASW Accredited Family Violence Social Worker. She has worked within the family violence sector for 16 years holding a range of roles including, working with victim/survivors and perpetrators. Her career has predominately been within the Justice system and has also included crisis, therapeutic, education, and men's behaviour change services. Abbey is currently employed at Forensicare supporting their MARAM alignment and family violence workforce capacity building.

Courtney is a social worker and has worked in a range of organisations over 13 years, working directly with victim survivors of family violence and people using violence, and at a policy and whole of government level in family violence reform. Courtney currently works as a Specialist Family Violence Advisor in Mental Health at Bendigo Health. This role is responsible for system reform and functions as a subject matter expert. Courtney also currently teaches social work at RMIT University. Courtney has worked across a range of geographical locations and is passionate about supporting victim in rural and regional areas.



Lunchtime Event: 16 Days of Activism Panel Discussion

This event is co-hosted by Diversity and Inclusion, Safer Communities and Women at Sydney.

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that starts on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day. In line with 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence we acknowledge that one in 3 women has experienced physical violence since the age of 15, and one in 5 has experienced sexual violence.

You are invited to an event in which Professor Lisa Jackson Pulver, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous Strategy and Services and Executive Sponsor of the Women at Sydney Network will make opening remarks. Hayley Foster, Chief Executive Officer, Full Stop Australia will present a keynote speech followed by a panel discussion. Hayley Foster's keynote speech will include reflections on the recently released National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022 – 2032 and details about the upcoming "Healing Pathways" program.

The panel discussion will be facilitated by Associate Professor Ghena Krayem from The University of Sydney Law School and will feature:

- Hayley Foster, Chief Executive Officer, Full Stop Australia
- Emily Lachevre, Senior Clinical & Client Service Manager, Full Stop Australia
- Brenda Lin, PhD Candidate, Sydney Law School; Director & Co-Founder, The Survivor Hub
- Dr Neeraja Sanmuanathan, Senior Sexual Assault Counsellor at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

Hayley Foster BBus, BLaws (Hons), Grad Dip FDRP, MAICD

Chief Executive Officer, Full Stop Australia

Hayley Foster is a recognised leader in the field of gender-based violence. With 20 years' experience in the health, justice, and social service sectors, Hayley brings a frontline practice perspective to her work in equipping organisations to better prevent and respond to gender-based discrimination, harassment, and violence.

Her work spans across workplace training and development, policy and law reform, and in this regard, Hayley holds a number of government advisory positions, including the Commonwealth Advisory Group on the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and their Children 2022-2032 and the National Women's Safety Alliance Policy, Advisory and Advocacy Committee.

Hayley is passionate about supporting younger women to achieve their ambitious goals and become the next generation of ethical and impactful leaders.

Emily Lachevre BSW

Senior Clinical & Client Service Manager, Full Stop Australia

Emily Lachevre has over twenty years' experience as a clinical social worker. There has been a strong emphasis on justice throughout her career in the legal and social service sectors. Emily joined Full Stop Australia in 2016 as a Trauma Specialist Counsellor before progressing into a Counselling Services Manager role. She has extensive experience providing frontline clinical intervention to people who have experienced sexual, domestic and family violence. Emily is a qualified Clinical Supervisor and is committed to working towards ending gendered based violence.

Dr Neeraja Sanmuanathan

Senior Sexual Assault Counsellor, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

Dr Neeraja Sanmuanathan is a Senior Sexual Assault Counsellor at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital providing trauma and violence informed counselling support to those impacted by sexual violence. In this role, she also provides specialist support to University of Sydney students as part of the Safer Communities project in partnership with NSW Health. Neeraja completed her PhD thesis at the University of Sydney exploring Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and intergenerational trauma. She is also a sessional lecturer within the Master of Counselling program at the University of Notre Dame.

Neeraja is passionate about human rights including the right to live free from violence. Neeraja has advocated for better understanding of the complexities surrounding sexual assault disclosures including authoring an [article on The Conversation](#) which was republished on ABC. She is currently collaborating on a research project between Sydney Local Health District and UTS Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion exploring barriers to disclosures.

In her previous role, Neeraja worked at STARTTS (NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors) providing psychological support to asylum seekers. This role allowed her to better understand the intersection of gender inequality, structural inequality, and migration in women's experiences of violence. Identifying as an Australian Tamil, Neeraja believes there is a need to create culturally safe and community centred projects to address gender-based violence in our communities.

Brenda Lin

PhD Candidate, Sydney Law School; Director & Co-Founder, The Survivor Hub

Brenda is a PhD Candidate and engages in teaching and research work in the field of criminology at Sydney Law School. Her doctoral research investigates rehabilitation philosophy in youth justice detention centres. In addition to her research work, Brenda also co-founded a survivor-led initiative that supports victim-survivors of sexual assault and their allies. The Survivor Hub was created to provide safe spaces for survivors to find connection, support one another and share knowledge based on lived experiences.

Session 3 (Stream A)

Miranda Kaye

How the Hague Abduction convention is being used as a tool of coercive control. What, if anything, can be done to change this?

The 1980 Hague Abduction Convention was adopted to prevent and deter international child abduction. It provides an expeditious method to return a child abducted by a parent from one member country to another. However, it is now recognised that the Convention is invoked in types of cases not envisioned by the Convention's drafters - where the taking parent is the mother fleeing domestic violence.

From the late 1990s feminist legal scholars have been exposing how the circumstances surrounding child abduction are invariably gendered and concluding that domestic violence is not dealt with adequately in return proceedings. Despite calls for change, Australia's approach under the Convention continues to inadequately protect mothers who flee domestic violence.

Due to the inequality of arms in terms of legal representation between taking mothers and left-behind mothers, fathers have an enormous jurisdictional advantage. This advantage can be seen as enabling 'legal systems abuse' and another tactic, along with the Hague application, to perpetuate the dynamics of control in the relationship.

This paper provides an update on the current Australian position for mothers in Australia and discusses the author's recent involvement in an international project to attempt to end the injustices created by the Convention.

Bio: Miranda Kaye is a Senior Lecturer at UTS whose area of expertise lies in family law. Her research is interdisciplinary, drawing on socio-legal research methods to investigate real world impacts of family law principles and procedures. With UTS colleagues Jane Wangmann and Tracey Booth, Miranda recently completed a study of the effects of self-representation in the Family Law Court in matters involving allegations of family violence which was funded by the Australian National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS).

Rebecca Campbell & Amelia Klein

Addressing Financial Abuse through Legal Collaboration

Research has shown that up to 90% of women who seek help from domestic violence support services have experienced financial abuse, yet financial abuse remains an insidious form of coercive control which is not well understood by the public and can continue to affect victim survivors for years after the end of a relationship. Victim survivors of financial abuse have a range of legal remedies available to them, but often experience significant barriers in obtaining legal advice, support and representation.

This presentation will discuss the defining characteristics of financial abuse, the varied ways it can present and the impact it has on the community. Specialist lawyers from the groundbreaking Financial Abuse Service at Redfern Legal Centre will outline the challenges faced by victim survivors, the impacts financial abuse can have on their future financial independence, and the systemic issues which need to be addressed to protect victim survivors from continuing harm. Case studies will be used to demonstrate the remedies available to victim survivors through the dual approach of family law and civil law, allowing victim survivors to obtain outcomes from perpetrators as well as from financial institutions whose products have been used as tools of financial abuse.

Bio: Rebecca Campbell and Amelia Klein are solicitors at the Financial Abuse Service, a NSW-wide service for those with money problems arising out of an intimate partner relationship. They provide advice and casework services to victim survivors of financial abuse and other types of family violence. They provide advice on a wide range of issues, and assist clients in obtaining debt waivers, hardship arrangements, and other practical solutions to difficult financial circumstances. Many of the cases Rebecca and Amelia manages involve aspects of family law and they work closely with family lawyers to obtain the best outcomes for their clients.

Marisa Moliterno

CRC's Miranda Project: Resistance to Violence and Ways of Healing

This panel (made up of women with both professional expertise and lived experience) will explore the intersection of victim survivors' experience of the justice system and experiences of victimisation and violence, with a particular focus on resistance and responses to the violence.

The discussion will explore CRC's Miranda Project, which works with female and non-binary victim-survivors who are at risk of imprisonment. Operating since 2017, outcomes for the clients of the project have been remarkable both in terms of reduced justice system involvement and building pathways away from violence. Many of Miranda's clients have incarceration trajectories that are directly related to their experience of violence - including, for instance, using self-protection strategies. The panel will ask questions about resistance to violence, and what this can and does look like. How do we respond to women who have experienced violence, including women who are labelled as perpetrators? How do we find ways of better understanding the impact of violence and victimisation on behaviour – including behaviour that is criminalised? In recognition of the ongoing over-representation of First Nations women in the criminal justice system, the panel will also consider models of healing. What can we learn from Aboriginal healing strategies? How do these differ from other models of support? And what options are genuinely available for women who are so often excluded from services because of both their history of incarceration and the complexity of their presentation?

Bio: Marisa is a counsellor and psychotherapist with 20 years' experience in the community sector working with victims of violence. As manager of CRC's Miranda Project, Marisa's focus is on supporting women impacted by the criminal justice system who are also victims of violence, and the increasing over-representation of First Nations women in the criminal justice system. Marisa is passionate about working to ensure victims' voices are heard and their resistance recognised, advocating for each individual's right to safety, dignity and equality as well as the cultural, societal and systemic change needed to reduce injustice and violence for future generations.

Additional panel members: Gail Gray and Ashlea Borg

Session 3 (Stream B)

Dr Celine van Golde

Too Much Information? Understanding the Influence of Background Information on Jurors' Assessments of DVEC statements

Police officers responding to incidents that result in criminal or other forms of legal proceedings are increasingly likely to be equipped with body-worn video cameras (BWV). While much of the concern expressed over BWV relates to privacy, surprisingly little attention has been paid to the evidential use of BWV recordings. BWV recordings may capture background information (e.g., the general cleanliness and order of a witness's home, posters, work uniforms etc) that fact-finders may use to draw inferences about the witness's character, lifestyle, or religious and political affiliations. One prime example where background information can play a role is the Domestic Violence Evidence in Chief (DVEC). DVEC is a Body Worn Video recording of the victims' statement taken shortly after the incident takes place, which in turn is played in court as evidence in chief for the prosecution. In this study we assessed the influence of indicators of either high or low socio-economic status in a DVEC, on jurors' decision making. We further assessed if blurring the background of the DVEC recording could prevent any biases from occurring in the decision making process. Results will be discussed in light of best practice recommendations.

Bio: Dr. Celine van Golde is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Psychology at the University of Sydney. Her research focuses on the reliability of memory in children and adults, both for one-off and repeated events. Specifically, how interviewing techniques in forensic settings, such as those used by police, lawyers and judges can affect memory accuracy. She gives annual guest lectures within the NSW Police Force Detective Training Program and their CAS training, as well as advising judges and lawyers on issues related to eyewitness memory. She is further the founder and director of Not Guilty; the Sydney exoneration project.

Co-authors: Anastasia Latin, Andrew Roberts, and Kim Wade

Lilly Darke

Gaslighting and memory: covert methods of control

Gaslighting is a form of coercive control that has become increasingly prevalent in public discourse. It can be defined as a tactic of psychological manipulation in which an individual attempts to control their intimate partner by convincing them that their thoughts, beliefs, and memories are groundless, or 'crazy'. Despite the term's growing popularity, there has been limited research into the components, and impact of gaslighting. There also remains contention around the definition, and when it is applicable. This has important implications for how practitioners identify and address potential cases of gaslighting. This talk will introduce research that has been undertaken to investigate the experiences of gaslighting amongst domestic violence support groups. The findings of this research will help establish a grounded understanding of the dynamics of gaslighting, and its impact.

Bio: Lilly Darke is currently undertaking a PhD in forensic psychology at the University of Sydney. Her research is focused on memory processes, and how these can be applied to better understand gaslighting and coercive control.

Julia Boyle

Event Frequency, IPV Interpretation and Eyewitness Memory for Ambiguous Relationship Interactions

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is often perpetrated as part of a repeated pattern of events. Research shows that witnesses are often unable to distinguish between the specific details of individual instances of similar events. Moreover, nonphysical forms of IPV are not always recognised as violence by the victim, eyewitnesses, or even within the legal system. This study aimed to determine the influence of event frequency on memory for, and interpretations of, ambiguous nonphysical relationship interactions. Participants viewed either one or four videos of ambiguous relationship interactions after which their memory, violence interpretation, and victim credibility were measured. Results indicate that event frequency influences eyewitness interpretations of ambiguous nonphysical IPV, and victim credibility ratings. Participants who observed repeated events were more likely to interpret it as violence, and to rate the victim as more credible than those who observed a single event. These results suggest that nonphysical IPV behaviours, which are often ambiguous in the early stages of perpetration, are unlikely to be identified as violence unless they occur as part of a repeated pattern, highlighting the importance of coercive control education and criminalisation.

Bio: Julia is a PhD candidate at the Matilda Centre for Research in Mental Health and Substance Use at the University of Sydney. She has a Bachelor of Psychology (Hons) from the University of Sydney, and has worked as a research assistant for the Matilda Centre since 2018. Her honour's thesis is titled "Schemas, Event Frequency, IPV Interpretation and Eyewitness Memory for Ambiguous Relationship Interactions". Julia's research interests include intimate partner violence, eyewitness memory, and repeated events, as well as mental health prevention and service accessibility.

Co-authors: Dr Celine Van Golde and Dr Natali Dilevski

Iana Wong

The pathway from insecure attachment to intimate partner violence (IPV): A meta-analysis and systematic review of mediators

A robust finding is that insecure attachment is linked with greater perpetration and victimization of intimate partner violence (IPV). However, little is known about the psychological mechanisms underlying the relationship. Many studies have examined the mediators between insecure attachment and IPV, but no known studies have integrated them. The present study aimed to systematically review and quantify the magnitude of the relevant mediators following the PRISMA 2020 guidelines. After using a peer-reviewed search strategy and a screening of 2512 records, 52 eligible studies were identified. Results of multi-level meta-analyses and two-stage structural equation modelling (TSSEM) showed that dominance and masculinity had a moderate indirect effect ($IE = .05$) between anxious attachment and IPV perpetration. Emotion dysregulation ($IE = .05$), jealousy, anger, distrust, and perceived infidelity ($IE = .06-.08$), relationship dissatisfaction ($IE = .07$), and dysfunctional beliefs ($IE = .02$) had small mediating effects. For avoidant attachment, relationship dissatisfaction ($IE = .14$) had a moderate effect size. Personality traits were not a significant mediator. Similar to anxious attachment, emotion dysregulation ($IE = .04-.05$), jealousy ($IE = .04$), and dysfunctional beliefs ($IE = .03$) had small mediating effects. For victimization, deconstructive communication ($IE = .05-.07$) had a small mediating effect for both attachment dimensions. The findings suggest different pathways might be involved in leading different dimensions of insecure attachment to IPV perpetration and victimization. The results underscore the need for additional research to further explore the nuanced pathways, especially those in victimization, in order to improve the development of IPV interventions.

Bio: Iana is a PhD student at UNSW. Her research focuses on investigating the causes of intimate partner violence. She mainly does so from an attachment theory perspective.

Co-author: Tom Denson

Session 4

Dr Bridgit Mottram & Renata Field

Policing of Domestic and Family Violence in NSW: Insights from Specialist Domestic and Family Violence Specialists

In response to the 2021 audit of police responses to domestic and family violence undertaken by the Audit Office of New South Wales, DVNSW prepared a report, providing insights from specialist domestic and family violence (DFV) services on the policing of domestic and family violence in NSW.

The Audit Office aimed to assess the effectiveness of the NSW Police Force in responding to domestic and family violence and supporting victim-survivors, with a key focus on training and development, workforce and other capability planning, resource allocation, performance monitoring and service quality.

As part of the audit process, the Audit Office sought input from the membership of DVNSW. This report synthesises the full DVNSW submission to the audit, highlights current research, and places at the centre the insights of specialist domestic and family violence services in regards to their experiences—and the experiences of their clients—to the policing of domestic and family violence in NSW.

Renata and Bridget will share these insights, how the report has become a key tool for advocacy in the space, and the progress to date.

Bio: Bridget Mottram is the Senior Policy Officer- WDVCS Program for Domestic Violence NSW. She is responsible for delivering policy analysis, research and strategic advice on issues specific to the role of the WDVCS's in the NSW domestic and family violence service system. Bridget holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in Social Science, specialising in Domestic Violence. Her thesis examined women's perpetration of intimate partner violence from a feminist perspective.

Renata is the Acting CEO of Domestic Violence NSW. She holds a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Sydney and brings more than 15 years' experience in the not-for-profit community sector to the role. Renata began working with women who had experienced trauma at Guthrie House in 2013 and has worked in a range of roles including at Women's Safety NSW, Delvena Women's Refuge and the Education Centre against Violence.

Co-authors: Shelley Booth

Sal Dennis

Seeing possibilities – beyond the reproduction of service-centric design and review

Victim-survivors of domestic, family and sexualised violence are everywhere across the ecosystem. Many are silent, and some turn to friends and family, to colleagues, businesses, services and some have no other option than to have statutory services involved in their lives. When a person reaches out, it may be the first, only or last time they seek support. Everyone's response to violence matters.

Universal services/organisations and communities reach more people, and earlier, than specialist and statutory services do. And yet, specialist and statutory services are privy to important insight about the lived experiences of people experiencing and using violence and how earlier responses could be different. How can this insight can be shared to inform earlier responders?

Insight Exchange is a not-for-profit initiative that centres on the expertise of people with lived experience of domestic and family violence and gives voice to these experiences. It is designed to inform and strengthen social, service and systemic responses to domestic and family violence. Insight Exchange seeks to support social responders across the response continuum from universal services, organisations and communities, right through to specialised and statutory services.

Bio: Sal has been advancing the depth and breadth of DVSM's work including the design and establishment of Insight Exchange to inform social, service and systemic responses to domestic and family violence. Insight Exchange has growing engagement within Australia and abroad supporting a range of sectors across the response continuum including corporates, community, health, government, specialist and statutory services. Sal is a member of the NSW Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Council, and is known for her strategic and purposeful approach to working with others, creating common ground amongst stakeholders with differing goals and motivations.

Co-author: Dr Leticia Funston

Dr Faye Nitschke

Using trauma education to support accurate decision-making in criminal trials for sexual violence

Intimate partner violence involves incidents of sexual violence, however, sexual violence within relationships and the effects of trauma on complainants is not well understood by the community. These mistaken beliefs can cause prospective jurors to unfairly doubt complainants of sexual violence. We report on three studies examining the effects of educational jury directions to encourage jurors to make more accurate decisions about traumatised victims in sexual violence trials. In study 1 (N = 165), participants read either trauma education or control jury instruction and completed measures of trauma knowledge. In study 2 (N = 1085), participants read either a trauma education or control instruction before a trial synopsis and completed a survey about their perceptions of the complainant, defendant and trial. In study 3 (N = 161), participants read one of two versions of trauma education or control instruction and completed measures of trauma knowledge. Results suggested that while trauma education instructions improved trauma knowledge, it also caused participants to be more skeptical of the complainant's evidence. These results have practical implications, which will be discussed, for ensuring that jury decisions are accurate in cases of sexual violence.

Bio: Faye Nitschke investigates effective ways to improve interpersonal and structural responses to anti-social behaviour, specifically gendered violence, using psychology. In her recent research, she focused on investigating criminal justice system responses to victims of sexual violence and community responses to perpetrators of sexual harassment. Her current research work draws on person and group perception and social-cognition approaches to judgement and decision-making.

Co-authors: Blake McKimmie, Eric Vanman, and Lachlan Romanis

Joanne Yates

What's next for the domestic violence reform agenda?

No to Violence has been working with men for nearly 30 years, to influence their decisions about using family violence and in that time, we have witnessed a significant change in attitude to perpetrator interventions. In NSW, a Premier's Priority ambitiously sought to reduce domestic violence reoffending by 25 percent by 2023. However, in 2022, there remains significant challenges for reform and lasting social change across the domestic violence policy and legal landscape. More recently, all states and the Council of Attorneys General have focused on addressing coercive control. This acknowledges the full extent of the experience of domestic abuse but many remain sceptical about the implementation of such complex policy, fearing that victim-survivors may not be the beneficiaries envisaged by this particular reform agenda because the cultural change necessary to support it does not yet exist. Is this true? What does our history of working with men who use violence teach us about how to best prepare for such a significant change affecting specialist services, policing, courts administration and the community, if we continue to neglect the driver of gendered violence – gender inequality – and continue to invest only in criminal law and justice responses?

Bio: Joanne has extensive experience in public policy development and stakeholder engagement across a range of portfolios including women's leadership, law enforcement and social justice within government, industry, and not-for-profit settings. She has recently been a policy director at the Defence and Veteran Suicide Royal Commission and an advisor to government on family, domestic and sexual violence, managing policy and legislative reform to address perpetration and to improve responses for victim-survivors.



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