

ADOLESCENT TO PARENT VIOLENCE

Rebekha Melville and Alek Jacoby

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YOUTH
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NEW FUTURES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Brisbane
Domestic
— Violence
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Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land upon which we meet today and pay our respects to elders past and present. We acknowledge that sovereignty of their land has never been ceded.



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Who Are We

Alek Jacoby – Male Youth Domestic Violence Specialist Worker from Brisbane Domestic Violence Service and current SPEAQ member

Coordinator of the ReNew Program in Brisbane providing intervention for families experiencing Adolescent to Parent Violence

Rebekha Melville – Safe Relationships Program Coordinator with Brisbane Youth Service and current SPEAQ member

Running K.I.N.D. Program and Healthy Relationships groups for young people using and experiencing DFV

Terminology and Language

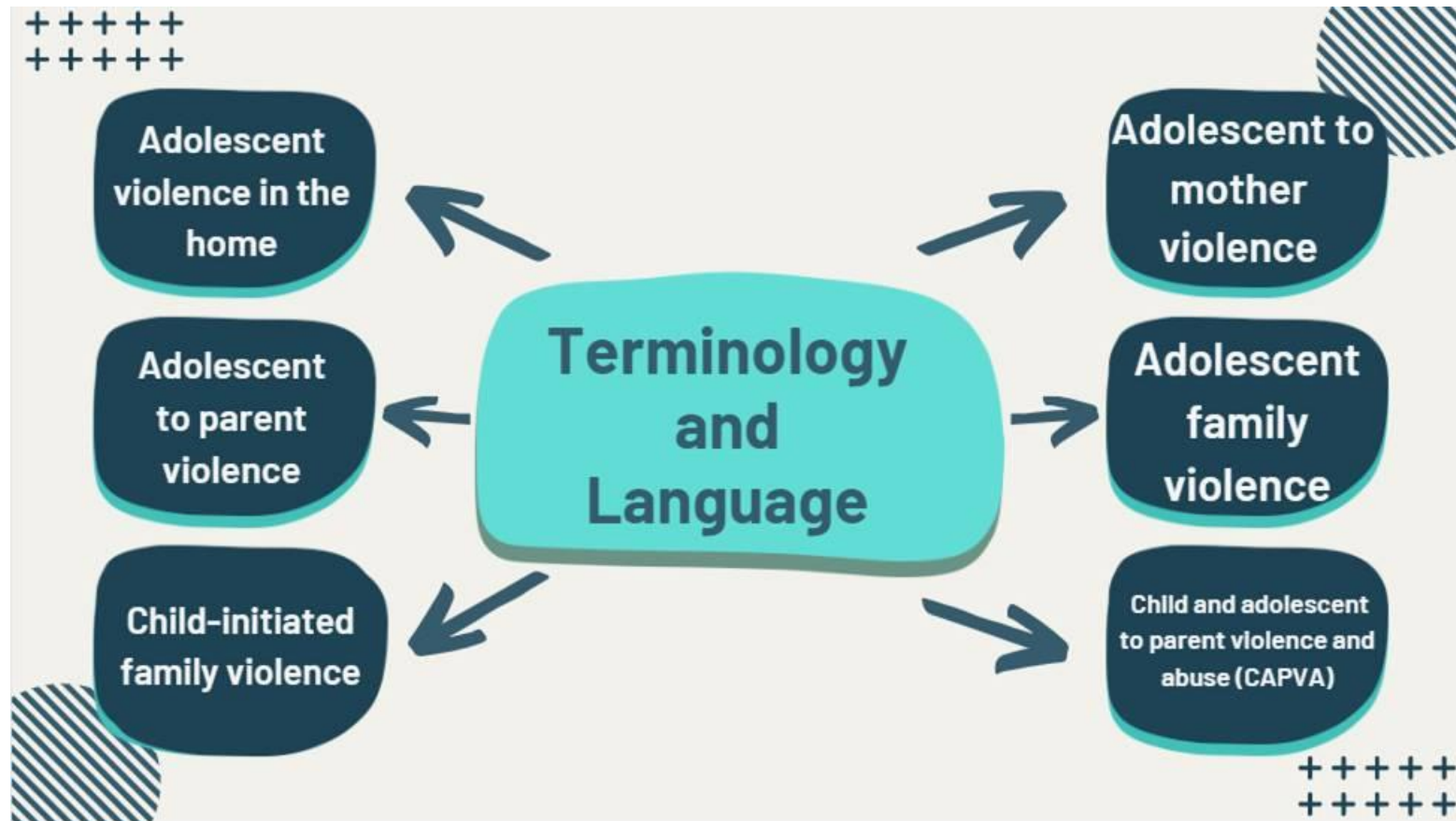
Female Protective Caregiver
Adult Male Using Violence
Young Person Using Violence

DFV	Domestic and Family Violence
APV	Adolescent to Parent Violence
AFV	Adolescent Family Violence
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence

Agenda

- Terminology and language
- What does the research say
- Practice implications of differing definitions of APV in research and service delivery
- Intergenerational cycle of violence and trauma
- Current practice landscape and barriers for families
- BDVS Renew program
- BYS Kind Program
- Practical interventions

Different terms for these behaviours:



The Impacts of Language and Shared Understandings

Lack of consistency of language promotes **gaps between services** in identifying, responding and addressing violence

Parents' experiences of **system responses can vary greatly** depending upon workers understanding of complex dynamics of APV

Negative experiences **can promote a reluctance to seek help** from support services

Adolescent-to-parent Violence - ReNew

Adolescent-to-parent violence is defined as **continual and cumulative** abusive actions **intentionally perpetrated** by children towards parents, **to gain power and control** and/or to intentionally cause physical, psychological or financial pain (O'Leary, Venables, Young & Boddy, 2019).

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Adolescent Family Violence – K.I.N.D

K.I.N.D addresses both intimate partner violence and adolescent family violence.

AFV a broader definition

20% of young people identified using violence at home

36% of QLD DV offending under 30

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Kinship

Improving relationships

No violence

Developing skills

State Differences in APV Responses

South Australia vs Queensland

Mandatory reporting across the board in SA

AVO against young person in SA

SA Multi-Agency Assessment Panel

Limited mandatory reporting in QLD – not all supporting services

QLD has no APV DVO/AVO

High Risk Team for cases with extreme risk in QLD

Reviewing the Literature

(Peck, Hutchinson & Provost, 2021)

Review of APV
research from
1997 onwards

Mothers
overwhelmingly
APV victims

Boys more likely
than girls to be
violent towards
their mother

Setting the Scene

Abuse or exposure to **DFV**, increase the likelihood a young person will use violence

Overwhelmingly **mothers were the target** of adolescent to parent violence at a rate of **4-6 times** than fathers

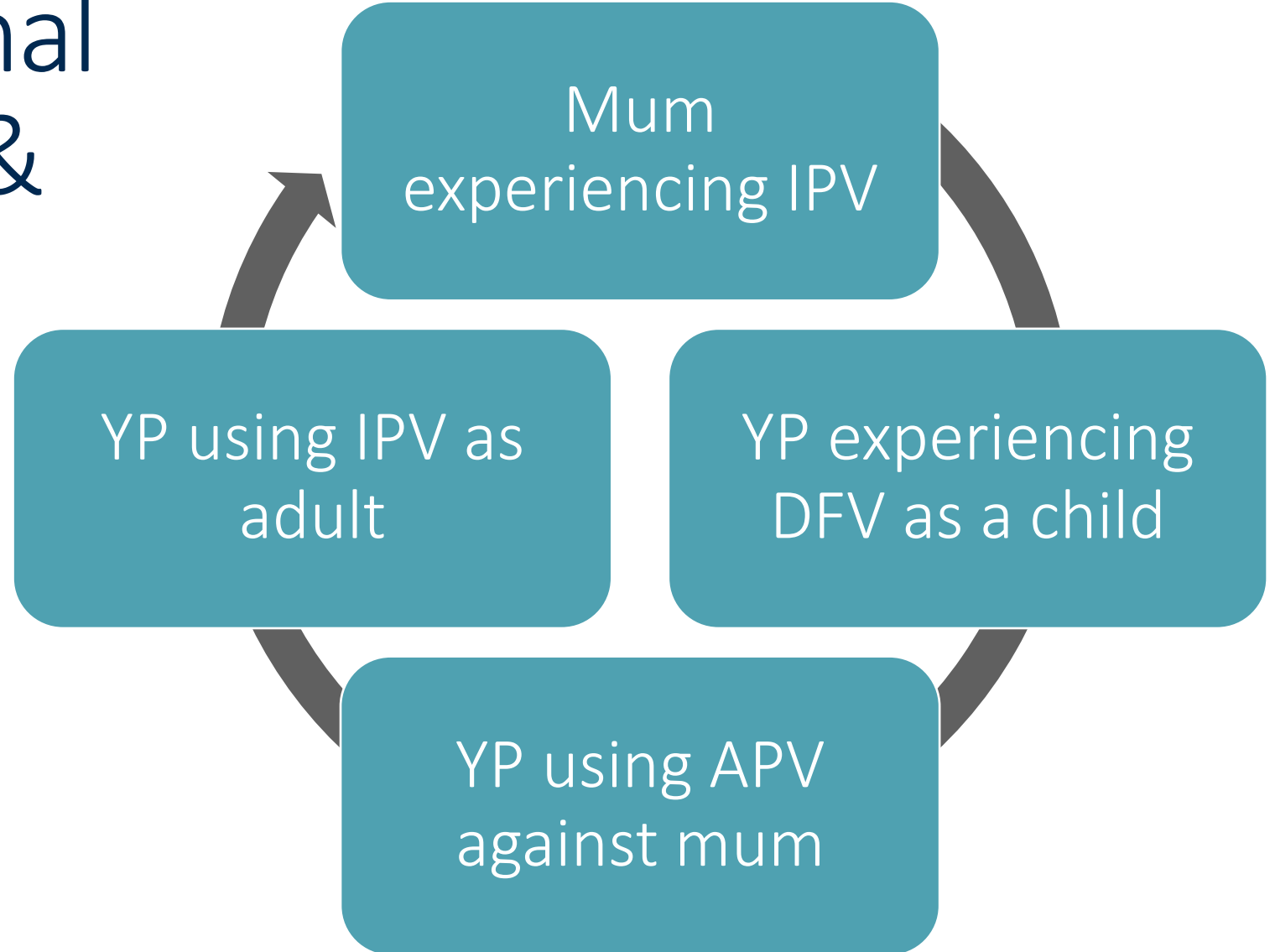
Causes and Contributing Factors

No single predictor – a
'perfect storm'

Young people using violence
– high complexity and
comorbidity

Risk increased by a range of
factors, including family
violence history

Intergenerational Trauma: DFV & APV



Links between APV and Adult Intimate Partner Violence

Another study by Boxall, Pooley & Lawler (2021) of **15,421 juvenile offenders** found:

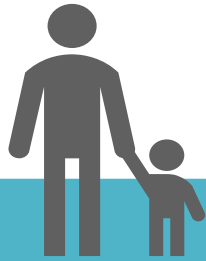
- Youth DFV offenders 5x more likely to re-offend as adults
- This group also more likely to offend more frequently

Addressing APV is the missing link in
disrupting the intergenerational cycle
of DFV

Early intervention to address emerging
violent behaviours is key to addressing
all DFV

Early
Intervention a
Missing Link

Importance of trauma informed practice within APV



When working with young people and female protective caregivers it is imperative to respond to the young person and the parent with a trauma informed lens.



The trauma experienced as a result of DFV can significantly impact the parent's and child's attachment

Trauma informed Practice and APV



Resources obtain from Blue Knot Foundation – blueknot.org.au

Societal
expectation to
care for a YP
using APV
against them

The diagram consists of a light blue rounded rectangle containing two text blocks. A teal arrow points from the left block to the right block, and another teal arrow points from the right block back to the left block, forming a cycle. A thin vertical line separates the two text blocks.

Society shaming
and blaming
parenting ability
of mothers
experiencing
APV

Conflicting
expectations of
mothers
experiencing
APV

Barriers to Seeking Assistance for Mothers

- Denial and disbelief of the seriousness
- Fear of consequences for the child
- Young person triggering trauma responses from past relationships

Barriers to Seeking Assistance for Young People



Discomfort of addressing violence

Lack of knowledge and distrust of available services

Peer influence and stigma

What Happens When Mothers Aren't Supported with APV?

Feelings of isolation

Lack of formal supports

Distrust of services

High levels of risk due to minimisation by parents

Risk of being traumatised by young person's ongoing violence

What Happens When Young People Aren't Supported with Their Use of Violence?

Continued patterns of violence

Feelings of shame associated with use violence

Housing instability due to high levels of violence

Distrust of services – service saturation

Possible increased contact with unsafe parent/adult perpetrator



How Do We Identify and Address APV?

Need to look beyond the behaviour and look holistically at the different factors impacting the behaviour:

Trauma; mental health; disability; ongoing contact with adult perpetrator; education; life stages – puberty and adolescence; attachment; power and control...

Current Service Landscape in Brisbane

Brisbane Youth Service – Safe Relationships Program

CYMHS and YJ also piloting K.I.N.D in Brisbane

Brisbane Domestic Violence Service ReNew Program in partnership with Carinity Talera

Service gaps



Adolescent to Parent Violence

BDVS ReNew Program

Pilot Program funded by
Queensland Government

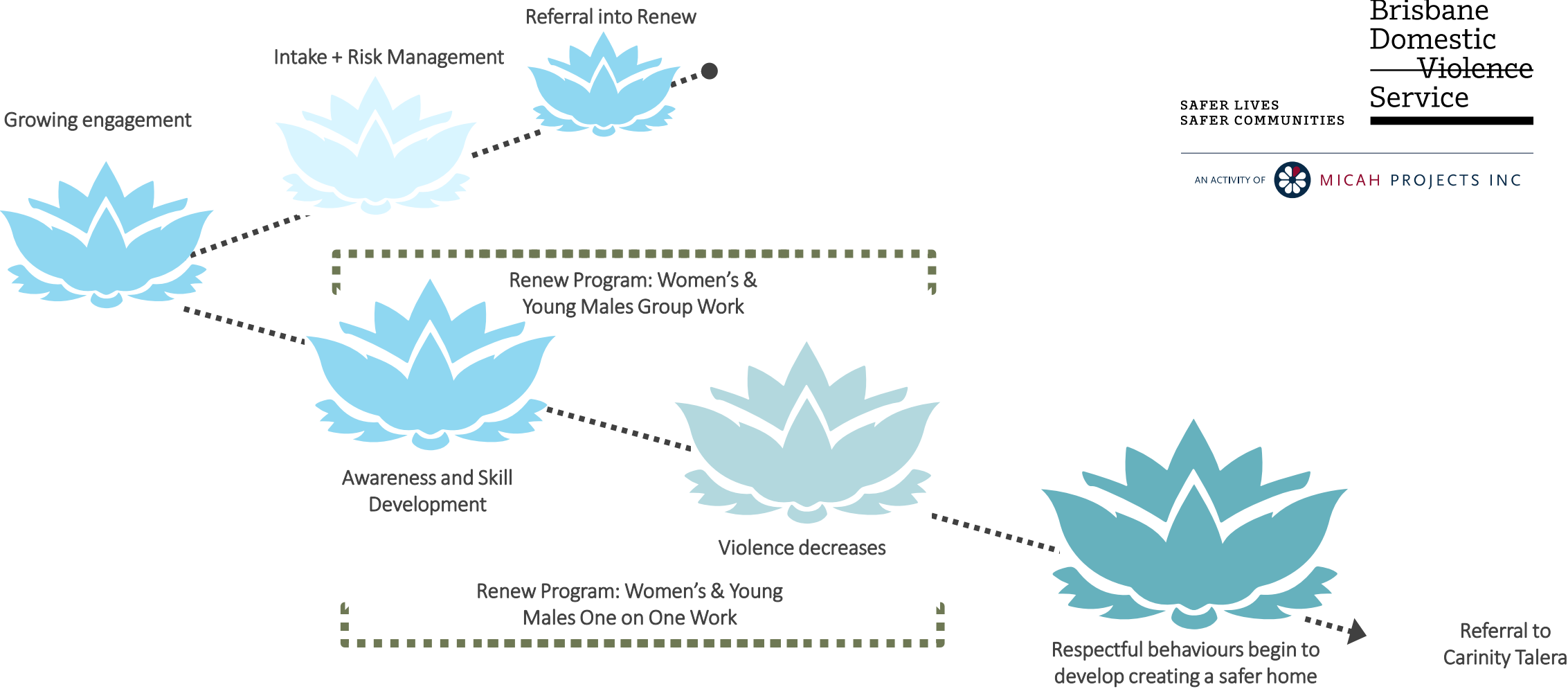
Adapted from Break4change
model from UK

Evaluated by Griffith University
Partnership with Carinity Talera

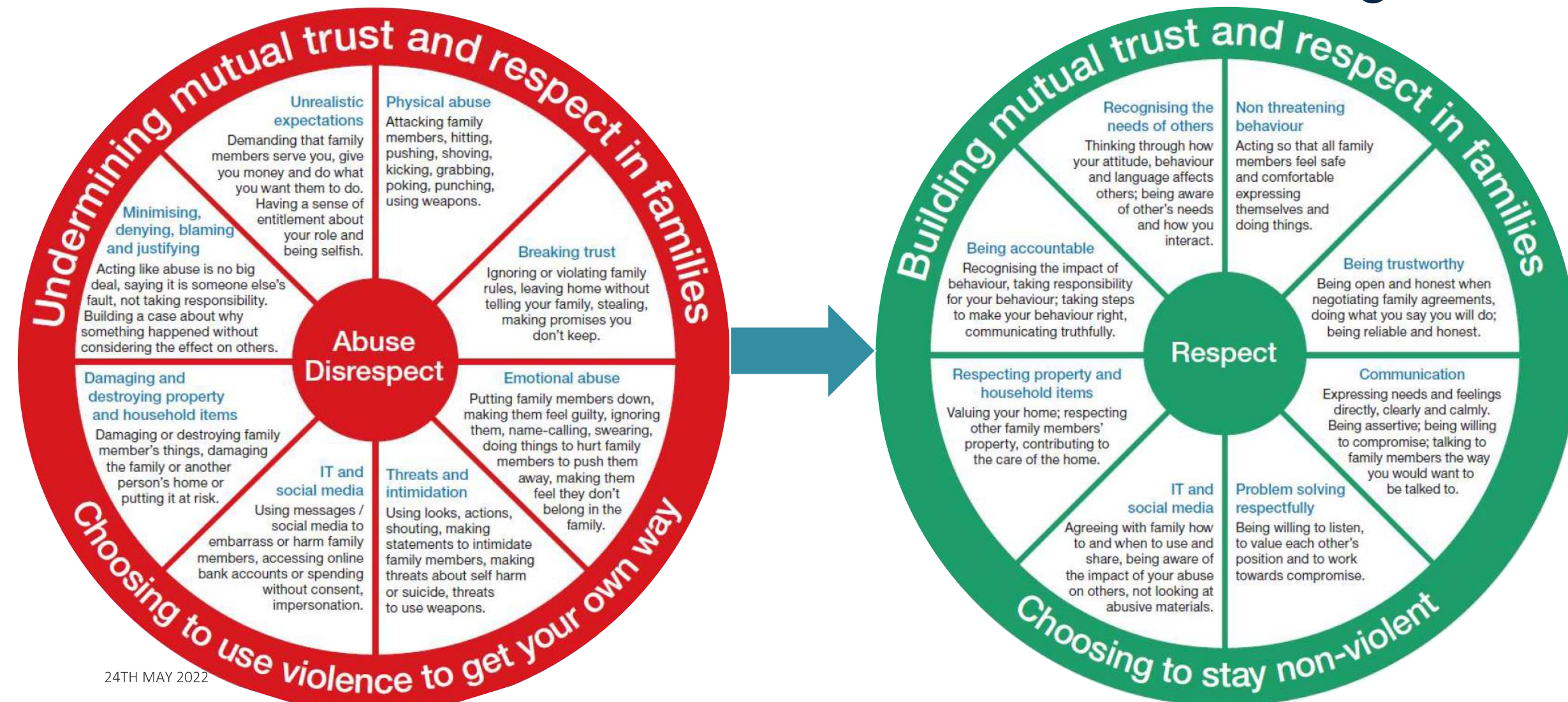
Eligibility for ReNew Program

- ✓ There is a young male aged 12-17 in the home using violence towards a female protective care-giver
- ✓ There is an experience of domestic and family violence in the family
- ✓ The family resides within the Brisbane Metropolitan Area.

BDVS ReNew - Program Lifecycle



Two Core Elements



72% of young people who access
BYS services have experienced
family violence

BYS observation that young people
weren't accessing mainstream
services

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Pilot from YJ South Australia
Risk-Need-Responsivity-based tertiary
intervention
Works systemically
Module-based, one-on-one with
possible joint sessions
Woorabinda and cultural reference
group

KIND

Kinship

Improving relationships

No violence

Developing skills

Outcomes

Kind Program

Kinship

Improving relationships

No violence

Developing Skills

Improved family relationships
Improved communication and
problem solving
Better reflective capacity
Better understanding of risk
factors and triggers
Increased help-seeking
Reduction in risk of victimisation
and/or perpetration
Increased emotion regulation

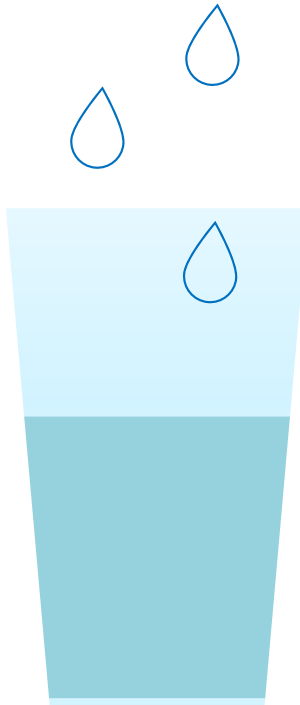
TOTALLY, SOMETIMES, NOT OKAY

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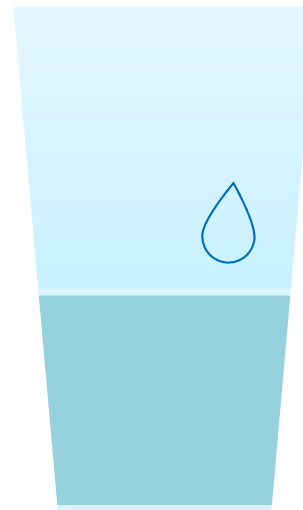
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Group Activity – Young person gaining awareness of impact of their behaviour

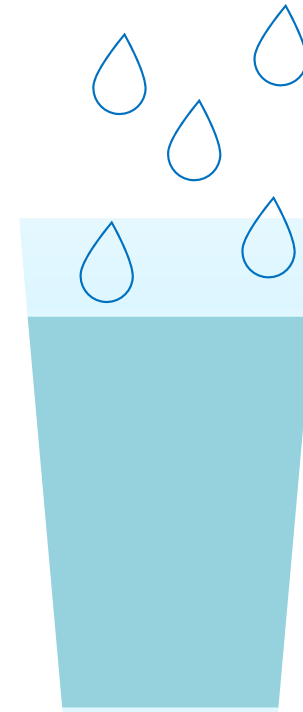
Behaviour: Young Person damaging property in front of family members



Impacts on Young Person



Impacts on Sibling



Impacts on Mum



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ANGER THERMOMETER

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Group Activity — Juggling Communication

Engagement and Rapport Building with Young People using Violence within a group context

1

Balancing Trauma, Accountability and Assessing Risk and Safety in the Home

2

Challenging behaviours and gendered norms through a feminist lens

3

Incorporating and Promoting the Voice of Mum

4

Valuing Positive Change and believing that Young Person is able to change

Summary

- Impacts of discrepancies in language and approaches to research and service delivery
- Connection between intergenerational cycles of violence and trauma, highlighting the importance of early intervention programs
- Trauma informed practice being at the forefront of APV interventions
- Barriers for families seeking support within the Brisbane region
- Discussed the current service landscape and gaps that exist
- Practical tools that are used to assist young people using violence to promote respectful behaviours within the home



Questions

Useful Links

Resources & References

- Allison Peck, Marie Hutchinson & Steve Provost (2021): Young Person-to-Mother Violence: An Integrative Review of Evidence from Australia and New Zealand, Australian Social Work, DOI: 10.1080/0312407X.2021.1887307
- O’Leary, P., Venables, J., Young, A., & Boddy, J. (2019). Evaluation of Renew. Griffith University.
- <https://www.anrows.org.au/project/the-pipa-project-positive-interventions-for-perpetrators-of-adolescent-violence-in-the-home-avith/>
- Boxall, H., Pooley, K., and Lawler, S. 2021. ‘Do violent teens become violent adults? Links between juvenile and adult domestic and family violence’. Australian Institute of Criminology, No. 641, December. <https://www.aic.gov.au/publications/tandi/tandi641?s=03>
- Simmons, M., McEwan, T., Purcell, R., & Ogloff, J. (2018). Sixty years of child-to-parent abuse research: What we know and where to go. Aggression and Violent Behavior, 38, 31–52. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.avb.2017.11.001>