

Women's Perspectives in the context of MBCPs

- MBCPs are unusual in their inclusion of victim-survivors' perspectives in both the program response and evaluating the impact of the program on individual participants
- Viewed mostly as a form of perpetrator accountability
- Historically the focus with women's partner contact has been on checking on safety and referral for support
- Partner contact difficult to contact and retain contact with women partners/ex-partners
 - Reliance on practitioners' assessment, administrative data and self report by default

Limitations for understanding MBCP outcomes from women's perspectives

- Small number of women can be contacted in some programs
- Partner contact in some cases was linked/limited to perpetrator's MBCP participation
- Often a strong focus on level and severity of abusive behaviours – didn't capture context

Limitations for understanding MBCP outcomes from women's perspectives

- Very little data about longer term impacts and outcomes – practically it is costly
- Methodologically difficult as women's circumstances and support also influence women's sense of 'safety' which can differ from sense of 'fear'
- Methodologically – consider differences between women separated and women in the relationship

Women's perspectives indicate so far

- Where there is no MBCP contact to offer alternative perspective it can be used to further abuse the woman
 - Minimising tactic
 - Victim blaming tactic
- Where there is partner contact, reports from women indicate they feel safer being connected to service support and while he is a MBCP participant
- Physical violence reductions but coercive control less known
- Worry about the sustainability of any changes
- Hopefulness for change
- Effects of violence and abuse on children not acknowledged by perpetrator

Moving forward around women's perspectives

- Project Mirabal Item Development
 - Developed from perspectives of women whose partners attended a MBCP
 - Coercive control – Freedom for action
 - Ongoing ways of interacting and being part of family life
- Impact on parenting capacity an area for outcome development
- Greater attention to diverse contexts and experiences – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and CaLD women
- Safety and Accountability Planning so attendance at MBCP is not the end