Evaluation readiness, program quality and outcomes in men's behaviour change programs

Recommendations

ANROWS

AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION FOR WOMEN'S SAFETY

to Reduce Violence against Women & their Children

Recommendations

- 1. Program providers should be supported to give more attention to their program's theory of change, including the development of program logic models.
- 2. Program logic models should consider systems-level, individual-level and (if appropriate) community-level impacts and outcomes.
- 3. Program providers should be supported to implement processes that monitor and improve program integrity and fidelity but not in a way that leads to rigid, over-manualised approaches.
- 4. The development of minimum standards, at the current time, should be based on (sufficiently detailed, articulated and nuanced) practice principles rather than practice prescriptions.
- 5. Minimum standards should focus as much on an organisation's capacity to safely and sustainably provide a range of specialist perpetrator interventions as on the specifics of any particular program run.
- 6. Accreditation systems based on monitoring program provider compliance with minimum standards need to be multi-component rather than singular 'tick and flick' registration processes, and include observations of live practice.

- 7. Accreditation systems should be constructed and enacted in ways that support program providers to reflect upon and improve the quality of their practice in line with agency-level vision and ethos not only as a means to monitor adherence to standards.
- 8. Safety and accountability planning should be prioritised in sector and practice development efforts as a potentially high impact way to improve the quality and effectiveness of MBCP provision.
- 9. If calls are to continue for community-based MBCP providers to adopt RNR and other principles to tailor their programs to individual perpetrator and family circumstances, they need to be funded and equipped to do so.
- 10. A national, MBCP outcomes framework should be developed to engender some consistency in evaluation frameworks and evaluation activity, and to help build the evidence base.
- 11. Program providers should be supported to extend their program logic models into evaluation and performance monitoring plans, even if not all aspects of the plan can immediately be implemented.
- 12. Australian jurisdictions should consider shared work to develop the equivalent of the European Project Impact outcome evaluation tools and researcher-practitioner partnerships.

- 13. A suite of outcome evaluation tools should include victimcentred measures that focus on exposure to coercive control.
- 14. Evaluation plans should include measures of impacts on adult and child victims that do not rely on changes in the perpetrator's behaviour.
- 15. Proximal measures of the impact of MBCPs offer considerable promise to guide clinical and program evaluation efforts, but work in this area needs to be embedded within a research and evaluation stream that is adequately resourced.
- 16. Research to identify quality practice in partner support and safety work is urgently needed.
- 17. Partner support and safety work needs to be properly funded and prioritised, rather than remaining secondary relative to resources allocated to engaging perpetrators.