

SPEAQ Professional Education and Forum 2015

7th Annual SPEAQ Networking & Professional Development Event

Monday 16th & Tuesday 17th November

The annual SPEAQ Forum & Professional Education days provide a unique opportunity to strengthen connections with other practitioners, share practice wisdom, and access specialist education on working for change and creating safety around men who have used abuse and violence in their relationships.

Day 1- Monday 16th November

① Working with men who perpetrate domestic and family violence: Lessons from neuroscience on effective interventions

Dr Pieter Rossouw with Dr Deborah Walsh

The factors leading to perpetration of domestic violence exist at many levels. Individual factors include trauma, addiction, poor attachment, poor emotional regulation and violence-supporting attitudes. What is happening in the brain of a man who experiences these issues? If we are involved in processes to bring about accountability and change, what does an understanding of the brain tell us about how that change happens, its possibilities and limitations?

This workshop embraces the challenge of integrating these new ideas with the more conventional wisdom of current practice.

Pieter will present key learnings from neuroscience that have relevance to our work. In the second part of this workshop Deb Walsh and colleagues will pose questions to Pieter and initiate a dialogue around how these ideas might be integrated into current practice.

② Domestic Violence and Young People

Dr Bruce Watt

Addressing the impact of abuse on children is a key part of work with those perpetrating domestic violence. It is not uncommon for our clients to talk about their sons, particularly teenagers or young men, "going down the same path" with respect to aggression, abuse and violence either towards their mother, siblings or girlfriends.

This workshop explores the experience of young people, the links between the experience of domestic violence and the perpetration of it, and the needs of young people in dealing with the experience of domestic violence and living adult lives free of violence.

Presenter's details are on the following page.

Day 2 - Tuesday 17th November

Weaving the threads of our practice wisdom – values, knowledge, experience, skill, passion

1. Listening Circle – Advocates and the Voices of Women and Children

In this session, women's advocates bring their experiences and the stories of the women and children into the Forum to ground the work we are doing. An Outsider Witness process provides the opportunity to listen and respond to these stories and affirm the work of advocates and their place in behaviour change programs.

2. The Safety of Children – the Nexus between Child Protection and Behaviour Change Work with those Perpetrating Domestic Violence

Steve Lock will present an overview of the Safe and Together model along with case studies from Child Safety colleagues of their work with men who've perpetrated violence. This session provides space for exploring the question: *In working towards the safety of children, what can child protection workers and men's behaviour change practitioners learn from each other, and how can we work more effectively together?*

3. Developing the SPEAQ Network

The Forum provides a valuable opportunity to meet face to face and explore possibilities for collaboration to advance our practice and advocate for our needs as practitioners and service providers. This year we are pleased to welcome Rodney Vlasis from No To Violence in Victoria to provide an interstate and national perspective and help us consider future directions.

4. Good Practice Showcase

Presentations of new practice ideas and practical tools to stimulate the development of your work.

Practitioners from several services present aspects of their work in interactive mini-workshops on a range of topics including the language of accountability; addressing the impact of violence on children; the use of relaxation and mindfulness practices and more.

Venue: Riverside Receptions,
50 Oxlade Drive, New Farm, Brisbane. The venue is accessible by public transport (call Translink – 13 1230).

Times: 9 am to 5 pm
Arrival from 8:30 am

Delicious morning/afternoon tea and lunch provided.

Registration Fees:

SPEAQ members:

Day 1 - Professional Education
16/11 - **\$210** (n.b. half day registrations are available)

Day 2 - SPEAQ Forum
17/11 - **\$95**

Non-members:

Day 1 - Professional Education
16/11 - **\$240** (n.b. half day registrations are available)

Day 2 - SPEAQ Forum
17/11 - **\$110**

SPEAQ acknowledges the generosity of DVConnect which auspices the secretariat and is providing administrative support for the running of this event.

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Presenters

Dr Pieter Rossouw is the Director of Mediros and The Neuropsychotherapy Institute, providing training and conducting research in Neurobiology and Neuropsychotherapy. Currently he focuses on teaching and research in the fields of Neurobiology and Neuropsychotherapy as well as clinical training for clinicians, psychologists and general practitioners. He was a Professor in Clinical Psychology in South Africa (University of the Free State), has worked in a number of international universities, and until June 2015, was the Director of the Master of Counselling Program in the School of Psychology at the University of Queensland. Pieter has written a number of books and many scientific articles, and has recently created a support tool for children exposed to DV, based on Neuroscience principles, to be rolled out to clinical psychologists.

Pieter is known for his very engaging presentations, and his expertise is in great demand. Pieter's workshop has been generously supported by a donation from Centacare Gold Coast.

Dr Deborah Walsh is a domestic and family violence specialist practitioner and researcher. She worked for over 10 years as a facilitator of men's DV behaviour change programs, and contributed to the development of the Victorian Professional Practice Standards. She developed one of Australia's first risk assessment frameworks for use in family violence work and continues to provide training and consultancy to the health and welfare sector in Australia. Deb conducted a landmark Australian study on the level, extent and nature of violence against women during pregnancy. Her continued interest in domestic and family violence research has expanded to include issues associated with companion animal welfare and the impact on women's decision making. She currently lectures in Social Work at the University of Qld.

Dr Bruce Watt is a Forensic and Clinical Psychologist, employed as an Assistant Professor with Bond University. He is currently in the position of Program Director for the Master of Psychology Forensic program. Dr Watt lectures in psychological assessment and forensic psychopathology. Commencing his career researching interventions with incarcerated violent offenders, he has subsequently investigated family based interventions for antisocial youth, predictors of juvenile violent recidivism, community correlates of violence and psychopathy, evaluation of a return to work assist program, animal cruelty and firesetting among juvenile offenders, and juvenile fitness for trial. Currently he is investigating arson-related homicides, high risk psychotic phenomena, juvenile threats of harm to others. Beyond academia, Bruce's private practice specialises in forensic psychology assessment for Children's Court, Criminal Court and Family Law. He has worked and provided supervision in forensic mental health for 18 years.

Rodney Vlasis is the manager of No To Violence and the Men's Referral Service. He is a psychologist, men's behaviour change program facilitator and one of Australia's leading policy workers and spokespersons for work with men who perpetrate family and domestic violence. Rodney has worked in six programs over a period of ten years, has written widely on the issues, and has provided training to program practitioners and other family violence system workers across most Australian states and territories.

Steve Lock is Quality Practice Officer within the Practice Leadership Unit of Child Safety Programs in the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. He has been involved at the forefront of the rollout of David Mandel's Safe and Together model of child protection interventions across Qld, and regularly provides training and assists with the development of new initiatives across the state.

Who should attend?

This Forum is open to all practitioners, co-ordinators, team leaders and others with an interest or involvement in working with men who perpetrate abuse and violence in their relationships.

Who is SPEAQ?

Services and Practitioners for the Elimination of Abuse Queensland (SPEAQ), is a state-wide network of member organisations and individuals involved in and with an interest in working with men who have used domestic and family violence.

For over 20 years we have supported each other to strengthen our work in ending men's domestic and family violence and increasing the safety of women and children.

Registration

Register and pay online at eventbrite.com.au: search for SPEAQ, Brisbane. Registration options include either or both days, and half-day registrations for Day 1 workshops are available. Note: Current SPEAQ Members can access discounted fees – if you are unsure of your membership status, please contact the SPEAQ secretary prior to purchasing registrations. Closing date for registrations is 8 pm **Wednesday 11th November**.

For further info, please contact the SPEAQ secretary, Paul: E: speaq.secretariat@gmail.com M: 0434 198 281

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