



SERVICES AND PRACTITIONERS  
FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ABUSE  
QUEENSLAND

# SPEAQ FORUM 2025

## Holding Shame Without Shaming: Finding Affective Agency in a Men's Group

### WORKSHOP CONTENT

This workshop will introduce participants to concepts informed by affective politics; an integration of Invitational theory and practice with insights from recent neuro-affective research.

Participants will be invited to look beyond the psycho-educational curriculum to consider broader possibilities that arise from the question; *What can a men's group do?*

If we consider that abusive and controlling behaviour is politically directed but affectively driven, the limitations of confrontation, rational intervention and correction become immediately apparent. Rational logic shuts down in a context of social threat and dysregulated affect.

How might we enable the responsive ethical potential that dwells within a men's group?

Agency in a men's group emerges when we collectively attend and respond to affective forces that include panic, loss and shame; the forces that animate violence. We can establish a milieu that subverts hierarchical ordering practices by refusing judgement whilst privileging a sense of belonging and a mutual duty of care. A productive relationship with shame allows us to respond rather than react to the challenges that arise in group intervention.

Practices for collaborative engagement with panic-loss and shame will be highlighted and illustrated as a means of promoting a responsive group environment where strivings for ethical realisation, restitution and behaviour change can freely emerge.

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This interactive workshop will be highly valuable for counsellors and group facilitators providing individual or group DFSV behaviour change Interventions as well as for a broad range of professionals working with persons using Domestic, Family and Sexualised Violence.

**Note:** This is one of two workshops being offered as part of SPEAQ Forum 2025. [Register](#).

### EVENT INFORMATION

**Date:** Wednesday 22 October 2025

**Time:** 9am to 4:30 pm

**Venue:** Hotel Grand Chancellor Brisbane,  
23 Leichardt Street, Spring Hill QLD

Registration includes lunch, morning and afternoon teas.

### ALAN JENKINS

Alan has worked in a range of multi-undisciplinary teams addressing violence and abusive behaviour, for over 40 years. Rather than tire from this work, he has become increasingly intrigued with possibilities for the discovery of ethical, respectful and accountable ways of relating. The valuing of ethics, fairness and the importance of protest against injustice has led him to stray considerably from the path prescribed in his early training as a psychologist, towards a political analysis of abuse.



The Invitational Practice approach that Alan has developed throughout his time in the field has shaped the thinking and practice of a generation of behaviour change practitioners interested in working beyond the constraints of psychoeducational curricula. His two books: *Invitations to Responsibility: The Therapeutic Engagement of Men who are Violent and Abusive* (1990), and *Becoming Ethical: A Parallel, Political Journey with Men Who Have Abused* (2009) have been highly influential in the Australian DFSV intervention field and abroad.

### ABOUT SPEAQ

SPEAQ is Queensland's network of practitioners and services providing interventions with those who use Domestic and Family Violence. We've been around for over 30 years, supporting the work, primarily with men, and with partners or family members affected by their abuse. Our network connects and supports practitioners, co-ordinators and managers across Queensland. SPEAQ is the collective voice representing practitioners and services in this field in Queensland and is actively involved in sector development and consultation with government. Read more at [www.speaq.org.au/about](http://www.speaq.org.au/about)

### Registration Cost:

- SPEAQ members: \$230
- Non-members: \$260

Register at [speaq.org.au/forum2025](http://speaq.org.au/forum2025)

Registrations close Sunday 05/10/2025

*Note: The above link goes to registration for all events connected with SPEAQ Forum 2025. This training is being organised as a pre-forum workshop, however you are welcome to attend this workshop as a stand-alone training.*

*Supporting Family Safety – Working with Men to End Domestic and Family Violence*

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