



SERVICES AND PRACTITIONERS
FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ABUSE
QUEENSLAND

SPEAQ FORUM 2025

Working with people using violence at the intersection of AOD, Mental Health and DFSV

WORKSHOP CONTENT

A Signature Session with Rodney Vlais

This highly participatory workshop will explore complexities when engaging adult users of domestic, family and sexual violence and equip practitioners with knowledge and skills to work in the intersect of DFV, AOD and MH whilst maintaining a clear focus on gendered and intersectional understandings of harm.

This workshop will explore:

Working with people using violence -

- whose substance use lifestyles are implicated in their patterns of coercive control
- who might be experiencing high levels of depression, suicidality or chronic mental health issues
- who pose a particularly serious risk of severe harm where a clinical case management approach might be required,

And examine -

- different motives for adult perpetrator use of power and control, and implications for our practice
- strategies for engaging with adult users of violence whose trauma backgrounds contribute to pathways of DFSV use,
- where learnings from mental health specialists can assist us to address ingrained behavioural patterns, for example those associated with possessive jealousy.
- considering pathways for severe use of violence by serious-risk adults, including implications for engagement and systems intervention such as behaviour change programs.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Those working with adults using violence with complex needs including problematic substance use and mental health conditions
- Specialist DFSV behaviour change program, perpetrator case management, brief or single session intervention, co-located services or multi-agency high-risk team practitioners or leaders.

RODNEY VLAIS

Not he/him (them/they or any others)

Rodney Vlais is a systems change agent, training provider, supervisor, evaluator and psychologist in engaging men who cause domestic, family and sexual violence harm.

They have substantial experience both as a men's behaviour change practitioner and in policy and capability-building work, running or contributing to projects commissioned by NGOs and/or government agencies in each Australian state and territory.

Rodney is passionate about how decentralised communities and a wide spectrum of services can take collective responsibility to end gender-based violence and work towards transformative justice.

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



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.

Registration Cost:

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

Register at 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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