SPEAQ Forum 2025



Wednesday 22 October
9:00am – 4:30pm

Thursday, 23 October
8:45am – 5pm

Friday, 24 October
8:30am – 5:10pm

This Booklet contains:

- 3 day Programme outline
- Session descriptions
- Speaker bios
- Acknowledgements
- About SPEAQ

speaq.org.au

DVNQ

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QCDFVR
Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research

Welcome from the Organising Committee

Welcome to our presenters and participants, both SPEAQ members and other colleagues from across Queensland, other parts of Australia, and from overseas, to our 2025 SPEAQ Forum. The SPEAQ Forum is proudly developed *by* the sector, *for* the sector, led by practitioners. It is the engine the builds and sustains the relationships within our network and helps fire the passion that sustains good work in a challenging field. The active involvement of members of our professional community is the crucial ingredient that gives us the ability to create, develop and host this event that provides such a rich opportunity for mutual benefit.

This three-day event, the 15th SPEAQ Forum, has been a long time in preparation, with the organising committee meeting weekly since March this year. We thank their respective organisations in providing in-kind support so people could commit their time to organising this Forum. Thank you also to prior participants in SPEAQ Forums who took the time to give us feedback and shape the forum content for this year – we highly value these contributions in assisting the committee.

We are super excited to present this year's programme of presenters with broad and deep experience in the field: in the practice of responding to persons using violence in their relationships, in supporting those impacted by the violence and in building knowledge of the field through research. Their highly engaging, thought provoking and passionate presentations will provide great stimulus for our ongoing professional growth and development. This includes our members who will be generously sharing learnings from the rich and innovative work we're doing in the perpetrator intervention sector in Queensland. And like all SPEAQ Forums, interactivity is a key part of the whole experience – it is about reflection, sharing practice wisdom, and mutual learning.

The DFSV intervention space continues to be an area of growth, change and challenge with new kinds of programs being established over the last year, yet more changes to legislation and a change of government bringing an unfolding policy landscape that will keep us on our toes. The SPEAQ network, especially through the Steering Committee and the Secretary, have continued to actively engage in consultations and contribute to shaping the landscape in Qld through advocating for our needs, the needs of our clients and for best practice, informed by our experience.

We thank both WorkUP Queensland and CQU's Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research (QCDFVR) who have provided funding support towards this event and who continue to encourage us and motivate us to provide professional development opportunities to our members. We also thank our auspicing organisation DVNQ (formerly NQDVRS) and ChallengeDV for their ongoing support ensuring the success and sustainability of our network.

We warmly welcome and appreciate the presence of colleagues from across the broader service system who made the commitment to be present, learn and build connections with us. We know that this Forum and other SPEAQ events bring a sense of belonging and build a community of practice that can energise and sustain the passion to continue in this work and keep improving as professionals in this sector. So please engage with the content, with your fellow participants, and with the process during your time together with us, and enjoy the opportunity!

You are making a difference!

SPEAQ Forum 2025 Organising Committee: *Paul Monsour, Belinda Cox, Tori Cooke, Brett Hayes, Bec Mitchell and Skye Monk. With support from the SPEAQ Secretary, Dr Brodie Evans.*

SPEAQ Forum 2025 - Programme Schedule

We're in this together: Meaningful relationship as the basis for effective practice in DFV accountability and intervention work

Pre-forum Workshops - Wednesday 22 October 2025

9:00 am - 12:30 pm	**Holding shame without shaming: Finding affective agency in a men's group** Alan Jenkins *See flyer for more detail* *Chancellor Room 1*	**Working with people using violence at the intersection of AOD, Mental Health and DFSV** Rodney Vlais *See flyer for more detail* *Chancellor Room 2 & 3 Combined*
12:30 pm	Lunch, *Courtyard*	
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm	**Workshop continued**	**Workshop continued**
4:30 pm	Close	

Forum Day 1 - Thursday 23 October 2025

8:15 am	**Registration & mingle**	
8:45 am	**Welcome to Country** Shannon Ruska, *Tribal Experiences*	
9:00 am	**Secretary Welcome Address** Dr Brodie Evans, *SPEAQ Secretary*	
9:20 am	**Connection Session**	
9:30 am	**Session 1 – Keynote Address |** Professor Donna Chung, *Curtin University*	
10:10 am	Morning Tea, *Pre-function Area*	
10:30 am	**Session 2 | Panel: Working Together – First Nations Perspectives** Facilitated by Karina Hogan Panellists: Sono Leone, *Strong Women Talking* Shana Barney, *REFOCUS* Caeleb Doughty, *REFOCUS* Freya Irons, *Kurbingui*	
11:30 pm	*Presenter Changeover*	
11:35 pm	**Session 3 | Building workforce capacity and clinical supervision as the foundation for effective behaviour change work** Tori Cooke, *Pandora Projects*	
12:35 pm	Lunch, *Courtyard*	
	Parallel Sessions, *Roma Room*	***Parallel Sessions,*** *Terrace & Wickham Rooms combined*
1:25 pm	**Session 4A Member Presentation | Moral Perfectionism in Domestic Violence Work: Cultivating Compassion with Colleagues** Taylah Waters, *Micah Projects – Brisbane Domestic Violence Service*	**Session 4B Member Presentation | START - short term virtual intervention options** Michelle Royes, Jeff Mwanza & Trudy Flemington, *DVConnect*
2:05 pm	*Presenter Changeover*	*Presenter Changeover*

2:10 pm	**Session 5A Member Presentation | Experiences of LGBTIQA+ workers in mainstream domestic violence men's behaviour change programs** Dr Brodie Evans & Billie Stimpson, *QUT Centre for Justice and Queer and Trans Workers Against Violence (QTWAV)*	**Session 5B Member Presentation | Experiences and learnings in the implementation of the FPI approach in the Brief Intervention program** Paul Monsour and Yolande Le Roux, *Anglicare*
2:50 pm	**Afternoon Tea, *Pre-function Area***	
3:15 pm	**Session 6 | Fatherhood as a focus for building empathy and compassion in the journey of behaviour change** Tim Kelly, *Caring Dads*	
3:55 PM	*Presenter Changeover*	
4:00 PM	**Session 7 – Keynote Address | A Passionate Interest in Otherness: Affective Activism as Intervention in Family Abuse** Alan Jenkins	
4:45 pm	**Closing session: End of day reflections** Facilitated by Belinda Cox, *SPEAQ Forum Co-Organiser; Micah Projects – Brisbane Domestic Violence Service*	
5:00 pm	**Close**	
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm	**SPEAQ Annual Networking Cocktail Dinner** The Grand Chancellor Hotel Brisbane *See flyer for more detail*	

Forum Day 2 – Friday 24 October 2025

7:00 am (60 mins)	**Walking Tour of Roma Street Parklands** *See Flyer for more details and to register* Led by Belinda Cox, *SPEAQ Forum Co-Organiser; Micah Projects – Brisbane Domestic Violence Service*
7:30 am (30 mins)	**Movement Meditation (onsite)** Led by Paul Monsour, *SPEAQ Forum Co-Organiser; Anglicare*
8:15 am	**Registration & mingle**
8:30 am	**Welcome & introductions** Belinda Cox, *SPEAQ Forum Co-Organiser; Micah Projects – Brisbane Domestic Violence Service*
8:40 am	**Connection Session**
8:50 am	**Session 8 – Keynote Address | Developments in the Field and Current Challenges** Rodney Vlais
9:30	*Presenter Changeover*
9:35 am	**Session 9 | Intersectionality and cultural inclusion in family violence work** Hala Abdelnour, *Institute of Non-Violence*

10:45 am	Morning Tea, *Pre-function Area*	
	Parallel Sessions, *Roma Room*	***Parallel Sessions,*** *Terrace & Wickham Rooms combined*
11:10 am	**Session 10A Member Presentation | innerBoy – how a mental health app really is about ending violence** Mia Ristovska & Mark Volling, *DVConnect*	**Session 10B Member Presentation | Hearing everyone's side: Working with young people who use violence, along with their family members and intimate partners** Dr Kelsey Adams, Rebekha Melville, and Darcy Robertson, *Brisbane Youth Service*
11:50 pm	*Presenter Changeover*	*Presenter Changeover*

11:55 am	**Session 11A Member Presentation | Who are you? Characteristics of DFV offenders who strangle their intimate partner: a document analysis** Mark Walters, *Queensland Centre for Domestic & Family Violence Research (QCDFVR)*	**Session 11C | Coercive Control and Jealousy: Understanding gendered drivers and dangerous narratives** Tori Cooke, *Pandora Projects* Professor Donna Chung, *Curtin University*
12:30 am	*Presenter Changeover*	
12:35 am	**Session 11B | Pathways Project: Ensuring practitioner experience and insights on the continuum of responses for people using DFV** Max Castle, *No To Violence*	
1:10 pm	**Lunch, *Courtyard***	
2:00 pm	**Session 12 | Hot Topics** *Group activity where attendees workshop a response to a 'Hot Topic' of their choice in the DFV Intervention space, in a facilitated small group.*	
2:55 pm	**Afternoon Tea, *Pre-function Area***	
3:10 pm	**Session 13 | Panel: Working Together - Practitioner Perspectives** Facilitated by Dr Brodie Evans, *SPEAQ Secretary* Panellists: Tess Blundell, *Domestic Violence Prevention Centre Gold Coast* Hala Abdelnour, *Institute of Non-Violence* Max Castle, *No To Violence* Tori Cooke, *Pandora Projects* Alex, *YFS Ltd*	
4:10 pm	**Closing session: End of forum reflections** Facilitated by Paul Monsour, *SPEAQ Forum Co-Organiser; Anglicare*	
4:30 pm	**Close**	
4:40 pm – 5:10 pm	**Smoking Ceremony** Roma Street Parklands Celebration Lawn Plaza Shannon Ruska, *Tribal Experiences* *Map* *Celebration Lawn Plaza 'Keepers of the Fire' artwork by Lilla Watson*	



Session Descriptions

Session Descriptions

Pre-Forum Workshops – 22 October 2025



Holding shame without shaming: Finding affective agency in a men's group

Alan Jenkins

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.



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

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.

Session Descriptions

Day 1 - Thursday 23 October 2025

Welcome to Country

Shannon Ruska, Tribal Experiences



Secretary Welcome Address

Dr Brodie Evans, SPEAQ Secretary

Brodie provides a summary of the activities of SPEAQ for 2025 and will introduce this year's theme of Forum.



Connection Session

An opportunity to get to know the people you are sharing the space with, build connections and open up delegate communication.



Session 1 | Keynote Address

Professor Donna Chung, Curtin University











Session 2 | Panel: Working Together – First Nations Perspectives

Facilitated by Karina Hogan

Panellists:

Sono Leone, Strong Women Talking
Shana Barney, REFOCUS
Caeleb Doughty, REFOCUS
Freya Irons, Kurbingui

How do First Nations people work together and how can mainstream services and practitioners work with First Nations people who use violence in their relationships, First Nations victim survivors and services? Hear from this panel of outstanding First Nations practitioners, leaders and experts discussing how they foster a sense of connection with those that they are working with, what approaches we as mainstream practitioners should observe when working with First Nations people, when they have seen it done well and where they see room for necessary development and what their hopes for the future of collaborative work are. Are we really in this together; and if not, what would need to change for First Nations services and practitioners to feel a sense of connected collaboration in professional relationships?



Session 3 | Building workforce capacity and clinical supervision as the foundation for effective behaviour change work

Tori Cooke, Pandora Projects

We're in this together as a theme exemplifies building the specialist workforce across the practitioner career span. This is a practice imperative when working in the complex, high-stakes space of domestic and family violence accountability and intervention.

In change work, meaningful relationships are the foundation of effective practice – this includes: relationships between practitioners and men in the room, between co-facilitators, and between practitioners and the broader service system. For these relationships to foster safety, accountability, and change, they must be underpinned by skilled, supported, and well-resourced practitioners.

This presentation explores how workforce capacity building and specialist clinical supervision form the scaffolding that makes meaningful relational and reflective practice possible. Drawing on national frameworks, lived practice experience, and sector evidence, this presentation will examine how capacity building goes beyond training to create a culture of continuous learning, reflective practice, and collective accountability. Tori will highlight the pivotal role of clinical supervision as a relational strategy for supporting practitioners to hold complexity, reflect on and manage personal impacts, and sustain ethical, safe, and effective practice over time.

Key Themes:

- Relationships at the core: Why practitioner capacity shapes relational engagement, reflective practice and accountability work
- Supervision as an interpersonal process that informs safety practice: Building reflective space to navigate power dilemmas and prevent burnout
- Capacity building as culture: Why one-off training fails and the importance of thinking about hybrid learning to support accountability, build resilience and empower leadership.
- Embedding frameworks: Aligning workforce development with national standards, and sector best practice.
- We're in this together: How organisations can collectively invest in practitioners for long-term impact



Session 4 Member Presentation | Moral Perfectionism in Domestic Violence Work: Cultivating Compassion with Colleagues

Taylah Waters, Micah Projects – Brisbane Domestic Violence Service

Domestic violence work is emotionally and ethically complex, often demanding high levels of care, self-awareness, and accountability from practitioners. However, within this important work, a lesser discussed but pervasive dynamic—moral perfectionism—can quietly shape how workers engage with participants, co-workers, and their organisations. Rooted in the desire to be ethically "good", moral perfectionism can motivate growth but also contribute to shame, burnout, and disconnection. This session explores how moral perfectionism manifests across three key domains: working with participants, working with co-workers (including in co-facilitation), and within organisational culture. We examine both the internal and external impacts of moral perfectionism—particularly how it can interfere with our work and relationships. We explore ways that individuals and organisations can counter the negative impacts of moral perfectionism and offer strategies to foster compassion and emotional safety

By sharing findings from a small qualitative study involving domestic violence practitioners, we can explore how they experience and navigate moral perfectionism in their day-to-day practice. This discussion hopes to leave people with a greater insight into how moral perfectionism shapes the field and how to manage it safely.







Session 4B Member Presentation | Start – short term virtual intervention options

Michelle Royes, Jeff Mwanza & Trudy Flemington, DVConnect

In Australia, there are two response pathways for men who use violence to access support to change their behaviour: Men's Behaviour Change Programs (MBCP) and DV Helplines. Each pathway has limitations that affect access, uptake, and impact, and the gap in service provision places women and children at ongoing risk. This presentation outlines the design and implementation of an innovative pilot, the START program, which aims to engage men using violence in a short-term intervention across 6-weeks, addressing the service gap between a one-off service, and an ongoing intensive program. Intervention includes case-management, strengthen their support and accountability networks, and provide them with behavioural resources. The program is designed to increase men's visibility in the integrated service responses and pathways to long-term intervention.



Session 5A Member Presentation | Experiences of LGBTIQA+ workers in mainstream domestic violence men's behaviour change programs

Dr Brodie Evans & Billie Stimpson, QUT Centre for Justice and Queer and Trans Workers Against Violence (QTWAV)



Beyond the interest in examining the effectiveness of men's behaviour change programs (MBCP) to reduce domestic and family violence, research has begun to explore the challenges faced by facilitators working in these programs and their needs to remain in this workforce to support program effectiveness. Such research is necessary, in part, because facilitators of perpetrator intervention programs have been identified as vital stakeholders in the safety outcomes for victim-survivors, and it is a workforce that has long had difficulties in recruitment and retention. However, to date, the workplace experiences of LGBTIQA+ people who facilitate mainstream MBCPs remains unexplored. It is unknown if being queer and/or trans impacts on these facilitators in their work with men using violence or their perceptions of this work which has historically been a heteronormative and cisnormative field. This presentation presents initial findings from autoethnographic work alongside qualitative interviews with LGBTIQA+ behaviour change facilitators with experience working in mainstream men's behaviour change programs, to reveal their experiences of being LGBTIQA+ while navigating this employment. We consider the barriers to widening participation of LGBTIQA+ people in this workforce, and what might be uniquely offered by LGBTIQA+ practitioners in the work of engaging men who use violence.



Session 5B Member Presentation | Experiences and learnings in the implementation the FPI approach in the Brief Intervention program

Paul Monsour and Yolande Le Roux, Anglicare



Anglicare has been funded to provide the Brief Intervention program that works primarily with first time DFV offenders through the new DFV Diversion process. The program uses a condensed version of the Family Peace Initiative's curriculum. Building on psychoeducational approaches, this approach invites participants to explore the impact of their childhood experiences of cruelty and how these experiences and the adverse emotions that accompany them support abusive belief systems and behaviour. This therapeutically informed approach requires a deeper participant engagement that does not shy away from painful emotional experience, and is supported by facilitation that involves a greater use of self, avoiding the 'us and them' dichotomy to create safety and lead by example. In this presentation we will describe how the DFV Diversion program works and some key features of the client cohort being referred from Court, and share some preliminary learnings and experiences from putting the FPI approach into practice.



Session 6 | Fatherhood as a Focus for Building Empathy and Compassion in the Journey of Behaviour Change

Tim Kelly, Caring Dads

This interactive session explores how fatherhood can be a powerful entry point for empathy, accountability, and lasting behaviour change in men who use violence or control in their relationships. Drawing on the Caring Dads framework and decades of practice-based evidence, we'll examine how reconnecting men to their identities as fathers—and to their children's lived experiences—can open pathways to emotional insight and responsibility. Through case discussion, reflection, and experiential exercises, participants will learn how a child-centred focus can help men develop compassion, understand harm, and engage meaningfully in the process of change.



Session 7 – Keynote Address | A Passionate Interest in Otherness : Affective Activism as Intervention in Family Abuse

Alan Jenkins

A passionate interest in otherness as the antithesis of violence

This motif remains central in Invitational practice.

A truly ethical decision to cease violence requires a form of remorse that arises from the shock of actually seeing the other and the effects of the violation of their dignity and humanity; of becoming drawn towards otherness over self-interest. This kind of realisation is animated by readiness to hold shame and respond to its productive and ethical, affective force.

Activist intervention is embodied in the axiom; We are in this together; whereby distinctions between 'us and them' are declined as we enthusiastically seek an affective attunement that strives to see the other and respect their humanity. We respond via a parallel journey through levels of social threat, where panic-loss and shame become mutually co-regulated to enable the emergence of ethical possibilities.

This parallel journey is politically directed and affectively animated. It refuses judgement and hierarchical order and is actively and passionately interested in otherness, thereby unsettling abusive behaviour and fostering ethical expression.



Closing session: End of day reflections

Facilitated by Belinda Cox, SPEAQ Forum Co-Organiser; Crescent Consulting & Development

Brief reflections on day one of the Forum, with an opportunity for conversations to continue at the SPEAQ Annual Networking Cocktail Dinner.

Session Descriptions

Day 2 – Friday 24 October 2025



Connection Session

An opportunity to get to know the people you are sharing the space with, build connections and open up delegate communication.



Session 8 – Keynote Address | Developments in the Field and Current Challenges

Rodney Vlais

This keynote presentation will describe the 'growing pains' facing our work as it enters its fifth decade in Australia. From a career perspective spanning 25 years Rodney will speak to - the increasingly complex presentations and range of men and adult users of violence referred to our programs, centring children's needs and experiences more strongly in our work, and innovation and increasing the responsiveness of our efforts without betraying safe foundational pillars of practice. They will offer wisdom on how our work interacts with broader systems - through supporting a continuum of interventions and programs each serving overlapping but distinctly different purposes, and ways to embed our responses within community processes of accountability and transformation.



Session 9 | Intersectionality and cultural inclusion in family violence work

Hala Abdelnour, Institute of Non-Violence

When people in positions of power hold oppressive beliefs, their beliefs shape and become solidified in legal systems, governments, schools, health and social services. We see directly the impact of systemic misogyny, racism and patriarchal dominance on individual experiences and use of violence, as well as individual experiences of interacting with the family violence response system, including justice, police, child protection and service providers. Intersectionality beckons the exploration of systems and structures of oppression, that benefit one group of people over others. This presentation explores oppressive systems, structures and processes that continue to impede our national efforts to end violence in a generation. It beckons the following questions and reflections:

- What would a safe and equitable system look like in Australia?
- How can we achieve it?
- How would structural changes impact family violence incidents and response?





Session 10A Member Presentation | innerBoy – how a mental health app really is about ending violence

Mia Ristovska & Mark Volling, DVConnect

In 2024, DVConnect – alongside She Is Not Your Rehab duo Matt and Sarah Brown – brought the men's mental health app innerBoy to Australia. A guided and self-paced journey, the goal of innerBoy is to support men to be a "cycle breaker" and be the safe partner and father they and their families deserve. Since the Australian launch, the teams in DVConnect MensLine and START have integrated the app into their everyday work with men who are beginning their journey in the choice to safety and non-violence. We all know that while mental health and recovery is a key component in ending violence, it is not the centrepiece. Our teams have worked hard to develop and deliver practice where we have woven the app and conversations around mental and emotional health in with a lens on the safety of and risk to the primary victim-survivor, which can be extremely challenging. Our presentation will step you through the app briefly, discuss how the tool has been used across both MensLine and START and share feedback from the men who have used it as well as the practitioners. There will also be space for questions and feedback about innerBoy.







Session 10B Member Presentation | Hearing everyone's side: Working with young people who use violence, along with their family members and intimate partners

Dr Kelsey Adams, Rebekha Melville, and Darcy Robertson, Brisbane Youth Service

The KIND program is a therapeutic and psychoeducational intervention for young people (age 15-25) who use adolescent family violence (AFV) or intimate partner violence (IPV). The program involves one-to-one sessions supporting young people to develop emotional regulation skills and maintain respectful relationships. Practitioners also work with affected family members and intimate partners, where possible. This presentation discusses our approach to working with all parties, which underpins our strong focus on relational practice. Working with everyone helps build shared language for key concepts around violence and safety. This shared foundation creates a conducive environment for collaborative problem-solving, de-escalation, safety planning, and holding accountability. Working with all parties also provides a clearer understanding of conflict patterns and family dynamics. We discuss methods for holding this information sensitively while respecting confidentiality, especially when information is disclosed by only one party. This presentation will draw on examples from our practice, including success stories when working with young people as well as lessons learned from challenges in this complex work.



Session 11A Member Presentation | Who are you? Characteristics of DFV offenders who strangle their intimate partner: a document analysis

Mark Walters, Queensland Centre for Domestic & Family Violence Research (QCDFVR)

Recent legal reforms to criminal law in Queensland, Australia have underscored the significance of understanding those who use strangulation in a domestic and family violence (DFV) context. Strangulation as part of domestic abuse is a gendered issue with men most commonly being the perpetrator and women the victims/survivors. It is a form of coercive control that has immediate and long-term serious consequences. To date, the majority of the extant research has come from the victims'/survivors' perspective with little to no research capturing the characteristics of men who have used this form of abuse. It is essential that we also research men if we are to stop the violence at its source and contribute to long-term safety for women and children. This study has sought to bridge that gap by undertaking a document analysis of 31self-assessment forms, each 22 pages long, completed by thirty-one perpetrators who used strangulation, as part of an induction process with a specialist DFV service in Brisbane. The men had been referred by the Queensland courts or Queensland Corrective Services because of their use of DFV. Additionally, insights gleaned from testimonies further illuminated understandings about this cohort.



Session 11B | Pathways Project: Ensuring practitioner experience and insights on the continuum of responses for people using DFV

Max Castle, No To Violence

Max will present an overview of the Pathways Project, a project centred on ensuring practitioner experience and insights on the continuum of responses for people using DFV that are needed within integrated and impactful service systems. In this way it is seeking to enable our sector to be able to advocate for government decision-making that is informed by practice-based expertise. A continuum of interconnected yet different responses are needed to effectively build a web of accountability, meaningfully scaffold behaviour change and collectively increase safety for victim-survivors, but this continuum needs to be built with practitioners.

Grounded in an attitude of curiosity and collaboration, Max's presentation will highlight emerging themes and insights from their engagement with practitioners around the continent. This will be followed by an opportunity to actively engage, ask questions, provide input and help shape the findings of this important research project including an invitation to continue the discussion and opportunities for input following the session.



Session 11C | Coercive Control and Jealousy: Understanding gendered drivers and dangerous narratives

Tori Cooke, Pandora Projects, and Prof. Donna Chung, Curtin University



This joint presentation explores the complex interplay between coercive control and jealousy in the context of family and domestic violence. Drawing on current research, practice insights, and lived experience-informed approaches, we will unpack how jealousy is often misunderstood, minimised, or romanticised in both public discourse and professional responses to coercive control.

Together, we will challenge practitioners to move beyond surface explanations and explore jealousy as a tactic of coercive control, often rooted in entitlement, possessiveness, and gendered expectations of relational ownership. We will also examine how systems and services can unintentionally collude with harmful narratives that position jealousy as emotional vulnerability or love, rather than a red flag for risk.

The presentation will integrate theory, research, and applied practice through case examples, video excerpts, and reflection exercises. Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of the gendered drivers underpinning coercive control and practical strategies for naming, interrupting, and responding to jealousy when it manifests as control.



Session 12 | Hot Topics

A SPEAQ Forum perennial favourite! Group activity where attendees workshop a response to a 'Hot Topic' of their choice – typically a juicy practice question in the DFV Intervention space, in a facilitated small group. Reflective, lively, passionate, stimulating – the joy of talking with people who know the work and care passionately about doing it well!



Session 13 | Panel: Working Together - Practitioner Perspectives

Facilitated by Dr Brodie Evans, SPEAQ Secretary

Panellists:

Tess Blundell, Domestic Violence Prevention Centre Gold Coast



Hala Abdelnour, Institute of Non-Violence

Max Castle, No To Violence



Tori Cooke, Pandora Projects

Alex, YFS Ltd



At its heart, SPEAQ is a grassroots effort bringing practitioners together. This panel brings together diverse experiences of practitioners in the behaviour change intervention space to discuss this year's forum theme of 'We're in this together'. The panel will consider meaningful relationships in this work, and what some of the barriers may be to collaborating and building effective partnerships. This may be in the context of working together in the group room with both participants and in co-facilitation relationships, working in integrated programs and systems, and working together as a sector and network in practitioner-led advocacy. We welcome the panellists to share their insights with the aim to highlight and centre the value of practitioner expertise in all that we do.







Closing session: End of forum reflections

Introduced by Paul Monsour, SPEAQ Forum Co-Organiser; Anglicare

Time and space to reflect on the Forum and to focus on the way the conversations we've shared may influence or change our practice, leadership, and advocacy moving forward.

Smoking Ceremony

Shannon Ruska, Tribal Experiences



Speaker Information

Presenters and Panellists



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.



Alex

Alex is currently working as a full-time Behaviour Change Facilitator at YFS in Logan QLD, where he co-facilitates the Responsible Men Program. Alex graduated with a bachelor's degree in social work from Queensland University of Technology at the end of 2020 and became involved with men's behaviour change work during his final placement. His practice is supported by a framework that views men's use of domestic violence as a social issue that is driven and sustained by an unequal distribution of power. Alex contributes to SPEAQ as the current Co-Convenor of the SPEAQ Steering Committee and guest facilitating Community of Practice sessions.



Belinda Cox

Belinda Cox is the founder/practitioner at Crescent Consulting & Development and a senior MBCP facilitator currently at Brisbane Domestic Violence Service – Micah Projects. They are the Chair of the Greater Brisbane Family Law Pathways Network and a member of Queer and Trans Workers Against Violence.

Belinda has a human services career of 20+ years in frontline service and leadership spanning varied areas of gendered violence, homelessness, alcohol & other drugs and peer workforce/advocate fields. They have been a practitioner, educator, leader and proponent for improved recognition and responses to DFV in LGBTQIA+ spaces for more than a decade.

They have an ethical, trauma responsive and intersectional feminist approach to their work and are a provider of external professional supervision, specialist training, professional development, consulting

and expert DFV mentoring to human service practitioners and providers, private enterprise, government departments and community groups in Southeast Queensland.



Billie Stimpson

Billie Stimpson (they/them) is the Secretary for Queer & Trans Workers Against Violence (QTWAV), a sector capacity building initiative of LGBTIQASB+ workers from across DFV, SV and LGBTIQASB+ community-led organisations in South East QLD. In 2025, Billie has also been working as a Research Assistant with QUT Centre for Justice on a research project examining the experiences of LGBTIQA+ facilitators of mainstream men's behaviour change programs. They bring 15 years of practice experience in community organisations, with a passion in collaborative and community-led practice.



Dr Brodie Evans

Dr Brodie Evans (they/them) is a domestic violence specialist with a focus on interventions with persons using violence, currently working as the Program Manager for YFS's Behaviour Change Intervention team. Brodie has experience in program design and development, and facilitation, of both mainstream and LGBTIQA+ behaviour change programs. Brodie provides supervision and training to domestic violence practitioners and organises a state-wide Community of Practice as the current Secretary of the Services and Practitioners for the Elimination of Abuse QLD network (SPEAQ). With a PhD in Criminology, Brodie is a Visiting Fellow at QUT Centre for Justice and contributes to research in the Queer Research Group exploring issues relevant to queer criminology, gender and violence. Passionate about DFV prevention and responses in the LGBTIQA+ community, Brodie co-founded Queer and Trans Workers Against Violence (QTWAV) and volunteers on the Management Committee of Diverse Voices.



Caeleb Doughty

Caeleb Doughty (Douglas) is a Proud Gubbi Gubbi/Kabi Kabi man born and raised between Brisbane and Inala, with strong connections across the greater Brisbane region. He has worked in the community services sector for eight years, with most of his career dedicated to domestic and family violence (DFV) programs.

Caeleb is passionate about amplifying community voices, promoting self-determination, and addressing the over representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in statutory systems. He is committed to challenging these systems to ensure truth, reconciliation, and culturally safe practices are embedded in service delivery.

Caeleb has managed DFV, Family Wellbeing, Suicide Prevention, HALT early intervention, and education programs at Kurbingui, is currently employed at REFOCUS as Senior Lead in Operational Service Delivery

for Family Participation and Delegated Authority and is a founder of a not for profit Indigenous Corporation focussing on delivering culturally safe men's healing and behaviour change in partnership with justice groups, the Murri Courts, and youth programs in partnership with schools.

Caeleb's work is grounded in cultural safety, community led decision making, and healing. He lives by the belief: "I don't let pain decide who I am. Real strength isn't what you carry, it's what you're willing to leave behind to rise."



Darcy Robertson

Darcy Robertson is a Safe Relationships Senior Practitioner working with young people who are using violence in their relationships. He has particular interest in reducing violence and improving safety in young people's relationships through the use of authentic relational practice and flexible, trauma-informed intervention. Darcy is a practitioner in the KIND Program, an evidence-based, psychotherapeutic intervention for young people using intimate partner and/or adolescent family violence. This role involves working one-on-one with young people and their family members/partners to complete modules aimed at building skills and awareness for safe and healthy relationships.



Professor Donna Chung

Donna Chung is the John Curtin Distinguished Professor of Social Work and Social Policy at Curtin University in Western Australia. Donna's research focuses on various forms of gendered violence. She began research with men's behaviour change programs in their early days and has continued with various forms of work in this area, of late this includes working with police on developing perpetrator pathway analyses and proactive identifying of those posing the highest risk of harm. Some of Donna's other work with survivors at present is examining longer term re-establishment in the context of post separation violence and abuse and furthering dignity-based approaches with victim-survivors of sexualised violence. Donna's works closely with specialist services and policy areas concerned with violence, abuse and coercion.



Freya Irons

Freya Irons is a proud young Gubbi Gubbi/South Sea Islander woman (Tanna Island). Freya brings over 6 years' experience in working with mob and community. She is a passionate advocate for the healing and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. With a strong foundation in cultural knowledge and lived experience, Freya brings a trauma-informed, strengths-based approach to her work in the Family Wellbeing sector. Her professional journey spans roles in suicide prevention, domestic and family violence response, and kinship care, where she has consistently demonstrated compassion, understanding, and cultural integrity.

She is also a proud ally and advocate for LGBTQIA+ rights and inclusion, actively promoting safe, affirming spaces for queer Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Freya believes in the importance of intersectional healing and works to ensure that all identities are respected, celebrated, and supported within community services and cultural spaces.



Hala Abdelnour

Hala is the CEO and Founder of the Institute of non-violence, a service that was established to support family violence response across Australia. The Institute offers advanced family violence training programs, clinical supervision and therapeutic services to clients who are using or experiencing violence. It also works to eradicate systemic racism and misogyny.

She has delivered numerous Men's Behaviour Change programs, and specialises in working with shame and trauma, intersectionality, cultural safety and group facilitation skills.

Hala has spoken at various local, national, and international conferences, and has featured on several podcasts, ABC and SBS news radio and TV. Key topics she presents on and is passionate about include:

- Cultural safety and decolonising institutions and practices
- The intersections between gender and race
- Feminist leadership
- Workplace equity and inclusion
- Gender-based violence
- The interconnectedness between family violence and other forms of social violence and inequities

Hala lives and works on the lands of the Dharawal people and acknowledges their elders as continuous traditional custodians of the lands, species and waterways.



Jeff Mwanza

With a Master of Social Work (Professional Qualifying), from James Cook University, Jeff worked with DVNQ (previously NQDVRS) for close to 7 years, and moved on to work for other NFP agencies, including federal and state government agencies in Toowoomba, Logan, Brisbane, and Ipswich. These studies and work experiences helped Jeff gain an understanding of the issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and mainstream Australians. They further helped Jeff develop strong analytical and problem-solving skills that he believes are highly transferable.



Karina Hogan

Karina Hogan is a proud Aboriginal and South Sea Islander woman with ties to Bundjalung Country. She is an journalist, broadcaster, and storyteller who has built a career amplifying underrepresented voices and tackling hard truths in the media.

Her work spans radio, television, and documentary production, including the Logie-winning Incarceration Nation, which brought national attention to systemic racism and injustice. Karina's advocacy in the domestic and family violence space is grounded in elevating marginalised voices elevating growth-based narratives, and ensuring victim/survivors' voices lead the conversation.

As Chair of BlakDance and a board member of the Children's Hospital Foundation and the children's hospital foundation, Karina works across media, governance, and community to drive change, promote healing, and create safer futures for women children and communities. She is also a proud mother to two and a carer of many others, committed to nurturing the next generation with strength, safety, and hope.



Dr Kelsey Adams

Dr Kelsey Adams is a Senior Practitioner at Brisbane Youth Service in the Safe Relationships Program. In her current role she delivers the KIND program, a one-to-one therapeutic and psychoeducational program working with young people who use violence as well as family members and intimate partners affected by that violence. She also facilitates SAGE+, a healthy relationships group for young people in the LGBTIQA+SB community who have experienced domestic, family, and sexual violence (DFSV). As an academic, Kelsey's research interests focus on the perpetration and impacts of DFSV. She has recently collaborated on projects through QUT and Monash, contributing to research on sexual harm complaints, elder abuse, trauma-informed sex education, and youth access to pornography. Her work involves collaboration with practitioners, academics, and lived experience participants to create nuanced, meaningful, and realistic research outputs.



Mark Volling

Mark is one of the Senior Practitioners at DVConnect Mensline. His many years at DVConnect aid in supporting counsellors, along with providing intensive coordination of high-risk clients who call Mensline. Mark's professional background comes from working with men who use domestic violence in court support and group facilitation settings. His passion for ending family and sexual violence extends from past case work roles in statutory mental health and frontline child protection. Mark holds a B. Human Services and M. Social Work, and he is motivated in participating in innovative ways of build community responses to attain meaningful change.



Mark Walters

Mark's work in behavioural change spans 30 years in which he has delivered front line interventions in the form of client counselling, behavioural change programs, professional development, supervision and training. Mark was one of the principal trainers in the Common Risk and Safety Framework as part of establishment of the High-Risk Teams in the Queensland trial sites. He has served as a community board member on the Queensland Death Review and Advisory Board that works with the coroner to make recommendations to Government on improving service provision for those who have died because of domestic and family violence. He works for QCDFVR as an associate lecturer and delivers DFV training and practitioner supervision.



Max Castle

Max has been working with queer and trans led community projects and organisations addressing the intersections of interpersonal and systemic violence for the past ten years. This has included Beyond Bricks and Bars, Undercurrent Victoria and most recently Thorne Harbour Health, where they were Practice Lead - LGBTQ+ Use of Violence. Max has a strong practice background working with both victim-survivors and people using family and domestic violence. They are particularly passionate about transformative and anti-carceral approaches to working with people who have caused harm. They are currently working with No to Violence, where they are leading the Pathways Project, a practice-oriented research project exploring the broader continuum of responses for people using family violence. Max is also a men's behaviour change facilitator, counsellor and poet.



Mia Ristovska

Mia brings 14 years' experience in social work, specialising in domestic, family, and sexual violence across both Australia and the United States. She is an Accredited Family Violence Social Worker through the Australian Association of Social Workers and has a strong passion for training and capacity building within and beyond the DFSV sector. As DVConnect's Quality and Training Manager, Mia leads a team focused on ensuring clinical quality and practitioner capability across all programs, including the perpetrator-focused MensLine. She is committed to meeting people where they are at and building collaborative relationships to support the safe and effective delivery of training in this high-risk field. Mia has overseen the development and facilitation of DFSV-specific training for a wide range of audiences, including corporate (Maurice Blackburn Lawyers, Zurich Insurance, National Australia Bank), construction and heavy industries (McIlwain, Premier Services Group), and health and community services across government and non-government sectors. Her international experience includes delivering training to Davis County Police and On-Campus Police Officers, as well as domestic and sexual violence advocates at Hill Air Force Base in Utah, USA.



Michelle Royes

Michelle Royes is Director of Social Impact at DVConnect. With a background in working with men who use DFSV in child protection and DFV settings she is a trained facilitator in the Caring Dads and HMA group behaviour change models. Michelle is also a Safe and Together trainer and brings her experience of working individually with young men and men as well as men in group settings to the unique, single-session, virtual environment of DVConnect. Working alongside the larger DVConnect team, Michelle has been a key driver in looking for contemporary opportunities to diversify what is offered to people that use violence to build a fuller response system to help men be responsible for change. Michelle has a B Psychology, Master Business Admin, and Grad Cert in Men's Behaviour Change Facilitation.



Paul Monsour

Paul has worked in Intervention Programs for men who use DFV since 2004, coming from the male dominated world of engineering (which never quite fitted), through teaching and other technical communication roles, to counselling.

Apart from his current role in Anglicare, he has worked with survivors of DFV at Sandbag, on the phones at DVConnect Mensline, co-facilitating at DVPC Gold Coast, and in relationship counselling at Anglicare. He was a member of the ministerial Advisory Group that advised on the development of the 2012 Qld DFV legislation and has sat on numerous references groups, roundtables and consultation groups in the DFV sector.

As Secretary of SPEAQ from 2006-2022, SPEAQ Steering Committee Co-Convenor from 2023-2024, and Committee member from 2025, he has played a key role in the operation of the SPEAQ network and provided leadership in SPEAQ's growth and development over a 15 year period. He has authored a number of key submissions and papers in collaboration with other SPEAQ members.

With a deep commitment to personal growth, healing and practical spirituality, Paul likes to understand the fundamentals, work collaboratively and build things that work for people.



Rebekha Melville

Rebekha Melville is a Senior Practitioner with Brisbane Youth Service's Safe Relationships Program. Rebekha delivers the KIND program, working with young people who are using violence in both intimate partnerships and family relationships and with the people impacted by that use of violence. Rebekha has a Bachelor of Psychology from The University of Canberra and a Social Work Masters from Griffith University. She brings 17 years of experience working with young people to her role, in settings spanning refugee youth, mental health, youth homelessness and domestic and family violence. Rebekha has a particular interest in relationship conflict. She utilises a relationship-

based, trauma-informed practice style and is driven by a belief in peoples' capacity for change.



Rodney Vlais

Rodney Vlais (not he/him, use they/them or any others) 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.



Shana Barney

Shana Barney is a Proud Goongarri/Gunggari and Butchulla/Batdjala woman born and raised in Inala. Shana has strong connections to the Inala, Brisbane and Cherbourg communities. She is an independent Mum of two beautiful girls and has worked tirelessly in the Domestic Violence and Community Services sector for close to 15 years.

Shana's passion is working in Domestic Violence programs and Community Controlled organisations where she strives for self-determination, driving work to be Community and family-led and addressing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in statutory bodies challenging these systems that were not made for or by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Shana has spent the past 6 years Managing DFV, Family Wellbeing, Regional Suicide Prevention, Kinship Care and Education programs at Kurbingui in Brisbane, prior to that she worked 6 years in Family Wellbeing at IUIH. Shana is currently employed at REFOCUS where she is the Regional Manager for all Family Services Programs covering Moreton Bay and soon to be Cairns.

Shana has recently Graduated with a Human Services Degree at Griffith University.



Sono Leone

Sono Leone is a Butchulla and Garrawa woman, proud of her Tongan and South Sea Islander heritage. She is the founder and CEO of Strong Women Talking, a grassroots organisation for First Nations women based in Brisbane that supports women to heal from the trauma of family and domestic violence. Strong Women Talking is an authentic movement of First Nations sisters and aunties who are passionate about breaking the cycle of violence by creating a culturally safe space to educate, equip and empower one another. To walk in their dreams for the future.

Sono has worked for a number of years in the community service sector and is an advisory group member of Our Watch 'Changing the Picture: A national resource to support the prevention of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children. She was also recently commissioned as pastor at Brisbane Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress on Turrbal Country.



Taylah Waters

Taylah Waters has been a men's facilitator with BDVS Safer and Accountable Men's Program for just over a year. She was fortunate enough to be working as a men's facilitator while still at university. Prior to this Taylah was a casual facilitator who did student volunteer work with Micah Projects on a new project based on technology abuse and stalking (TADAH). Taylah graduated in December with a double degree in Bachelor of Justice Criminology and Bachelor of Science Psychology from Queensland University of Technology and was able to continue working in this space. During a student placement, she had her first negative experience with moral perfectionism in the DFV field, and quickly learned it was an unspoken experience of many others. Giving space and reflection to the challenging aspects of this work can be uncomfortable but as we ask others to be accountable, so must we.



Tess Blundell

Tess is the Manager of DVPC's Men's Domestic Violence Education and Intervention Program. Tess's career has been in public and community services. Tess is a Kombumerri Saltwater Women from the Gold Coast and is committed to ensuring her people's history, connection to land, traditions and dreaming are never lost to the burgeoning concrete façade of the Gold Coast. Tess is passionate about social justice and working towards a community free from violence. Tess has experience working with women who are experiencing domestic and family violence as well as with men who are using violence in their relationships.



Tim Kelly

Tim Kelly, MSW RSW has been working in the field of gender-based violence since 1986, with a career dedicated to addressing and intervening in abusive behavior, particularly among men who use violence in relationships.

He has served as Executive Director of a Partner Assault Response (PAR) program in southern Ontario and formerly managed the Family Violence Counselling Program at the Children's Aid Society of Oxford County. Tim is also co-author of Caring Dads, a program designed to support fathers who have been abusive, and has facilitated men's groups for more than three decades.

Alongside his direct practice, Tim maintains a private counselling practice focused on men who use violence, and he regularly provides training through the Centre for Research and Education on Violence

Against Women and Children. His national and international speaking engagements highlight his expertise in engaging men who cause harm, building collaborative community responses, and advancing systemic change.

Tim's work consistently emphasizes accountability for men while calling on communities and systems to take responsibility in addressing and preventing gender-based violence.



Tori Cooke

Tori is a seasoned family violence consultant, clinical supervisor, and educator specialising in building and implementing family violence interventions. With nearly three decades of experience in the family violence sector, she brings extensive experience in counselling women affected by family violence and working directly with men perpetrating violence. Tori has successfully developed and implemented men's behavioural change programs across Australia.

Tori spent five years immersed in Victoria's family violence reforms working with practitioners in the VET and non-accredited context. Based in Perth, she operates as a training provider and clinical supervisor in private practice at Pandora Projects, facilitating training initiatives for practitioners across Australia.



Trudy Flemington

Lifelong learner who is currently studying a masters at CQU in Domestic Violence Practice, to add to the eclectic mix of degrees around social work, secondary education (majoring in English, History & Drama), mental health & counselling. Having worked close to 10 years in the Specialist Homelessness space in NSW, Trudy made a shift to non-government child protection work with Family Referral Service (NSW), Family & Child Connect & Intensive Family Support (QLD) with that latter as the embedded DFV practitioner for 5 years. Trudy joined DVConnect Mensline as the Team Leader for Mensline & START as it aligned with her practice values, wanting the focus of DFV work to be on men who choose violence to keep children, families & communities safe.



Yolande Le Roux

Yolande Le Roux is a Social Worker whose experience spans Child Safety investigations and assessments, working as a behaviour change facilitator in Anglicare's Living Without Violence program, and DFV victim/survivor counsellor for women and children experiencing DFV. In the behaviour change space she has worked predominantly with men, and also with women who have used violence in their relationships, including those who have used resistive violence.



Support Available

Support Available

FREE ON-CALL SPECIALIST COUNSELLING

We understand that the content of the sessions at our forum can impact any participant's mental health and wellbeing. If you would like to speak to a professional counsellor at any time throughout the forum, know that we have an on-call specialist who is able to answer your call.



Lynda Rushton

I live in Meanjin (Brisbane) and currently work as a supervisor in private practice, and as a specialist trauma counsellor for Victim Connect. I have worked in the Domestic Violence sector for over 30 years as a counsellor, women's advocate, refuge worker and group facilitator and have designed women's group programs across a range of settings. I have also worked with men and women as a relationship counsellor and family therapist. My work is strongly influenced by feminist, narrative and compassion focussed therapy approaches. As a supervisor, I enjoy providing reflective conversations that support and enliven practice. I work with practitioners in urban, rural and regional areas. I am an AASW Accredited Family Violence Social Worker and have completed the Advanced Supervision Program: Family Violence training with the AASW.

Contact Details:

Counsellor: Lynda Rushton

Phone: 0413 504 472

Should our counsellor be unavailable answering other calls or if you would like other immediate assistance, remember you are always able to use other services available via this link: https://www.qmhc.qld.gov.au/find-support-services

Self-care is one of the most crucial professional activities that we can do. Remember throughout the forum to access helpful support whenever you need it.



Acknowledgements

Acknowledgement of Country

SPEAQ acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the traditional custodians of our land and sea. We acknowledge that we are holding this event on the lands of the Yaggera and Turrbul people, and we pay respects to all Elders, past, present and emerging, as well as to the individuals and organisations working in their communities to address all forms of domestic and family violence.

SPEAQ Forum Organising Committee

For the last 6 months, the SPEAQ Forum Organising Committee comprised of Paul Monsour, Belinda Cox, Tori Cooke, Jennifer Williams, Brett Hayes, Bec Mitchell (til June), and Skye Monk (from September), with the support of Secretary Brodie Evans, have been meeting weekly to progress the planning of the 2025 SPEAQ Forum, to bring members and guests an exciting and interactive Program that combines professional development and networking for those working in the men's DFV intervention space across Queensland and beyond. We thank the organisations that provided in-kind support for committee members to contribute to the organisation of this forum over the past six months: Anglicare, Pandora Projects, Brisbane Youth Service, UnitingCare, and YFS.

Sponsorship and Administrative Support

WorkUP QLD

Thanks to our sponsor, WorkUP Queensland for their generous financial support of Sthe PEAQ Forum through the Collaborative Grants process.

QVDFVR

Thanks to CQU's Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research for being a key sponsor towards the 2024 SPEAQ Forum, and the continued offer of and providing invaluable administrative assistance in the preparations for this event.

DVNQ

Thanks to the DVNQ (formerly North Qld Domestic Violence Resource Service) for the ongoing support as our auspicing organisation, and especially all the in-kind financial administration work that goes on behind the scenes to make an event like this possible.

Challenge DV

Thanks to Challenge DV for their generous financial support towards the SPEAQ Secretariat, ensuring the ongoing sustainability of our network and the administrative support provided by the Secretary to our members including for the delivery of this event.

Presenters and Speakers at the 2025 Forum

Thank you to everyone who sent in a submission to present at this year's SPEAQ Forum, and those who responded to an invitation to participate. We are thankful to this year's speakers who have worked collaboratively with us to put together a meaningful programme. We'd also like to give a special acknowledgement to DVConnect for supporting Tim Kelly to be here with us all the way from Canada, and for our interstate presenters Alan Jenkins, Rodney Vlais, Tori Cooke, Hala Abdelnour and Max Castle for making the trek north and East to be with us and share their knowledge, insights and experience.

Attendees

Thank you to everyone who has supported the 2025 SPEAQ Forum by purchasing tickets and attending this event. We were blown away by the response – selling more Early Bird tickets than our entire attendance at the last SPEAQ Forum in Brisbane in 2023, before we even had a programme put together! We appreciate your support in making our Forum a reality – your involvement is what makes this event worthwhile. We're especially pleased to welcome attendees from interstate. Stay connected!



Key Forum Sponsors

WorkUP Queensland (WorkUP) was created in May 2019 to support a strong and skilled workforce to meet growing demand for the state's 188 specialist sexual violence, women's health and wellbeing, and domestic and family violence services. We were founded by The Healing Foundation, in partnership with Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS). The Healing Foundation brings Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership, cultural awareness and healing to improve the way services interact with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients, with cultural awareness forming a key part of WorkUP's professional development. ANROWS brings leadership in the development of Knowledge, Translation and Exchange (KTE) in Australia as applied in preventing and responding to violence against women.

Informed and driven by WorkUP's workforce planning processes and genuine stakeholder engagement, our objective is to address workforce-related challenges and opportunities. Together, WorkUP Queensland and the sector have created a plan to grow, retain, develop, support, connect and sustain the workforce. This continues to evolve and mature, evidenced by the widespread take-up of the inaugural Workforce Capability Framework and accompanying resources, and the recently released Grow the Workforce Road Map strategy 2024-26.

The name WorkUP Queensland reflects our focus on developing the sector to meet the challenges of the future. The ripple effect in the logo highlights our specialist workforce's impact in ending violence in Queensland. The circle elements of the design also represent the broader community coming together in a holistic approach to end domestic and family violence and sexual violence in Queensland.

Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research

At QCDFVR we integrate Research, Education, and Sector Support across the integrated service system to contribute to the prevention of, and response to, violence against women. In doing so we seamlessly link practice-based evidence and evidence-based practice to create and share knowledge to have a social impact. Our model is underpinned by intersectional, trauma-informed and feminist principles, with a dedicated focus on domestic, family and sexual violence. We are proud of our history of serving regional and remote communities and our critical relationships with frontline networks and individuals. We strive to give precedence to the voices of those with the lived experience of intimate partner, gendered and family violence, and people from priority populations. Our building blocks for success include authentic engagement, a real-world orientation, collaborative practice, accessibility and adaptability.



About SPEAQ

About SPEAQ

SPEAQ (Services and Practitioners for the Elimination of Abuse Qld) is Queensland's network of practitioners and services involved in, or with an interest in, intervention work with persons who have perpetrated domestic and family violence, primarily men and boys. The network has been operating in Queensland for over 30 years, initially in South-East Qld, becoming a state-wide network in 2007, with a permanent part-time secretariat established in 2009. SPEAQ is currently auspiced by DVNQ (formerly NQDVRS).

SPEAQ is the only collective voice representing practitioners and services in this field in Queensland. We also work to inform, educate and advise other professionals, government and the public as the voice of specialist professionals in the field of men's DFV behaviour change work.

SPEAQ operates at both a practitioner level and a management level. Our roots and our main focus has been in supporting practitioners, but our interests are broader than just practitioner roles. Manager's meetings were held since 2008, and provided a decision making forum for SPEAQ's direction and major activities, as well as being a forum to assist consultation with government. In 2020 the SPEAQ Steering Committee was established as the governing body to direct SPEAQ's activities and drive ongoing development towards making SPEAQ a sustainable, effective and well-resourced network within the DFV sector.

SPEAQ receives no recurrent government funding. Our major funding sources are membership subscription fees, grants for special activities such as WorkUP Queensland's Collaborative Grants funding for this Forum, donations, and surplus from professional development activities where we charge a fee. We acknowledge the generous support of Challenge DV who are supporting the secretariat again this year and have supported PD activities in the past.

We welcome your interest and involvement in SPEAQ! People working collaboratively for mutual support, with goodwill and collaboration is what SPEAQ is all about. If you'd like to join SPEAQ, or are already a member and want to take a more active role in SPEAQ, contact the Secretary at secretariat@speaq.org.au or the Steering Committee at steeringcommittee@speaq.org.au.

See more info about SPEAQ on our website at speaq.org.au.

SPEAQ

