

NO

Conference report

Working with
Aboriginal Men and
Family Violence
Conference

Adelaide 2017

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We would like to thank everyone who contributed to making this conference possible, including the staff of KKY and No to Violence. We are especially grateful to Janis Constable, our Indigenous Engagement and Research Consultant, who developed a powerful program of speakers and authored this conference report.

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Our Acknowledgement of Country

No to Violence acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia, the traditional custodians of the lands and water. We pay respect to all Elders, past and present as well as the individuals and organisations working in their communities to address all forms of family violence.

We wish to acknowledge how family violence disproportionately affects Aboriginal communities, and in particular Aboriginal women and children.

We acknowledge the importance of engaging with Aboriginal men to generate change to end family violence and strengthen family connections in Aboriginal communities.

We are indebted to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and all of the incredible leadership and progress they have achieved for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the family violence space.

About **No to Violence**

No to Violence is the peak body for organisations and individuals working with men to end family violence in Victoria and New South Wales.

We also provide telephone counselling, information and referrals for men in Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania. As we've supported callers for over 25 years, we're qualified to work with men who use family violence.

No to Violence's role is to join the dots between: men who use violence, the family violence sector, and the community. An integral part of this role is supporting community change.

No to Violence have an active role in supporting and advocating on behalf of its organisational members that run Men's Behaviour Change Programs. We encourage and support our members to hold and contain the safety of men, women and children.

We provide resources and opportunities for service providers to enhance their capacity to successfully engage with men who use violence and to work with men to prevent further violence. We offer training and professional development for the men's family violence workforce, including the Graduate Certificate in Client Assessment and Case Management (Male Family Violence). We also deliver training and professional development to a range of stakeholders within the integrated family violence service system and primary prevention networks across Australia.

Executive summary

No to Violence commissioned research in 2016 to find out what was happening in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities¹ in relation to working with male perpetrators of family violence². The research revealed that many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities had established a range of men's groups with a focus on addressing family violence and other harmful behaviours. Throughout 2016 and early 2017, No to Violence began consultations with various Aboriginal organisations to scope out the feasibility of holding a national forum to bring together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working with men to address family violence.

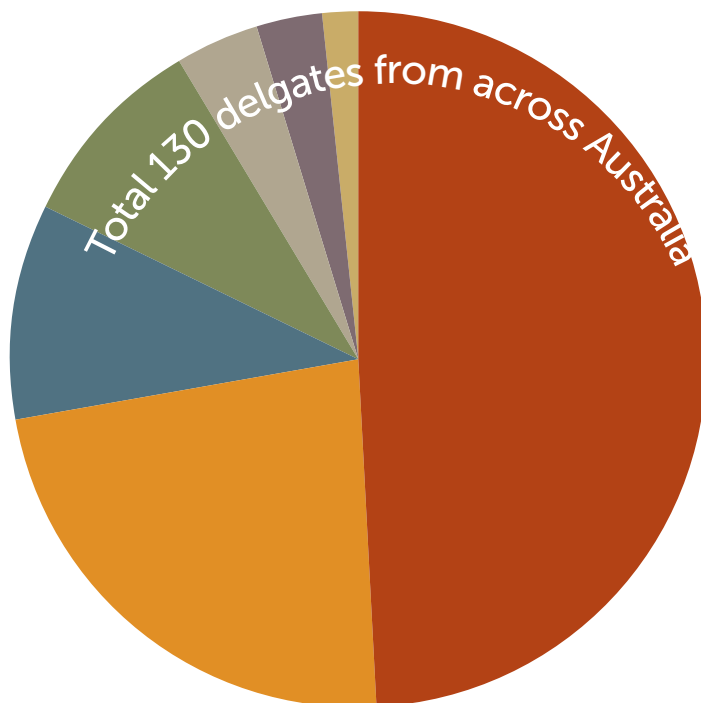
No to Violence partnered with KWY, an Adelaide based Aboriginal family violence service, to co-host the Working with Aboriginal Men and Family Violence conference as a means to showcasing the work being done with men in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The program for the conference was developed to demonstrate the diversity of work being done in communities, as well as present relevant research being undertaken by Aboriginal researchers. The program also presented a diversity of men's and women's voices, as well as a geographical diversity with speakers

from Cape York, Broome, Alice Springs, Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Canberra, Brisbane and Sydney representing their communities.

Over two days in December 2017, 20 speakers and 130 delegates attended the conference. The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive, with participants reporting they learned a lot, appreciated the diversity of speakers, and made some useful connections. Some participants said that for Aboriginal men's family violence programs to evolve, it is vital that forums like this conference continue to take place.

The recommendations in this report reflect the analysis of the feedback received as well as observations from No to Violence of the overall outcomes of the conference. The recommendations include a commitment from No to Violence to host regional forums and conferences. In making this commitment, No to Violence looks forward to continuing to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities to identify how we, as a peak body, can support communities in their work with men, as well as to advance our understanding of culturally proficient program development and delivery.



- WA 13 delegates
- NT 12 delegates
- NSW 5 delegates
- ACT 4 delegates
- QLD 2 delegates

1. The terms 'Aboriginal', 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander' and 'Indigenous' are used interchangeably to refer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples throughout this report.

2. The term 'family violence' includes various forms of violence and a wide variety of relationships, reflecting the diversity of familial and kin relationships in both Indigenous and non-Indigenous societies.

Recommendations

Snapshot



including



1. **No to Violence** to hold another Aboriginal Men and Family Violence National Forum in early 2019 to harness the enthusiasm created by the Adelaide conference.
2. **No to Violence** to host smaller regional forums eg. Alice Springs, Far North Queensland, regional Victoria – partnering with local Aboriginal communities and agencies. The learnings from that will inform the 2019 Conference.
3. **Develop** Aboriginal membership strategy – identifying ways to increase Aboriginal organisations and practitioner membership of No to Violence.
4. **In consultation** with Aboriginal organisations identify training needs of Aboriginal services and communities and consider how No to Violence could best deliver culturally appropriate training in partnership with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations such as Dardi Munwurro.
5. **Identify** the support needs of Aboriginal men’s programs, and how No to Violence can deliver appropriate support – i.e. advocacy, policy advice.
6. **Identify** research opportunities and partnerships.
7. **No to Violence** to encourage mainstream agencies to deliver more culturally competent Men’s Behaviour Change services to Aboriginal clients.

Introduction

"There is ... a need to establish forums that elevate the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women and allow the sharing of knowledge about good practice Indigenous men and boys violence prevention work; and to build the evidence base of how we can promote safety and harmony for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, children and families³."

This conference germinated from ideas that grew out of research undertaken by No to Violence, which explored the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men's behaviour change program landscape. The research examined a range of programs, delivered to Aboriginal men by Aboriginal organisations, which focused on strengthening cultural identity and addressing intergenerational trauma.

Aboriginal social and emotional wellbeing approaches are fundamental to addressing aspects of family violence, as they aim to reassert and reposition traditional cultural roles within the family and community. Many Aboriginal men's programs emphasise the importance of strengthening culture and identity as a means to addressing poor self-esteem, drug and alcohol misuse and other mental health issues that often manifests in men who use violence against their partners and other family members. Programs also address intergenerational trauma and the direct impacts from colonisation.

Programs and activities delivered by Aboriginal community organisations can range from:

- › Parenting programs (Dad's groups, fathering programs)
- › Tradition and culture activities and programs
- › Men's places (Time Out facilities, Men's Sheds)
- › Alcohol and drug misuse programs
- › Improving men's access to health services, care and treatment (referral processes)
- › Suicide prevention programs
- › Crime prevention programs (night patrols, youth engagement programs)
- › Family violence prevention and early intervention programs
- › Family violence perpetrator programs

With the current national focus on family violence it is critical that Indigenous programs (delivered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities) are adequately funded not only to deliver service, but also to evaluate the outcomes and impact of the program. While both Aboriginal and mainstream Men's Behaviour Change Programs are one of the most common and effective methods for addressing men's use of violence, defining their 'success' is difficult and should be considered from a variety of perspectives.

There are positive outcomes being delivered by Aboriginal men's programs. To develop a comprehensive understanding of Aboriginal men's programs (and Aboriginal family violence programs more broadly) appreciating the concepts of social and emotional wellbeing is essential.

Spurred on by the literature review, discussions emerged between No to Violence and practitioners from the sector about the learnings that could be made from a forum where workers from Aboriginal men's programs could come together to share their experiences.

Further, at the national *Working with Men to Tackle Family Violence Conference*, held in Sydney February 2017, a number of delegates expressed concern about the lack of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander speakers at the conference. No to Violence, a co-sponsor of the conference, listened to the concerns expressed and followed up by talking with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations about how best to support a forum to showcase the work being done with men in Aboriginal communities.

³ Healing Foundation with Adams, M, Bani, G, Blagg, H, Bullman, J, Higgins, D, Hodges, B, Hovane, V, Martin-Pederson, M, Porter, A, Sarra, G, Thorpe, A and Wenitong, M (2017). *Towards an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander violence prevention framework for men and boys*, The Healing Foundation and White Ribbon Australia Canberra. ISBN: 978-0-9941578-5-0.



Partnership with KWY

Discussions were held with KWY, an Adelaide based Aboriginal family violence service, to scope out their interest in co-hosting an Aboriginal men's behaviour change forum. KWY had held successful conferences in previous years and were enthusiastic about the idea of partnering with No to Violence to host a conference focusing on Aboriginal men and family violence.

A Working Group was established comprised of KWY and No to Violence staff to organise the conference. KWY agreed to organise the venue and manage the delegate registration process. No to Violence would manage the development of the program (speakers, panel subject matter and break out groups etc). The Working Group met via teleconference every fortnight to discuss progress.

About KWY

KWY is a not-for-profit Aboriginal organisation delivering a range of specialist services across South Australia. KWY's aim is to improve the levels of engagement and positive outcomes for women, men, children and community. KWY supports the safety of women and children by providing a 'whole of family' holistic response to supporting our community. KWY also provide specialist training in South Australia for the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) sector, some 97 services state-wide.

Conference sponsors

No to Violence sought funding for the conference from relevant ministers and government departments requesting financial support to predominantly assist delegates from remote communities to attend the conference.

The Commonwealth Department of Social Services, SA Health and SA Office for Women kindly provided financial support for the conference, which enabled three delegates from the remote Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara Lands to attend the conference, as well as allowing conference organisers to pay for travel and accommodation for some speakers from more remote and regional areas.

No to Violence thanks the Department of Social Services, SA Health and SA Office for Women for their support for this conference.

Conference Program

The conference program was developed to showcase the work being done in Aboriginal communities with Aboriginal men to reduce the impact of family violence. We identified programs from across Australia to ensure that the conference had broad geographical representation, as well as diverse cultural representation.

It was also important that the conference program showcase a diversity of approaches to working with Aboriginal men, which meant inviting practitioners from a range of disciplines to deliver presentations on their work, or participate on panels. The final program included family violence practitioners, community workers, health workers, psychologists, narrative therapists, researchers, legal practitioners and CEOs. The program also saw a number of Elders (men and women) represent their communities and discuss measures implemented to address family violence.

Voices essential to the conference program were those of Aboriginal women. Although the focus of the conference was working with Aboriginal men, it is Aboriginal women who are typically burdened with the impact of family violence and traditionally, it is the women in communities, who take on the bulk of the work to end family violence. If meaningful strides are to be made in working with men who use violence, women's voices must be front and centre of the discussion, as well as in the development of policies and programs formulated to address the safety needs and address the impacts of family violence.



Antoinette Braybrook, CEO, Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention & Legal Service Victoria and Jacqui Watt, CEO, No to Violence

Conference speakers and panels

Key Note Address: Richard Weston, CEO Healing Foundation

Richard's address focused on the impact of intergenerational and collective trauma experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and how this trauma can, in some Aboriginal men, manifest in violent behaviour. To effectively address these harmful behaviours it is imperative that culturally relevant and locally developed approaches be delivered. Too often, programs aimed at reducing family violence in Aboriginal communities are based on western models of gender identities, and do not focus on the impact of intergenerational trauma. Richard asserted, that there needs to be an investment in 'domains of change' in particular the healing of trauma, and an

understanding of colonisation and its impacts on Aboriginal men's identity. Richard also called for government and the non-government sector to "surrender control" and to move from being "fixers to enablers".

Richard called for increased investment in the evaluation of community-based programs and activities, including a capacity building approach to evaluation. Robust evaluation leading to evidence-based programs can also lead to long-term funding for programs, which is currently a major constraint for many communities.

"Richard Weston's opening speech on healing shows us there are ways to work with community successfully."

Panel Discussion: Stepping Up To The Discussion

Panel Members:

Richard Weston, CEO, Healing Foundation

Aunty Daphne Yarram, Yoowinna Wurnalung

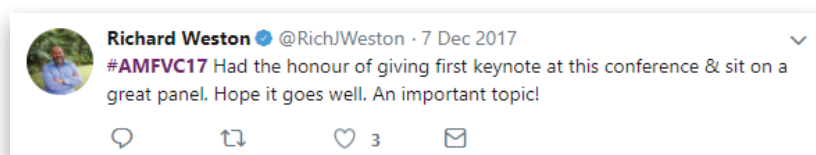
Alan Thorpe, CEO, Dardi Munwurro

Pastor Ray Minniecon, Chair, Babana Men's Group

Joseph Oui, Men's Counsellor, Apunipima Cape York Health Council

Key points:

- › Accountability is another stage in healing, need to create safe spaces to weave healing narratives, which can lead to accountability.
- › We need to understand how we got here while not excusing bad behaviour
- › Men in programs need to be treated with compassion and respect
- › Young men need to be accountable to our old people, Elders being more involved in activities
- › Men and women need to work together to co-design programs
- › Community is family – focus on family centred programs
- › More trauma work needs to be done with men in prisons prior to their release, and followed up on their release.
- › Restoration of lore and culture, strengthening and connecting to cultural identity
- › Some agencies have been known to close their doors (literally) when faced with angry Aboriginal men – while this may be an OH&S issue, this reaction is more likely based on fear and racism. There needs to be more accountability from mainstream agencies and increased cultural competency training.
- › Organisations/governments being accountable for their role in trauma and reflective on how they engage with Aboriginal people
- › While not excusing bad behaviour, unpacking trauma helps understand how we got there.
- › Need to return "back to lore and culture", that accountability is implicit in Aboriginal culture.



Facilitated Discussion Groups



Photo: from left – Pastor Ray Minniecon, Kylie Dowse, Joseph Oui, Aunty Daphne Yarram, Craig Rigney, Jacqui Watt, Graeme Pearce, Melissa Clark, Anthony Newcastle, Corina Martin, Ada Peterson, Alan Thorpe and Maree Corbo

Facilitator: Alan Thorpe, Dardi Munwurro ~ Different Stages of a Man's Journey

Key Points:

- › Healing is a journey – a transformation
- › We need to acknowledge the man's scars
- › Counselling should not create new scars
- › Past/Present/Future model – invites men to conceptualise the change they want in their lives
- › Described program run in Barwon prison
- › 8 men engaged for 8 days (2 day blocks)
- › Creating "safe space", hearing men's stories before addressing family violence
- › Split life up into 3 categories (0-7yo, 8-15yo, 6-21yo), men encouraged to describe their experiences throughout life
- › Does men's disclosure of trauma in group have potential to re-traumatise other men in the group? Alan responded stating his experience has been the opposite, describing a powerful mutual-aid type process in groups that help other men relate to stories they hear and engage with the group in a positive way.

Facilitator: Ada Peterson, Mallee & Districts Aboriginal Services ~ Working Collaboratively with other agencies

Key Points

- › Working collaboratively means working holistically – a whole of community response is required when working with family violence
- › Cultural safety is critical
- › Sisters project aimed at empowering women and girls – this project has received an overwhelming response from the community
- › MDAS developed a series of television ads which were aired in primetime – the response was outstanding.

Facilitator: Pastor Ray Minniecon, Stolen Generations, Babana & Coloured Diggers Project ~ Impacts of the Stolen Generations on Men

Key Points:

- › Aboriginal veterans not recognised by RSL – many Aboriginal veterans suffering post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), that combined with cultural trauma can lead to harmful behaviours, including suicide, family violence and substance abuse.
- › Coloured Diggers ANZAC Day March not initially recognised by government or RSL – this led to many people attending to show support, now up to ten thousand people attend the march in Redfern.
- › Important to honour Aboriginal veterans, men and women, as part of healing process.
- › Babana - Suicide Prevention work
 - Working with local police to address mental health issues of Aboriginal men
 - Highlights the importance of working together
 - Young men are often grieving – a family member or friend has committed suicide. Individual and community grief is unresolved with few places available to get culturally appropriate support.

Conference speakers and panels (cont.)

Facilitated Discussions Panel – Report back

Facilitators: Alan Thorpe, Ada Peterson
& Ray Minniecon

Key Points:

- › Projects need to be sustainable – live beyond funding
- › Use all types of media to spread messages – social media, television, posters etc.
- › Focus on positives – what we as a community are doing well. Celebrate culture!
- › First 1000 days (0-7 years) important time to address trauma
- › Men are at different stages in their journey – we need to respect that. We need to work with men where they are at, understand what’s going on for him
- › Group work important – other men’s stories impact on those listening. Ripple effect.
- › Don’t force mainstream organisational structures onto Aboriginal men in programs – separate referrals to deal with different aspects of the man’s needs. Support needs to be holistic.



Photo: from left – Richard Weston, CEO, Healing Foundation, Alan Thorpe, CEO, Dardi Munwurro, Aunty Daphne Yarram, Yoowinna Wurnalung, Pastor Ray Minniecon, Chair, Babana Men’s Group, Joseph Oui, Men’s Counsellor, Apunipima Cape York Health Council and Craig Rigney, CEO, KWY

Panel: Web of Accountability

Panel Members:

Kylie Dowse, Narrative Therapy Practitioner

Anthony Newcastle, Natjul

Corina Martin, CEO Aboriginal Family Law Service WA

Maree Corbo, Tangentyere Council, Men’s Behaviour Change Program

Jack Bulman, Mibbinbah

Key Points:

- › Accountability is not just about the man – it’s also about the systems designed to address family violence being accountable too.
- › How do governments and mainstream organisations acknowledge accountability?
- › How do we as practitioners hold ourselves accountable?
- › Aboriginal people working in their communities find they have to hold themselves more accountable for their practice.
- › Where does social and personal accountability start and end?
- › Accountability for Aboriginal people never ends – we are accountable to family, community, ancestors, environment
- › Gendered difference in how women experience family violence, levels of fear and patterns of behaviour.
- › “What is getting in the way of responsibility?”
- › Practitioners being accountable to the family members of the clients they work with.
- › Community discussions on “what is acceptable” to promote “community accountability”
- › Men’s Behaviour Change Program work being informed by and accountable to the women’s groups in the community.
- › Critical to give Aboriginal lead organisations control of Aboriginal service delivery.

Facilitated Discussion Groups

Facilitator: Professor Victoria Hovane, Australian National University ~ Family & Community Safety Study – Investigating the needs of communities.

- › Current mainstream family violence services not relevant to Aboriginal contexts
- › Western feminism focused on gender inequality, and framing men's use of power & control, does not meet Aboriginal experiences and needs.
- › "Tinkering around the edges" with mainstream western models does not address Aboriginal experiences of family violence.
- › Aboriginal history of lore and culture "provide a cultural template" to address Aboriginal family violence.
- › "Culture is not a variable, it is critical".
- › A model was presented for family violence highlighting – Values, Principles, Practices and Traditions
- › Aboriginal culture of gendered "roles and responsibilities" should be encouraged. Patriarchy and feminist critiques of gender roles exclude this cultural difference.

Facilitator: Graeme Pearce, Cross Borders Program ~ Working on Country

- › Indigenous family violence offender program delivered in communities and prisons
- › Challenges that come from delivering programs in an area that spans 350,000 square kilometres.
- › The program began with the men creating the group rules – ownership
- › Importance that there is a space where the men can feel safe and speak freely
- › Cultural safety critical

Facilitator: Melissa Clark, Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement ~ Children and Family Violence Legal Responses

- › Family violence is a driver of young people in detention
- › Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and the Bringing Them Home report – over 400 recommendations and nothing has changed
- › Limited research on the impact of family violence on children (some mainstream research exists but there needs to be research undertaken with a cultural lens)
- › What does genuine co-design look like?



Key Note Address: Antoinette Braybrook, CEO Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service ~ Women's Lives Matter

- › Aboriginal women's lives have been silenced for too long.
- › Pressure from community to keep family together, leave many women feeling helpless.
- › Aboriginal women experience violence from men from many different cultures.
- › Many women are isolated from community because of violence
- › Many women don't want to further demonise Aboriginal men, but need to call violence out.
- › Rates of violence unacceptable
- › Violence often goes unreported – in some communities up to 90% of violence is not reported
- › No trust in the system
- › Many women fear the system more than the abuse
- › Justice systems are seen as a tool of oppression for many Aboriginal people
- › 34% of women in prison are Aboriginal – compared with Aboriginal people comprising 3% of the total Australian population
- › Many Aboriginal women spend longer on remand than their eventual sentence
- › Many women who go to prison lose children, home and job
- › Keeping women at home with their families must be a priority
- › There needs to be a complete overhaul of the justice system
- › Investment in Aboriginal organisations
- › Programs for men and women must be culturally safe.

"Women's lives matter. A great forum.... fantastic speakers and variety and knowledge."

Conference speakers and panels (cont.)



Antoinette Braybrook, CEO, Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention & Legal Service Victoria

Presentation: Jack Bulman, Mibbinbah Men's Group

- › Mibbinbah works with men and the trigger points that resulted in aggressive, controlling and violent behaviours.
- › The use of the film *Mad Bastards*⁴ as a tool to start men talking about their behaviours and identity
- › Ten camps run since 2007 working with about 100 men
- › One of the camps held in the Tweed saw men come together for two days, then women were invited for the third day to come together to speak about their experiences of family violence and explore issues together.

Panel: Working with Families and Children ~ A Trauma Informed Approach

Panel Members:

Dr. Yvonne Clark, the University of Adelaide

Stephanie McGarrigan, KWY

Joseph Oui, Apunipima Cape York Health Council

Jake Battifuoco, Port Adelaide Football Club

- › Important that practitioners have an understanding of trauma

- › Many Aboriginal people experience intergenerational trauma which needs careful unpacking
- › Having access to safe spaces crucial
- › Understanding of cultural loss and how to restore
- › Working with children who have experienced a range of traumas requires specific training
 - Sport as a way of engaging young people
- › Working with men in prison – opportunity to start working with trauma, but needs to be followed up after release, otherwise could cause more harm
- › Working with whole of community to identify and address trauma
- › Gendered differences of trauma.

Presentation: Kylie Dowse & Anthony Newcastle ~ Beyond the System: Regenerating collective community responses to family violence

Kylie's section:

- › Uses stories to shape identity
- › What are the implications of describing the ongoing effects of colonisation as anything less than demonstration of survival made possible through a rich array of skills and knowledge?
- › Resist 'damage-centred' stories – rather tell stories that make us stronger
- › Using simple numbers, we can 'bring to life' 60,000 carbon dated years of successful living as communities
 - 60,000 years equates to 923 lifespans, or 3,000 generations.
 - Ancient Egypt: 77 lifespans ago, 250 generations ago.
 - Roman Empire: 31 lifespans ago, 100 generations ago.
 - Viking Ages: 19 lifespans ago, 62 generations ago.
 - Colonisation: 3.5 lifespans ago, 12 generations ago.
- › What might be possible if we action strategies in our communities to respond to family violence in culturally resonant ways of caring for others?
- › Teams of local Aboriginal men who hold respect in community to act as 'first responders'. These men remove other Aboriginal men who are enacting family violence from the home with care and respect, and provide safe places to be for a time.

⁴ *Mad Bastards* (2010), B Fletcher (Director/Writer), Republic Vision, Sydney.

- › Women responders check in with Aboriginal women to ensure their needs are met.
- › Safety of children is increased, and the single greatest risk to our children is reduced... removal from their families
- › Once Were 'Worriers': a collective letter written by men, to other men
- › Kylie also facilitated small group work throughout her presentation, which focused on naming some positive values that are not impacted by family violence and how we can work with these values.



Anthony's section

- › We are an accumulation of the knowledge we have gathered
- › The work around dispossession has been going on for a very long time
- › Anthony talked about the power of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission – telling stories, confronting perpetrators is fundamental
- › However, the voices need to be heard, spaces and activities for those voices that are unheard need to be created
- › When we hear a story we are engaged.
- › Highlighted potential for acknowledging and learning from community work being done with First Nations people in other countries
- › Discussed the power of storytelling for creating narrative around difficult issues that people can relate to and engage with in a non-confrontational way
- › Interactive dramas that depict family violence scenarios – inviting audience to “re-write the script”, and create opportunities to invite empathy
- › Described “Didg groups” in Brisbane where men discuss trauma around their experiences of childhood sexual assault while making didgeridoos and then learning to play them – reconnecting to culture through traditional cultural activity.

“Anthony is amazing, a highly powerful presentation.”

Presentation: Dr Emma Partridge, Our Watch – Developing a new resource to prevent violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women

- › Resource to be launched in March 2018
- › Research and literature review – strong focus on publications by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations
- › Gender analysis alone does not explain high levels of violence experienced by Aboriginal women
- › Project Advisory Group of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women
- › The new resource aims to:
 - Understand the dynamic of violence against Aboriginal women
 - Explore underlying and intersecting aspects of violence
 - Develop specific approach that addresses these drivers
- › Barriers to reporting – ongoing failure of services to respond adequately, racism, fear of retribution from family and community
- › Challenge the condoning of violence against women
- › Foster positive personal identities for women, men, girls and boys, and challenge negative gender stereotypes
- › Promote women's independence and access to decision-making.

“Looking forward to seeing the final product.”



Dr Emma Partridge, Manager, Policy, Our Watch

Conference speakers and panels (cont.)



Dr Tracy Westerman, Indigenous Psychological Services

Key Note Address: Dr Tracy Westerman, Indigenous Psychological Services

- › Intergenerational trauma – “this generation is doing worse than the one before”
- › Aboriginal people over diagnosed – western mental health frameworks lose the cultural nuances and compounded trauma of Aboriginal people
- › “Cultural paranoia” – compounded experiences of racism creating a form of PTSD
- › Using attachment theory to highlight potential strengths in Aboriginal parenting / family structures where Aboriginal kids develop attachment to a network of family members
- › Tracy also described a number of culturally safe psychological assessment tools that capture the nuances of Aboriginal experiences, prevents misdiagnosis, highlights different areas for support.

“Thank you, amazing and informative.”

- › If an Aboriginal community is told they can’t work it out for themselves, they will begin to believe it and everyone else will see them through this filter of disempowerment “Every time you put an Aboriginal person in to a non-Aboriginal framework you lose the opportunity to find difference”

“Outstanding and inspiring.”



Feedback from delegates

In the weeks following the conference No to Violence held several one-on-one discussions with conference delegates to receive feedback on the conference. Additional feedback was received via evaluation forms distributed by KKY to conference delegates at the conference. KKY provided No to Violence with a synopsis of the feedback received through those evaluation forms.

Generally comments received from delegates were positive, with many participants reporting they learned a lot and appreciated the diversity of speakers. Some delegates said they thought this was the first conference solely dedicated to Aboriginal men's programs and "hoped it wasn't the last." Some participants said that for Aboriginal men's family violence programs to evolve, it is vital that forums like this conference continue to take place. They added that not only is it important to share information and learn about different approaches, it is important for professionals and community to come together to form relationships that can support each other in their work.

"What we can learn from each other is powerful."

Other feedback suggested how the conference could have been improved, for example, some participants wanted to hear more about methodology ('how to' tips) from panels and individual speakers. While commending the subject matter and quality of speakers, some participants were keen to know more about practice methodology and specific examples of individual case management. This is valuable feedback to receive and No to Violence will include more on practice techniques in future forums. No to Violence will also invite those participants expressing a desire to learn more about practice methodology to the various No to Violence workshops and training delivered throughout the year.

Comments about the 'wrap-up' process were made, most notably that there was not enough time for adequate discussion at the end of the conference. It was suggested that participants needed to be provided with an opportunity

to contribute to the 'next steps' process at the end of each panel and especially at the end of the conference. Time constraints, especially on day two, impacted on the ability to allow delegates more time to fully discuss what were the outcomes of the conference, and how to progress those outcomes. No to Violence will ensure there are sufficient feedback/conclusion processes at future conferences, and agree it would have been advantageous to have more opportunities for delegate input.

It was suggested that panels required more time for questions from the audience. While all panels did allow for some questions from the floor, panels were time restricted which impacted on question time and wrap up. No to Violence will carefully factor in time allocation for each speaker and panel at future conferences allowing more time for audience participation. No to Violence believes it is essential for conference democracy to have equal opportunity for input from delegates and speakers.

Feedback also suggested that panels would have benefited from more focused questions, drawing more purposeful responses from panel members. This would have been achieved through having an expert facilitate panel sessions. Some delegates also suggested that more women facilitators would have enhanced the conference. No to Violence agrees with these recommendations and will engage expert subject matter facilitators at future forums, as well as have more women facilitating.

"There was a missed opportunity for women to facilitate."



Conference participants

Feedback from **delegates** (cont.)

One delegate suggested that the conference would have benefited from separate men and women's workshops allowing for more candid discussions. No to Violence will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of separate gender workshops with relevant organisations, and consider for future conferences.

No to Violence engaged several members of parliament (Federal and South Australian) to present at the conference, most of whom were unavailable to attend as the conference coincided with the Federal Government's last sitting week. The Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Nigel Scullion, sent a video message for the conference delegates. As noted above, both governments provided financial support for the conference, which No to Violence deeply appreciates. No to Violence will ensure the dates of any future conference will not conflict with parliamentary sitting dates.

Overall the feedback for the conference received was positive. What follows are some of the comments received.

"Really good overall, let's hope it's just the beginning."

"Huge variation in the ways people are working for communities around family violence."

"The most interesting, informative, thought provoking and challenging conference I've been to in years."

"Great conference bringing us together, thank you"

"Need opportunity to include wellness and self-care discussions and voice of LGBTQI community."

"The panels were great. I feel it should go for 3 days or 2 full days."

"Every minute engaging and full. Congratulations on making it happen."

"This is great. As a non- Aboriginal person to be able to listen and hear and join Aboriginal people exploring ways forward is so good and to be in the room with so many Aboriginal workers- so many men and women to effect real change."

"Great conference. Great presentations keep the ball rolling."

"Such rich experience a huge thanks to organisers and presenters."

"Fantastic great speakers. Thank you for this deadly awesome two days."

"I thoroughly enjoyed this conference I have never attended something like this."

"Great showcase to share Australia wide."



Photo: Lionel and Bonnie Dukakis from Dardi Munwurro

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Adelaide

Media engagement

In the three months leading up to and during the conference both No to Violence and KWY attracted increased media attention to the conference and the issue of Aboriginal men's family violence prevention more broadly.

Communications were targeted to those with a professional and/or personal interest in family violence prevention within Aboriginal communities. Central to our communications, was the message - *an Aboriginal conference putting Aboriginal voices and their practice insight first.*

Social media

At the conference, participants were encouraged to use the hashtag #AMFVC17 for social media posting which generated pointed discussion for those at the conference and those following from elsewhere.

Blog

Blog posts promoting the conference and speakers were posted on the conference website to raise interest and ticket sales.

Radio

KWY, CEO, Craig Rigney was heard on radio discussing the conference and its themes on South Australian stations, including:

- > ABC Radio Adelaide Mornings
- > ABC Radio Adelaide News
- > NITV Radio (formerly SBS Radio)
- > 5AA Radio

Next steps

Discussions have been held since the conference with those that attended, seeking their thoughts about how No to Violence, as the largest peak body in Australia working to end men's family violence, can progress the ideas, discussions and enthusiasm created by this conference. Some of these strategies are discussed on page 15 in the feedback section.

To harness the enthusiasm created by the conference it is recommended No to Violence:

1. Host a National Forum – partnering with relevant organisations – e.g. Healing Foundation, National Association of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (NAACHO), Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service, Apunipima Cape York Health Council, Tangentyere Council etc.

2. Host smaller regional forums e.g. in Alice Springs, Far North Queensland, regional Victoria

3. Develop an Aboriginal membership strategy to increase Aboriginal organisations and practitioner membership of No to Violence

4. Identify the training needs of Aboriginal services and communities and how No to Violence could best deliver appropriate training

5. Identify research opportunities and partnerships

6. Identify the support needs of Aboriginal men's programs and how No to Violence can deliver appropriate support – i.e. advocacy, policy advice

7. Encourage mainstream agencies to become more culturally competent and learn from opportunities offered by Aboriginal services and practitioners instead of thinking they know best.

In making these recommendations No to Violence looks forward to continuing to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities to identify how we, as a peak body, can support communities in their work with men, as well as to advance our understanding of culturally proficient program development and delivery.

Appendix 1 – Conference delegates

Total 130 delegates from across Australia

1	Martin	Corina	Aboriginal Family Law Services WA
2	Cumming	Renee	Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service in Victoria
3	Councillor	Raylene	Anglicare
4	Glauser	Nick	Anglicare WA Broome
5	Hovane	Victoria	Australian National University
6	Oui	Joseph	Apunipima Cape York Health Council
7	Soloman	Fanae	Baptist Care
8	Barns	Steven	Bardi
9	Reid	Lionel	Bardi
10	Hooper	Russell	Commonwealth Department of Social Services
11	Baker	Archie	Community Housing SA
12	Dodd	Garth	Council of Aboriginal Elders SA
13	Sansbury	Carlo	Country Health SA
14	Chadwick	Neil	Courts Administration Authority SA
15	Dukakis	Lionel	Dardi Munwurro
16	Dukakis	Bonnie	Dardi Munwurro
17	Thorpe	Steve	Dardi Munwurro
18	Thorpe	Alan	Dardi Munwurro
19	Shen	Damien	Drug and Alcohol Services Australia
20	DCP rep		Department for Child Protection
21	DCP rep		Department for Child Protection
22	DCP rep		Department for Child Protection
23	DCP rep		Department for Child Protection
24	Rudd	Mark	Department for Child Protection
25	Cichon	Fiona	The Department for Communities and Social Inclusion
26	Coaby	John	The Department for Communities and Social Inclusion
27	Holmes	David	The Department for Communities and Social Inclusion
28	Krieg	Anthea	The Department for Communities and Social Inclusion
29	Marsh	Julie	The Department for Communities and Social Inclusion
30	McCabe	Natalie	The Department for Communities and Social Inclusion
31	McCann	Jacqueline	The Department for Communities and Social Inclusion
32	Perry	Mark	The Department for Communities and Social Inclusion
33	Sinclair	Yasmin	The Department for Communities and Social Inclusion

34	Warrior	Winnie	The Department for Communities and Social Inclusion
35	Buzzacott	Fiona	The Department for Communities and Social Inclusion Housing SA
36	Jackson	Tod	The Department for Communities and Social Inclusion Housing SA
37	Lombard	Michelle	The Department for Communities and Social Inclusion Housing SA
38	Starkey	Loretta	The Department for Communities and Social Inclusion Remote Housing
39	Turner	Michael	Department for Education and Child Development
40			Department of Child Protection
41	Ambagtsheer	Amy	Dept Communities and Social Inclusion – Office for Women
42	Agius	Fred	Dept Communities and Social Inclusion SA
43	Wanganeen	Eileen	Dept for Education and Child Development SA
44	Hammill	Chelsea	The Department for Communities and Social Inclusion
45	Dam	Monique	Domestic Violence NSW
46	Haque	Mozammel	Education Centre Against Violence
47	Lohmeyer	Beth	Family Violence Law Centre
48	Tolhurst	Michael	Homelessness Advocacy Service
49	Peterson	Fiona	Healing Foundation
50	Turner	Lou	Healing Foundation
51	Caretti	Venety	Housing SA Ceduna
52	Sainsbury	Tania	Huon Domestic Violence Service
53	Hunt	Jacob	Indigenous Family Violence Regional Advisory Council Mildura
54	Peterson	Ada	Mallee & Districts Aboriginal Services
55	Johnson	Brendan	Mallee & Districts Aboriginal Services
56	Gocol	Stefan	Mallee & Districts Aboriginal Services
57	Kelly	Nathan	Mallee & Districts Aboriginal Services
58	Daly	Helen	Multi-Agency Protection Service
59	Thomas	Terry	Mallee District Aboriginal Services
60	Latham	Aaron Pedro	Men's Outreach Service Broome
61	Mitchell	Peter	Men's Outreach Service Broome
62	Vigor	Caroline	Men's Outreach Service Broome
63	Puertollano	John	Men's Outreach Service Broome
64	Harris	Kim	Men's Outreach Service Broome
65	Newchurch	Eddie	Narungga Port Pearce
66	Newcastle	Anthony	Natjui

Appendix 1 – Conference delegates (cont.)

67	Dreyer	Jodi	Northern Domestic Violence Service SA
68	McKay	Jacob	Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council
69	McKay	Kirk	Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council
70	Toraille	Martin	Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council
71	Coleman	Diane	NSW Education Centre Against Violence (ECAV)
72	Meredith	Stephen	Nunkawarrin Youth
73	Sumner	Emma	Nunkawarrin Youth
74	Walla	Jean	Nunkuwarrin Yunti of South Australia
75	Ward	Shelly	Nunkuwarrin Yunti of South Australia
76	Francis	Annie	Office for Women SA
77	Furner	Wendy	Office for Women SA
78	Partridge	Emma	Our Watch
79	Weston	Nicola	Our Watch
80	Tass	Jocelyn	Outcare
81	Tucker	Christion	Outcare
82	Christou	Tucker	Outcare Perth WA
83	Aramoana	Nina	Outcare WA
84	Bunce	Nina	Outcare WA
85	W	Sam	Prime Minister and Cabinet
86	Mundy	Constance	Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation Port Lincoln
87	Amadio	John	Relationships Australia SA
88	Dadleh	Erica	Relationships Australia SA
89	Harris	Mike	Relationships Australia SA
90	Hewer	Leon	Relationships Australia SA
91	Mitchell	Karina	Relationships Australia SA
92	Cooke	Tori	Ruah Community Services Perth WA
93	Mack	Herb	SA Government
94	Mort	Fiona	SA Government
95	Christmann	Aaron	SA Government
96	Young	Lyndall	SA Health
97	Dowse	Kylie	Saltwater Narrative Practice
98	Green	Damian	Stopping Family Violence WA

99	Bloomfield	Ian	Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC)
100	D'Angelo	Katrina	Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC)
101	Ellis	David	Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC)
102	Glover	Karen	South Australia Health and Medical Research Institute
103	Arbaci	Eliza	Tangentyere Council
104	Cambell	Shirleen	Tangentyere Council
105	Forman	Claire	Tangentyere Council
106	Stoll	Rob	Tangentyere Council
107	Sun	Allan	Tangentyere Council
108	Arbau	Euzan	Tangentyerre council
109	Corbo	Maree	Tangentyerre Council
110	Horsfall	Susan	Uniting Care SA
110	Quenette	Gina	Uniting Care Vic
112	Byrne	Mark	Uniting Communities
113	Barton	Tracy	Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Association (VACCA)
114	Buheva	Fiona	Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Association (VACCA)
115	Ese	Motz	Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Association (VACCA)
116	Graham	Celine	Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Association (VACCA)
117	Grant Drew	Maurice	Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Association (VACCA)
118	Harrison	Kevin	Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Association (VACCA)
119	Mahboobi	Mahaokht	Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Association (VACCA)
120	Purkis	Shirley	Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Association (VACCA)
121	Hughes	Sarah	Victorian Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (VACRO)
122	Decrea	Sarah	Victorian Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (VACRO)
123	McDonald	Jessica	Victorian Legal Aid
124	Kirkwood	Lesley	Women's Law Centre WA
125	Yarram	Daphne	Yoowinna Wurnalung Healing Service
126	Teng	Emmelin	Youth Justice
127	Rex	Angie	
128	Spink	Guy	
129	Williams	Nathaniel	
130	Willson	Tony	

Appendix 2 – Conference program

Day one – 7 December 2017

Time	Topic	Speaker
9.00am	Welcome to the conference and introductions	Craig Rigney, CEO KWY Jacqui Watt, CEO, No to Violence
9.15am	Welcome to Country	Traditional Owner Ngarrindjeri Elder
9.30am	Key note address	Richard Weston, CEO Healing Foundation
10.00am	Panel Discussion Stepping Up To The Discussion – Family violence in our communities Facilitated by Craig Rigney	Panel Members: Richard Weston, CEO, Healing Foundation Aunty Daphne Yarram, Yoowinna Wurnalung Alan Thorpe, CEO, Dardi Munwurro Pastor Ray Minniecon, Chair, Babana Men's Group Joseph Oui, Men's Counsellor, Apunipima Cape York Health Council
10.45am	Morning tea	
11.00am	Concurrent Sessions – Facilitated Discussions 1. Different Stages of a Man's Journey 2. Working Collaboratively with other agencies 3. Stolen Generations – Unfinished Business	Facilitator – Alan Thorpe, Dardi Munwurro Ada Peterson, Mallee & Districts Aboriginal Services Pastor Ray Minniecon, Stolen Generations, Babana Men's Group and Coloured Diggers Project
12.00pm	Panel - Report back from discussions	Alan Thorpe Ada Peterson Pastor Ray Minniecon
1.00pm	Lunch	
2.00pm	Resume and recap	Craig Rigney
2.15pm	Panel Discussion The Web of Accountability	Kylie Dowse,, Saltwater Narrative Practice Anthony Newcastle, Natjul Corina Martin, CEO Aboriginal Family Law Service, WA Maree Corbo, Tangentyere Council, Men's Behaviour Change Program Jack Bulman, Mibbinbah
3.15pm	Afternoon tea	
3.30pm	Concurrent Sessions – Facilitated Discussions 1. Family and Community Safety (FaCtS) Study for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples: Investigating the needs of communities. 2. Working On Country 3. Legal Responses to Family Violence	Professor Victoria Hovane, Australian National University Graeme Pearce, Cross Borders Program Melissa Clark, Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement
4.30pm	Panel - Report back from discussions	Prof. Victoria Hovane Graeme Pearce Melissa Clark
5.30pm	Close	

Day two – 8 December 2017

Time	Topic	Speaker
9.00am	Welcome and acknowledgments	Craig Rigney, CEO KWY
9.05am	About today – introduction	Jacqui Watt, CEO No to Violence
9.15am	Key Note Address Women's Lives Matter	Antoinette Braybrook, CEO Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service
9.45am	Presentation – Mibbinbah	Jack Bulman, CEO Mibbinbah
10.05am	Panel Discussion Working with Families and Children, A Trauma Informed Approach	Dr. Yvonne Clark, University of South Australia Stephanie McGarrigan, Kornar Winmil Yunti Dr Tracy Westerman, Indigenous Psychological Services Joseph Oui, Apunipima Cape York Health Council Jake Battifuoco, Port Adelaide Football Club
11.05am	Morning Tea	
11.30am	Presentation Beyond the System: Regenerating collective community responses to family violence.	Kylie Dowse, University of Melbourne Anthony Newcastle, Natjul, Brisbane
12.30pm	Lunch	
1.15pm	Our Watch Aboriginal Programs	Dr Emma Partridge, Our Watch
1.45pm	Key Note Address	Dr Tracy Westerman, Indigenous Psychological Services
2.30pm	Wrap up discussion Where to from here?	Craig Rigney Jacqui Watt
3.30pm	Close	

Join us

Join Australia's largest peak body working to end men's family violence

No to Violence represents the men's family violence sector in Victoria, NSW and nationally to improve responses to men's use of family violence.

Join us to:

- › support Australia's largest men's family violence prevention peak body
- › access No to Violence professional development events – at reduced cost – to hone your skills and expand your professional networks
- › access resources and support for your clinical and/or community development practice
- › access our Men's Behaviour Change Group Work: A Manual for Quality Practice online
- › receive our fortnightly e-news
- › contribute to important policy developments in the men's family violence prevention field
- › add your voice to the growing call for more services to help men change their violent and controlling behaviour

Visit ntv.org.au/membership for more information

We're developing a skilled men's family violence workforce

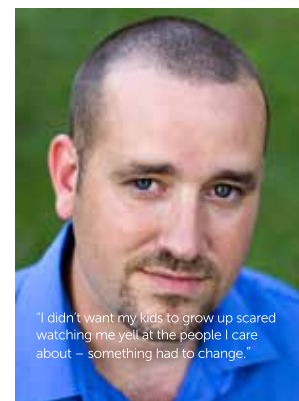
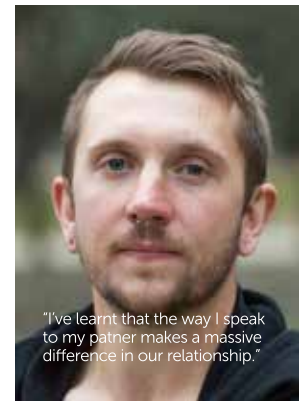
No to Violence provides resources and opportunities for service providers to enhance their capacity to successfully engage with men who use violence and to work with men to prevent further violence. We offer training and professional development for the male family violence workforce, including the Graduate Certificate in Client Assessment and Case Management (Male Family Violence).

Fee-for-service training and tailored training

We can customise training to meet your organisation's specific needs. Contact training@ntv.org.au to discuss training packages.

We're supporting men to change via the Men's Referral Service

The Men's Referral Service is a men's family violence telephone counselling, information and referral service operating in Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania and is the central point of contact for men taking responsibility for



their violent behaviour. We also provide support and referrals for women and men seeking information on behalf of their male partners, friends or family members, and workers in a range of agencies seeking assistance for their clients who are men.

The Men's Referral Service is for:

- › Men who are using controlling behaviour towards a partner or family member
- › Women seeking information about men's use of family violence
- › Friends, family or colleagues of people who may be using or experiencing family violence
- › Professionals wishing to support a client who is using or experiencing family violence

If you or someone you know is causing problems for their relationships and family, please call the Men's Referral Service – 1300 766 491 or visit ntv.org.au to chat online.

**Working with
Aboriginal Men and
Family Violence
Conference 2017**

Adelaide

No to Violence head office

03 9487 4500

info@ntv.org.au

PO Box 277, Flinders Lane VIC 8009

Men's Referral Service

1300 766 491

- > 24 hours: Tasmania and New South Wales
- > 8am–9pm Monday–Friday: all other states
- > 9am–6pm Saturday–Sunday: all other states

Interpreters available upon request.

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