



Working For Change:
Perpetrator Interventions
in LGBTI Communities

No to Violence and
Thorne Harbour Health
Annual Forum



Sponsored by



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge 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.

Acknowledgement of LGBTIQ Elders

We pay our respects to those amongst the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and intersex communities who have worked to support the improved health and wellbeing of their peers, children, families, friends, and country. We honour the elders in the diverse communities of which we are a part and we celebrate the extraordinary diversity of people's bodies, genders, sexualities, and relationships that they represent.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer and/or Questioning = LGBTIQ

No to Violence

For 25 years, No to Violence has been working with men who use violence and power to control their family relationships, to support them to take responsibility for the harm they cause.

We do this through an invitational approach to engaging with men, to ensure we do not collude with them but are able to support them to achieve change. Working directly with men to change their behaviour can contribute to the safety of partners, women, children and other family members. Their safety is central to our work.

Our expertise in challenging men's violence-supporting beliefs, attitudes, behaviour and choices has enabled us to develop standards, programs and training that have been adopted around the world. As a peak body, we represent organisations and individuals who work to end family violence. We provide resources, training and professional development for the men's family violence workforce, the integrated family violence service system and primary prevention networks across Australia. We also provide training to the criminal justice system, community, education and health sectors, and to other workplaces.

The Men's Referral Service – 1300 766 491 - provides assistance, information, counselling and referrals to men, their families, and agencies that work with men. Over the past 25 years we have helped more than 150,000 men get the support they need, and supported improved outcomes for families.

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Thorne Harbour Health

'A key learning from the day was in relation to the gaps that still exist in LGBTIQ family violence service provision, and where the sector is looking to collaborate, build capacity and service provision'.

– Matthew Parsons, GLHV



Thorne Harbour Health was formed in 1983 (initially as the Victorian AIDS Action Committee and later the Victorian AIDS Council) as a central part of the Victorian community response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Thorne Harbour Health continues to lead the response by providing a range of services which include prevention education, treatment and care of PLHIV and counselling services. We continue to evolve in response to the epidemic with robust business systems and an ever-changing strategic response and continuing dedication to our vision and service philosophy. This evolution has come to include a broadening of our portfolio to serve the health needs of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) communities to ensure all gender, sex, and sexually diverse individuals are treated with dignity and can participate fully in society.

This broadening includes an expansion of family violence services to victims/survivors, perpetrators and affected family members. Family violence services include: ReVisioning, a men's behaviour change program for GBTIQ men; Flexi-Support packages which provide victim-focused financial support to reduce the risk of family violence; iHEAL, an innovative victim/survivor service which includes peer-led support; case management and counselling.



Audience question

Executive Summary

Family violence is a social issue which affects all Australians, irrespective of class, age, ability, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation.

During 2016, the Victorian Labor Government handed down a landmark report, Victoria's Royal Commission into Family Violence. Of the 227 recommendations made by the report four were LGBTIQ-family violence specific - recommendations 141-145 - and focussed on the development of evidence-based prevention services; ensuring all funded services achieved Rainbow Tick accreditation; a commitment to funding LGBTIQ specific services; and ensuring accessibility of services, including accommodation.

On Friday 20 July 2018, No to Violence and Thorne Harbour Health co-hosted Victoria's annual LGBTIQ perpetrator interventions forum, Working For Change: Perpetrator Interventions in LGBTIQ Communities.

This year's theme focussed on 'how do we achieve and support healthy and safe relationships?' The audience was comprised of family violence sector practitioners, community sector practitioners and allied health sector practitioners.

Speakers included representatives from current LGBTIQ-inclusive service provision and general LGBTIQ community sector service provision. Discussion focused upon: building capacity of all

allied service providers; opportunities for secondary consultations; how services can work more effectively with perpetrators; ways in which to develop rigorous data frameworks and a best-practice evidence base.

A key learning from the day was in relation to the gaps that still exist in LGBTIQ family violence service provision, and where the sector is looking to collaborate, build capacity and service provision.

Many family violence perpetrator interventions in Victoria are still emerging, and have not yet been evaluated. There is also the need for more research about interventions. This applies to all types of interventions, including those for LGBTIQ responses.

Each speaker and panelist explored diverse perpetrator interventions in LGBTIQ communities, and how we must ensure that the victim/ survivor narrative underpins perpetrator interventions.

No to Violence and Thorne Harbour Health would like to thank the speakers and panel members who showcased LGBTIQ service provision and how the sector can move toward developing rigorous LGBTIQ-inclusive risk frameworks and evidence-bases. We also thank all attendees for their contribution to discussions on the day.

We are grateful to Family Safety Victoria for providing sponsorship for this event.



Engaged audience



From left: Michael Mackay, Thorne Harbour Health; Joe Ball, Switchboard Victoria

Forum overview

Presenters and Panel Members

- > MC, Matthew Parsons, GLHV
- > Amao, Community member, Keynote Speaker
- > Kate Wait, Assistant Director of the Support and Safety Hubs, and Kristy Yeats, Manager of Diversity, Strategy and Engagement Branch. Family Safety Victoria
- > Jill Faulkner, Project Coordinator All of Us and Practice Lead QRespect. drummond street services
- > Joe Ball, CEO. Switchboard Victoria
- > Anthony Lekkas, Counsellor and Family Violence Practitioner. Thorne Harbour Health
- > Michael MacKay, Acting Manager Counselling, AOD and Family Violence Services Program. Thorne Harbour Health
- > Sally Goldner, Acting Treasurer and Media Advocate. Transgender Victoria
- > Gabrielle Tyacke, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Officer, Victoria Police
- > Jacky Tucker, Risk Assessment Management Panel Statewide Coordinator. Domestic Violence Victoria
- > Jacqui Watt, CEO. No to Violence

Topics

- > Keynote: Centralising the victim/ survivor narrative
- > Family Safety Victoria: The Orange Door and LGBTI service provision
- > W/Respect: LGTBIQ+ Family Violence Integrated Services Project
- > A closer look at ReVisioning
- > Case Conference: Case Study Examination

Key learnings

- > We need ongoing trials and evaluations of LGBTIQ perpetrator interventions to build evidence for what works
- > We need to raise demand for LBGTIQ-inclusive service provision in The Orange Doors (Support and Safety Hubs)
- > We call for greater investment in w/Respect and other pilot programs proven to be effective
- > We call for increased funding and roll out of behaviour change programs for trans and gender diverse communities
- > We call for rigorous testing and development of LGBTIQ-inclusive risk assessments and safety planning



From left: Joe Ball, Switchboard Victoria; Jill Faulkner, drummond st services; Anthony Lekkas, Thorne Harbour Health



Audience question

- > We must continue to build upon and queer the feminist gendered lens of family violence and develop LGBTIQ interventions within a feminist, anti-oppressive framework. LGBTIQ services use this framework's guiding principles to assist in their work to hold LGBTIQ perpetrators of family violence to account. This is done by examining and understanding how LGBTIQ perpetrators use (or misuse) their access to power and resources to dominate, intimidate or coerce partners into behaving in ways that ultimately prioritise the perpetrator's interests and needs in family life and relationships.
- > We would like to see an adaptation of the Duluth Model for Australian LGBTIQ-inclusive service provision
- > We call for fulfilment and ongoing investment in LGBTIQ-specific recommendations from the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence
- > We recognise the work undertaken by Victoria Police to promote LGBTIQ inclusive practice and will continue to work with police colleagues to ensure family violence call outs are undertaken in ways which consistently affirm LGBTIQ identities and relationships.
- > No to Violence has committed to represent individual and organisational members who work with LGBTIQ perpetrators.
- > No to Violence has committed to using the annual forum as a safe space to explore LGBTIQ-inclusive perpetrator interventions and partner-contact service provision.

For more information

- > drummond street services ds.org.au
- > Family Safety Victoria vic.gov.au/familyviolence/family-safety-victoria
- > No to Violence ntv.org.au
- > ReVisioning thorneharbour.org/lgbti-health/relationship-family-violence/revisioning/
- > Switchboard switchboard.org.au
- > Thorne Harbour Health thorneharbour.org
- > Transgender Victoria transgendervictoria.com
- > The Orange Door vic.gov.au/familyviolence/the-orange-door
- > w/respect withrespect.org.au



Kristy Yeats, Family Safety Victoria



From left: Michael Mackay, Thorne Harbour Health; Joe Ball, Switchboard Victoria; Sally Goldner, Transgender Victoria'

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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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