



Navigating Mental Health Services Forum and Market place
Community Industry Group
June 2019

The picture of domestic and family violence

Population Statistics

ABS 2017
BOSCAR 2019
AIHW 2019

Culture

(Attitudes towards Violence)
ANROWS 2019

Impact on women

Health / Trauma (AIHW, ANROWS)
Legal / Financial (Law and Justice)

Impact on community

Economy (KPMG)
Services

Statistics : a snap shot

- **One in four** women (23% or 2.2 million) has experienced at least one incident of violence by an intimate partner.
 - Number of domestic assaults **rose by just over 6%** in the last year
- On average one **woman a week is murdered** by her current or former partner
 - **In NSW domestic violence murders doubled over the last year [38]**. Seven victims were children
- Hospitalisation rates have risen by 30% over the last 14 years. **A women is hospitalised every 2 hours in Australia. 1 in 12 were pregnant.**
- 1 in 4 women has experienced emotional abuse

Statistics : local domestic assault incidents

SHOALHAVEN Local Government Area 2 year trend: Up 28.2% per year Rate per 100,000 population: 432.0 NSW rate per 100,000 population: 382.4	NOWRA suburb 2 year trend: Stable Rate per 100,000 population: 1298.0 NSW rate per 100,000 population: 382.4
WOLLONGONG Local Government Area 2 year trend: Up 11.1% per year Rate per 100,000 population: 322.8 NSW rate per 100,000 population: 382.4	WARRAWONG suburb 2 year trend: Stable Rate per 100,000 population: 996.9 NSW rate per 100,000 population: 382.4 BELLAMBI suburb 2 year trend: Stable Rate per 100,000 population: 726.2 NSW rate per 100,000 population: 382.4

Statistics : local domestic assault incidents

SHELLHARBOUR Local Government Area

2 year trend: Stable

Rate per 100,000 population: 283.1

NSW rate per 100,000 population: 382.4

WARILLA suburb

2 year trend: Stable

Rate per 100,000 population: 497.9

NSW rate per 100,000 population: 382.4

ALBION PARK RAIL suburb

2 year trend: Stable

Rate per 100,000 population: 445.9

NSW rate per 100,000 population: 382.4

KIAMA Local Government Area

2 year trend: Stable

Rate per 100,000 population: 164.8

NSW rate per 100,000 population: 382.4

Culture: knowledge and attitudes

- 2 out of 5 women do not know how to get help
- Of women who have experienced violence by a current partner since the age of 15:
 - 54% had sought advice or support about the violence they experienced
 - **82 % (225,700) had never contacted the police.**
- 1 in 3 people are unaware a woman is more likely to be sexually assaulted by someone she knows
- 1 in 3 people believe that if a woman doesn't leave a violent relationship, it is her fault if she continues to be abused

Impact on women and children: health

- **Serious impacts on women's health** including mental health, problems during pregnancy and birth, drug and alcohol use, suicide, injury, heart disease
 - : Acquired brain injury
 - : Long term trauma, can last years, decades, a lifetime. Esp mental and emotional abuse.
- Greatest health risk factor - **5.1% of disease burden** for women 18-44 (contributes more than any other risk factor to the burden of disease)
- Serious consequences for the **development and wellbeing of children** living with violence. 65 % of women who had children in their care when they experienced violence by a current or former partner, reported that the children had seen or heard the violence.
- **Intergenerational:** women who as children witnessed partner violence against their parent were more than twice as likely to be subjected to partner violence themselves
- Most significant driver of homelessness: **72000 women and 34000 children sought homelessness services in 2016-17 due to DFV.** In 2015-16, 38 percent of all people requesting assistance from specialist homelessness agencies were escaping domestic or family violence

Impact on women and children: legal

- **10 times more likely than others to experience other legal problems**, including a wide range of family, civil and criminal law issues.
- Their odds of experiencing **family law problems** were especially elevated – a **massive 16 times** higher than for other respondents.
- They were also at least **3 times more likely to experience** 10 of the other 11 legal problem types examined, including criminal law problems and civil law problems related to employment, financial, government payment, health, housing, personal injury and rights issues.
- **4 in 5 DFV respondents rated at least one of their legal problems as having a 'severe' impact** on their everyday life, compared to fewer than one-quarter of others.
- These findings demonstrate the 'compounding effect' of DFV victimisation on legal and human service needs.

Holistic, joined-up legal and broader human services are often necessary to address the complex legal and related needs of people experiencing DFV.

Impact on the economy

- DFV increases social and economic inequalities
- Cost to the Australian economy: \$22 billion per year – approx. \$900 per person per year
 - Illawarra: \$270 million per year
 - Shoalhaven: \$90 million per year

Lake Illawarra LAC: 50% of workload

Impact on Illawarra Women's Health Centre

- Provide counselling, casework, crisis support, information, referral, prevention and early intervention programs
 - : Only specialised service for girls and young women under 18
 - : Only specialised service providing ongoing care, free counselling and casework
- 776 women presented at the Centre in 2017-18 for DFV.
- Referrals:
 - Barnardos*: casework
 - Centrelink*: casework, groups, counselling
 - Brighter Futures*: casework, counselling
 - WDVCAS*: victims services, casework, information
 - SYFS*: casework, information
 - FACS*: information and training
 - WWIS*: groups, counselling
 - Anglicare*: casework
 - High Schools*: casework, counselling
 - Police*: casework, counselling
 - Shellharbour Hospital*: casework, counselling

We can not meet demand.

How to respond to the DFV crisis ?

1. Primary prevention / early intervention

2. Crisis response / immediate support

3. Long term recovery

- There is increasing recognition of the need for DFV services to go beyond the crisis intervention model and address the long-term impact of trauma, particularly in terms of the emotional and psychosocial needs of women and their families

Establish an evidence-based service that provides comprehensive and long-term support to women recovering from the trauma of DFV

A domestic and family violence trauma recovery centre

Our Vision

To be a centre of healing, dedicated to best practice support and holistic services for women recovering from the trauma of domestic and family abuse.

For as long as it takes.

Our Purpose

- ✓ Respond to the existing domestic and family violence emergency and break the intergenerational cycle of trauma.
- ✓ Deliver innovative long-term recovery programs for women which address their mental, social and emotional needs.
- ✓ Provide research focused and evidence based best practice treatment frameworks.
- ✓ Operate as a working model that can be replicated in communities around Australia.



A domestic and family violence trauma recovery centre

A. A 'one stop' service providing cross sectoral and coordinated **wrap around support** that allows for an individualised response to women experiencing trauma from DFV.

- ✓ medical and health care, including new technologies and therapeutic strategies.
- ✓ (including non clinical support such as group therapy, peer support, yoga and meditation),
- ✓ legal support
- ✓ financial counselling
- ✓ ongoing individual casework and advocacy.

B. New technologies and methodologies

C. Research base for developing response and support strategies for newly emerging understanding of DFV.

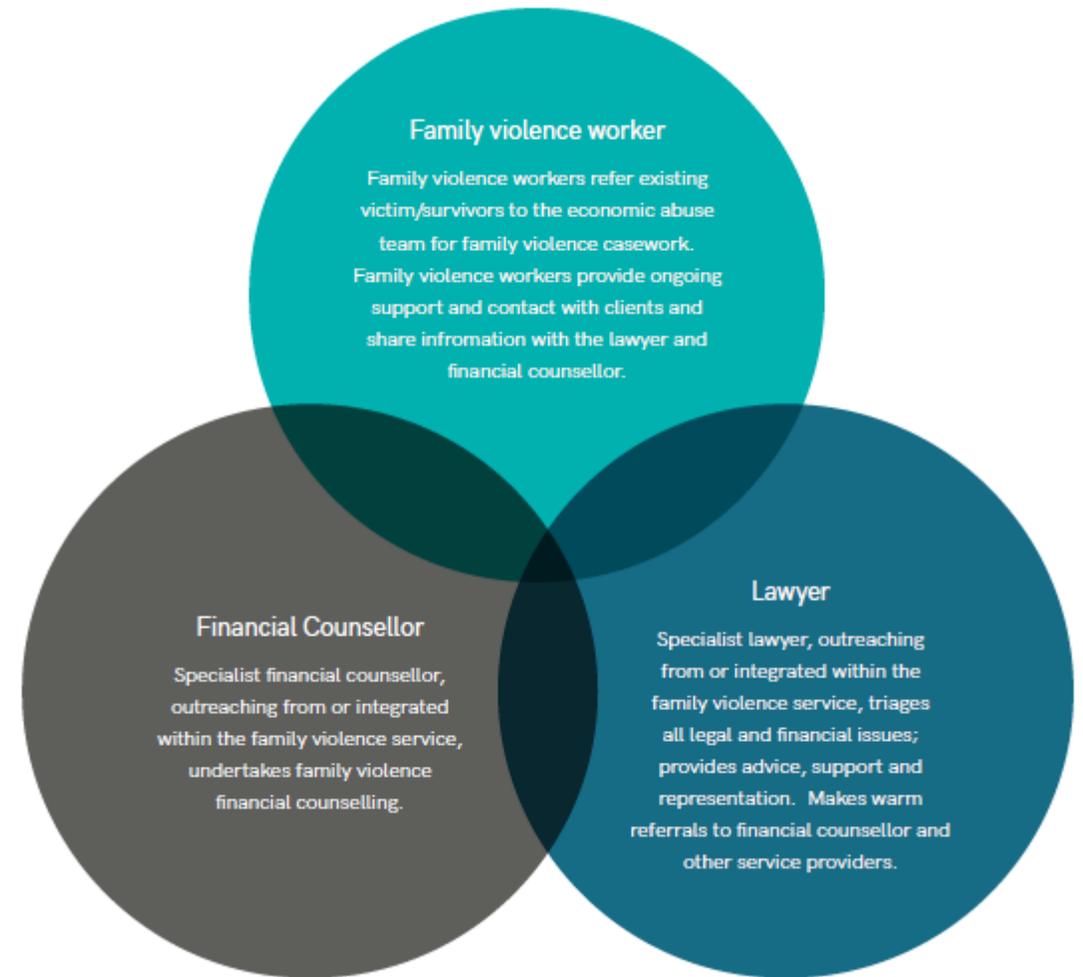
The Centre will be the first of its kind in Australia and **easily replicated across the country.**

Stage ONE: Establish a multisectoral DFV response team

In partnership with **Lifeline SouthCoast** and the **Illawarra Legal Centre**, the **Illawarra Women's Health Centre** establish a multisectoral DFV team to simultaneously address a woman's critical **financial and legal issues arising from DFV while providing trauma informed health and wellbeing support.**

The model provides crisis support while developing pathways to safety, financial and legal independence, and psychosocial and emotional recovery. Team-based support for these interrelated and overlapping issues means a woman need only **tell her story once, and she can know that she is moving to recovery in the most efficient way possible.**

The service will form the nucleus of the Illawarra DFV Trauma Recovery Centre.



Research Proposal



UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA

Undertake participatory co-design to develop the Trauma Recovery Centre Service model and framework for evaluation. The proposed research will

- ensure that robust evidence and systematic co-design is embedded within the Centre, from the beginning.
- **generate new knowledge of an Australian first model of multisectoral DFV response and recovery** that can be replicated to improve the health and well-being of women and their families.
- **inform DFV policy development, service planning and implementation of the Illawarra Trauma Recovery Centre, including scale-up and replicability for similar contexts and settings.**

Budget: \$30,000

So far...

1. Campaign launch 22 March, 70 Regional leaders met to hear about the vision for the Centre



So far...

2. Consultative Working Group established: 3 meetings to date

Gordon Bradbury	Lord Mayor, Wollongong City Council
Marianne Saliba	Mayor, Shellharbour City Council
Margot Mains	Chief Executive, Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District
Nicky Sloan	CEO, Illawarra Community Industry Group, Representative Regional Development Australia, Illawarra
Dean Smith	Commander, Lake Illawarra Local Area Command
Kim McMullan	Director, Community Services, FACs
Rebecca Sng	Primary Mental Health Manager, Grand Pacific Health
Arunima Gupta	Managing Director, Wollongong Diagnostics
Truda Gray	Centre Coordinator, Illawarra Legal Centre
Diana Foye	CEO/Director, Foye Legal
Craig Nealon	Communications and Community Manager, BlueScope
Vicki Tiegs	Marketing Group Director, Waples

Seeking : Aboriginal and lived experience members

So far...

3. Partnerships established

- ✓ Illawarra Legal Centre
- ✓ Blue Knot Foundation
- ✓ King Wood and Mallesons



4. Professional working group established

5. Co design proposal with UNSW and UOW finalised

6. Campaign - advocacy, funding pathways, Government lobbying, media exposure

- ✓ Public statement of support
- ✓ ABC Illawarra Radio, WIN News, Illawarra Mercury

The concept has extensive community support, a high-level Consultative Working Group, professional expertise and experience.

It will transform DFV response and recovery services.

Questions?

Thank you

