

Thursday 11 August 2022

Building the Evidence Base on Perpetrator Program Attrition & Engagement Strategies

Since the Royal Commission into Family Violence (RCFV), there has been substantial investment in the development and delivery of perpetrator interventions, including men's behaviour change programs. There remains, however, limited understanding of what factors influence a perpetrator's engagement in, and disengagement from an intervention, and how this impacts program attrition rates state-wide. The research project will directly address that gap in knowledge by developing evidence-based strategies to enhance perpetrator engagement in interventions, and in turn, to minimise program attrition rates.

The Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre researchers will work collaboratively with key sector partners No to Violence and five Victorian program providers: the Centre for Non-Violence, Bethany Community Support, Taskforce Community Agency, inTouch Multicultural Centre against Family Violence, and Relationships Australia Victoria. Professor Kate Fitz-Gibbon, Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre said: *"Despite continual investment and the increased level of program development and delivery in Victoria there remains limited understanding of what factors impact perpetrator engagement in, and disengagement from a behaviour change intervention. We are thrilled to be working with sector partner organisations, including the Centre for Non-Violence, to build evidence-informed understandings of what impacts perpetrator program attrition and how we can develop more effective perpetrator engagement strategies."*

This research provides opportunities to include and represent rural and regional experiences, the challenges, barriers, gaps, and opportunities for organisations, practitioners and clients.

CNV is committed to safety and equality, especially for women and girls; culturally safe communities, where perpetrators of violence are held accountable and patriarchal norms are challenged.

We understand the importance of providing integrated programs and services to uphold safety and accountability and provide opportunities for perpetrators of violence to participate in programs to better understand the impact of their behaviours, take responsibility and commit to a process of change.

We deliver a range of client services including family violence case management services and therapeutic recovery programs for adults, young people and children experiencing family violence; and programs for men who use violence towards family members. Our men's services including men's behaviour change group programs, case management and accommodation support. We are also a partner in the Loddon Orange Door delivering a response to victim survivors and men who use violence. The Centre for Non-Violence has been a leader in the development of integrated family violence models and will bring expertise to the research of working with victim/survivors, families and perpetrators upholding safety and accountability.

We are delighted to partner on this research with project partners to undertake this timely project and informing the evidence base. Yvette Jaczina, Executive Manager, Programs and Services said; *"CNV is extremely pleased to be part of this research. The research will help the sector better understand effective engagement strategies and enhance our opportunity to support men to make changes in their behaviour. The more contact the sector has with men, the better chance we have in understanding the risk to women and children"*.

"CNV is committed to participating in research and in building the evidence base about what works to keep women and children safe. We bring our rural and regional expertise to this research project".

This project aligns with our organisation's strategic priorities of bringing regional and rural voices to and represents a better understanding perpetrator engagement strategies and interventions that build safety and accountability.

For further information or media comment, please contact: Yvette Jaczina M: 0447 628 523 or contact 54 30 3000
Support and contact numbers: Centre for Non-Violence covers the Loddon region – which includes the City of Greater Bendigo and the Central Goldfields, Mt Alexander, Macedon Ranges, Loddon, and Campaspe shires. Centre for Non-Violence can be contacted on 1800 884 292 or information, visit: www.cnv.org.au/we-are-here-to-help
Other supports: Safe Steps 24-hour family violence crisis response 1800 015 188 | Men's Referral Service 1300 766 491
In an emergency, call 000