



# Christmas Newsletter

North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Service (NQDVRS)

December 2009

## PAULINE'S EDITORIAL



2009 has brought some milestones for NQDVRS. Our fifteen years of operation was recognised in the middle of the year. We produced a report (available on request) and I had the pleasure of providing a response to a question and answer session with the staff. This event was video taped and I look forward to seeing the DVD when it becomes available. The questions covered feminism, domestic violence, career paths, motivation and passion for this work. It is very clear that being part of NQDVRS provides opportunities for all those aspects to be achieved. It is also clear that looking after ones self is an important aspect and I am not always the best role model. Fortunately the Management Committee has the interests of workers in mind and part of their concern for the wellbeing of our clients and ensuring we have access for help pathways in place, workers are able to close the service between Christmas Day and New Years Day to help refresh the workers for the coming year. Contact numbers for assistance during that period are listed in the Newsletter and on our website.

We have recently welcomed Paul to the staff and farewellled Shem and Natalie. We have a vibrant team in the Mount Isa office with Dianne joining Shirley, Lyn and Ross.

In the Townsville office we are engaged in a twelve month pilot program, along with the Gold Coast DV service and the Sunshine Coast DV Service to trial a model of women and children staying safely at home after the perpetrator of the violence has been ordered to vacate by the court as part of a protection order. We expect the number of suitable households to be small at first, but as the trial continues we hope to demonstrate that with the help of the courts, police, support services and the community, many women and their children will not have to become homeless as they achieve safety in their own homes. Val and John are working on this twelve month project.

All throughout 2009, workers have supported women and children and men who are victims of Domestic and Family Violence, helped men who use violence to choose to be non-violent, worked actively in our community to be aware of the issues and encouraged them to play a role in stopping the violence.

### OPENING HOURS FOR THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

**NQDVRS will be closed between Christmas and New Year. We will be open Christmas Eve and re-open on January 4th 2010.**

**Close 5.00 pm 24/12/09**

**Open 9.00 am 04/01/10**

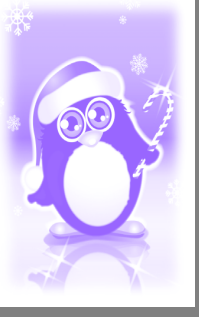
**If you are in danger call the Police  
000**

**If you need assistance call the  
Women's Centre**

**1800 657 501 or 4775 7555**

**or**

**DV Connect 1800 811 811  
(24hr Domestic Violence Counselling and  
Refuge)**



**NQDVRS MOUNT ISA** Mount Isa has had a lot of exciting changes in the year 2009 and we are looking forward to 2010 to continue implementing them. Three new staff members have joined the team this year:

- ◆ Lyn, Court Support / Men's Program
- ◆ Ross, Court Advocate / Men's Program
- ◆ Dianne, Community for Children Worker

With these new staff members we have also started two new programs, **Go FARR** (Fathers acting responsibly and respectfully) and also **MenTER** which are the same programs that are run in Townsville.

July this year was a busy period with the service celebrating its tenth anniversary and also Shirley celebrating her ten years service. At the same celebration we launched the new Men's program to the Mount Isa community.

We have all been busy with Community Education, Protection Orders, Rural & Remote work and Court attendance. Shirley and Lyn have been attending Murri Women's Group on a regular basis and have been asked on a couple of occasions to co-facilitate the group. Ross has also been attending Murri Men's Group and built a rapport with the clients, several of whom, wish to self refer to our Fathers Program and also **MenTER**.

Dianne is keen to continue on in the Community for Children role and interact with the children and parents; she recently attended the Community for Children planning day and also the Community for Children Christmas break up party.

*Mount Isa NQDVRS would like to thank everyone for their support during the year and wish you all a Happy & Safe Christmas and New Year.*

## **SAFETY AT HOME PROJECT - 2010**

During 2010, the North Queensland Domestic Violence Service will have additional resources as part of the Safety at Home project, to assist clients, who meet risk assessment criteria, to remain safely in their own homes, rather than leaving the home when there is violence in the relationship. The Safety at Home worker will collaborate with the client to determine what measures may be put in place which will assist the client and children to remain in their home. For example, the worker can arrange for locks to be changed, security doors to be fitted, and sensor lights to be installed.

The client base for the remaining safely in the home resources will generally be women who have been granted a Protection Order by the Magistrates Court which includes an ouster condition for the respondent. However, it is not restricted to this group and the worker can assist clients in certain hardship cases.

In addition to working with the client to remain safely in their home, safety workers can also provide respondents with brokerage for temporary accommodation or transport after the Protection Order with an ouster condition has been ordered by the Magistrates Court.

Referrals can be made to the Safely at Home project by contacting a Safety Worker at the North Queensland Domestic Violence Service on 07 4721 2888. Arrangements will then be made to carry out a risk assessment for suitable clients.

*Wishing you a happy and safe Christmas and 2010.*

This is the season for giving; and the staff at NQDVRS has thoroughly enjoyed handing out the beautiful gifts that were generously supplied by the Bodyshop. We hope that the women and children receiving them felt the warm regard with which they were given and wish them all a happy and safe



**MenTER** The men's behaviour change program **MenTER** (Men Towards Equal Relationships) has had a busy year this year. We had 44 men sign up, with many men completing the program and working towards a change to a non-violent life. Don't forget, if you have clients/ or if you are using violence in their/your intimate relationship there is help out there in the form of **MenTER**. **MenTER** is a men's behaviour change program which focuses on getting men to recognise when violence is likely to occur and what they can do to stop it from happening. At NQDVRS our aim is to keep women and children safe from men's violence and we hope that there are more families in the Townsville and surrounding district enjoying a safer Christmas this year due to these men doing the **MenTER** program.

## MenTER PROGRAM

Men Towards  
Equal  
Relationships



Starts 16th of  
February

An educational pro-  
gram assisting men to  
stop using violence.

Call Chris or Paul on  
4721 2888 for details.

**Christmas Message From Paul** Hi all. It is with pleasure that I have this opportunity to introduce myself as a new programs co-facilitator. Starting in February 2010 Chris and I will be jointly delivering the 16 session **MenTER** program. This program has the potential to create genuine new insights amongst the male participants into the toxic impact that Domestic Violence has within our communities.

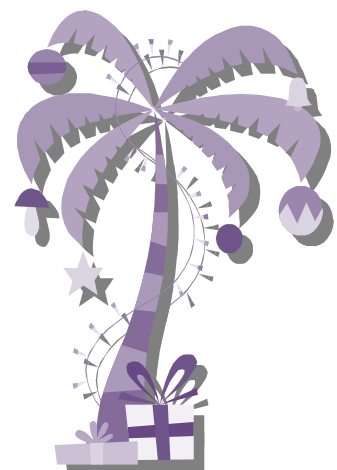
A major focus with the program content is the issue of men having chosen to use violence within their relationships in the past and developing the skills necessary to eliminate all violence in the future thus developing truly healthy relationships. Although completion of the program is no guarantee of improved future behaviour it is hoped and anticipated that successful completion of the program will play a significant role in each participant's future choices. Safe men result in healthy relationships which in turn produce healthy communities. How much better to have a win/win outcome for the whole Townsville community?

I look forward to playing a positive role in the making of a safer environment for all women and children. *Lets all have a good Christmas*

*and a peaceful 2010.*

A special thanks to the Management Committee for supporting our service throughout the year. A very Merry Christmas to you all!

Special thanks also to The Body Shop, which has donated some lovely gifts for the women who use our service. We greatly appreciate



**Fax-Back** has continued to work successfully in partnership with the Queensland Police Force. We have been able to offer options and support to aggrieved people and options to perpetrators of violence to assist those who wish to change their behavior. This is thanks to busy police officers who take the time to explain the faxback system when they attend domestic and family violence incidents.

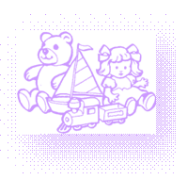
*We wish to extend season's greetings to everyone and best wishes for a safe and peaceful 2010.*



Each of us will come into contact with children in our daily work and personal lives. The reality is that some of these children will have experienced abuse or trauma. Edleson (2001) estimates that between 30 – 60 percent of children whose mothers are subjected to domestic violence are also being abused.

These children may present with challenging behaviours and may at first glance appear bad mannered or naughty. Some children may be hypervigilant, eager to please or withdrawn. It is important to remember that a child's behaviour provides the greatest insight into their inner world. A child who is acting out may be trying to give us a message that there is something wrong.

During this Christmas season please remember some of the most important gifts that we can give to children is to notice them, assume the best of them, be available, listen to and believe them. "Children are not the people of tomorrow, but people today. They are entitled to be taken seriously. They have a right to be treated by adults with tenderness and respect, as equals." (Janusz Korczak).



The **AARDVARC** children's room and resources are a crucial element of our program. The room provides a safe and comfortable space, and our carefully selected resources offer opportunities for children to have fun, learn and express their thoughts and feelings. We are currently updating our toys/craft, dress ups and teen corner and would be very happy to receive contributions from members of the community. Many of the children who visit **AARDVARC** have had to leave their homes and belongings behind, so any donations that cannot be used in the program could be passed onto these children and would be well loved.

**AARDVARC** will be recommencing mid January and will be operating Monday to Thursday.


*Best wishes for a safe and peaceful Christmas from Anita and Elissa.*

People can access the service directly or be referred by other services. Please phone or visit our service during the opening hours and a worker will assist you. Referrals and appointments are not necessary.

#### OPENING TIMES

9 am - 5 pm Monday to Friday

At times it may be necessary to switch the answering machine on during business hours. At these times please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

  
**Townsville:**  
PO Box 6061, Townsville  
Qld 4810  
Ph 07) 4721 2888  
Fax 07) 4721 1794  
[nqdvrs@nqdvrs.org.au](mailto:nqdvrs@nqdvrs.org.au)



  
**Mount Isa:**  
PO Box 502, Mount Isa  
Qld 4825  
Ph 07) 4743 0946  
Fax 07) 4743 7999

<http://www.nqdvrs.org.au>

