



D O M E S T I C
V I O L E N C E
N S W

ANNUAL REPORT
2017 - 2018

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Thank you to Lexie Reeves for allowing us to use her beautiful photography for our Annual Report.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Lexie Reeves is an Australian social documentary photographer based in Sydney. As a visual storyteller and social documentarian, she is drawn to explore the customs, lifestyles and values that characterise her subjects. By recording social histories and building legacies using photographs and words, her work often sheds light on injustice, inequality and sidelined aspects of society. Lexie is a long term friend of DVNSW and took photos on day one of the DVNSW conference in 2017.

ABOUT THE ART

Aunty Beryl Van Oploo

- Gamillaroi woman. Aboriginal elder

In October 2006, Aunty Beryl opened Yaama Dhiyaan Hospitality Training College in Darlington. Yaama Dhiyaan is Australia's first and only hospitality college specialising in Indigenous culture and cuisine. It is the transformation of lives that is the real work at Yaama Dhiyaan. Many of Aunty Beryl's students have had difficult beginnings, and their new start at Yaama Dhiyaan assists them to move beyond their issues and reinstate a sense of family, putting the sharing and preparing of healthy food at the centre of their daily life.

This picture was captured for Aunty Beryl's portrait for *Shoot the Chef*, a photography competition put on by the Sydney Morning Herald. Lexie took the picture at the Gardener's Lodge Cafe in Victoria Park. Those of you who came to the DVNSW conference in 2014 may remember the spectacular bush foods that Aunty Beryl's students fed and nurtured us with.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Domestic Violence NSW's office is situated on Gadigal land in Redfern.

We pay our respects to the Eora people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and First Nations Elders past, present and emerging.

We thank the traditional owners and original custodians of lands throughout NSW for your wisdom, guidance and support to work on land that was never ceded.

We acknowledge the disproportionately high rates of violence impacting Aboriginal women, families and communities and the ongoing impacts of colonisation and institutional violence and racism.

We acknowledge that we work in the context of generations of resilient, strengths-based, holistic resistance to violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

DVNSW commits to actively supporting and promoting the voices of Aboriginal people and organisations in all our public policy work.

We commit to partnering with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and Aboriginal women and men to end domestic and family violence and create a safer world for future generations.

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ABOUT DVNSW

"I took this photo of my friend doing a clients hair a couple of years back. I wanted to capture the bond I saw between two females doing something so simple yet powerful together" - Lexie Reeves

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NSW

Domestic Violence NSW (DVNSW) is the peak body for specialist domestic and family violence services in New South Wales. We work from a feminist, social justice perspective and recognise that domestic and family violence (DFV) is serious, prevalent and driven by gender inequality.

OUR ROLE

DVNSW is an independent, non-government organisation that provides a representative and advocacy function for specialist services and the women, families and communities they support.

We do this by:

- working, sharing and cooperating with our 60+ members, the NSW Government and Commonwealth as well as communities to create a safer NSW for all
- advocating for best practice, continuous system improvements and innovative policy responses to domestic and family violence at all levels of government
- supporting primary prevention and early intervention work
- providing training and sector information to our members

OUR VISION

Women, families and communities in NSW live free from violence, have equal rights, equal opportunities and the freedom to reach their potential.

OUR PURPOSE

We work to eliminate domestic and family violence through leadership of the specialist DFV sector and the NSW policy environment, promoting best practice responses and primary prevention.

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OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Our new strategic direction for 2018-2020 focuses on four key areas that enable us to advocate on behalf of our members and those impacted by violence. We will improve awareness, understanding and responses in NSW by working with government and non-government agencies, our stakeholders and partners.

	OUTCOMES	OBJECTIVES
SECTOR PRACTICE & ENGAGEMENT 	Services have the knowledge and skills to apply evidence-informed approaches in their work	1. Increase engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers and organisations 2. Embed sustainable engagement practices with rural and regional workers and services 3. Understand DVNSW's membership value proposition and realign offerings
	DVNSW's work is directly informed by the range of services working on the frontlines of DFV	4. Provide processes for sector engagement that are timely relevant and engaging 5. Support good practice through developing and sharing resources and training opportunities
PUBLIC POLICY 	Services have an optimal policy context and resourcing to apply evidence-informed approaches in their work	1. Represent the best interests of the sector in policy development 2. Work in partnership with other peaks and relevant organisations to amplify impact/power
	A whole of government approach provides a coordinated and resourced state-wide response	3. Advocate for the NSW Government to support Our Watch 4. Ensure that all policy responses are inclusive of the specific needs of children, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children coordinated and resourced state-wide response
PRIMARY PREVENTION 	NSW communities understand that gender inequality is at the core of the problem of violence against women and children	1. Build the capacity of the DFV sector to engage in Prevention activities 2. Provide a sector-informed and gender inequality analysis of DFV issues and concerns to the media 3. Support other organisations initiating primary prevention activities through strategic partnerships
DVNSW GOVERNANCE & OPERATIONS 	DVNSW is an influential and sustainable peak body for specialist family and domestic violence services in NSW	1. Identify a sustainable funding and business model 2. Demonstrate the impact of our work to our stakeholders 3. Ensure we operate as a culturally safe organisation 4. Maximise our capacity through efficient and effective allocations of resources

To see how we will work towards these goals and outcomes, have a look at the DVNSW 'Strategic Plan 2018 - 2020' on our website.

OUR PEOPLE

DVNSW BOARD MEMBERS



Helen Silvia
Chair



Jan McDonald
Vice Chair



Denele Crozier
Treasurer



Annabelle Daniel
Secretary

NON-EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS



Deborah Banks



Pia Birac



Yvonne Weldon



June Wilson



Wafa Zaim
(Resigned March 2018)

STAFF



Moo Baulch
CEO



Shelley Booth
Policy & Research
Manager



Monique Dam
Advocacy &
Prevention Manager



Charlotte Davies
Office Administrator &
Operations Coordinator



Tracey Kennedy
Finance Officer



Bobbie Trower
Policy Manager
(Resigned September 2017)



Emily Goldsmith
SHS Project Officer
(Resigned September 2017)



Kelly MacDonald
Administration Officer
(Resigned May 2018)

MEET THE DVNSW TEAM

Here at DVNSW we're a small team with big ambitions – to eliminate domestic and family violence, making NSW a safe state for all.

We thought we'd put a few faces to names and introduce the team behind the phones, the policy work and the advocacy that we do through the year!

INTRODUCING...

"The DVNSW conference in August 2017 was definitely a highlight last year – particularly working with the WEAVE Aboriginal youth advocates as MCs."

Moo Baulch
CEO



"One of my highlights over the last year was collaborating with the members of the NSW Women's Alliance on projects and submissions, whilst simultaneously being impressed by the depth of knowledge and commitment they have to the sector."



Shelley Booth
Policy Manager

"Helping to create the National Advocacy Group on Women on Temporary Visas experiencing Violence which now has over 30 organisations, including national and state peak bodies and services, to collectively advocate for law and policy change was a highlight of the last year."



Monique Dam
Advocacy & Prevention Manager

"I joined DVNSW at the very end of the last financial year, so I would say that was my highlight! I've wanted to be in this sector since I graduated almost ten years ago so it's a huge success for me personally and professionally to be at this organisation."

"My highlight of FY18 is seeing DVNSW grow and move forward. Moving offices, seeing the team expand and seeing lots of hard work pay off has been incredible."

Tracey Kennedy
Finance Officer



Charlotte Davies
Office & Operations Coordinator



“To old members and new, thank you for your professionalism and dedication. Our new directions and strategic plan will continue to build a strong sustainable peak and support better responses to women, families and communities throughout NSW.”

Helen Silvia, Chairperson



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



The DVNSW Board is extremely proud of the work of our members and... the value of specialist service responses.

This year is my first as DVNSW chair and it's been a great year for the peak body. The DVNSW Board has undertaken a substantial process reviewing our Strategic Plan and it's given us an opportunity to reflect on how far things have come in relation to policy and good practice in NSW over the last few years.

We've decided that in order to truly reflect the recent advances in primary prevention and client-centred practice we are ready to embed the principles of **Our Watch's Change the Story** framework and the **DVNSW Good Practice Guidelines** throughout our work. The guidelines were developed through an iterative process of consultation with NSW domestic and family violence services and women's sectors. The DVNSW Board is extremely proud of the work of our members and we think this goes some way to articulating the value of specialist service responses and the vital role that specialist practitioners in mainstream services provide.

We've worked closely with the DVNSW team to ensure that what they are hearing on the ground from services and the priorities identified by attendees at the 2017 DVNSW conference are accurately reflected in the new strategic directions of the peak. Given this, we're embarking on the first steps of a long term journey to ensure that we listen and promote the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations, communities and leaders. We know that Aboriginal people have the answers to violence prevention and response and the DVNSW Board wants to unequivocally stand alongside those in communities who are tackling the violence. We have identified a number of ways to begin to do this work respectfully and carefully. One of the first steps we have taken is to make DVNSW membership free for Aboriginal community-controlled organisations.

The Board lost a long term member Wafa Zaim this year. On behalf of DVNSW members and the Board

I'd like to acknowledge Wafa's long term commitment to improving outcomes for Muslim women and the wisdom and energy that she brought to the Board. I'd like to thank all the DVNSW Board members for their significant contributions, particularly those from regional areas. Jan McDonald stepped down as chair and Deb Banks as vice-chair after leading the governance of the peak through some extremely challenging times. Both have given so much of their time and wisdom to the organisation's governance and management. Thankfully Jan hasn't gone far – having her as the vice-chair has enabled us to maintain a consistent and supported succession process. Deb is still an active and key voice in the Board, her expertise from the ground as a practitioner in rural NSW is invaluable.

I would also like to acknowledge the strong leadership and unequivocal commitment of our CEO, Moo Baulch. For the past four years Moo has guided and fostered our organisation's reputation as an expert and relied upon voice on a domestic and family violence to Government, the media and within the public sphere. Moo is truly the back bone of our organisation and her attentiveness, wisdom and dedication to our members has been unwavering. Moo has worked tirelessly with the board, her staff, our members and stakeholders throughout this time and I would like to thank her for her dedication.

We've also had some big changes in the DVNSW team and I want to acknowledge the dedication, expertise and hard work of both former employees and new staff. Without our staff working passionately (often above and beyond their paid roles) our peak would be unable to produce the thoughtful, evidence-based, strategic advocacy functions required in 2018.

Helen Silvia
Chairperson



“...the DVNSW Good Practice Guidelines for the DFV Sector articulate the principles of social justice, access and equity and feminist practice that our sector has developed over decades.”

Moo Bauch, CEO

Moo Bauch speaking at the DVNSW Conference 2017.

CEO'S REPORT



...the voices and experiences of victim-survivors are at the centre of everything we do.

2017-18 has been another huge year of increased awareness and focus on the issue of violence against women particularly in the context of sexual, domestic and family violence. The work of our sector has continued to be recognised and valued in the context of global and national movements and we are inspired and uplifted by the rising public outrage at the prevalence and context of violence against women and girls.

As always, the core of our achievements has been based in our partnerships with our government and non-government colleagues and we've tried to ensure wherever possible that the voices and experiences of victim-survivors are at the centre of everything we do.

We had a couple of major changes this year. Firstly we moved the DVNSW office from the old building in Elizabeth St Redfern just next door to a new open plan office space. It was a rapid and intense experience for all but we made it and the new space is beautiful. Our friend Lizette from No To Violence moved in with us and not long after that brought a new member to her team too, Sarah. On a busy day now when everyone including interns and volunteers are in there are 11 of us. It's a joyful, supportive, positive place to work and we love having visitors.

Our second major change was that we lost 3 of our team over the year. Sophie (Bobbie) Trower went to an amazing leadership role at YWCA NSW, now YWCA Australia. Emily Goldsmith left us to go to a fabulous position at the Ministry for Health leading DV and Child Protection policy and a few months later Kelly Macdonald decided to follow her dreams and is now working at WDV CAS. We miss them all immensely but everyone left with love and few tears. The legacy of their contributions lives on in our work.

On the bright side we've welcomed some wonderful new team members. Shelley Booth joined us for 12 months as our Policy and Research Manager before

taking parenting leave to have a baby (due any day now as I write this). Monique Dam joined the team in November as our Advocacy and Prevention Manager and has been leading some nationally groundbreaking work on Women on Temporary Visas and various prevention activities. Charlotte Davies came to us just at the end of the financial year as our new Office and Ops Coordinator and is already a solid part of the DVNSW family making our systems work smoothly.

We've also had the help and support of a number of experts: Gemma Pitcher, Annaliese Constable, Trish Mitra-Kahn, Meredith Turnbull, Caterina Giorgi, Lucia Giuffré and Gabrielle Flax all came and gave generously of their time and wisdom. Flic Ryan made us weep and reflect and learn with her incredible training. Carol Lewis, Alison Plant and Rhonda Newman have helped us shape our new team. Kate Mathieson made us laugh and work harder and better and diagnosed our Myers Briggs. Our interns must also be recognised for everything they contribute, we would achieve far less without their generous help - to Emma Barrow, Brianna Delahunty and Valeriia Kasatkina thank you so much and all the other volunteers, especially those who helped out at conference.

One of the biggest achievements of the year was launching the **DVNSW Good Practice Guidelines for the DFV Sector**. I can't thank our members, the broader sector and our partners in the Industry Partnership enough for all of your input, shaping and practice wisdom. The guidelines articulate the principles of social justice, access and equity and feminist practice that our sector has developed over decades. Watch this space for the next step in this important piece of work.

Moo Bauch
Chief Executive Officer



OUR WORK



POLICY

SUBMISSIONS

In 2017-18, DVNSW made a number of detailed submissions to Commonwealth and NSW Government inquiries, draft bills and policy reviews that reflect the practice, resource and policy challenges identified through the work of our services across NSW.

We consulted with members using online surveys and face to face interviews. Full written submissions are available on the DVNSW website (www.dvnsw.org.au) except where the inquiry or submission is confidential.

Some of our major submissions this year include:

- ***NSW Women's Strategy***
- ***Review of Community Legal Centres***
- ***Inquiry into the Delivery of National Outcome 4 of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children (including 1800 RESPECT)***
- ***NSW Sexual Assault Strategy***
- ***Issues Paper on Review of the Family Law System***
- ***Review of Consent in relation to Sexual Assault Offences NSW***
- ***Consultation paper on ADVO duration and related matters NSW***
- ***Review of the NSW Domestic Violence Justice Strategy (2013-2017)***
- ***Residential Tenancies Amendment (Review) Bill 2018***

NSW Women's Strategy

In July 2017, Women NSW sought contributions to the development of the *NSW Women's Strategy*.

DVNSW provided feedback, advocating for an effective and inclusive *NSW Women's Strategy* incorporating emerging international evidence as well as the consideration of already established gender equality strategies in other states and territories in its development phase. The submission noted the opportunity to underpin the *NSW Women's Strategy* with a violence prevention evidence base.

The NSW Government (Women NSW) released this document in August 2018:
www.women.nsw.gov.au/women_and_work/womens_strategy

Community Legal Centres

In October 2017, the NSW Attorney General sought submissions on the Review of NSW Government support for Community Legal Centres (CLCs) in NSW.

DVNSW and the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service NSW (WDVCAS) provided a joint submission highlighting the quality of service and practice of CLCs, advocating that CLCs should be easily accessible to communities across NSW, and advocating for the value of both generalist and specialist CLCs.

We called for CLC funding to be increased to meet the growing demand in NSW, noting that marginalised communities such as LGBTIQ people, refugees, older women, people with disabilities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities must have access to free, timely, specialised legal support.

In August 2018, the NSW Government (Department of Justice) released the final report, NSW Government response, and fact sheet:
www.justice.nsw.gov.au/justicepolicy/Pages/lpcld/lpcld_consultation/community-legal-centre-services-review.aspx

1800RESPECT

In October 2017, the Commonwealth Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee sought submissions on its Inquiry into the Delivery of National Outcome 4 of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children.

DVNSW provided a submission that supported the trauma specialist work of Rape and Domestic Violence Services Australia (RDVSA), noting that DVNSW members consider the work of the service to be best practice and have referred thousands of victim-survivors to 1800RESPECT since its inception.

DVNSW recommended a reconsideration of the procurement, design and delivery of national trauma specialist counselling support proposed for 1800RESPECT.

In December 2017, the Commonwealth Government released the inquiry report and recommendations: www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Finance_and_Public_Administration/NationalPlan/Report

In March 2018, the Commonwealth responded to the Inquiry: www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Finance_and_Public_Administration/NationalPlan

NSW Sexual Assault Strategy

In February 2018 after an extensive consultation process, Women NSW sought feedback on the NSW Sexual Assault Strategy – Proposed directions.

DVNSW provided detailed feedback to Women NSW through membership of the Expert Advisory Group and attendance at several of the community consultations.

We advocated Women NSW that the Strategy should:

- focus on adults who have experienced sexual assault (whether as adults or in childhood);
- define sexual violence or sexual assault; should address or respond to the clear evidence that women are at greater risk of sexual assault than men;
- provide a gendered analysis of why sexual assault occurs;
- recognise gender inequity as the key driver of violence against women, and propose how that inequity will be addressed; and
- provide specific recommendations for women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with disability, culturally and linguistically diverse people, LGBTIQ people, people with mental health issues, and older people

In July 2018, the NSW Government (Women NSW) released the NSW Sexual Assault Strategy: www.women.nsw.gov.au/violence_prevention/nsw-sexual-assault-strategy

We also made these submissions over the year:

- **Family Law System**
- **Consent in relation to sexual assault offences**
- **ADVO duration**
- **NSW Domestic Violence Justice Strategy**
- **Draft Residential Tenancies Amendment (Review) Bill 2018**

To read more please visit the policy page on our website:

www.dvnsw.org.au/about/policy-papers

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

A core part of our work at DVNSW is to contribute to the development of evidence-based national and state policy related to sexual, domestic and family violence. We do this through our policy liaison and advocacy work, including meetings with Ministers and their staff, government departments and through participation on government committees.

NSW Government

Department of Family and Community Services (FACS)

Women NSW

DVNSW provided extensive formal feedback to Women NSW on the development of the NSW Women's Strategy (released in August 2018) and the NSW Sexual Assault Strategy (released in July 2018).

DVNSW was a member of the following committees:

- **NSW Sexual Assault Expert Group**
- **NSW Men's Behaviour Change Network**
- **NSW Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Council**
- **DV Disclosure Scheme Evaluation Group**

Domestic Violence

DVNSW provided formal feedback to FACS on content for the new FACS website; and the draft final report for the Integrated Domestic and Family Violence Services evaluation.

DVNSW was a member of the following FACS domestic violence committees:

- **Integrated Domestic and Family Violence Service Evaluation Working Group**
- **Staying Home Leaving Violence advisory group**

Child Protection

DVNSW provided formal feedback to FACS on the development of the ChildStory Helpline and joined with other NSW peaks to call on the NSW Government to publically release the NSW Tune Review.

Housing and Homelessness

DVNSW provided formal feedback to FACS on Commissioning for Outcomes; transition to the Australian Service Excellence Standards (ASES) accreditation for Specialist Homelessness Services; the operational framework for the One Offer Policy; National Housing and Homelessness Agreement negotiations; the Temporary Accommodation Program Framework and support for DFV services transitioning to CIMS.

DVNSW was a member of the following FACS Housing and Homelessness committees:

- **NGO Housing Partners Reference Group**
- **Housing & Homelessness Commissioning for Outcomes Reference Group**
- **Premier's Council on Homelessness**
- **Future Directions**
- **Sector Development Working Group**
- **Sector Development Advisory Group**

Department of Justice

DVNSW provided formal feedback and submissions to Justice on the:

- **Draft NSW Police Force Code of Practice for Domestic and Family Violence (NSWPF)**
- **Consultation paper on victims' involvement in sentencing (Law Reform and Sentencing Council)**
- **Proposed privacy codes relating to the Men's Telephone Counselling and Referral Service**
- **Practice standards for NSW Men's Behaviour Change Programs (Justice policy)**
- **Review of community legal centres (CLC) services (NSW Attorney General)**
- **Review of consent in relation to sexual assault offences (NSW Law Reform Commission)**
- **Consultation paper on ADVO duration and related matters (Justice)**
- **Review of the NSW Domestic Violence Justice Strategy (2013-2017)**
- **NSW offence of strangulation**

DVNSW was a member of the following Department of Justice committees:

- DV Reform Consultation Group
- Criminal Justice Reforms NGO consultation group (Attorney-General)
- Corrective Services NSW Women's Advisory Committee
- Director of Public Prosecutions DV Working Group
- Safer Pathway NGO consultation group (Victims Services)

NSW Health

DVNSW was a member of the following NSW Health committees:

- Statewide Women's Health Network
- Sydney Local Health District Primary Health Network

Other

DVNSW met with the Hon. Matt Kean MP, Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation, the Attorney General Mark Speakman and the NSW Department of Finance, Services and Innovation on domestic and family violence clauses to potentially be included in a

Residential Tenancies Bill. Formal feedback was given on the Residential Tenancies Amendment (Review) Bill 2018. We worked closely over the 12 month period with our key partner Women's Legal Services NSW to assist with the drafting of the legislation.

Commonwealth Government

DVNSW provided formal feedback and submissions on the:

- Development of the Fourth Action Plan under the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children
- Inquiry into the Delivery of National Outcome 4 of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children Women (including 1800 RESPECT) (Commonwealth Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee)
- Issues Paper on Review of the Family Law System (Australian Law Reform Commission)

We also worked closely with our colleagues through the **AWAVA Advisory Group** and as the NSW representative on the **National Working Group on Violence Against Women and Their Children- Housing and Homelessness** throughout the year.



Fiona Guthrie AO from Financial Counselling Australia and Isaiah Te-rangi from Weave at the DVNSW conference 2017.

ADVOCACY

DVNSW advocates for best practice, continuous system improvements and innovative policy responses to domestic and family violence. To ensure that our advocacy is current and accurate, we work closely with our members and the broader sector to advocate for positive, progressive change. Key areas of advocacy in the year include:

WOMEN ON TEMPORARY VISAS EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

DVNSW co-convenes a NSW Community of Practice (CoP) and advocacy group with Homelessness NSW on women on temporary visas experiencing domestic and family violence. These groups formed out of the previous working group on women with no income. The Community of Practice (CoP) provides a space for services to share the challenges they face in working with clients on temporary visas and their children and the practical strategies they have used to overcome them.

The policy and law issues that are raised by frontline workers in the community of practice form the basis of discussion for the advocacy group, which focuses on advocating for systemic changes. There are currently around 30 members in the community of practice and advocacy group which includes domestic and family violence services including women's refuges, migrant and refugee services, community organisations and community legal centres.

In March 2018, Domestic Violence NSW initiated a national teleconference on women on temporary visas experiencing violence, with the support of Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA) and by reaching out to relevant peak bodies and services in other states and territories.

Through the teleconference, it was established that women on temporary visas experiencing violence are facing similar issues across the states and territories. The group decided it would advocate collectively to the Commonwealth government for law and policy change and formed a National Advocacy Group, which now has over 30 members across every state and territory.

NSW WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

The NSW Women's Alliance was established in 2012 by DVNSW and RDVSA to connect networks a number of NSWs working within the sexual, domestic and family violence fields.

The Alliance brings together a range of organisations with a variety of expertise, knowledge and experience in both responding to and working to prevent violence against women.

The Alliance meets monthly in Sydney to discuss policy, practice and legislative issues relating to sexual violence, domestic and family violence, and child protection.

NSW Women's Alliance members include:

- Domestic Violence NSW (co-convenor)
- Rape and Domestic Violence Services Australia (co-convenor)
- Women's Health NSW
- Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service NSW
- Women's Legal Services NSW
- Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Service
- Immigrant Women's Speakout Association NSW
- People With Disabilities Australia (NSW)
- ACON Health Ltd
- Multicultural Disability Association of Australia (NSW)
- No To Violence
- NSW Council of Social Service (NCOSS)
- WESNET
- Youth Action



Some of The NSW Women's Alliance supporting the 'Stand by Me' campaign run by NSW Disability Advocacy Alliance.

The key focus of the Alliance in 2017-18 has been preparing our policy platform and election advocacy campaign ahead of the NSW elections in March 2019. The Alliance has collaborated on funding and policy asks to put to the current NSW Government, the Opposition, and other parties. Key areas of advocacy include:

- increased funding for services in the sexual, domestic and family violence sector to provide immediate and ongoing support for people experiencing violence;
- creating cultural change to prevent violence and promote gender equality through funding violence prevention initiatives;
- ensuring people have a safe home through funding crisis, transitional, social and affordable housing;
- ensure people experiencing violence can access justice safely;
- enabling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to lead change to end violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children; and
- making the NSW government accountable to specialist workers and the wider community

Guest speakers at Alliance meetings this year included:

- Kelly-Anne Stewart, Principal Advisor Women Offenders, Corrections Strategy and Policy, Corrective Services NSW, NSW Department of Justice
- Anna Butler, Manager, Domestic Violence Death Review, Department of Justice
- Liani Stockdale, Manager, Concessions & Social Access, Transport for NSW

In 2017-18, the Alliance collaborated on the following submissions:

- *NSW Attorney General – Review of community legal centres (CLC) services*
- *Commonwealth Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee – Inquiry into the Delivery of National Outcome 4 of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children Women (including 1800 RESPECT)*
- *Women NSW – NSW Sexual Assault Strategy – Proposed directions*
- *Australian Law Reform Commission – Issues Paper on Review of the Family Law System*
- *NSW Law Reform Commission – Review of consent in relation to sexual assault offences*
- *NSW Department of Justice – Consultation paper on ADVO duration and related matters*
- *NSW Department of Justice – Review of the NSW Domestic Violence Justice Strategy (2013-2017)*
- *NSW Department of Finance, Services and Innovation – Residential Tenancies Amendment (Review) Bill 2018*

RESEARCH PARTNERS

Part of our remit as a peak is to act as a bridge between research and practice. We work closely with a number of researchers and academic experts to ensure that our sector (and clients) can help build the evidence base on DFV and to translate research into practice.

Some of our key research collaborations this year include:

- Griffith University Violence Research and Prevention Program: Intimate Partner violence and femicide
- University of NSW Gendered Violence Research Network: various research projects including the national workforce survey
- UTS Big Data Project
- ANROWS – Practitioner Engagement Group and conference organising committee and panels, National Risk Assessment Principles
- University of Wollongong – DV and university staff and students
- AHURI - Inquiry into integrated housing support for vulnerable families
- WIRE - teachable moments appropriate financial capability /literacy services for women affected by family violence
- International Financial Abuse Research Network – convened by London Metropolitan University
- Wagga DV Community Attitudes research report
- ANROWS women with disability research report
- Curtin University - ‘collaborations for public purposes’



Renata Field presenting at the DVNSW Conference 2017.

SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

We are involved in a number of activities that contribute to the development of a sustainable domestic and family violence service sector. DVNSW advocates for continuous improvement and the ongoing development of best practice. Throughout the year we've collaborated with partners and practitioners to bring a number of sector development activities to our members and the sector.

SPECIALIST HOMELESSNESS SERVICES DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

In 2017, a Specialist Homelessness Services Domestic and Family Violence Community of Practice was established as part of the sector development activities of the Industry Partnership (Domestic Violence NSW, Homelessness NSW and YFoundations).

Membership of the Community of Practice (CoP) consists of practitioners from specialist domestic and family violence services, women's services, and broader homelessness services. Members work across the full spectrum, from small, rural and regional services, right up to large, metro services.

At the first meeting in November 2017, attendees decided the Community of Practice (CoP) would remain open to new members. A broad range of practice issues were raised, such as head-leasing of properties, working with complex clients, and the difficulties experienced by rural and regional services far from other towns.

At the second meeting in February 2018, by request, a member gave a presentation on head-leasing. Key issues raised included challenges of obtaining temporary accommodation in rural, regional and remote areas, difficulties in being listed for priority social housing, difficulties obtaining reimbursements for brokerage used from Victims Services, and women on temporary visas experiencing violence.

At the third and final meeting for the financial year (May 2018), the group discussed working with clients with complex needs and the issue of FACS and other services doing a 'dump and run' of clients. The group identified gaps in appropriate services and housing for LGBTIQ people, women with disability and people with mental health and drug issues.

Community of Practice (CoP) members have provided feedback that they found the forum helpful for discussing practice issues and building connections and they would like it to continue into the future.

The Specialist Homelessness Services Domestic and Family Violence Community of Practice is happy to take new members for the 2018-19 financial year meetings.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AUSTRALIA (PWDA)

Continuing our long term partnership with People with Disabilities Australia and building on the resources we developed in the disability toolkit, we've been working with PWDA as an advisory partner to link domestic and family violence services to advice and expertise through their Women NSW Innovation funded project.



Good Practice Guidelines (DVNSW 2017).

CONFERENCE 2017

Conference is held every two years and is an opportunity to come together to hear about the latest developments in policy, practice and research in NSW and to connect with others working in the field. 2017 conference was as big and packed as previous years with 200+ attendees from services and government.

The 3 most popular sessions as identified by attendees were:

- Panel: "Gender, media and tech facilitated abuse" – Dr Nicola Henry, Ginger Gorman and Rachel Olding
- Masterclass: "Building advocacy into your work" – Caterina Giorgi
- "DFV and Cultural Governance" – Dr Vanessa Lee

This time we decided to put our money where our mouth is and we invited Aboriginal youth advocates from WEAVE to MC the conference. After a timid start they rocked it, much of the feedback we got in the evaluations was about their wonderful presence!

We look forward to bringing you another conference in 2019.

What did our members think about our conference?

"I felt like the breadth of the sector was covered and it was value for money in terms of the number of presentations. The what's next, what can we do together element could have been stronger. Really liked the young MC's – made the event feel grounded."

"Great diverse presentations from professionals sharing their expertise, always inviting to hear from others as a refresher to own context of work."

"Some incredibly inspirational speakers, it's great to hear from the full spectrum of people in this area."

"For someone who is new in this sector I found this conference to be relevant, informative and inspiring."



Attendees watching presentation at the DVNSW conference 2017.

OUR MEMBERS

DVNSW member services span the diversity of the NSW specialist service sector supporting women, families and communities impacted by domestic and family violence.

We acknowledge the tireless, under-resourced and challenging work that our members do daily in their communities to make it a safer place for women and children. We thank you for all that you do both on the frontline and in continually developing our sector.

MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

In May 2018 we ran an 8 week membership project following a human centred design process. The aim of this project was to listen to our members and improve our ways of communicating their needs by putting their experiences at the centre of the process and cultivating a deep understanding of their day-to-day challenges.

The **inspiration** phase of the project involved carrying out in-depth interviews with 12 DVNSW member organisations, to better understand their values, habits, challenges and priorities. Following this we embarked on **ideation** which involved turning our member's insights into a series of 'how might we' design questions which generated many ideas and opportunities.

The member interviews were complemented by our annual 2018 Member survey, where we analysed the results to provide additional insights. 39 member organisations responded covering topics such as advocacy, strategic direction and communication preferences as well as general opinions on DVNSW as a peak body. Overall the results of the survey reflected the findings from the member interviews.



Membership Engagement Project brainstorming.

TOP INSIGHTS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

WHAT WE HEARD...

Top 3 challenges faced by DVNSW Members

44%

Meeting increased demand

36%

Lack of affordable housing

23%

Meeting the challenges created by government reforms

DVNSW information

88%

Have used the DVNSW Good Practice Guidelines

85%

Have found the DVNSW sector updates useful

64%

Have used information provided by the DVNSW Conference

Top 3 activities that members think are the most important activities for DVNSW to focus on in the coming year

100%

Analysis of new legislation or funding

86%

Policy tools and guidelines

82%

Members' events for capacity building or networking

PREVENTION

DVNSW is part of the NSW Collaboration for the Primary Prevention of Violence against Women. Other members include Parramatta City Council, Cumberland Council, Women's Health NSW, ACON, Local Government Association of NSW, No To Violence and Our Watch.

In March 2018, DVNSW part co-sponsored and supported to organise Our Watch training on **Change the Story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia**. 24 people from a range of organisations participated in the training, including from NSW Police, Legal Aid NSW, immigrant and refugee services, domestic and family violence services, local councils and women's health services.

DVNSW was able to offer free registrations to our members to this important sector development opportunity.

We continue to promote the Change the Story Prevention framework and use Our Watch's materials when we talk in communities and schools. DVNSW has a strong commitment to Our Watch's work and leadership in the space of evidence-based prevention work and we value their support and expertise at this important time in Australia's prevention journey.

We proudly provided the foreword to Wagga Wagga Women's Health research report on prevention at a local community level.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN BEGINS WITH GENDER INEQUALITY

CURRENT STATE

Violence against women is serious, prevalent and driven by **GENDER INEQUALITY**

GENDERED DRIVERS of violence against women:

CONDONING of violence against women	MEN'S CONTROL of decision-making and limits to women's independence	STEREOTYPED constructions of masculinity and femininity	DISRESPECT towards women and male peer relations that emphasise aggression
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Gender inequality sets the **NECESSARY SOCIAL CONTEXT**

657 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MATTERS ARE DEALT WITH EVERY DAY BY AUSTRALIAN POLICE

Every week one WOMAN IS MURDERED by her current or former partner

DESIRED FUTURE

Violence against women **IS PREVENTABLE** if we all work together

ACTIONS that will prevent violence against women:

CHALLENGE condoning of violence against women	PROMOTE women's independence & decision-making	CHALLENGE gender stereotypes and roles	STRENGTHEN positive, equal and respectful relationships
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Promote and normalise **GENDER EQUALITY** in public and private life

MUTUALLY REINFORCING ACTIONS ARE NEEDED THROUGH LEGISLATION, INSTITUTIONAL, POLICY AND PROGRAM RESPONSES:

- by governments, organisations and individuals
- in settings where people live, work, learn and socialise
- tailored to the context and needs of different groups.

LET'S CHANGE THE STORY

A SHARED FRAMEWORK FOR THE PRIMARY PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN IN AUSTRALIA

Our Watch VicHealth ANROWS

Change the story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence (Our Watch 2015).

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



1,345
mentions on
Twitter



7,462
Facebook
page followers



167
Results of online
mention DVSW



1,806
New visitors
to our website



198
Results of online
mentions of CEO
Moo Baulch



5,468
Page views
on our website



7,658
Facebook
page likes



104
mentions on
Facebook



PARTNERSHIPS

We work in partnership with a range of entities and interested supporters.

These are some of the partnerships of which we are most proud in 2017-18:

City of Sydney: Inner City DV Action Group. We partnered with the City to bring local services and response agencies to research agencies together to discuss key issues facing services and clients in the Sydney area.

HESTA Roundtable: We were delighted to join experts from around Australia to give advice to HESTA on proposals for change to superannuation where DFV had occurred.

Commonwealth Bank: Through our ongoing participation on the Customer Advocate Advisory Council and work with the incredible Melissa Clare we've expanded the reach and relevance of the CBA/

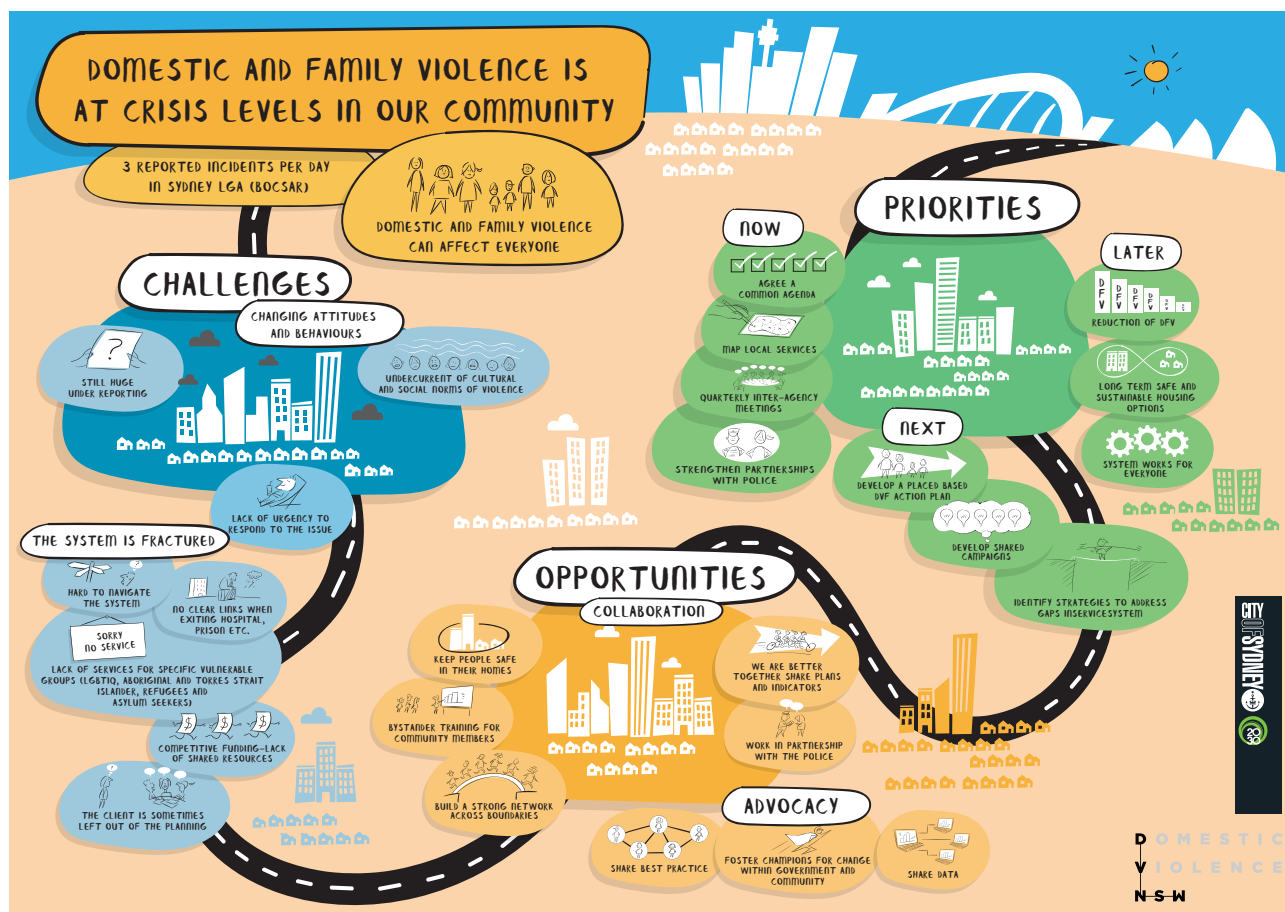
DVNSW Financial Abuse toolkit. We continue to provide advice on products and safety.

Royal Australia College of Surgeons (NSW) and Royal Australian College of GPs (NSW): We have continued to support the Colleges' work in the area of identifying and responding appropriately to abuse and violence.

Ochre Ribbon Day: We were proud to contribute to the launch of Ochre Ribbon Day at Mudgin-Gal Aboriginal Women's Centre in Redfern. The Ochre Ribbon campaign draws attention to the issue of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.



Two Good: We've continued to support the ever evolving work of Two Good, a social enterprise that empowers survivors of violence and helps them to gain economic independence.



DVNSW and City of Sydney Interagency collaboration.

DONATIONS

CHRISTMAS

Over the course of the last financial year with the support of many great organisations, partnerships and individuals, DVNSW was able to assist member services across NSW with direct donations of gifts for women and children, handmade blankets, toys, new household items and gift cards.

This was largely from our annual Christmas donation drives but also from various opportunities where we directly connected those wishing to donate with local services throughout the year. Thanks to the Mantra Group for supplying and distributing new toys to children in our service across the state.

We'd like to thank the following donors for their generous donations which enabled us to send gifts for women, young people and children across NSW:

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

Blessing Bags

Christie Corporation

Better Read Books

Cambos

Lil Organic Cotton Toys

Eastwood Quilters

Rize Up

The GEO Group Australia Pty Ltd

An extra special thank you to Stitching Hearts who have donated over 300 quilts to us over the last three years and continue to be an incredible supporter of DVNSW members.

IN KIND, PROBONO AND SUPPORT

ACON Health Ltd and the Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People

We'd like to thank ACON and the ACYP office for providing us with meeting rooms at their offices, particularly for hosting our NSW Women's Alliance meetings. We're so grateful to be aligned with these two important organisations.

People who support our work – our volunteers, interns and contractors

Without our volunteers, interns and contractors we wouldn't be able to do the work that we're so

passionate about. The people that help us on special projects and with our day to day output are essential, so thank you to the following people who worked incredibly hard for us in FY17-18

To all those who helped us be a better peak this year

Meredith Turnbull

Alison Plant

Chris Pamboris

Lucia Giuffré

Gemma Pitcher

Kate Mathieson

Flic Ryan

Annaliese Constable

Trish Mitra-Kahn

Carol Lewis

Gabrielle Flax

Caterina Giorgi

Rhonda Newman

Our amazing interns

Brianna Delahunty

Valeriia Kasatkina

Emma Barrow

Volunteers

Kelly Macdonald

Charlotte Macdonald

Marni Taylor

Liam Scanlon

Hannah Brian

Natalie Buller

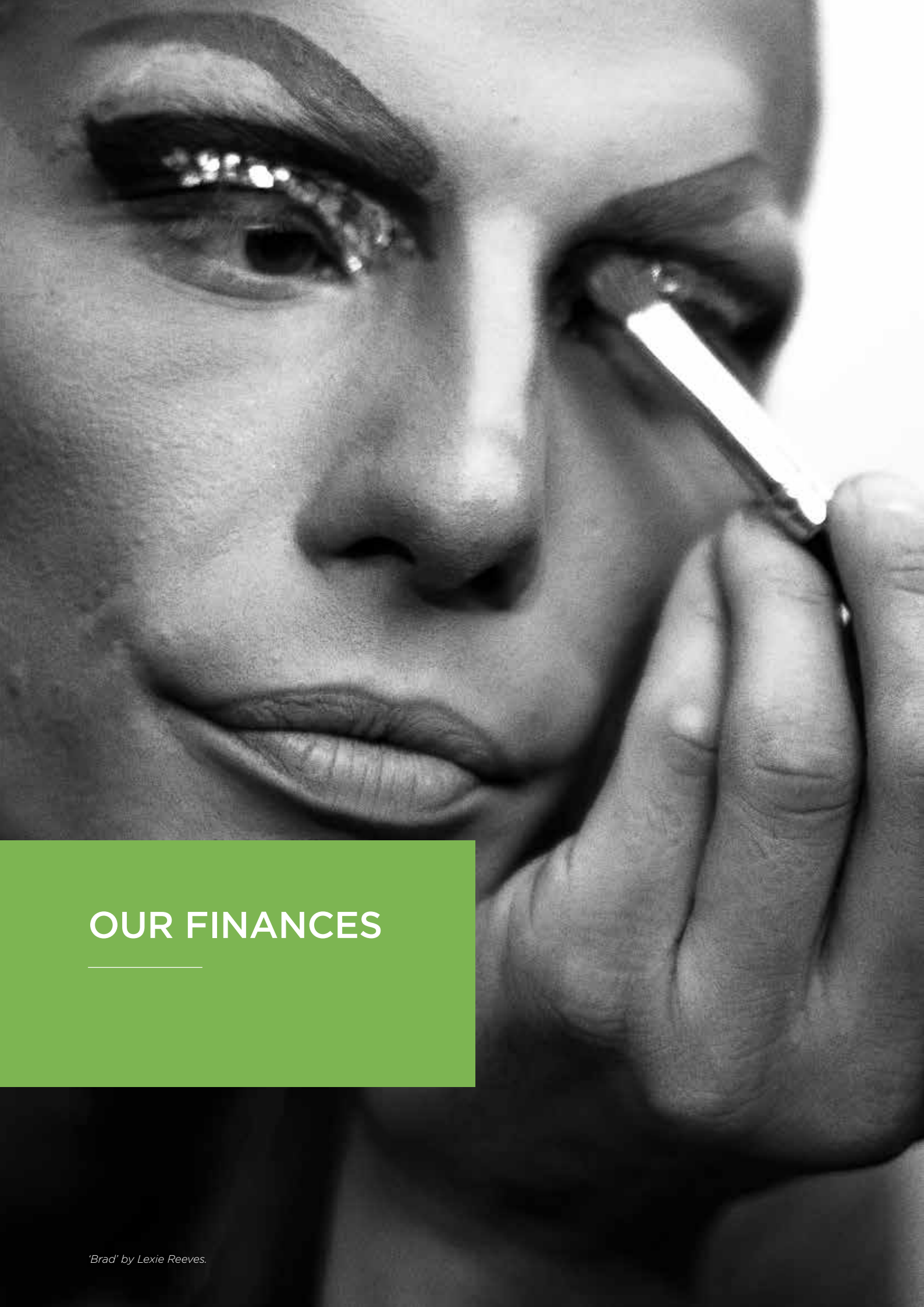
Natalie Star

Kelly Lewer

Kay Schubach

Kai Noonan

Thank you to Kate Munro, Isaiah Te-Rangi, April Edwards and Welsey Chan Hampton from Weave Youth & Community Services. We'd also like to thank Lexie Reeves, Micaela Mandorff and Meredith Lea for photographing our conference.



OUR FINANCES

'Brad' by Lexie Reeves.

TREASURER'S REPORT



During 2017 - 2018 Domestic Violence NSW has once again had a busy year with new ideas, new staff, considered strategies and a great conference with a packed house all of which impact on financial management. With a good team and financial systems we began the year with a clear strategic plan and projected budget and finished the year with an unqualified audit and positive feedback from our auditor in relation to our systems, processes and reporting.

We remain in a strong financial position and are extremely pleased that our efforts have contributed to the stability, efficiency and accountability of the organisation. Many thanks to the Finance Team, the Board and particularly the Finance Officer, Tracey Kennedy, who has been crucial to our success.

We acknowledge the support of the NSW Department of Family and Community Services for our core funding, and the receipt of funding for our Blueprint Program from Women NSW. Once again, community and business support and donations, both financial and material, has all contributed to the improvement of access and capacity of service provision. Thank you – your efforts are much appreciated.

Domestic Violence NSW asserts that the audited financial accounts tabled at the AGM are a true and accurate view of the financial position of the association as at 30 June 2018 and that there are reasonable grounds to believe that we can pay our debts as and when they become due.

I am happy to commend these accounts to the membership.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Denele Crozier'.

Denele Crozier,
Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

AUDITED FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE 2017/2018

DVNSW's audited accounts are tabled at the Annual General Meeting. Domestic Violence NSW continues to operate to budget and asserts that there are reasonable grounds to believe it will be able to pay its debts if and when they fall due.

Domestic Violence NSW has a strong finance team coupled with good financial systems and projected budgets for the year ahead.

	2017/2018	2016/2017
Total Revenue*	813,237	581,547
Wages and On Costs	400,684	405,238
Operational Expenses	97,407	44,990
Professional Fees	29,451	25,563
Conference & Meeting Expenses*	27,011	11,089
Rent & Occupancy Expenses	67,819	63,376
IT & Telecommunications	34,859	16,942
Travel Expenses	22,004	16,427
Total Expenditure	697,235	583,625
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	134,002	(2,078)
Total Equity	366,946	232,944

* The main DVNSW Conference was not held in the 2016/17 financial year.

CONTACT

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NSW

Address: PO Box 3311
Redfern NSW 2016

Phone: 02 9698 9777

Email: admin@dvnsw.org.au

Facebook: [dfvnsw](https://www.facebook.com/dfvnsw)

Twitter: [dv_nsw](https://twitter.com/dv_nsw)

Website: dvnsw.org.au



HELPFUL CONTACTS

NSW DV Line

Phone: 1800 656 643
(referral to a DV support service)

Rape Crisis NSW

Phone: 1800 424 017
(counselling/support)

1800 RESPECT

Phone: 1800 737 732
(information/counselling)

Men's Referral Service

Phone: 1300 766 491

OUR NEW SPACE

In July last year, we moved into a new space in the cultural hub of Redfern. Situated in a location that is well connected with our members and services, our office is an open space that welcomes all from our community.

We're lucky to share this space with the team from No to Violence NSW – Lizette Twistleton and Sarah Trieu. Not only is it wonderful to have them at the office, it's great to be able to share, update and grow together within our sector. Thank you to the No to Violence NSW team for being such great colleagues and collaborating with us to put women and children's safety at the core of everything we do!

If you are a DVNSW member and are based out of town, you are always welcome to get in touch with us to come and use a desk and resources in our space.

D U G V R I Y A K V B Z F
V T I L Z S U P P O R T D
N S W F O Q O N S I E C U
W A M H E L P J M C I A X
L U S X K G F R E E N U W