



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

ANNUAL REPORT
2019 - 2020

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Lexie Reeves is an Aboriginal 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 the person we go to, to take our pictures. Thank you Lexie.

ABOUT THE ART

Thank you to Kowana Welsh - a proud Gumbaynggirr and Gamilaroi woman, for featuring on this years' annual report cover.

Kowana sits on the DVNSW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee and has used her own experience with domestic violence to become a strong advocate for her community.

Kowana grew up and currently works in Redfern and Waterloo, improving the justice system and educating communities across NSW as a Health and Well-being Coordinator. She's a guiding light and inspiration to our team and members.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Domestic Violence NSW's office is situated on Gadigal land in Redfern. We pay our respects to the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation respecting all Elders past and 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.



ABOUT DVNSW



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NSW

Domestic Violence NSW (DVNSW) is the peak body for specialist domestic and family violence services in New South Wales (NSW). We work from a feminist, social justice perspective and acknowledge 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 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 sexual, 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.

GOVERNANCE

DVNSW BOARD



Helen Silvia

Chair

Chief Executive Officer,
Women's & Girls'
Emergency Centre
(WAGEC)



Annabelle Daniel

Vice Chair

Chief Executive Officer
Women's Community
Shelters



Denele Crozier

Treasurer

Chief Executive Officer
Women's Health NSW



Nicole Yade

Secretary

General Manager
Lou's Place



Katy Jenkins

Director

Partner
Kyle and McGowan Law



Lesley Labka

Director

Manager
Shoalhaven
services for SAHSSI



Kelly Lamb

Director

Chief Executive Officer
Liberty Domestic and Family
Violence Specialist Services



Yvonne Weldon

Director

Chairperson
Metropolitan Local
Aboriginal Land Council





CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

For many of us 2020 has been one of the most challenging years of our lives. Our communities faced unprecedented challenges from the devastating impacts from bushfires, to enduring the uncertainty and disruptions of COVID-19. Women and children's safety, health and prosperity has been disproportionately affected by these phenomena not just throughout the year but for the foreseeable future as well. As a global pandemic, COVID-19's impact has been inescapable and has challenged our collective sense of safety and certainty. Despite this, I have been proud to observe the resilience and adaptability of our sector as we continue to rise to these challenges.

Our membership is the backbone of DVNSW. We have seen workers across the state rise to every challenge with an adeptness and tenacity; often with constrained resources; but always meeting the needs of clients. I commend your resilience and commitment to keeping survivors safe and ensuring high levels of quality support.

I would like to pay special thanks to each member of the DVNSW staff for working tirelessly throughout this year to ensure our vital work continued whilst our impact and reach grew.

This year DVNSW also welcomed our new CEO, Delia Donovan. Delia brings a global perspective of sexual, domestic and family violence, a social worker's discipline and a commitment to leading our collective voice. The Board welcome her appointment and the invaluable contribution she has already made.

I am proud to have led the DVNSW Board through 2019/20 and I thank and acknowledge each board member. Their commitment to DVNSW through providing strong governance and representation of our membership has been paramount. At the 2019 AGM we welcomed two new board members, Kelly Lamb, CEO of Liberty Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Services on the mid-north coast of NSW and Lesley Labka, Manager Shoalhaven Services SAHSSI in the Illawarra.

This year we have continued to work closely with other peak bodies to ensure a strong, collective voice and advocacy for DFV services and to highlight the interdependencies we have with others complimentary sectors. DVNSW has continued to work closely with the NSW government to be a reliable source of constructive and actionable advice on behalf of

our members. We have also maintained a strong presence in mainstream media, social media and public policy debate.

Some of the highlights of this year's work, include the Safer Homes, Stronger Communities project, DVNSW's growing contribution to advocacy and research, including our continued advocacy and public leadership for women on temporary visas experiencing violence.

It feels like a lifetime ago that we gathered for the DVNSW Conference in September 2019. It was kicked off by a panel of generous and staunch aboriginal women which set the tone for the remainder of the conference and was a personal highlight. DVNSW is committed to ensuring that the voices, experiences and concerns of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are not only given space but priority.

Finally, I would like to take the time to honour the experiences of victim-survivors. No woman, child or person should ever have to endure domestic and family violence in any form. Gender-based violence is a national crisis that can only be addressed by our collective efforts. We know that the statistics of hospitalisations, murders and police callouts are only part of the story of this crisis. We also know that it is not just "a few bad men" or "a moment of madness" that causes the violence. The root causes of domestic and family violence run deep in Australian culture. To stop the crisis from growing more entrenched in these uncertain times will require our continued, collective and brave work. This is and has always been DVNSW's vision, to create a world where women, families and communities live free from violence, have equal rights and opportunities and the freedom to reach their potential.

This year has shown us that our work is far from done. I invite you to continue to walk with DVNSW as we continue our vital work.

Helen Silvia
Chair

CEO'S REPORT



What a year – so much achieved in the most challenging of times!

As incoming CEO, I would like to acknowledge all the work of the DVNSW team, board and former CEOs Moo Baulch and Joanne Yates. I look forward to the year ahead, building on the strong foundations laid in years gone by.

The DVNSW team, members and sector response across an ever-changing landscape has been remarkable. The impacts of the droughts, floods and bushfires have been unimaginable and profound.

With the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic, DVNSW was able to harness its strong relationships to ensure meaningful collaborations between government and the sector as you will see laid out in this report.

We have been able to provide 11 submissions to inform policy, law and best practice. Our advocacy continued to be extensive and broad highlighting member's experiences and needs.

Key areas advocated on included: addressing the barriers people on temporary visas are facing, recognising animals and people experiencing domestic and family violence and importantly shining a light on reproductive rights and pro-choice. With our advocacy in mind, collaboration remained a key strategic pillar of our work and we continued to represent our members on a huge number of advisory boards, taskforce forums and steering groups.

Some key highlights for 2019/2020 and contained in detail throughout this report:

- Advocate Rosie Batty AO became the first DVNSW's Honorary Life Long Member.
- We continued to embrace the Commonwealth Bank as a Community Partner engaging them through the Voices for Change Program and amplifying the need to recognise financial abuse in domestic and family violence responses.
- We launched our new Safer Homes Program supporting real estate agents across NSW to identify what works to build effective responses to domestic and family violence.

- We supported the initiation of the DVNSW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee who provide guidance, wisdom and expertise to the sector and government.
- Our Voices for Change Program supported over 60 media opportunities, attended 23 public speaking events, supported 12 consultations and attended 5 Ministerial engagements.

Finally, some thanks and recognition.

We are nothing without our membership who provide our evidence base and I want to personally thank them for my warm welcome and for all they do to tirelessly address domestic and family violence in our community.

Thank you to our Voices for Change Advocates – you provide power, energy and meaning to our cause.

I thank all of our volunteers, donors and supporters for their incredible kindness and generosity across the last year.

Finally, it has been a privilege to work alongside an incredibly skilled and experienced group of colleagues, board members and I thank them wholeheartedly for their commitment, passion and strength.

Delia Donovan

Chief Executive Officer

OUR WORK



POLICY AND RESEARCH

DVNSW contributes to a significant number of national and statewide policies related to sexual, domestic and family violence. Alongside our contribution to key consultations within the sector, research projects and initiatives, we also provide formal feedback and submissions to Ministers, government departments and their committees.

NOTABLE PROJECTS

DVNSW were heavily involved in the NSW Pro-Choice Alliance including drafting submissions regarding sexual consent legislation, consultation with Government, promoting and attending Pro-Choice snap actions.

DVNSW co-convened the Sydney Peace Prize Roundtable on Human Rights Day 2019 with the Australian Sex Discrimination Commissioner and #MeToo leader Tamara Bourke as guest presenter.

RESEARCH PARTNERS AND PROJECTS

DVNSW sits on various research roundtables, committees and regularly provides research expertise to PhD students as well as circulating relevant research and surveys to our membership.

Some of the key research projects we supported in 2019/2020 were:

Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) Evidence to Action – Practitioner Engagement Group Evidence to Action – Practitioner Engagement Group

The Practitioner Engagement Group promotes interaction and knowledge sharing between ANROWS, the specialist women's services sector and the broader community services sectors.

COVID-19 crisis' impacts on community services sector

In collaboration with fellow peak bodies including NCOSS, Shelter, Homelessness NSW, Youth Action and FAMS, DVNSW funded Equity Economics to undertake research and analysis.

The Constellation Project

DVNSW supported the Centre for Social Impact project on ending homelessness.

Safety and Health After Arrival (SAHAR): Identifying and responding to refugee women's experiences of domestic violence

This research considered the particular risks faced by culturally and linguistically diverse women in relation to partner abuse, their unique barriers to disclosing abuse, receiving help to interrupt cycles of violence and ensuing effects. This project identified a culturally sensitive model for identifying and responding to domestic violence and showed how this can be implemented in services used by vulnerable migrant women.

The STACY Project: Safe and Together Addressing Complexity

DVNSW sat on the Project Advisory Group for this research, supporting an authorising environment for the organisation and its workers.

Nurturing Non-Violence in the COVID-19 environment

DVNSW sat on the Project Advisory group for this research project led by the University of Sydney, exploring the responses of front-line services to domestic and family violence during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2019/2020 DVNSW made 11 submissions

NSW GOVERNMENT

- NSW Law Reform Commission draft proposals on consent in relation to sexual offences.
- NSW Sentencing Council on homicide in the context of domestic or family violence.
- NSW Bushfires Inquiry on the gendered impacts of the NSW bushfire response.
- NSW Government on Housing Strategy for NSW.
- NSW Government on the implementation of Modern Slavery Act 2018 (NSW).
- NSW Government review of Section 293 of the Criminal Procedure Act.
- NSW Parliamentarians as a member of NSW Pro-Choice Alliance to decriminalise abortion.

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT

- Joint Select Committee on Australia's Family Law System
- Federal Government regarding the Religions Discrimination Bill.
- Australian Human Rights Inquiry into Sexual Harassment in the Workplace, as part of joint submission with 100 organisations.
- Mental Health Commission on Mental Health and Sexual Assault position paper.



Pro-Choice Demonstration, 6 August 2019

PRIMARY PREVENTION

Primary prevention is key to the work of DVNSW, and a core element of our work in creating communities free from violence. Here are some of the highlights from DVNSW's work:

- Co-convened with the City of Parramatta Council three meetings of the NSW Collaboration on the Primary Prevention of Gender-Based Violence to bring together NSW Government, local councils, specialist services, peak bodies and academics.
- DVNSW secured a \$10,000 Commonwealth Bank grant to deliver training on a whole-of-community approach to prevent gender-based violence. DVNSW provided training and presented on primary

prevention to over a thousand people across DFV services, local councils and community organisations including at events organised by Local Councils Network on Crime Prevention and Community Safety, Inner West Council, City of Sydney, Cumberland Council, Settlement Services International, Macquarie University, University of Sydney, Australian Medical Students' Association Conference.

- DVNSW provided a free full day training session for members on Change the Story.
- DVNSW Staff participated in the Our Watch endorsed trainer's community of practice.

CHANGE THE STORY

TEN ACTIONS TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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.

FROM **CHANGE THE STORY: A SHARED FRAMEWORK FOR THE PRIMARY PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN IN AUSTRALIA**
www.ourwatch.org.au

Change the Story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence

DVNSW ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STEERING COMMITTEE

The DVNSW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Steering Committee, established early 2019, comprises of 12 women with comprehensive experience and expertise in preventing and responding to sexual, domestic and family violence. The Steering Committee brings together a diverse group of leading Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with cultural, community and sector expertise in prevention, early intervention and response to domestic, family and sexualised violence in their communities.

The vision of the Steering Committee is to provide an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lens on policy and practice opportunities and to have real influence through lobbying and advocacy. The committee amplifies the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women as advocates in their survivor experiences and guides DVNSW's work.

The Steering Committee met five times in 2019/2020.

The Attorney General and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence requested a forum with the DVNSW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Steering Committee, which was held at Parliament House on Tuesday 18 February 2020. Members of the Steering Committee also consulted with ANROWS regarding their conference, met with the Victim's Commissioner Michelle Vaughan regarding changes to Victim Services, and presented on primary prevention at Sydney University.

As part of the DVNSW COVID-19 response to members, steering committee member, Kylie Cripps held a webinar on the impacts to Aboriginal women, children and communities.

Financial support was given by DVNSW for the Ochre Ribbon Day event held 13 February 2020, and for members of the Steering Committee to present on Breaking Silent Codes in New York in March 2020.



DVNSW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Steering Committee meet with the NSW Attorney General, 18th February 2020

CRISIS RESPONSES

COVID-19 CRISIS

The COVID-19 pandemic was an unforeseen crisis and an experience that our sector knew instantly would disproportionately impact women and girls, and would increase the levels of sexual, domestic and family violence in the community. DVNSW were highly active in this crisis supporting members, sharing health advice, supporting service continuity planning and advocating with governments and other stakeholders for the best possible outcomes.

DVNSW instigated a weekly meeting between the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) and other non-government organisations in the DFV sector to coordinate efforts to address the COVID-19 crisis beginning 17 March 2020. DVNSW networked and connected with various government and non-government organisations, sharing information and support for the sector to continue providing crisis responses during the pandemic. Further, DVNSW filmed a resource with DCJ for the DFV sector with Simone Walker, Deputy Secretary Strategy, Policy and Commissioning informing the sector about COVID-19, available supports and guidelines.

DVNSW supported members during the COVID-19 crisis through instigating weekly webinars with up to 60 members in attendance. A range of experts from government and sector joined these sessions including the Attorney General and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence Mark Speakman. DVNSW also provided members with one-to-one sessions via phone meetings to address presenting needs and wishes. Further, information and specialised COVID-19 resources were made available to members via our website.

DVNSW drafted the NSW Women's Alliance Emergency Briefing to the NSW Government on supporting people experiencing sexual, domestic and family violence during the COVID-19 crisis, shaping the NSW Government's response and approach to funding. The briefing called for safe and accessible support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people from migrant and refugee backgrounds, people with disability, LGBTIQ people and children and young people.



Centre for Social Impact Webinar- COVID-19

DVNSW presented to over five hundred workers across the DFV and migrant and refugee support sector on the impacts of COVID-19 on people experiencing, and at risk of, DFV through webinars organised by the:

South West Sydney DFV Committee
Settlement Services International
Centre for Social Impact
Migration Council Australia
Homelessness NSW and
Cumberland DFV Network

2019/2020 BUSHFIRE SEASON

This bushfire season was one of the worst in known history, and another crisis which detrimentally impacted women and girls, and led to an increased level of violence in many communities. Many DVNSW member services were impacted, and we applaud the vital and important work you did to continue supporting victim/survivors at this critical time and in the aftermath.

DVNSW was part of a key group of peak bodies led by NCOS who collaborated and advocated to Ministers regarding the needs of services and victim/survivors. NCOS sent out a survey that DVNSW provided input into. DVNSW submitted to the NSW Bushfires Inquiry on the gendered impacts of the NSW bushfire response and has continued to advocate where possible with relevant Ministers on the need for a gender-informed crisis response. DVNSW also provided gift cards to fire affected services to assist their clients.

ADVOCACY

2019/2020 was a busy year for DVNSW's advocacy on behalf of our members and the women, children and LGBTQI people of NSW experiencing sexual, domestic, and family violence. Some highlights include:

- Advocacy with the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) and Women's Legal Service NSW to DCJ regarding the arrests of domestic violence complainants.
- Advocacy to Minister Speakman and the Victim's Commissioner Michelle Vaughan regarding changes implemented making it more difficult for people who have experienced violence to access victim services.
- Working with Fair Agenda on their campaign to increase funding to specialist women's services, and advice regarding the inclusion of people with lived expertise in the campaign.

PEOPLE ON TEMPORARY VISAS EXPERIENCING VIOLENCE

DVNSW undertook a survey of organisations supporting people on temporary visas experiencing violence which generated national media coverage of the barriers to safety for this group, and highlighted recommendations to the NSW and the Commonwealth Governments. DVNSW drafted an Open Letter to the Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments on behalf of the National Advocacy Group on Women on Temporary Visas, leading to the Women's Safety Ministers confirming that improving access to support for this group is a priority for them. DVNSW organised and convened six meetings of the NSW Community of Practice on Women on Temporary Visas to enable DFV, migrant and refugee support and legal services to share insights and challenges and to learn from guest speakers from government and NGOs.

KEY SURVEY FINDINGS

369 people on temporary visas sought or received assistance in May 2020 from service providers who responded to the survey.

Services that were unable to be provided to clients on temporary visas by providers include:

- long-term accommodation (82%)
- counselling (45%)
- legal advice and representation (45-55%)
- English language classes (42%)
- financial assistance (39%)
- temporary accommodation (36%)
- crisis accommodation (36%)
- and health assistance (33%)

Service providers observed the COVID-19 crisis has impacted on people on temporary visas experiencing violence in the following ways:

- increased complexity of client needs (64%)
- decreased access to income, food and essentials (64%)
- decreased access to community supports (64%)
- decreased referral pathways for clients (48%)
- none of the above (9%)

ANIMALS AND PEOPLE EXPERIENCING DFV

DVNSW secured invitations for a range of DFV services and peak bodies to participate in an Animal Justice Party round-table to build a shared understanding of the issues. DVNSW developed a survey for DFV and community workers to inform evidence-based law and policy recommendations to NSW Government on how to improve the safety of animals and people experiencing DFV. DVNSW organised a webinar on animals and people experiencing DFV, inviting our members West Connect and Women's Cottage to present alongside RSPCA and Lucy's Project on their work in this area.

COLLABORATIONS

ADVISORY GROUP AND NETWORK MEMBERSHIPS

- Australian Women Against Violence Alliance
- City of Sydney Domestic Violence Forum
- NSW Economic Abuse Reference Group
- Prosper and Rainbow Families Primary Prevention Project
- Jesuit Refugee Service Finding Safety Project
- LGBTQI DFV Interagency
- People with Disability Australia Building Access Project
- NSW Education Centre Against Violence Men's Behaviour Change Workforce Training Development
- No to Violence Risk, Safety and Support Framework Panel
- Inner West Council DFV Reference Group
- Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) Evidence to Action – Practitioner Engagement Group
- Australia Services Union Women's division
- Women's Advisory Council to Community Corrections
- Housing and Homelessness Collaboration
- No to Violence NSW Community of Practice for Women's and Children's Advocates
- Central Coast Collective Impact Project
- DCJ Commissioning Co-Governance Working Group
- DCJ Peaks State Sector Development Program

ADVISORY GROUP AND NETWORKS WE CONVENE OR CO-CONVENE

- NSW Women's Alliance
- NSW Community of Practice on Women on Temporary Visas
- NSW Collaboration on the Primary Prevention of Gender-Based Violence
- SHS Industry Partnership Domestic and Family Violence Community of Practice

DVNSW continued to lead the Specialist Homelessness Services Domestic and Family Violence Community of Practice along with Homelessness NSW and Foundations through the Industry Partnership (Domestic Violence NSW, Homelessness NSW and

Foundations). Due to COVID-19 this group did not meet regularly during the 2020 Financial Year.

Input provided into Consultations:

- Provided input to KPMG as part of their evaluation of Jesuit Refugee Service's Finding Safety project as an Advisory Group Member of the project funded by Women NSW
- Provide input informed by DVNSW members to KPMG for the evaluation of the Blueprint for Reform, Provided feedback on their survey to DFV service managers and frontline workers
- Contributed to roundtable convened by the Shadow Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence to help identify the gaps in supports for people experiencing DFV
- Provided input to DSS commissioned evaluation undertaken by Deloitte on primary prevention of sexual violence initiatives
- Supported planning for and attend The Animal Justice Party roundtable on DFV and animal abuse.
- End Street Sleeping regarding consumer engagement.
- NSW Ageing strategy
- Our Watch Workforce Development consultation
- The Domestic Violence Strategy Team within the Department of Communities and Justice re: the premier's priority on DFV re-offending.
- Urbis consultation on NSW LGBTQI Health Strategy
- Roundtable with Shadow Minister for Women and Prevention of Domestic Violence
- NSW Labour Homelessness Forum

Commonwealth Bank Partnership (CBA)

Building on our existing relationship with CBA, we were able to:

- Continue profiling and addressing the links between domestic and family violence and financial abuse.
- Undertook a co-design process with DVNSW Voices for Change advocates and Good Shepherd, funded by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA). Leading to the creation of the Financial Independence Hub for victim-survivors of DFV.
- Regular participation to the CBA Community Council to ensure member services were at the forefront of thinking and decision making.

SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

DVNSW has worked with partners, practitioners, and other peak and government departments to foster greater collaboration and adopt new approaches to improving the current system.

THE SYDNEY ROUGH SLEEPING COVID-19 TASKFORCE

During 2019/20, DVNSW was a proud member of the Sydney Rough Sleeping COVID-19 Taskforce. Other members included health services, homelessness services and peak organisations, community housing providers, the NSW Police and the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ).

The taskforce was created to coordinate urgent housing and health support, to people sleeping rough, during the COVID-19 pandemic. People sleeping rough are highly vulnerable to COVID-19, because of their high rate of respiratory and other physical and mental health issues, and the taskforce worked to accommodate them as quickly as possible. To stop the spread of COVID-19, the taskforce also worked to reduce the number of people living in close proximity at large, crisis accommodation sites.

The taskforce's activities included: street outreach, providing safe accommodation, pop-up COVID-19 testing in vulnerable communities, developing health referral pathways, food distribution networks, pet care and targeted support for Aboriginal people. The taskforce succeeded in accommodating over 2,700 people in vacant and existing hotels, including 853 people sleeping rough and others who were accommodated to de-concentrate crisis accommodation sites. The taskforce members offered long-term housing to around 240 people, including over 80 people formerly sleeping rough. The taskforce has been nominated for a NSW Premier's Award for these accomplishments.

COMMISSIONING AND CONTRACTING IN HUMAN SERVICES

DVNSW has been actively participating in DCJ's commissioning process. It is a member of the Peaks Working Group that comprises 14 peaks funded through DCJ's Sector Development Program. This group shares information about DCJ partnerships and programs, with the aim of providing input to DCJ's contracting and service delivery frameworks.

In 2019, the Peaks Working Group engaged the Sydney Policy Lab to develop a new approach to commissioning and contracting for human services in NSW. The Sydney Policy Lab has now produced a final report on this new approach, which has been endorsed by the peaks. The final report is being used as the basis for strategic advice to DCJ regarding commissioning.

DVNSW also participates in the commissioning process through attending the DCJ Co-Governance Commissioning Group and its associated working group.

DVNSW 2019 CONFERENCE

The DVNSW biennial conference was held at the NSW Teachers Federation on 5th and 6th September 2019 and was attended by over 150 members from across rural and metro Sydney. The amazing DVNSW Voices for Change advocates compered in the role of Master of Ceremonies. They brought much authenticity to the event and engendered a sense of respect and dignity that carried across both days as unitedly we “Imagined a Future without Gendered Violence”.

The amazing line up of presenters and panelists included our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Steering Committee who opened the conference, addresses from both the Attorney General and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, Mark Speakman SC MP and the Shadow Minister Trish Doyle MP. There were experts from around Australia who presented on a diverse range of relevant and pertinent subjects including; Children and Complex Trauma, Federal Policy and Research on Gendered Violence, Inclusivity and Accessibility, Sexual Consent, Abortion and Coercion, Homelessness, Forced Marriage and Trafficking, Men’s Behaviour Change, and Young People and LGBTQI people and Domestic and Family Violence. For the first time at a DVNSW conference we included two interactive workshops; Practical Advocacy Skills and Challenging Systemic Racism to Create Cultural Safety, both sessions were fully attended and received fantastic feedback.

On overall evaluation from attendees the conference scored 100% as worthwhile to participate in and achieved a 97% satisfaction rate.

Member quotes:

“Just wanted to say how much I enjoyed the conference last week, well done to everyone at DVNSW for organising such excellent speakers.”

“I can’t remember ever before feeling so proud of my sector after a conference. It has energised me and inspired me and given me the strength to keep going!!!!”

A FORUM WITH ROSIE BATTY

DVNSW held a special event at Sydney Parliament House on 2 July 2019. The forum with Rosie Batty AO was co-convened with Attorney General and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence Mark Speakman. Rosie spoke to the forum about lived expertise and the importance of primary prevention to end domestic and family violence. Rosie Batty was awarded an honorary lifelong membership to DVNSW due to her work towards ending violence in the community.



Conference Brochure

VOICES FOR CHANGE

The NSW Voices for Change survivor media advocacy project pilot enabled DVNSW to magnify the voices of people with lived experience. The project aimed to increase the understanding of sexualised, domestic and family violence in the community. The pilot project - originally funded through Our Watch - was extended in this financial year through the generous support of the Commonwealth Bank.

Training was undertaken in August 2019 in partnership with ACON for LGBTQI survivors of sexual, domestic and family violence. 9 people attended the three-day training, with 7 continuing to work with DVNSW and ACON as advocates.

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, Voices for Change advocates completed the following:

- 23 Public speaking events: Including with the Education Centre Against Violence, University of Sydney, the Blue Mountains Probus Club, South West Sydney Domestic Violence Conference, the Office of the E-Safety Commissioner, and the Commonwealth Bank
- 60 Media opportunities: Including 42 published media stories with publications such as ABC, SBS, Network 10, FBI, the Daily Telegraph and 9 Honey.

- 12 Consultations: Including with the Ministry of Health, Education Centre against Violence and Good Shepherd.
- 5 high level Ministerial meetings: Including Minister for Women and Mental Health Bronnie Taylor, Deputy Chief Justice Tom Bathurst, Minister for Families, Communities and Disabilities Gareth Ward Oct and Shadow Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence Trish Doyle. DVNSW were resourced to support a three-hour survivor forum with the NSW Attorney General and Minister for the Prevention of DFV, Mark Speakman, held on the 27th of May 2020.

The Voices for Change Project Coordinator met with numerous stakeholders regarding media, speaking and consultation opportunities including ANROWS, the Northern Sydney DV Committee, and academics from numerous universities and journalists from various networks. The Project Coordinator also networked and collaborated with victim survivor advocate groups in other states and territories. The Voices for Change Steering committee met twice during this period. Ongoing training opportunities for advocates were held on five occasions.



Some of the DVNSW Voices for Change Advocates with the Hon Mark Speakman, Attorney General and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Rosie Batty AO, 2 July 2019

SAFER HOMES, STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Sexual, domestic and family violence is the leading cause of homelessness in NSW. There is a severe lack of social, community and affordable housing and an increasing reliance on the private rental market for housing solutions. Many women who have escaped violence encounter multiple barriers and find it extremely difficult to access and sustain private rental tenancies.

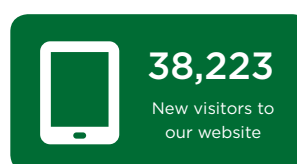
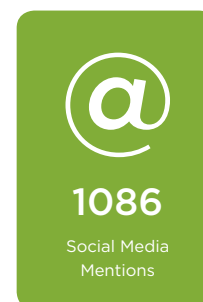
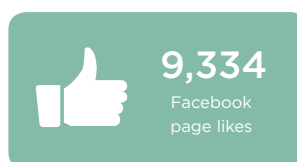
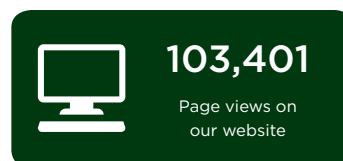
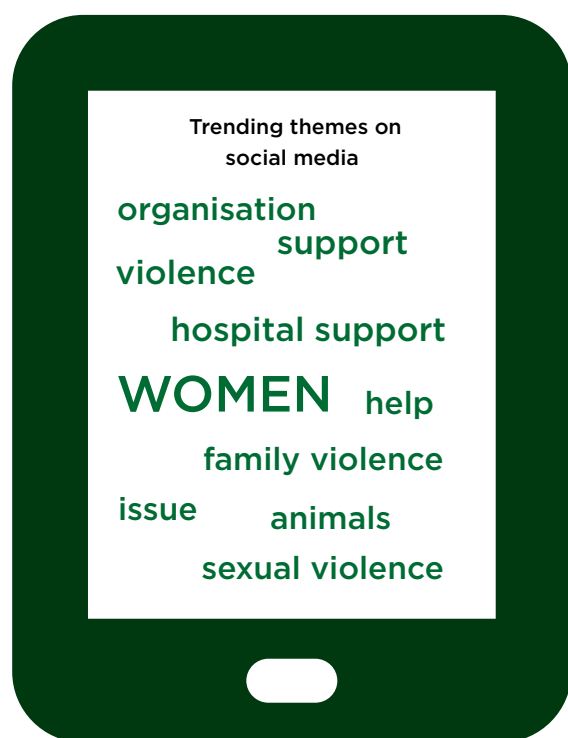
Safer Homes, Stronger Communities was funded by DCJ and ran from July 2019 to June 2020. Its aim was to identify what works to build effective real estate responses to sexual, domestic and family violence (DFV) in NSW. DVNSW conducted desk research, consultations and focus groups with our sector, the real estate industry, subject matter experts, women with lived experience and DCJ Housing. We also conducted

two online surveys, one to DVNSW members and a second to property managers in NSW. We partnered with Wirringa Baiya to look specifically at the issues faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who have experienced domestic and/or family violence to understand the particular barriers faced when accessing and sustaining private rental tenancies.

Despite the cancellation of the co-design workshop in March due to COVID-19 restrictions, the final report which synthesised all the findings of the research and consultations and included the Safer Homes Model and recommendations, was submitted in June 2020.

Funding was secured for Phase 2 of Safer Homes, Stronger Communities which will develop the model into the Safer Homes Program for a Pilot evaluation in FY20/21.

DVNSW 2019/2020 MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



2019-2020 ORGANISATIONAL MEMBERS

We would like to thank our members who join us in our vision to have Women, families and communities in NSW live free from violence, have equal rights, equal opportunities and the freedom to reach their potential.

ACON	No to Violence
Armidale Women's Homelessness Support Service	Northern Rivers WDVCS
B Miles	Nova for Women
Barnardos Australia	Open Support (previously Sisters of Charity Outreach)
Bonnie Support Services	Parramatta Holroyd Family Support
Carries Place	Parramatta Mission (SHS Packages)
Clarence River D&FV Services Inc	Penrith Women's Health Centre
Community Resource Network	Rape & Domestic Violence Services Australia
Coast Shelter	SAHSSI Inc
Domestic Violence NSW Service Management	Samaritans
Eastlakes Family Support Service Inc	South East Women & Children's Services Inc (SEWACS)
Central Tablelands and Blue Mountains Community Legal Centre	St Vincent de Paul Society NSW
Housing Plus	Stay Safe Personal Safety Australia
Illawarra Women's Health Centre	Staying Home Leaving Violence (Broken Hill)
Immigrant Women's Speakout Association of NSW	Sydney Women's Counselling Centre
Intervene Australia	Tamworth Family Support Service Ltd
Jenny's Place	The Deli Women & Children's Centre
Jewishcare	Lou's Place
Kempsey Families Inc	The Salvation Army
Liberty Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Services	Momentum Collective
Linking Communities Network Ltd	Tumut Regional Family Services
Lisa Harnum Foundation	Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre (WAGEC)
Lithgow Community Projects	Warrina D&FV Specialist Service Co-op Ltd
Mary's House	West Connect Domestic Violence Services
Mission Australia	Women Up North Housing Inc
Molongo Support Services/ Louisa Domestic Violence Services	Women's Community Shelters
Mount Druitt Family Violence Service	Women's Safety NSW
Moving Forward DFV Case Management Services Inc	Youth Off the Streets - DFV Initiative
Mudgin-gal Aboriginal Corporation	
Muslim Women Association	



OUR FINANCES

TREASURER'S REPORT



During 2019/2020 Domestic Violence NSW has once again had a busy year with new requirements as government and community services worked together to ensure knowledge exchange and appropriate service provision during the COVID-19 pandemic. Considered strategies were consistently reviewed.

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.

COVID-19 reduced travel, training, consultation and meeting capacity and associated costs but increased costs to transfer staff to work from home with appropriate equipment and strategic analysis. These coupled with a financial cash boost from the ATO resulted in an increase to income but a decrease in usual operational capacity.

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 Department of Communities and Justice for funding and our Sector Development, Blueprint and Real Estate Programs. We also acknowledge funding from the Commonwealth Bank for our Voice for Change Program. Community and Business support is always worth an additional mention for financial and material contributions consistently support the capacity of service to meet demand. Thank you – your efforts are much appreciated.

Domestic Violence NSW asserts that the audited financial accounts tabled at the AGM is a true and fair view of the financial position of the association as at 30 June 2020 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.

Denele Crozier
Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Audited Financial Accounts for the 2019/2020 Financial Year are tabled at the AGM. 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.

GRANTS

We were successful in two grants from the Commonwealth Bank Community Grants Foundation for Voices for Change and for Primary Prevention initiatives.

We were also successful in a grant from the City of Sydney to improve our digital communications during the COVID-19 pandemic.

	2019/2020	2018/2019
Total Revenue*	1,296,554	881,787
Wages and On Costs	787,290	603,637
Operational Expenses	94,219	86,193
Professional & Consulting Fees	127,757	24,745
Conference & Meeting Expenses*	32,045	12,484
Rent & Occupancy Expenses	48,207	58,859
IT & Telecommunications	20,614	21,525
Travel Expenses	18,222	26,768
Depreciation Expenses	27,265	26,260
Total Expenditure	1,155,619	834,211
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	140,935	47,576
Total Equity	555,457	414,522

* The main DVNSW Conference was not held in the 2018/19 financial year.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NSW

CONTACT

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NSW

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Facebook: [dfvnsw](#)
Twitter: [dv_nsw](#)
Website: www.dvnsw.org.au

HELPFUL CONTACTS

NSW DV Line

Phone: 1800 656 463

1800 Respect

Phone: 1800 737 732

Men's Referral Service

Phone: 1300 766 491

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