

**SAME-SEX DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CONFERENCE 2009:
PERSPECTIVES AND PROGRESS**



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PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

TIME	ACTIVITY
09:00 – 09:20	Registration
09:30 – 10:00	<i>Opening Address</i> The Hon. Verity Firth, MP. Minister for Education and Training and Minister for Women.
10:00 – 10:40	<i>Key Note Address</i> Jude Irwin Associate Professor, Convenor, Social Work and Policy Studies Programs, Faculty of Education and Social Work, University of Sydney
10:40 – 11:00	<i>Morning Tea</i>
11:00 – 12:00	<i>Breakout Session One</i>
12:05 – 1:05	<i>Breakout Session Two</i>
1:05 – 1:50	<i>Lunch</i>
1:50 – 2:50	<i>Breakout Session Three</i>
2:50 – 3:05	<i>Afternoon Tea</i>
3:05 – 4:05	<i>Panel</i>
4:05 – 4:30	<i>Closing Address</i>

In each Breakout Session you can choose to participate in a workshop or attend the podium presentations. Registrations for workshops and podium presentations will happen in the morning so get in early to secure your first choice.

KEY NOTE ADDRESS

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Jude Irwin, Associate Professor, Convenor, Social Work and Policy Studies Programs, Faculty of Education and Social Work, University of Sydney

Jude will explore how the law, government policies and politics may impact on the health outcomes of gay and lesbian couples, potentially adding further pressures to relationships. Can we view domestic violence outside of this context? How does prejudice impact on the health of intimate relationships?

Jude will also look into the culture of silence, same-sex domestic violence, homophobia and heterosexism and the silent lives of many GLBT people.

BREAKOUT SESSION ONE:

One: WORKSHOP

Macleay Room

FOCUSING ON SAFETY: SAFETY PLANNING IN THE CONTEXT OF SAME-SEX DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Priscilla McCorrison,
St George Domestic Violence Counselling Service

This workshop session will define and outline the importance of safety planning and demonstrate best practice to achieve better outcomes for clients experiencing same-sex domestic violence.

Baroda Room and Fitzroy Room

THE BRICK WALL

Robert W Ball, Service and Workforce Development,
HIV/AIDS & Related Programs (HARP)

This presentation will discuss the focus testing of the same-sex domestic violence identification tool for health and community care workers developed by the HARP Unit of Sydney South West Area Health Service. Now in its final design, the screening tool is flexible enough to be used both within government health care settings and throughout non-government support and care organisations.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SAME-SEX DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN AN HIV AMBULATORY CARE SETTING

Ruth Hennessy, Psychology Unit Manager/Senior Clinical
Psychologist, Albion Street Centre

In response to the gaps in the 2006 NSW Health Domestic Violence Screening Policy, Albion Street Centre developed a research project to explore clients' experience of DV, help-seeking behaviours and whether HIV was a factor in any abuse experienced.

Anonymous surveys were completed by 102 clients attending the Albion Street Centre, over two separate four week periods. This podium presentation will report the findings of the survey and contribute to improving health care worker's understanding of DV and SSDV within HIV positive clients' relationships.

MALE SAME-SEX INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE, MASCULINITY, AND THE INCOMPREHENSIBILITY OF BEING A VICTIM: EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF GENDER AND VIOLENCE DISCOURSES ON THE HELP-SEEKING BEHAVIOURS OF MALE VICTIMS.

Dr. Matthew Ball, Associate Lecturer, School of Justice
Queensland University of Technology

Despite the dearth of research on the issue of violence within male same-sex intimate partnerships, a recurring finding is that victims of such violence rarely seek assistance from police or other service providers. This presentation will examine the interaction between social discourses on intimate partner violence and those on masculinities in order to provide a broad conceptual framework for understanding this phenomenon.

Specifically, it will chart the way that social discourses on intimate partner violence, as well as those relating to masculinity, create tensions between performing masculinity, identifying as gay, and positioning oneself as a victim of violence. In doing so, it will consider the potential for analyses of these discourses to help understand and prevent intimate partner violence in these contexts.

Option Two: PODIUM PRESENTATIONS

BREAKOUT SESSION TWO:

One: WORKSHOP

Macleay Room

PERSPECTIVES ON APPREHENDED VIOLENCE ORDERS

This workshop will focus on the Apprehended Violence Order process with presenters Felicity Martin a solicitor from Women's Legal Services NSW, Senior Constable Kate Baker, Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer and Crime Prevention Officer at Surry Hills Local Area Command and also Senior Constable Danielle Mansour, Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer and Brief Handling Manager of Kings Cross Police.

This session will be facilitated by Kate Duffy, Project Officer of the Inner City Legal Centre's Safe Relationships Project.

Option Two: PODIUM PRESENTATIONS

Baroda Room and Fitzroy Room

S.O.A.R. - SPEAK OUT AGAINST RELATIONSHIP ABUSE: INITIATING AN INCLUSIVE SSDV SERVICE MODEL

Celia Hutton, Specialist Same-Sex Domestic Violence Worker Wimlah Women and Children's Refuge and Outreach Service

As both a survivor of SSDV and a worker in a domestic violence service under the NSW Women's Refuge Movement, Celia will talk about how her own experience of DV has informed her work practice including her commitment to continuing research that will enhance current service provision for people experiencing SSDV.

SSDV: A COMMUNITY ISSUE

Jack Draper, Lesbian Community Worker, WILMA Women's Health Centre

Jack Draper has a history of more than 3 decades working to reduce violence against women, including refuge work, policy development and co-training the Education Centre Against Violence course *Responding to SSDV*. Employing examples from both victim and perpetrators' experiences and using a discrimination framework Jack will explore the context of same-sex domestic violence, services used by victims, community responses to abusive incidents and observations of ideal support structures for clients.

TIME FOR ACTION ON SAME-SEX DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Li Zhou, Policy Advisor, Policy Planning and Research Unit ACON

In 2009 the Federal Government published *Time for Action: The National Council's Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, 2009-2021*. This presentation asks: How will *Time for Action* adequately address the unique aspects of same-sex domestic violence? This presentation will also explore the opportunities for future SSDV service provision through *Time for Action's* general focus on prevention, adequate service provision, social inclusion and equality.

BREAKOUT SESSION THREE:

One: WORKSHOP

Macleay Room

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SAME-SEX COUPLES AND KIDS

Yasmin Hunter, Solicitor, Inner City Legal Centre

In 2008, the Australian Government and the NSW Government amended the law to give greater legal recognition to same-sex couples who are parents. Many same-sex couples are now equal to opposite sex couples under the law and their status as 'legal parents' is recognised by the law.

This workshop will look at types of family arrangements that the law recognises and the types of families that it doesn't. We will also look at Apprehended Violence Orders and the Family Law system, and how they can assist parents who have experienced domestic violence in same-sex relationships.

Baroda Room and Fitzroy Room

CONTROL, COERCION AND SAME-SEX DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Andrew Frankland, Department of Psychology, Macquarie University

Research has suggested that control and coercion when combined with physical violence leads to more severe negative outcomes for victims than physical violence alone. This podium presentation will detail the results of a national survey of 180 men and women in same-sex relationships, who provided information about current and lifetime experiences with psychological, physical, and sexual violence within relationships as well as any experiences with control or coercion. Implications will be discussed with reference to both our understanding of SSDV and the practical implications for data collection and service provision.

HOMOPHOBIA REVISED: SSDV AS A MANIFESTATION OF INTERNALISED HOMOPHOBIA

Senthoran Raj, University of Sydney

Much of the current emphasis around same-sex domestic violence privileges a dominance/control definition where one partner exercises emotional, psychological or physical violence over another partner. This podium presentation will investigate the limitations of this concept while exploring homophobia, cultural differences and marginalisation.

COMING FORWARD: THE UNDER-REPORTING OF HETEROSEXIST VIOLENCE AND SAME-SEX PARTNER ABUSE IN VICTORIA

Sergeant Scott Davis, Manager, Gay and Lesbian Advisory Unit, Victoria Police

This 2008 study by the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, La Trobe University, reports on the responses of 390 gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual and transgender (GLBT) Victorians to an online survey asking them about their experiences of heterosexual violence and same-sex partner abuse. Sergeant Davis will explore *Coming Forward* and its consequences for the policing, reporting and future directions of service delivery in relation to same-sex domestic violence.

UNDER-REPORTING AND DATA COLLECTION PANEL

Felicity Martin – Solicitor, Women's Legal Services NSW

Kate Baker – Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer, Surry Hills Local Area Command

Yasmin Hunter – Solicitor, Inner City Legal Centre

Scott Davis – Manager, Gay and Lesbian Advisory Unit, Victoria Police

During this panel session the conference floor will hear about SSDV data collection practices in Victoria and NSW, the barriers to data collection and strategies to overcome these barriers. Speakers will investigate advocacy roles, best practise models for SSDV data collection and the issue of privacy and the rights of the victim. The panellists will also explore recommendations to improve under-reporting of SSDV.

Option Two: PODIUM PRESENTATIONS

CLOSING REMARKS

Baroda Room and Fitzroy Room

Kate Duffy - Inner City Legal Centre Safe Relationships Project

Annaliese Constable - ACON's Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project, Same-Sex Domestic Violence Officer



Same-Sex Domestic Violence Interagency

The Same-Sex Domestic Violence Conference 2009: Perspectives and Progress was organised by the Same-Sex Domestic Violence Interagency (SSDVI).

The SSDVI is a group of representatives from community-based organisations and government agencies that aim to reduce the incidence and impact of domestic violence in same-sex relationships and to develop, implement and evaluate strategies that address SSDV in NSW.

The SSDVI has been in existence for over ten years and is made up of representatives from the following organisations:

- St Vincent's Community Health Service
- NSW Attorney Generals Department
- NSW Police Force
- Inner City Legal Centre Safe Relationships Project
- City of Sydney
- Education Centre Against Violence
- Sydney Sexual Health Centre
- Albion Street Centre
- DoCS Domestic Violence Line
- ACON (Lesbian & Gay Anti-Violence Project, Policy, Planning & Research Unit, Senior Management Team, Counselling Unit, Housing Unit)
- St. George Domestic Violence Counselling Service Relationships Australia (SESIAHA)
- Sydney Psychology
- Violence and Abuse (adults) Prevention Program (SESIAHS)
- Women's Health Unit (SESIAHS)
- St. Vincent's Hospital

If you would like to become involved in the SSDVI please contact Kate Duffy on kate_duffy@clc.net.au or (02) 9332 1966.