

UNDERSTANDINGS OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 2008



Funding

- The Law Society
- CNAHS
- Community Benefits SA
- Playford Council
- Partner Agencies

Partners

- Northern Domestic Violence Service
– Julie Felus
- Central Domestic Violence Service
– Pam Kaye
- Northern Violence Intervention Program
– Elaine Lloyd

Rationale

- During the course of our employment, we observed that women who experienced domestic violence frequently reported unsatisfactory or unhelpful involvement with the Criminal Justice System
- Similarly community service and health professionals frequently commented on the lack of tools or information to guide workers and clients through intervention responses
- Positive feedback from 2 focus groups pointed to the efficacy of a tool which would provide opportunities for women to make informed choices

Aims

- Raise the profile of women's 'voices' within the CJS
- Enhance victims knowledge of, and confidence in the CJS
- Enhance workers knowledge and skills to more effectively engage with the CJS
- Raise worker accountability by providing tools which track interventions
- Promote consistency in practice responses across organisations and regions

Manual Content Consultation

Were influenced by feedback from 14 consultations:

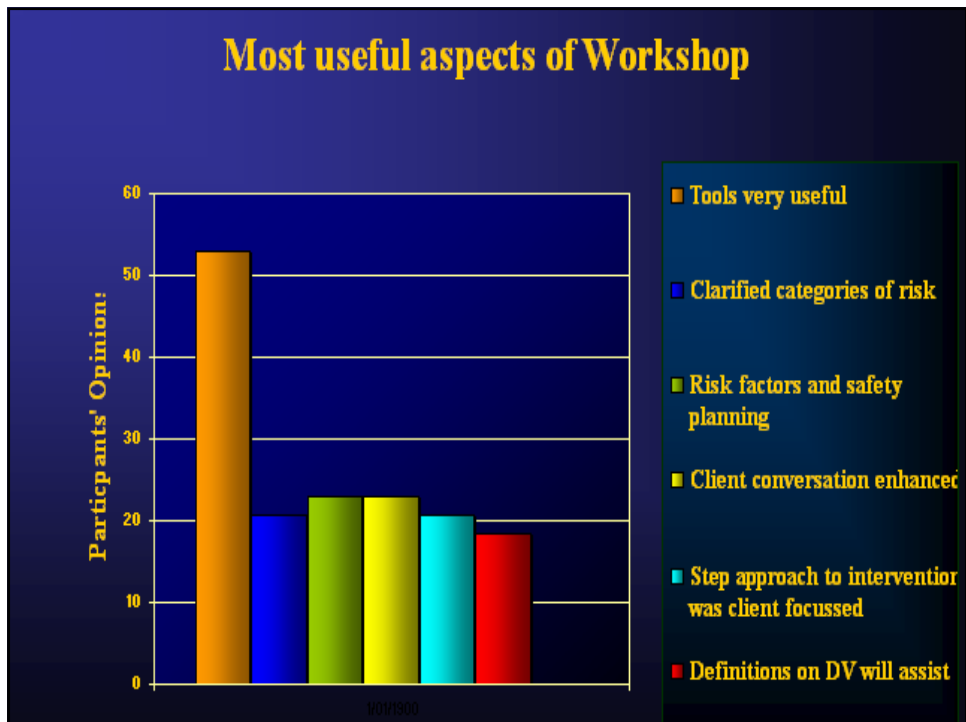
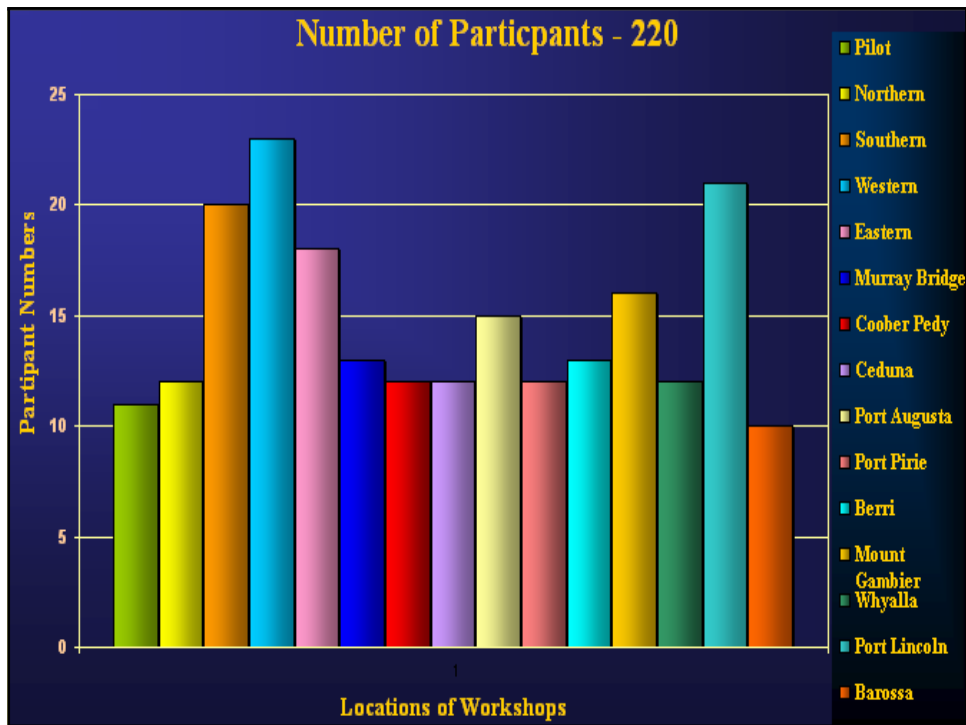
- Women
- DV services
- Health
- Community Agencies
- Police
- Corrections
- Lawyers

Contents of the manual

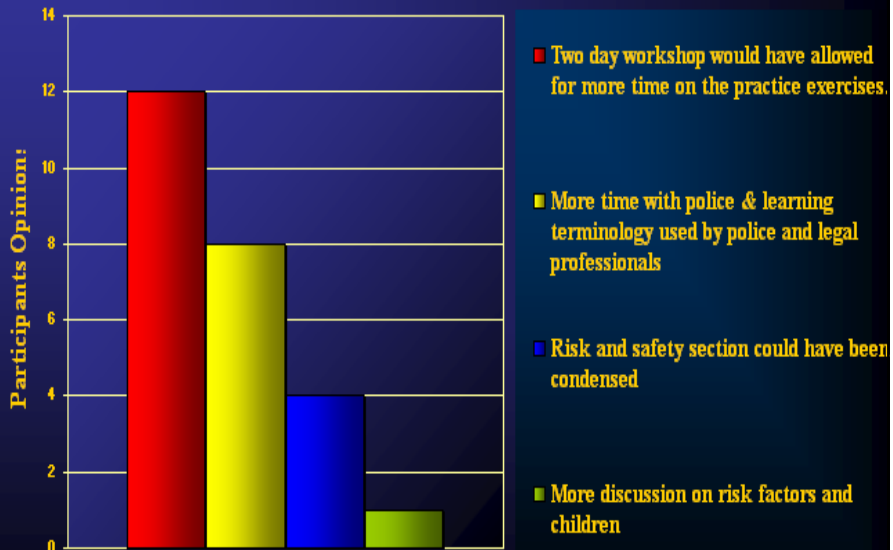
- Documenting A Domestic Violence Incident
- Domestic Violence Legislation
- Risk And Safety Planning Framework
- Risk Assessment
- Safety Planning
- Risk And Safety Reports
- Risk And Safety Updates
- Victims Of Crime Compensation
- Accessing Court outcomes
- Bail And Bond Conditions
- The Parole Board
- Victims Register
- Promoting Criminal Justice System Intervention
- Statistics

Training Venues & Facilities

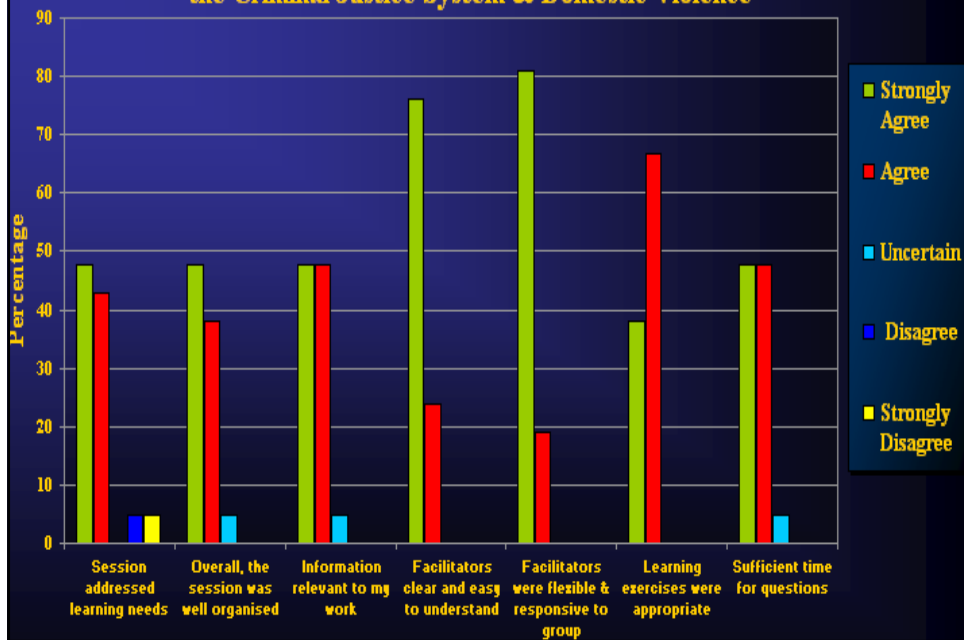
- In almost all cases, there was no cost as services in the community 'hosted' the training, organising invites and venues, encouraging ownership and collaboration
- These agencies also generously covered the costs of morning & afternoon tea
- Small country agencies indicated their appreciation that the training was free and approved attendance by multiple staff



Suggested Improvements



Evaluation - 'Understandings of the Criminal Justice System & Domestic Violence'



Train the trainer feedback

- Confirmed that the information contained in the manual provided a practical, hands on tool of value to a wide range of readers and use to professionals

General remarks & what was noticed by facilitators

- Accessibility of tools for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse people
- Gender and Language – ‘she as victim and he as perpetrator’
- Disappointment in limited hard copies
- Should be over 2 days
- Target participants – levels of knowledge

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- The positive networking and depth of conversations when Police, including Prosecutions, and Corrections participated in the training
- The severity of violence and lack of accessibility to services generally for Aboriginal women in remote areas
- Broad range of agencies including children's services

Spinoffs

- Approval to place the electronic resource on the following websites:
 - Coalition of Women's Domestic Violence Services of SA
 - Attorney General's Department
 - Department for Correctional Services
 - Courts Administration Authority

A hard copy was requested and supplied to the Office of Status of Women and the State Library of SA

- Ongoing training opportunities
- Risk & Safety Report Working Party – Government, Non Government & consultant

Review

- Anecdotal / hard evidence of uptake – 100 reprint
- manual updates to include legislative changes
- Growing recognition and use of Risk & Safety reports
 - SAPOL – General Policing Orders
 - Women's voices – Women's Safety Framework
 - Children and Young People – raising profile

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- Other significant opportunities – more than the withdrawal of charges
 - Parole
 - Bail
 - Bond
 - Sentencing
 - Home detention
- Victims of Crime compensation – increased applications (NDVS & NVIP)

Follow up actions

- Project partners will meet twice yearly to review and update contents in line with 'developments' in intervention practice across the service spectrum and changes to legislation
- Option to look at a hit counter for website and feedback opportunity
- Funding for translation of particular tools has been provided by CNAHS and the Office for Multicultural Affairs

Evolution

- Risk & Safety reports
 - taken up
 - new examples of reports
 - language complexities
 - sparked further conversation
- Purpose of the report – clarification
- Translation issue
 - Cultural and language complexities

Questions

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