

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

# **A N N U A L R E P O R T**

*2016-2017*



# ON AVERAGE AT LEAST ONE WOMAN A WEEK IS KILLED BY A PARTNER OR FORMER PARTNER IN AUSTRALIA



## COVER IMAGE

*'An Australian Landscape' 2017*  
- Rex Turnbull

"When mum and her partner argued I'd take her phone, go outside, put on her headphones, go to her favourite play list, turn up the volume so I couldn't hear the shouting, the plates breaking, the slapping or the screaming. When the fight was over mum would come out and gets her phone. I could see she'd been crying. She would always assure me, 'It'll be alright.' It was never going to be alright. One day she didn't come and get her phone."

Rex was born in Taihape, on the North Island of New Zealand, a Maori of Ngati Tuwharetoa descent. He studied graphic design at Wellington Polytechnic School of Design (Massey University) and has exhibited extensively throughout New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Germany, UK and Switzerland. He has been a finalist in numerous national awards and was the winner of the Kelliher Award in Dunedin, NZ. In 2007 he was made a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, London. His works are in private and public collections in Australia, USA, UK, Greece, Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore and New Zealand.

We thank Rex for allowing us to use this beautiful artwork.

We know that a woman is more likely to be killed in her home by her male partner than anywhere else or by anyone else. We also know that most women do not report violence to police and they are even less likely to report violent incidents to police when the perpetrator is a current partner.

## That is NEVER going to be alright!

Domestic Violence NSW is situated on Gadigal land, 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 experienced by Aboriginal women, families and communities. We commit to supporting and partnering with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to end domestic and family violence and create a safer world for the next generations.

Thank you to all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have supported the work of DVNSW in 2016.

DVNSW supports the 2016 Redfern Statement <https://nationalcongress.com.au/about-us/redfern-statement/>

and the 2017 Uluru Statement

[https://www.referendumcouncil.org.au/sites/default/files/2017-05/Uluru\\_Statement\\_From\\_The\\_Heart\\_0.PDF](https://www.referendumcouncil.org.au/sites/default/files/2017-05/Uluru_Statement_From_The_Heart_0.PDF)



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# OUR MISSION

Domestic Violence NSW Inc. is the peak body for specialist domestic and family violence services in New South Wales. DVNSW provides a representative and advocacy function for specialist services and the women, families and communities they support. Our mission is to eliminate domestic and family violence through leadership in policy, advocacy, partnerships and the promotion of best practice. We work with our members, state and federal government and communities to create a safer NSW for all. DVNSW member services represent the diversity of specialist services working in NSW to support women, families and communities impacted by domestic and family violence including:

- Crisis and refuge services
- Transitional accommodation and community housing providers
- Family support services
- Neighbourhood centres and drop in centres
- Specialist homelessness service providers
- Men's behaviour change programs and networks
- Community organisations working with high risk communities
- Specialist women's legal support services
- Women and children's support services
- Safe at Home programs

DVNSW members are all non-government organisations, some entirely government funded, others supported through philanthropic donations or through partnerships with industry or the corporate sector. Many of our members have multiple government and non-government funding streams. DVNSW advocates for best practice, continuous system improvements and innovative policy responses to domestic and family violence including building workforce capacity and representation at all levels of government.

We provide policy advice to multiple departments in the NSW Government on prevention, early intervention and response. We work with communities and the media to increase awareness and represent the sector on a number of state and federal advisory bodies including the NSW Premier's Council on Homelessness, the NSW Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Council, the NSW Early Intervention Council, the NSW Reference Group for Men's Behaviour Change, ANROWS' Practitioner Engagement Group, and the Australian Women Against Violence Alliance. We co-convene and provide a secretariat function for the NSW Women's Alliance with Rape and Domestic Violence Services Australia.

We acknowledge the work and value of specialist women's services and the practice wisdom of domestic and family violence practitioners that underpins our work. DVNSW thanks the services and individuals who have developed best practice over decades of working with women, children, families and communities and shared their expertise with us over the year. We pay tribute to those who have experienced domestic or family violence, to their families and to our advocates, colleagues and partners in government and nongovernment agencies.

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# OUR PEOPLE

## BOARD MEMBERS



**Jan McDonald**  
Chair



**Deborah Banks**  
Vice Chair



**Denele Crozier**  
Treasurer

## NON EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS



**Pia Birac**



**Cynthia Briggs**  
(Resigned 14/6/17)



**Annabelle Daniel**



**Amanda Greaney**  
(Resigned 16/11/16)



**Helen Silvia**  
(Appointed 16/11/16)



**Yvonne Weldon**  
(Appointed 22/06/17)



**June Wilson**



**Wafa Zaim**

## STAFF



**Moo Baulch**  
CEO



**Sophie Trower**  
Policy Manager



**Emily Goldsmith**  
SHS Project Officer



**Kelly Macdonald**  
Office Manager



**Tracey Kennedy**  
Finance Officer



**Dr Trishima Mitra-Kahn**  
Management Consultant

## INTERNS

**Hannah Cameron**  
Intern

# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



**DVNSW has provided leadership, advocacy, and lobbying on all matters related to domestic violence and homelessness during the 2016-17 year.**

During the year, DVNSW has participated in a range of high level government policy responses including submissions into the Foundations for Change – Homelessness in NSW strategy consultation process, and the Family Violence Law Reform Inquiry; has represented the voice of membership and those experiencing homelessness, calling for the retention and ongoing funding of the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness; and has provided government at both a state and federal level with vital advice and wisdom.

On the sector support level, the DFV Good Practice Guidelines were launched during the year. Guidelines were published following an extensive consultation process, led by Emily Goldsmith in her SHS Project Officer role. These guidelines provide a vital tool for the sector to ensure quality client centred service provision. In addition, we worked in partnership with other peaks and government in the development of the Strengthening Practice in Responding to Domestic and Family Violence: A toolkit for community housing providers.

The establishment and meeting of the DPAC (Domestic Violence Policy Advisory Committee), fulfilled the final stage of the constitutional change process that commenced in 2015. The enthusiasm shown in these meetings augers well for the relationship between DVNSW and its membership, and will ensure the peak remains closely connected with “on the ground” issues.

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*“I would like to thank all Board members for your participation and dedication. It is a wonderful experience to work alongside such professional and determined women”.*

The year has seen Moo and her team continue to provide professional services and to represent workers in the homelessness and domestic violence sectors, and the service users, while also being held in esteem by key level policy makers.

On behalf of the Board, I thank Moo for her leadership of the organisation. In addition, I wish to thank Moo and the team of workers and volunteers for their tireless efforts to advance the cause of women and children who are, or have, experienced domestic and family violence, and those at risk of, or experiencing homelessness.

Congratulations on another successful year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jan McDonald'.

**Jan McDonald**  
**Chair, DVNSW Board**

# CEO'S REPORT

It's been another big year at the peak and our small team has continued its work across multiple government departments to improve policy responses to women, their families and NSW communities impacted by domestic, family and sexual violence.

A vital part of our role as advocates is to share the work of our member services and the unique challenges that practitioners face when working with clients and service users who have been impacted by violence. Our member services reflect the range of responses in NSW – refuges and crisis responses, women's health, legal, counselling and support services, family, youth and community controlled organisations.

DVNSW members work across the state in every geographical region, often in extremely challenging circumstances. In 2016-17 we continued our commitment to visit member services across NSW to hear and see expert practice on the ground.

We were warmly welcomed at Broken Hill, Wilcannia, Orange, Central Coast, Hunter, Wagga Wagga, Northern Rivers, Mid North Coast, Western Sydney and Maitland.

Thank you to all our members for the work that you do and for sharing your time and thoughts so generously. We were able to offer high quality, free training to DVNSW members from the Australian expert on young people and pornography, Maree Crabbe as well as workshops on migration issues, advocacy and DFV which delivered across the state by one of our member services the Immigration Advice and Rights Centre.

We've received extremely positive feedback about the training and look forward to working more with our members to ensure that our sector is equipped to deal with new and emerging challenges and diverse client groups.

Our annual member survey was a really positive reflection of the work that we've undertaken to try to better communicate with our member services. We also recognise that there's always room for improvement and in addition to a new website we have some changes on the way that we hope will move us closer to the excellence that we strive for.

We've created strategic new partnerships with local councils, corporates, peaks and statewide networks so that our member services can access the support that they need locally. And we've continued to undertake substantial work with local and national media outlets to ensure that domestic and family violence doesn't drop off the agenda.

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported our work this year and encouraged us to keep fighting harder for victim-survivors. Without our volunteers and interns, our Board, the Domestic Violence NSW Policy Advisory Committee (DPAC), our ambassadors and our members there are times when we would probably crumble.



DVNSW's work this year would not have been possible or as extensive without the 2014-2017 Specialist Homelessness Industry Development Partnership. I'd like to particularly acknowledge the support we have received from Homelessness NSW and the IP team this year. We have achieved an immense amount of positive change. Huge thanks to Dougie, Emily and Kiera the "Project C" workers, Katherine, Lucia, Rochelle and the rest of the IP team.

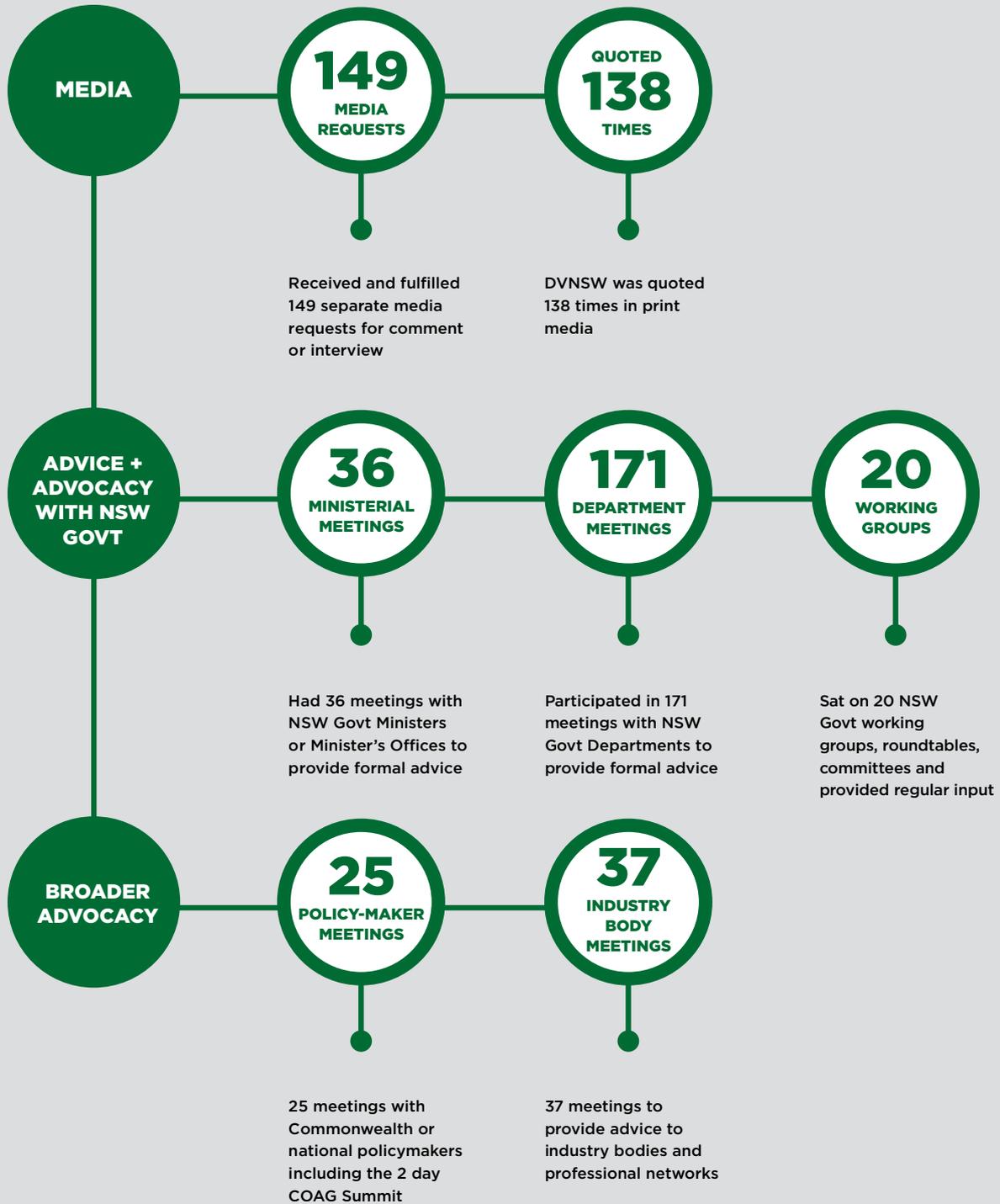
And finally, to the DVNSW office team; Kelly, Sophie, Emily, Tracey and Trish. You are all strong, passionate, feminist activists who inspire me constantly with your love for the job and your enthusiasm for making a better world.

Thank you for all the above and beyond you've given this year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Baulch".

**Moo Baulch**  
**CEO**

# OUR WORK



# 01 SUBMISSIONS

DVNSW made a record number of detailed written submissions to the Commonwealth and to NSW Government inquiries reflecting practice, resource and policy challenges identified through the work of our services across NSW. Written submissions are available on the DVNSW website except in the case where the inquiry is confidential. Some of our submissions during the year include:

## Men's Behaviour Change (MBC)

DVNSW worked with No To Violence and the NSW Men's Behaviour Change Network in developing our response to the draft NSW MBC Standards. We welcomed the NSW Government's focus on perpetrator accountability and their commitment to ensure that the safety of the partners and families of those who use violence is at the centre of all responses to domestic and family violence.

We noted that expansion of perpetrator programs, services and interventions will require substantial investment and respectful co-design partnership approaches that recognise the expertise of domestic and family violence specialists and women's services.

As indicated in our previous input to the review of the standards, we advised that Men's Behaviour Change practitioners and group work should address and include all forms of domestic and family violence, including elder abuse, sibling abuse and adolescent violence.

We reminded the department that effective work with men who use intimate partner violence

is nuanced and complex and practitioners require substantial ongoing clinical supervision to ensure that they do not collude with perpetrators. We also noted the proposal to include a Risk, Needs, Responsiveness model as part of the practice standards review.

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*"...effective work with men who use intimate partner violence is nuanced and complex and practitioners require substantial ongoing clinical supervision to ensure that they do not collude with perpetrators."*

This represents a new way of working for the NSW sector and thus we advised that this will require both ongoing training and support for practitioners within the domestic and family violence service sector as well as significant investment in other community based services.

Finally we submitted that an embedded, whole of government approach to domestic and family violence with closer coordination between government and non-government agencies is required if the work in this space is to improve safety and accountability.

## NGO Benchmarking

DVNSW submitted our comments regarding the Social Innovation Council's NGO Benchmarking Model. During the past 18 months, we have undertaken significant research in the sector in relation to the creation of specific standards for best practice in domestic and family violence service delivery and we are continuing to work with the sector and NSW Government to design an effective and meaningful approach which will work across a diverse service sector and service delivery models.

Our member organisations and the broader domestic and family violence sector have identified that they strongly support the delivery of quality services to women, families and communities impacted by violence. Many of the services that we work with and represent already have a contractual obligation to regularly assess and/or accredit their service and practice given that they are part of the women's health or NGO health sector, community legal centre sector, the specialist homelessness sector, sexual assault services or delivering men's behaviour change programs. In our submission we highlighted the specific feedback that we received from domestic and family violence and women's services in relation to the NGO Benchmarking Tool and a standards process.

## Housing

**DVNSW welcomed the opportunity to comment on the IPART, Review of the rent models in social and affordable housing. DVNSW along with other NSW stakeholders; NCOSS, Homelessness NSW, Shelter NSW, yFoundations and the Tenants Union have worked closely together on this review and DVNSW support and endorse each of their submissions.**

DVNSW advocated that in all reform or review process we need to consider:

a) That all NSW citizens should be able to access timely, well-resourced domestic, family and sexual violence support responses located in their communities that are client-centred, trauma-specialist, culturally-safe and are based on the premise that DFV is a gendered crime and a violation of human rights;

b) That significant long-term investment is required to develop evidence-based domestic, family and sexual violence prevention initiatives and strategies including whole of school and community programs that address entrenched gender inequality and violence supportive attitudes; and

c) That the NSW Parliament make a long term, bipartisan government commitment and strategy to ensure a range of safe and affordable housing and support options are accessible to women and families impacted by domestic violence (as well as perpetrators of violence) including expansion of Staying Home Leaving Violence services, dedicated specialist DFV crisis accommodation,

transitional, social and community housing and diverse private rental accommodation models and subsidies.

## Homelessness

**DVNSW worked closely with the NSW Department of Family and Community Services and our homelessness peak body partners to advocate for and then design a consultative process for a homelessness strategy.**

Following face to face consultations conducted across the state, a number of which we attended (West, Far West, Mid North Coast) the Foundations for change - Homelessness in NSW paper was released. As the peak body for specialist support services in our state, we worked closely and collaboratively with the domestic and family violence and Specialist Homelessness Support (SHS) sector to produce a submission encompassing the diversity of the sector and our communities.

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*“we worked closely and collaboratively with the domestic and family violence and Specialist Homelessness Support (SHS) sector to produce a submission encompassing the diversity of the sector and our communities”.*

Our submission recommended a better coordinated, integrated, whole of government response to address homelessness and domestic and family violence.

We drew the government's attention to the multiple government initiatives, policy developments, pilots and trials which currently impact on SHS

and the prevention and early intervention spaces including Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) reforms, DFV Blueprint and Safer Pathway, Future Directions, Premier's Priorities (youth homelessness, child protection re-reporting and DV re-offending).

We highlighted the lack of coordination at a local level between different reforms and the strong evidence that effective structures to coordinate these reforms at a district or statewide level are lacking, particularly in terms of input from peaks at reform delivery board level. We advocated that the NSW Homelessness Strategy be designed to support local, client-centred responses, rather than direct them.

We advocated that every NSW community has unique experiences, service systems, networks and populations, which shape the ability of services to respond to homelessness and that too often services have to make clients fit programs rather than being able to offer truly client-centred responses.

We noted issues relating to SHS re-contracting, particularly the capacity of homelessness services to meet demand and to effectively work in the prevention and early intervention spaces.

Our consultation and advocacy work with domestic and family services and networks across NSW continually draws attention to impacts of the GHSH reforms on local and state networks and service delivery. We reiterated our call for a four year plan to review and address the current gaps and issues within the SHS program, a fundamental area for successful outcomes.

Further we noted that, in addition to a NSW Homelessness Strategy,

government at both a state and federal level would need to provide adequate resources and funding certainty so that demand is met and effective strategies are developed to address the ongoing and growing affordable housing and homelessness crisis.

Our submission drew attention to the importance of the NSW Homelessness Strategy including the voices of those who have experienced violence and mechanisms to continue to value the diversity of victim-survivor advocates.

Finally we called for specific strategies to reduce homelessness to be developed and implemented for cohorts most at risk of DFV and homelessness: older women, children, young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, LGBTIQ communities, CALD women, women who have no access to income, and women with disabilities.

## Child Protection

**DVNSW made a formal written submission to the NSW Government's Inquiry into Child Protection in NSW and later appeared before the panel to give evidence.**

Our submission included several case studies provided by DVNSW member services that the panel were particularly interested in. We called for better connected government and NGO systems to provide a more integrated system for our most vulnerable children and families.

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*“We called for better connected government and NGO systems to provide a more integrated system for our most vulnerable children...”*

We advocated that child protection work is undeniably challenging, and most reviews and inquiries agree that the system needs to be more timely, sophisticated and reflexive. At the core of any improvement, we argued, there needs to be a long-term government commitment to bring child protection systems and domestic and family violence responses and expertise together, resulting in safer outcomes for children, young people, their families and communities.

DVNSW called for significant, commensurate investment in mainstream and specialist services and a long-term collaborative vision shared between government, community and the sector to build a system that meets the immediate crisis needs of children, young people and families, supports ongoing recovery from trauma and effectively challenges the roots of violence supportive attitudes.

Our submission challenged the government to commit to vision, resourcing, leadership and respect for leaders and Elders in the community.

## Family Law

**DVNSW conducted an online survey with specialist DFV practitioners and services for the Parliamentary inquiry into a better family law system to support and protect those affected by family violence, receiving 22 individual and 5 team practitioner responses.**

These insights formed the basis for our submission. Our survey with DVNSW member services demonstrated that despite some systemic and policy improvements, the Family Court continues to let victim-survivors down in terms of safety and

outcomes, there are substantial backlogs and delays, cases often take significant periods of time to be resolved and there is a general lack of resources within the system to support families to recover from trauma and violence.

Our survey respondents concluded that victim-survivors are particularly vulnerable when Family Court timelines are protracted as it heightens and prolongs the stress of interacting and being under the control of a perpetrator, many of whom manipulate the system to exert further control.

The courts' inability to provide adequate timely access to justice means that too often victim-survivors agree to outcomes that are not in the best interests of themselves or their children.

DVNSW called for coordinated, well-resourced and evidence-based responses to families to be embedded throughout the family law system. In general our respondents indicated a desire to work with family law specialists to improve outcomes and systems for victim-survivors.

We commended the federal government for focusing on areas that could result in positive, meaningful change for survivors of family violence. Our responses consistently highlighted the need to develop a range of comprehensive strategies so that workers in all parts of the system are trauma-informed, and wherever possible, trauma-specialist approaches are adopted by both the Family Law Court and the Children's Court.

## 02 ADVOCACY

**A core part of our work at DVNSW is to contribute to national and state policy relating to domestic and family violence through systemic and focused advocacy. In addition to our regular meetings with Ministers and Departments we represented and amplified the NSW DFV sector's voice at the following events and:**

- Inaugural COAG Domestic Violence Summit in Brisbane in late 2016
- Victorian Government's working group on family violence service access for LGBTIQ people
- NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Child Protection
- Forum for DVRE funded services to share their experiences of setting up after hours approaches
- Expert panel at the South West Sydney Domestic and Family Violence Summit
- AWAVA national conference
- Our Watch journalism awards as a judge
- Webinar on LGBTIQ domestic and family violence with the National LGBTI Health Alliance
- Adolescent Health Conference in Western Sydney
- ANROWS peer review and selection panel processes and on the ANROWS Practitioners Engagement Group
- Keynote address at the opening of the ANZ Mental Health Association's Stop DV conference in Brisbane
- Commonwealth Bank launch of the DVNSW Financial Abuse resource
- DV Alert Disability Advisory Group
- Sexual Assault Expert Group
- PDHPE syllabus review
- Financial Advisors annual conference keynote
- Domestic Violence and Older People seminar at Randwick Hospital
- Mental Health nurses DFV training at Long Bay Jail with Wurringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Service

### Good Practice Guidelines

**DVNSW has been working with the sector over the last 12 months in developing a guide to good practice for the DFV sector. The DFV Guidelines involved detailed research and consultation to identify good practice in the current service context in communities across NSW.**

The principles and origins of this work lie in feminist, social justice practice developed by workers in refuges, women's, family support services and community-controlled organisations over

several decades. While the domestic and family violence service system will inevitably continue to be impacted and shaped by ongoing reform and development, the principles and values in this guide are designed to assist workers to understand the needs of victim-survivors of violence and to embed a gendered analysis of violence and cultural safety throughout their practice.

The key purpose of the DFV Practice Guidelines is to provide a framework to support the delivery of high quality, consistent responses to victim-survivors across the DFV sector in NSW, and to provide services with a tool to assist them to provide high quality services and guidelines for service development, planning and quality assurance.

The Guidelines recognise the specific needs of victim-survivors from a diverse range of backgrounds and the importance of flexible service responses that respond to individuals' specific needs. Finally, they define what makes working with victim-survivors of domestic and family violence different to working with other clients, and provide generalist services with information around what it means to have DFV specialisation.

The Guidelines aim to provide services with a framework to deliver quality responses, demonstrate the value of specialist service provision and benchmark against other similar services with the intention of supporting continuous sector improvement.

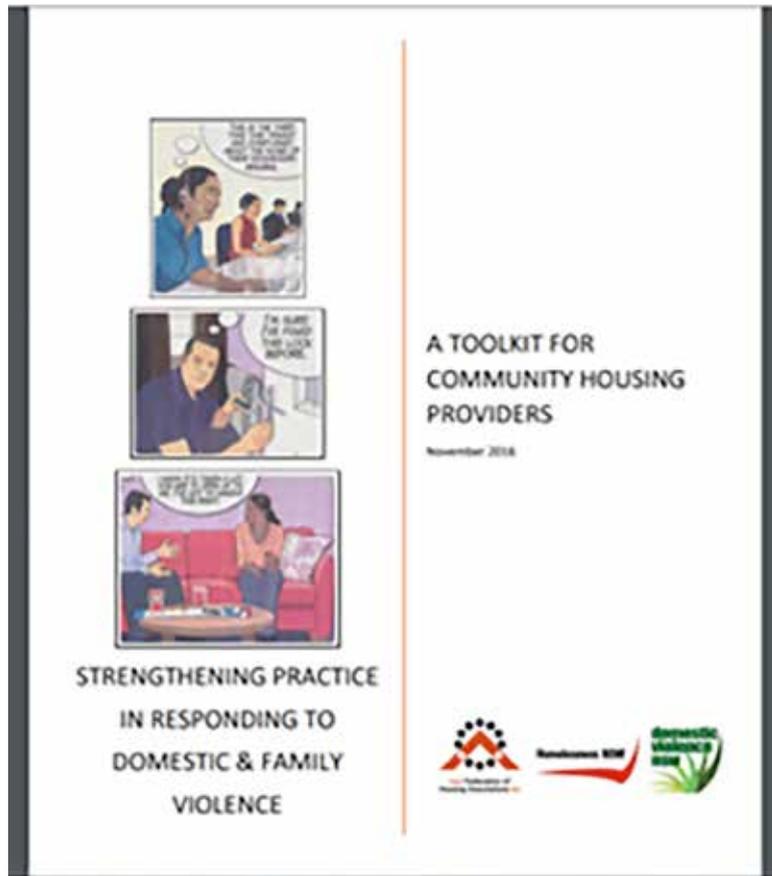
The Guidelines reinforce practices and procedures that have been developed over decades of expertise by experienced specialist domestic and family violence services, women's services, peak bodies (including the NSW Women's Refuge Movement's Access and Equity Manual), community-controlled organisations and agencies that have experience working with women, children, families and communities impacted by violence.

The consultations and development of the guidelines were resourced through the SHS Industry Partnership and sit alongside guidelines for under 16s and assertive outreach. Thanks to the Homelessness NSW team for supporting our work in this space and the DVNSW Policy Advisory Committee for your input and expertise.

### The Strengthening Practice in Responding to Domestic and Family Violence within Community Housing Providers: A Toolkit

This financial year, DVNSW was on a cross sector Reference Group that developed a toolkit for CHPs to assist them in responding to tenants who are impacted by DFV.

The aim of the **Strengthening Practice in Responding to Domestic and Family Violence within Community Housing Providers: A Toolkit** is to build on the existing positive practice in both community housing and specialist homelessness services and complement; support and enhance current best practice approaches so they are adopted throughout the sector.



The Toolkit includes a wide range of resources to assist providers to effectively identify and respond to DFV.

Thanks to our peak partners at the Federation of Housing Associations, Homelessness NSW, FACS and the DVNSW Policy Advisory Committee for the development of this important piece of work.

*“The key purpose of the DFV Practice Guidelines is to provide a framework to support the delivery of high quality, consistent responses to victim-survivors across the DFV sector in NSW...”*

## Addressing Financial Abuse

On 27 June, with Commonwealth Bank, we launched Addressing Financial Abuse, a booklet for support workers in NSW to help affected people establish financial independence as a key step in leaving an abusive relationship.

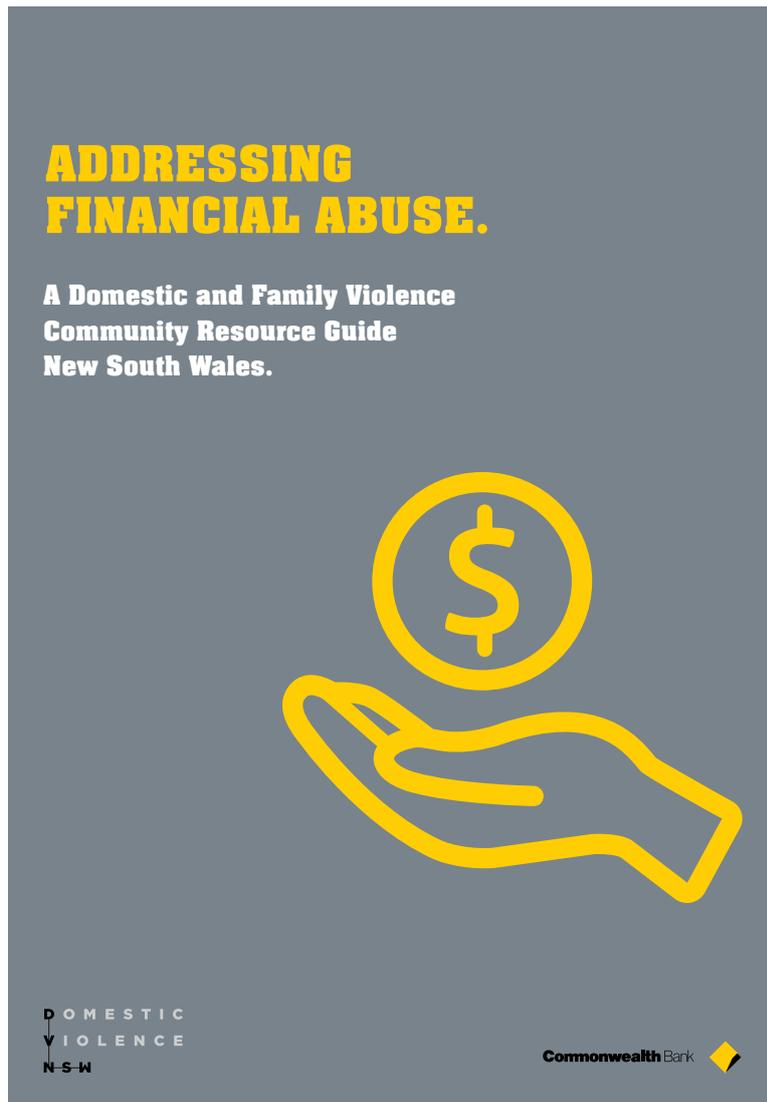
As part of Commonwealth Bank's partnership with us, 2,500 booklets have been printed for distribution to domestic and family violence organisations across the state, including to financial counsellors through Financial Counselling Australia.

Given the vast number of victim-survivors and families affected by financial abuse in NSW, there is a significant need for this resource.

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*“Addressing Financial Abuse will help frontline workers guide those affected to independence...”*

Addressing Financial Abuse will help frontline workers guide those affected to independence, making them less vulnerable to the financial control exercised by abusive partners, and assisting them in the recovery process. Financial abuse (also called economic abuse) is a serious form of domestic violence that occurs when an abuser uses money or other resources as a means to misuse power and control over their partner.



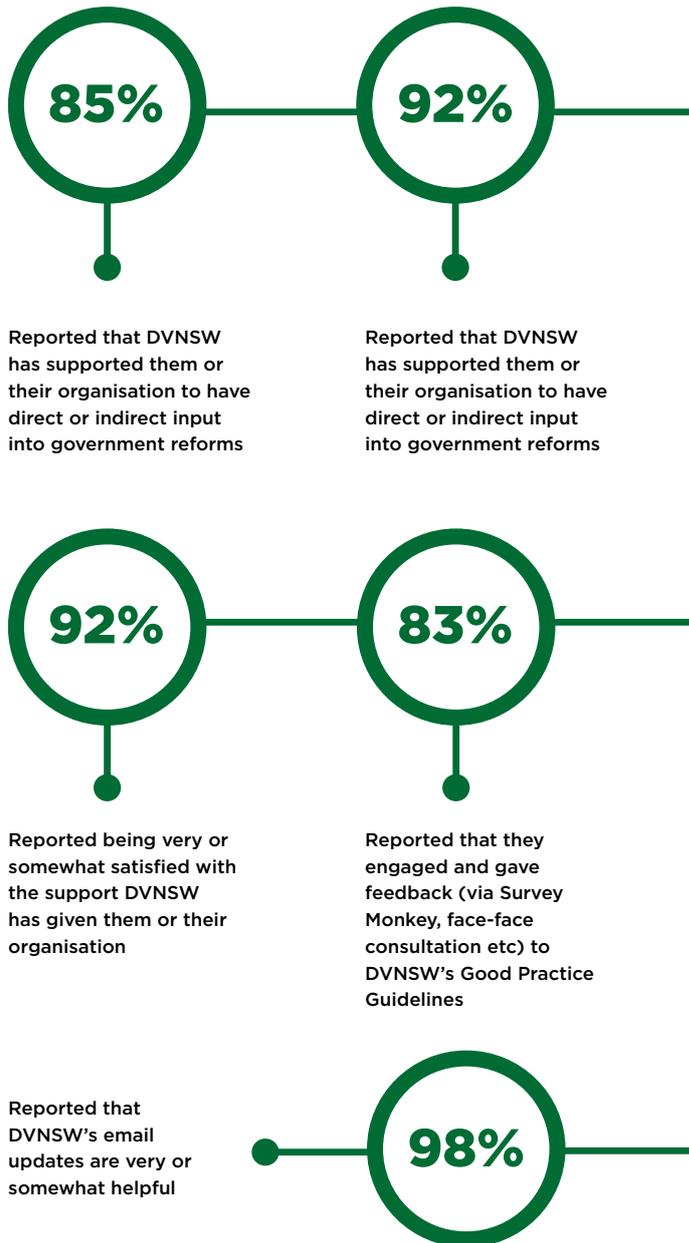
It is one of the most powerful ways a perpetrator can keep their partner trapped in an abusive relationship, and may also affect that partner's safety, even after they leave the relationship.

Addressing Financial Abuse provides guidance on the simple steps that can be taken to promote financial independence, such as opening up a new personal bank account; financial safety planning; freezing joint accounts and changing account passwords.

Thanks to Rebecca and Alexander, the DVNSW Policy Advisory Committee (DPAC) for their input, development and testing of this important resource.

## 03 ANNUAL MEMBER SURVEY

### DVNSW Member Survey Results



Over the 6 weeks our annual survey was open, 47 member organisations responded with valuable insights into the ways in which DVNSW has contributed to the positive outcomes of member organisations as well as highlighting areas of priority of work for DVNSW in the coming year and offering constructive suggestions for improvement.

The results of the survey inform our organisational planning for the next year and allow DVNSW to experiment with new ways of keeping our members updated in a timely, relevant and concise manner.

DVNSW continues to focus on increasing the number of members who can engage and contribute to submissions and our policy work as well as advocacy campaigns as a result of the insights contained within the survey feedback.

We are always looking for new ways to better support our members and we welcome feedback and suggestions for improvement throughout the year.

# 04 MEDIA



DVNSW is regularly invited to provide comment to the Media. Some of this year's highlights included:



## More Lismore men seeking domestic violence orders

28th Aug 2017 8:45 AM | Updated 28th Aug 2017 8:50 AM

37 1 COMMENT



Men may experience abuse at the hands of women, but they are more likely to be the victim of male violence. *Thinkstock*

## Domestic Violence NSW says investment in victim support services has stalled

AM, by Penny Tans

Updated 26 Aug 2016, 11:47am

The anti-domestic violence group Domestic Violence New South Wales says investment in victim support services has stalled and all levels of government need to step up and do more.

It has been almost a year since the Federal Government unveiled a \$100 million package in response to escalating rates of domestic violence.

But the anti-domestic violence group said they had not seen a response from the Government on how to handle the growing demand from people seeking assistance, as awareness about domestic and family violence rises.

Moo Bauch, the chief executive officer of Domestic Violence NSW, said that while there had been a lot of talk about stopping domestic violence, she was concerned that funding — and more importantly action — had not followed.

"The Productivity Commission, in its access to justice arrangements report, recommended urgent additional funding of \$200 million a year for civil legal assistance services," she said.

"Things like the Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention Legal Services, community legal centres where we have looming cuts in that area coming up next year.

"And of course the frontline crisis services, they have huge demand which is growing across all of Australia.

"As we have this increase in understanding around domestic and family violence of course people are going to seek assistance, so we have huge gaps in that area and we're not seeing any response in that area from the Federal Government at the moment."

RELATED STORY: [New domestic violence short film 'can help educate judges'](#)

RELATED STORY: [Tougher punishments still needed for DVQ breakers, LNP](#)

RELATED STORY: [Changes to domestic violence laws to extend DVQs](#)

MAP: Australia

### Key points:

- Almost a year since Federal Government unveiled \$100 million package
- Frontline crisis services seeing a huge demand growing across all of Australia
- Community legal centres face looming cuts

**06 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRACKDOWN**

# WE WILL BEAT THE BEATERS

**Proactive police put the brutes on notice**

**“I knew I had to get out... I knew it was not a safe environment to raise my children”**

**break**

**We will take you (victims) seriously. We will protect you wherever we can**  
Domestic Violence NSW @DVNSWNSW

**Repeat offenders will be the ones looking**

- 642** Repeat domestic violence offenders targeted in a February 2016 police operation
- 321** Perpetrators arrested and charged
- 716** Charges laid, including for the assault, AVO breaches and breaching an AVO or other offence
- 240** Offenders refused bail
- 240** Perpetrators now being held in jail
- 4054** Interactions with perpetrators reported to police

DECEMBER 31, 2016

## Counting dead women and domestic violence in Australia: How did we do in 2016?

Daily Dumas

With the end of the year comes the end of a grim annual tally of dead women in Australia.

On December 8, the counter flicked to 70, by the 20th, Sarah Thomas' murder by a man she knew in a courthouse in WA forced the figure to 74.



**The need for survivors to be champions**  
Luciane Sperling believes women like herself need to get the word out about how strong survivors of domestic violence are



Mercedes-Benz  
The car of choice

## Family finances and family violence: the conversation we need to start

Neo Bauhoff

Financial disagreements can be a serious cause of contention for some couples. Even the most loving and respectful partnerships have the potential to encounter tensions when there are differing opinions about household purchases. And money's getting tighter for many.

As the cost of living rises more rapidly than wages and the affordable housing crisis spreads further across our cities and regions, we live in an age of unsustainable credit.



Neo Bauhoff, the head of domestic violence with Project Home Start

facebook

## FAMILY VIOLENCE SUMMIT



**The Project**  
23 October 2016

We speak to Miso Bauhoff about the federal government's \$100m support package to help family violence SERVICES.

## From Millionaire To Checkout Worker: Domestic Violence That Leaves No Mark

It's seldom talked about, but financial abuse cripples women's ability to leave.

A self-made millionaire at 30, Beth Matthews lived in a historic Scottish castle with a colony of Woolley monkeys, a large marina and an indoor rock-climbing gym - all labour of her own hands.

She has run multi-million dollar enterprises involving hundreds of staff and organised work functions for up to 10,000 people. In 2010, she was named Tasmanian Businesswoman of the Year.

But for 20 years, she was financially trapped, controlled by her abusive partner.

It was his relationship which ultimately led to her losing everything.



Neo Bauhoff, the head of domestic violence with Project Home Start

## 05 ENGAGEMENT



*Catherine Farry, Emily Goldsmith  
and Rosie Batty in Broken Hill*

Community engagement highlights this year included:

### **A NIGHT WITH ROSIE BATTY**

Wagga Women's Health Community Event

### **KEYNOTE SPEECH**

Final day of the Sister's Inside conference (Brisbane)

### **SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS**

In Maitland, Randwick and Rose Bay

### **BANGLADESHI COMMUNITY DV VIDEO**

Launched in Lakemba

### **HAWKESBURY COUNCIL PRESENTATION**

At community DV event

### **AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**

Presentation at Women's Network 16 Days Event

### **MC FOR POSITIVELY REMARKABLE PEOPLE**

Photo exhibition at North Sydney Community Centre

### **PARTICIPATION IN A DV PANEL**

For Pride in Practice

### **DVNSW'S MARDI GRAS FAIR STALL**

### **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

Lane Cove Council Event

### **KAMBALA GIRLS SCHOOL IWD BREAKFAST ADDRESS**

### **COMMBANK CUSTOMER ADVOCATE COUNCIL**

### **DFV PREVENTION GRANTS PANEL**

Parramatta City Council Event

### **SURGEONS DFV ROUNDTABLE**

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

### **BIG BAD LOVE SCREENING AND PANEL**

Sydney Women's Foundation

**You are invited to the launch of 'Positively Remarkable People' Ending Violence against Women**

*A collection of photographic portraits and stories of some of the individuals and groups based in Sydney who are committed to bringing an end to all forms of gender-based violence.*

**EVENT INFORMATION**

**DATE:** Friday 25 November 2016  
**TIME:** 6:45 pm - for 7:15 pm start  
**PLACE:** North Sydney Community Centre  
220 Miller St, North Sydney

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**  
<https://www.trybooking.com/MLFV>

**Light refreshments will be served**

**Part of the 16 Days of Action Against Gender Based Violence**

## 06 PARTNERSHIPS



*Madelene McGrath, Libby Hindmarsh, Moo Baulch, Di Coleman, Dixie Link-Gordon and David Eardly at the South Western Sydney Domestic and Family Violence Summit*

Major partnership highlights this year included:

### **PRODUCTION OF FINANCIAL ABUSE RESOURCE**

We produced a Financial Abuse resource for NSW caseworkers which was printed and distributed by our partners at the Commonwealth Bank and has since gone national

### **PRODUCTION OF A COMMUNITY HOUSING PROJECT TOOLKIT**

We worked with Homelessness NSW, FACS Housing and the Federation of Housing Associations to produce a CHP toolkit for community housing workers

### **EXPLORE EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS FOR SURGEONS**

Partnered with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons NSW to explore potential pathways to improving surgeons knowledge and understanding of DFV

### **SUPPORTED CLUBS NSW AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Supported Clubs NSW and Local Government NSW to improve their connections with DFV services throughout the state

### **IMPROVED RESPONSES TO WOMEN**

Worked with the Women's Network at NADA to improve responses to women impacted by domestic violence with substance issues

## 07 DONORS & SUPPORTERS



Over the course of the last financial year with the support of many great organisations, partnerships and some very kind individuals, Domestic Violence NSW was able to assist more than 35 services across NSW with direct donations of gifts for women and children, handmade blankets, new household items and giftcards. This was largely from our annual Christmas donations but also from various donations and opportunities where we directly connected those wishing to donate with local services throughout the year.

We are very proud to have been able to provide individual gifts to approximately 500 children and 200 women in refuges, supported accommodation and outreach support over the Christmas period. A huge thank you to the Luke Batty Foundation and Mantra Group for the delivery and distribution of hundreds of gifts for children to DVNSW member services across NSW.

This could never happen without the support of the following fantastic community groups, organisations and their staff that donate gifts and their time to help make Christmas a little nicer for what can be a very difficult time of the year.

Thank you to all those we have partnered with in 2016-17 to make NSW safer for women, families and communities especially:

ACON, Aboriginal Legal Service NSW, ACOSS, ANROWS, AWAVA, Minister Hazzard and staff, City of Sydney, DVVIC, DVSM, FAMS, Homelessness NSW, Immigrant Women's Speakout, Inner City Legal Centre, MDAA, NADA, NCOSS, NSW Department of Education, NSW Department of Family and Community Services, NSW Department of Justice, NSW Ministry of Health, NSW Police, NSW DPC, NTV, Our Watch, Minister Goward and staff, PWDA, RDVSA, UNSW Gendered Violence Research Unit, Youth Action, yFoundations, WDVCS NSW, WLSNSW, WHNSW, Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre, Women NSW., CBA, The Dylan Agency and Joy Agency.

Thank you to Maree Crabbe for the sector workshop and Pip and John at King and Wood Mallesons for giving us an incredible space.



### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

**Bauer Media**

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**Eastwood Quilters**

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**Fair Go Group**

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**Emma Bowering - Jamberry**

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**Better Read Books**

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**Mantra Group**

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**Bondi Rotary**

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**Maud N Lil Organic Cotton**

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**Camphin Boston Chartered Accountants**

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**Russell Hobbs**

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**Corrs Chambers Westgarth**

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**Sendle**

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**Christie Corporation**

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**Stitching Hearts**

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*We are very proud to have been able to provide individual gifts to approximately 500 children and 200 women in refuges*

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## **OUR FINANCES**

# TREASURER'S REPORT



During 2016-2017 Domestic Violence NSW has once again had a busy year, which of course impacts on financial management. With a good team and financial systems we began the year with a clear strategic plan and projected budget. We finished the year with an unqualified audit and positive feedback from our auditors 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 to the Finance Officer, Tracey Kennedy who has been crucial to our success. We acknowledge the support of Department of Family and Community Services for our core funding, and the receipt of funding for our Specialist Homelessness Services Program through the Industry Partnership with Homelessness NSW and yFoundations. Once again, community and business support and donations, both financial and material, have all contributed to the improvement of access and capacity of service provision.

Thank you to all who have supported us – 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 2017 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 black ink, appearing to read 'Denele Crozier'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Denele Crozier**  
**Treasurer**

# FINANCIAL REPORT

Audited Financial Accounts for the 2016/2017 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 and projected budgets for the year ahead.

	2016/2017	2015/2016
<b>Total Revenue*</b>	<b>581,547</b>	<b>644,295</b>
Wages and On Costs	405,238	422,298
Operational Expenses	61,417	67,570
Professional Fees	25,563	32,950
Conference & Meeting Expenses*	11,089	45,089
Rent & Occupancy Expenses **	63,376	46,459
IT & Telecommunications	16,942	19,660
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>583,625</b>	<b>634,026</b>
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(2,078)	10,269
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>232,944</b>	<b>235,022</b>

\* The main 2016/17 DVNSW Conference was delayed until August 2017, so is not reflected in these accounts.

\*\* Additional Occupancy-related costs were incurred in 2016/17 as part of a change of premises (due to expiration of the current lease and a move to a new office space).

DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE  
NSW

*Contact Us*

PO Box 3311, Redfern

NSW 2016

02 9698 9777

admin@dvnsw.org.au

**www.dvnsw.org.au**

 @dfvnsw

 @DV\_NSW

