Child-focused approaches when working with parents affected by family and domestic violence

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• The slides are available in the handout section of Gotowebinar.
• The video will be shared during the webinar and a Youtube link to the video will be included in the resources for this webinar.
• The audio and transcript will be posted on our website and YouTube channel in the coming week.
Child-focused approaches when working with parents affected by family and domestic violence

Professor Sarah Wendt (2019)
What are we talking about?

Ongoing pattern of behaviour aimed at controlling a partner through fear...the violent behaviour is part of a range of tactics to exercise power and control over women and their children.

Intimate partner violence is experienced by a quarter of women in Australia (Personal Safety Survey, ANROWS – Cox 2015)

Knowledge guides practice...

- Payne (2014) states because social work is practical action in a complex world, a theory must offer explicit guidance.
Practice Principles

Being child centred means workers know vulnerability of children to harm from domestic and family violence.

Skills

- Victim Safety (e.g. Mother and Children).
- Partnering with the non-offending parent (e.g. mother).
- Minimisation of secondary victimisation through collaborative service delivery (e.g. specialist services, Aboriginal consultants, CALD consultants).
- Perpetrator visibility and accountability.

Child centred

Collaboration

Partnership

Reflection

Culture & strength

Being child centred means workers know vulnerability of children to harm from domestic and family violence.
References


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Positioning practice

• Exposing and exploring violence - “Getting it on the table.”
• Clarifying responsibility - “Which way is the mirror facing?”
• Honouring resistance and response - “Honour and ethics in face of adversity”
• Contesting victim blaming - “Shame on Who”
• Expecting high parenting standards and engagement of men in questions around parenting
• Focus needs to be redirected to the issue of ‘invisible men/fathers in our service responses
Response to violence

• To understand response we need to understand the patterns of violence/ control and their unilateral nature

• Mapping Survivors’ Protective Capacities

• Honouring capacity to hold onto children’s well being in the context of violence/control
Practice Leads - Holistic Screening Illuminates Patterns

Safety question with men often creates a break in the well rehearsed and patterned response to what is going on in the family.

Well being of children question also helps slow the process down to establish parenting intentions to which to compare actual behaviors.
‘I Miss My Little One A Lot’: How Father Love Motivates Change in Men Who Have Used Violence

When considering the attitudes that the men in this study held towards their children, there is a clear potential for fatherhood relationships to be used as powerful leverage points through which the impact of their violent behaviour can be realised and confronted. The frustrations reported at not having contact with their children emerged as a particularly powerful experience that could be harnessed to encourage men to acknowledge the severity of their behaviour and to find alternative ways of relating to family members.

References

- Jenkins A, Becoming Ethical, 2009
• Do you have any further questions?

• Please submit questions or comments on the online forum following today’s webinar:

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