Perpetrators of family violence

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General

Mackay, E., Gibson, A., Lam, H., &. Beecham, D. (2018). Perpetrator interventions in Australia: State of knowledge paper. Part one: Literature review (ANROWS Landscapes, PP01/2015). Sydney: ANROWS.

Mackay, E., Beecham, D., Gibson, A., & Lam, H. (2018). Perpetrator interventions in Australia: State of knowledge paper. Part two: Perpetrator pathways and mapping (ANROWS Landscapes, PP01.01/2015). Sydney: ANROWS.

An Australian first, this state of knowledge paper maps the pathways and interventions for perpetrators of domestic/family violence and sexual assault through civil and criminal legal systems; and examines the responses and service systems currently available to DFV and sexual assault perpetrators in each jurisdiction. The paper finds there is a need for extensive further research on what works and for whom in the Australian context. Four key areas for further investigation were identified: 1) systems effectiveness; 2) effectiveness of interventions; 3) models to address diversity of perpetrators; and 4) interventions developed by, with, and for Indigenous communities.

Perpetrator characteristics

Costa, B.M., Kaestle, C.E. Walker, A., Curtis, A., Day, A., Toumbourou, J.W., & Miller, P. (2015). Longitudinal predictors of domestic violence perpetration and victimization: A systematic review. *Aggression and Violent Behavior, 24,* 261-272.

"A systematic review of longitudinal studies that have prospectively investigated childhood and/or adolescent predictors of domestic violence perpetration and/or victimisation among adult men and women in intimate relationships."

Day, A., & Bowen, E. (2015). Offending competency and coercive control in intimate partner violence. *Aggression and Violence Behavior, 20*, 62-71.

Explores perpetrator characteristics through exploration of the nature of their offenses and their history of violence.

Heward-Belle, S. (2015). The diverse fathering practices of men who perpetrate domestic violence. *Australian Social Work, 69(3).*

A study of 17 fathers participating in a men's behaviour change program in Australia. Analyses men's perceptions of identity and masculinity and how these characteristics contribute to the diversity of harmful fathering practices.

Salter, M. (2014). Multi-perpetrator domestic violence. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse, 15*(2), 102-112.

Reviews data on violence against women involving multiple perpetrators, and the negative mental and physical health outcomes for victims. The paper highlights two particularly vulnerable groups of women and girls: those that are partnered to gang members or organised crime groups, and those from some ethnic minority communities. The cross-cultural role of masculine honour in collective violence against women is also evident in the working class and impoverished communities of majority cultures. Discusses the implications for intervention and treatment services.

Prevention

Day, A., & Fernandez, E. (2015). Preventing violence in Australia: Policy, practice and solutions. Annandale, NSW: Federation Press. Barcode:

Draws together various disciplinary and professional perspectives on how to approach preventing violence in Australia. The book has been written by experts in violence prevention, including forensic, clinical and developmental psychologists, criminologists and sociologists, social workers, and specialists in public policy, law, and education. It tells us how they understand violence and about those prevention strategies that they know to be effective.

Fleming, P.J., Gruskin, S., Rojo, F., & Dworkin, S.L. (2015). Men's violence against women and men are inter-related: Recommendations for simultaneous intervention. *Social Sciences & Medicine, 146*: 249-256.

Argues that programs should approach the prevention of violence holistically, and attempt to tackle its root causes. Drawing on theories that explain the drivers of violence, the paper examines how gender norms,

including norms and social constructions of masculinity, are at the root cause of most physical violence perpetration by men. The authors call for recognition of the commonalities found across the drivers of different types of violence and recommend interventions for long-standing solutions to violence prevention.

Flood, M. (2015). Work with men to end violence against women: A critical stocktake. *Culture, Health & Sexuality: An International Journal for Research, Intervention and Care, 17*(supp. 2).

Provides a critical assessment of efforts to involve men in the prevention of men's violence against women. Although there is a substantial evidence base attesting to the effectiveness of at least some strategies and interventions, violence prevention efforts have often focused on changing men's attitudes, rather than also seeking to transform structural and institutional inequalities. Much violence prevention work often assumes a homogenously heterosexual male constituency. Too often this work is conceptually simplistic with regard to gender. This paper contests and complicates several assumptions that are part of an emerging consensus in men's violence prevention: first, that it is in men's interests to support progress towards nonviolence and gender equality; second, that the best people to engage and work with men are other men; and finally, the strengths and limitations of inviting and drawing on "real men".

Perpetrator programs / intervention

Centre for Innovative Justice. (2015). Opportunities for early intervention: Bringing perpetrators of family violence into view. Melbourne, VIC: Author.

This report explores opportunities within the justice system to interrupt family violence and to hold perpetrators accountable through monitoring; court processes; connecting with appropriate services; considering alcohol and drug, mental health, and accommodation issues; and other factors that might assist behaviour change.

Diemer, K., Humphreys, C., Laming, C., & Smith, J. (2015). Researching collaborative processes in domestic violence perpetrator programs: Benchmarking for situation improvement. *Journal of Social Work, 15*(1), 65-86.

This article reports on research undertaken in Victoria with workers from men's behaviour change programs to explore the collaboration established with police, child protection, and other human service organizations. It questions how regional collaborative arrangements and pathways to referral reflect the responsiveness of these programs to domestic violence service integration? It builds on a research highlighting the significance of the wider domestic violence intervention system in holding men who use violence accountable.

Gondolf, E.W. (2004). Evaluating batterer counseling programs: A difficult task showing some effects and implications. *Aggression and Violent Behavior, 9*(6), 605–631.

This paper explores issues in determining program effectiveness in men's behaviour change programs ("batterer programs") and highlights complexities in undertaking this process including definitions, research methods, and outcome measurement. It presents findings of a 7 year multi-site evaluation of programs.

Gondolf, E.W. (2007). Theoretical and research support for the Duluth Model: A reply to Dutton and Corvo. *Aggression and Violent Behavior, 12*(6), 644–657.

Responding to criticisms of the Duluth model in batterer programs, this paper provides evidence-based arguments for the model including gender based perspective on family violence in programs, support for the use of cognitive-behavioural approaches with perpetrators, and integrated responses to family violence.

Gondolf, E.W. (2012). *The future of batterer programs reassessing evidence based practice*. Boston, MA: Northwestern University Press.

Gondolf's book responds to program evaluations of batterer programs

that have found minimal positive effects with existing approaches. Instead, he suggests the potential for an ongoing development of interventions, particularly cognitive behavioural methods and risk management strategies.

Humphreys, C., & Campo, M. (2017). *Fathers who use violence: Options for safe practice where there is ongoing contact with children* (CFCA paper, no. 43). Melbourne, VIC: Australian Institute of Family Studies.

"This paper responds to a challenge that has continued to frustrate workers attempting to intervene to support women and children living with domestic and family violence. The challenge that arises when women and children may not be in a position to separate from their abusive and violent partners, and when women and children's wellbeing and safety may not be enhanced by separation. In particular, this paper is focused on fathers who use violence and whether there are strategies that engage and address the issues for children, women and men who are continuing to live with DFV."

Monash Arts, Fitz-Gibbon, K., Nancarrow, H. Robinson, A., Walklate, S., & Westmarland, N. (2018). Keeping perpetrators in view: How do we see the 'Web of Accountability'? [video]. Available from https://vimeo.com/256338564

Seminar co-hosted by ANROWS and Monash University in February 2018 providing an overview of current research into understanding perpetrators of violence against women, and intervention programs to address this violence.

Westmarland, N., & Kelly, L. (2013). Why extending measurements of "success" in domestic violence perpetrator programmes matters for social work. *British Journal of Social Work, 43*(6), 1092-110.

A range of studies on social work note the invisibility and/or lack of interventions aimed at domestic violence perpetrators. The exception has been perpetrator programs, which increasingly receive referrals from social workers. However, there remains ongoing disagreement internationally about their effectiveness. Part of this disagreement stems from the failure to consider a broad range of potential outcomes, with most research

focusing on an overly narrow understanding of what "success" means. Findings reveal that success needs to be redefined and connected not just to criminal justice, but also to health and social care agendas.

Westmarland, N., & Kelly, L. (2015). Domestic violence perpetrator programmes: Steps towards change. Durham, UK: Durham University.

Final report from the UK Mirabel Project. Provides evidence on domestic violence perpetrator programs, and whether they actually work to reduce men's violence and increase the freedom of women and children. Discusses the question of how to hold more perpetrators to account given their limited capacity means that the majority of men do not access them and criminal justice interventions are not creating the change that is being sought.

Offending / Recidivism

Blokland, A., & Lussier, P. (Eds.). (2015). *Sex offenders: A criminal career approach*. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons.

Legal interventions for sexual offenses are based on various assumptions about the criminal careers of sex offenders: that sex offenders are persistent offenders, that they offend at a high rate, and that they specialize in sexual offending. Despite this reliance, the empirical research on sex offenders' criminal careers is sparse, and the few studies that do exist give reason to question and further investigate these assumptions.

Leclerc, B., & Cale, J. (2015). Adult sex offenders in youth-oriented institutions: Evidence on sexual victimisation experiences of offenders and their offending patterns. *Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice, 497*: 1-8.

"This study uses information collected from a sample of 23 convicted Canadian sex offenders to examine key elements of the offending. Issues explored include the nature of the offender's involvement with institutions, their own prior sexual victimisation experiences, factors influencing the selection of victims and the locations where the sexual assaults occurred. Particularly telling was the length of time offenders spent at an institution prior to initiating the assaults and the potential to avert offending by reducing opportunities to offend, as well as the associated danger evident

in allowing staff—without supervision—to transport children outside of an institutional setting, given the frequency of the assaults that occurred offsite."

Kim, B., Benekos, P.J., & Merlo, A.V. (2015). Sex offender recidivism revisited: Review of recent meta-analyses on the effects of sex offender treatment. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*, *17*(1): 105-117.

"The principal purpose of this study is to update the most recent meta-analyses of sex offender treatments and to compare the findings with an earlier study that reviewed the meta-analytic studies published from 1995 to 2002. More importantly, this study examines effect sizes across different age populations and effect sizes across various sex offender treatments. Results of this review of meta-analyses suggest that sex offender treatments can be considered as ''proven'' or at least ''promising,'' while age of participants and intervention type may influence the success of treatment for sex offenders. The implications of these findings include achieving a broader understanding of intervention moderators, applying such interventions to juvenile and adult offenders, and outlining future areas of research."

Diversity and Perpetration of Family Violence

Blagg, H. (2018). Innovative models in addressing violence against Indigenous women (ANROWS Horizons, 01/2018). Sydney, NSW: ANROWS.

"This report supports the creation of a network of place-based Indigenous family violence strategies owned and managed by Indigenous people and linked to initiatives around alcohol reduction, inter-generational trauma, social and emotional wellbeing, and alternatives to custody. These initiatives may be constructed differently depending on context, but would ensure that responses to family violence reflect the needs of local women".

Edwards, K.M., Sylaska, K.M., & Neal, A.M. (2015). Intimate partner violence among sexual minority populations: A critical review of the literature and agenda for future research. *Psychology of Violence, 5*(2), 112-121.

Authors of this paper have undertaken a critical review of research relating to intimate partner violence among lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals.

Hold, A. (2015). *Working with adolescent violence and abuse towards parents: Approaches and contexts for intervention.* London, UK: Routledge Press.

A practitioner and student resource, with an interdisciplinary approach to theory and practice relating to adolescent violence in the home.

Olsen, A., & Lovett, R. (2016). Existing knowledge, practice and responses to violence against women in Australian Indigenous communities. (ANROWS Landscapes, 2/2016). Sydney, NSW: ANROWS.

"This paper is a comprehensive review of published literature to present the current state of knowledge, practice and responses to violence against women in Australian Indigenous communities".

Timshell, I., Montgomery, E., Dalgaard, N.T. (2017). A systematic review of risk and protective factors associated with family related violence in refugee families. *Child Abuse and Neglect, 70*, 315-330.

Summarise evidence of risk and protective factors in refugee communities, finding that individual trauma and resettlement provide additional stressors across the family, meaning interventions should be applied at a family level.

Law / sentencing / prison

Donnelly, N., & Poynton, S. (2015). *Prison penalties for serious domestic and non-domestic assault* (Issue paper 110). Sydney: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.

"To determine whether (1) adult offenders found guilty of a serious non-domestic assault offence are more likely to be imprisoned or given longer prison sentences than adult offenders found guilty of a serious domestic assault offence and (2) whether Indigenous offenders who commit domestic assaults are treated more harshly than non-Indigenous offenders who commit domestic assaults."

Marchetti, E. (2015). An Australian Indigenous-focussed justice response to intimate partner violence: Offenders' perceptions of the sentencing process. *British Journal of Criminology, 55*(1), 86-106.

Examines the use of Indigenous sentencing courts in Australia and presents findings of offenders' perceptions of justice. The study concludes that most participants found the Indigenous sentencing court more challenging and confronting, but fairer than a mainstream sentencing court process.

Trevena, J., & Weatherburn, D. (2015). *Does the first prison sentence reduce the risk of further offending?* (Contemporary issues in crime and justice 187). Sydney: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.

This bulletin examines the question of whether short prison sentences (up to 12 months) exert a special deterrent effect. Results suggest that short custodial sentences exert no more deterrent effect than comparable community orders.

Weiner, C., Shackley, M., & Day, A. (2014). The influence of offence severity and risk of re-offence on judgements towards sex offenders. *Sexual Abuse in Australia and New Zealand, 6*(1), 3-11.

The presence of sex offenders in the community evokes strong reactions from the general public which are influential in the treatment and management of this group. Little is known, however, about the offender and offence characteristics that influence how individuals judge the presence of a sex offender in their community. The current study aims to investigate the extent to which judgements are influenced by the seriousness of the offence and the offender's risk of re-offending. Results suggest that offence and offender characteristics had little impact on judgements, and that the public often views sex offenders as a homogenous group. Implications for future research are discussed.

Statistics

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2018). *Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia 2018*. Canberra, ACT: Author.

"This report explores the extent, impact and cost of family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia, and looks at what could be done to fill important data gaps."

Cussen, T., & Bryant, W. (2015). *Domestic/family homicide in Australia* (Research in practice no. 38). Canberra, ACT: Australian Institute of Criminology.

This report presents data for the period 1 July 2002 through 30 June 2012 drawn from the Australian Institute of Criminology National Homicide Monitoring Program. Within this data set, domestic/family homicides are sub-classified against five relationship categories: intimate partner; filicide, parricide; siblicide; other family.

Cussen, T., & Bryant, W. (2015). *Indigenous and non-Indigenous homicide in Australia* (Research in practice no. 37). Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology.

This paper describes selected characteristics of Indigenous and non-Indigenous homicides as recorded within the Australian Institute of Criminology National Homicide Monitoring Program from 1 July 1989 to 30 June 2012.