



# Family and domestic violence conference

## Pivoting to the perpetrator; honouring children's experiences

**Date:** Wednesday 14th June  
**Time:** 8:30am to 5:30pm  
**Venue:** Technology Park, Bentley WA  
**Cost:** \$100 per person

On Wednesday 14th June Stopping Family Violence will bring together some a team of national and international speakers to deliver a one day conference which will consider perpetrator intervention and the impact that violence has on children.

### Draft conference schedule:

7:30am	Registration and arrival tea and coffee	
8:30am	Welcome	
8:35am	Opening address	Stopping Family Violence
8:45am	Keynote Presentation: Impact of male partner violence on children	Dr Katreena Scott Caring Dads
10:00am	Morning tea	
10:30am	Diverse Fathering Practices of Domestically Violent Men	Dr Susan Heward-Belle University of Sydney
11:15am	Parenting programs, fathering programs, Aboriginal men's programs and men's behaviour change programs - why you can't just mix them together and hope for safe fathering.	Prof. Donna Chung Curtin University
12:00pm	Lunch	
1:00pm	"It should be about the kid having a good life" Children's lived experiences of family and domestic violence	Dr Alan Campbell
1:45pm	Engaging Men Who Perpetrate Violence Against Women and Children: Practical Steps to Having Aligned Program Logic and Practice	Prof. Patrick O'Leary Griffith University
2:30pm	Afternoon tea	
3:00pm	Panel Discussion Moving forward - integration and workforce implication	
4:30pm	Wrap up and thanks	
4:45pm	Networking drinks	

**To register visit [sfv.org.au](http://sfv.org.au) or email [aimee@sfv.org.au](mailto:aimee@sfv.org.au)**

This conference is possible thanks to funding from the Department for Child Protection and Family Support.

## **Impact of male partner violence on children**

### **Dr Katreena Scott, Caring Dads**

Dr Katreena Scott, from Caring Dads will present our keynote on the impact intimate partner violence has on children and how programs internationally are attempting to address this problem.

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## **Diverse Fathering Practices of Domestically Violent Men**

### **Dr Susan Heward-Belle, University of Sydney**

This presentation explores men's accounts of domestic violence and its impact on family life. Quantitative and qualitative data gathered from in-depth interviews with Australian men participating in a men's behavior change program is the research base for this presentation. The research found that men used diverse tactics to exert power and control over their partners and children. Most men perceived domestic violence as having a deleterious impact on women and children generally. Notwithstanding this, men minimized the specific impact on their partners, ex-partners and children, and positioned women as culpable for domestic violence and children's behavior problems. Unlike the bulk of child protection research and practice, which scrutinizes mothering and focuses on how domestic violence impacts on attachment with the mother, this study spotlights the substantive issue of men's domestic violence and its impact on all aspects of family life. This is a significant shift because current institutional practices generally hold female survivors, rather than male perpetrators, accountable for ameliorating the consequences of domestic violence. These findings are especially relevant to practitioners striving to resist socially unjust and gender blind practice.

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## **Parenting programs, fathering programs, Aboriginal men's programs and men's behaviour change programs - why you can't just mix them together and hope for safe fathering.**

### **Prof. Donna Chung, Curtin University**

This presentation will examine the underpinning assumptions, theories of change and intervention approaches used in these different program forms and look at the implications of what is required for responding to men as fathers who have engaged in family and domestic violence and what it means for men's and children's futures being safer.

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## **"It should be about the kid having a good life..."**

### **Children's lived experiences of family and domestic violence**

#### **Dr Alan Campbell**

This presentation will focus on children's own reports of their experiences and responses to the family and domestic violence they have been exposed to. The discussion will consider issues relating to the concept of children's best interests, the tensions between children's 'wishes' and their 'views', children's safety in the context of constructions of 'innocence' and 'protection', and what children say they need in order to deal with their experiences as they happen. The presentation will conclude with a consideration of how parents, courts, professionals and communities can respond to children in respectful and effective ways.

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## **Engaging Men Who Perpetrate Violence Against Women and Children: Practical Steps to Having Aligned Program Logic and Practice**

### **Prof. Patrick O'Leary**

Years of research on intervention with men who perpetrate violence against women and children have at best shown relatively modest results in terms of sustained behavioural change amongst these men. At the same time integrated responses to domestic violence have recognised that engagement with men provides an opportunity to work with women and children, along with a period of greater formal scrutiny of his behaviour. Here the prime purpose is about the safety of women and children, rather than a reliance on men ceasing their violent behaviour. Positive behavioural change of the man is strongly encouraged but not essential to the successful intervention. Focus is given to the outcomes of safety and well being of those subjected to his violence. Nevertheless engagement and retention of the men within system responses is still fundamentally necessary. Most intervention programs are aligned with this broad philosophy, but instinctive therapeutic values may often conflict. This often results in the design of intervention programs to reflexively orientate towards prioritising changing attitudes and behaviour of men. This can be at odds with program logic and purpose. This can result in some unintended consequences, such as, 'unsuitable' men not being retained within therapeutic responses and therefore dropping out of the system, and thereby forgoing ongoing opportunities to engage with women and children impacted by his violence. This presentation will provide some examples from agencies that work with men and ways they are reviewing program logic and engagement with men.