



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

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# The Problem Starts With How the Problem is Framed:

- [First it's serious and real men don't do it:](#)
- <http://www.theguardian.com/society/video/2015/sep/14/tony-abbott-families-coag-summit-domestic-violence-video>
- <http://www.dailylife.com.au/news-and-views/dl-opinion/malcolm-turnbull-in-first-tv-interview-as-pm-real-men-dont-hit-women-20150921-gjr767.html>
- The mask we live in:
- <http://wakeupproject.com.au/mask-you-live-in-movie/>

# Have we got the message? Is it working?

- The paradox of “Real men” don’t hit women, sits with all the messages about don’t be weak, don’t give in, be strong, don’t be walked over.
- In other words men must change themselves, albeit by being ‘real men’. It’s an individualised project.
- Attitudes is what drives responses to violence, but also says it’s not us it’s up to someone else to act. The man. Feel confident?

# DV Offender Treatment Program History and The Legacy

- Initially focussed on Anger Management
- Primarily ‘Voluntary’
- Community based within probation or counselling service
- Emphasis on men changing rather than safety
- Many models with various claims of ‘success’
- Not Integrated with other services
- Much Change but Philosophical Legacy Remains

# The Dominant Situation Now

- Men who do not sustainably participate (due to suitability or non-compliance) in Behavioural Change Programs (Mandated or Voluntary) often fall outside of the system responses – unless they break an order or come under law enforcement attention – even then this is most often short term.
- One size in terms of programs does not fit all men.
- But referral to program intervention is premised on this assumption and all that follows...

# Unintended Consequences ?

- 'Unsuitable' men are not retained within therapeutic responses and therefore drop out of the system. Thereby forgoing ongoing opportunities to engage with women and children impacted by his violence, or monitor his compliance.
- Men may face some legal consequences but most often sit outside the engagement with the broader system i.e. child protection, follow up for financial responsibilities, compliance with orders, mental health etc.
- The 'burden' of intervention is placed on women and children.




"Errors have been made.  
Others will be blamed."



# Modest results in terms of sustained behavioural change amongst these men

- So what separates men who do not participate in behavioural change programs and those that do not for various reasons ? But they might need different responses, rather than no ongoing response!
- Would holding these men within the system, even though there is little prospect of behavioural change be helpful to women and children's safety = reasonable assumption?
- This requires a shift not only in what behavioural change programs offer but a major shift in engaging and retaining men in system responses to domestic violence = innovative responses





*only dead fish  
go with the flow*

## Men's Engagement and Retainment in the System: Presents an Ongoing Opportunity to Work with Women and Children

- What men report in group programs, can inform responses to women and children. Likewise follow up with men not in programs can serve a similar purpose.
- What does the continual reinforcement that he has been referred and is on an order for violence, tell the man, what does it mean for engagement?

# Men's Engagement and Retainment in the System: Greater Formal Scrutiny of His Behaviour

- What should we be asking men when we follow up?
- Providing a consistent message about program logic and purpose?
  - We're not dependent on him changing or acknowledging culpability.
  - We need to know about his compliance and accountability to the system. This is why he is in the system.
- We know where he is and what he is up to? (sound familiar?)



# The System Matters! - Engagement and Retention of the Men within System Responses Fundamentally Necessary

- Doesn't matter what his decision is the system will engage.
- What does this mean for Program Logic for Behavioural Change Programs?
- What other Programming is Needed For Men Outside of Behavioural Change Programs?

# Instinctive Therapeutic Values May Often Conflict with Program Logic

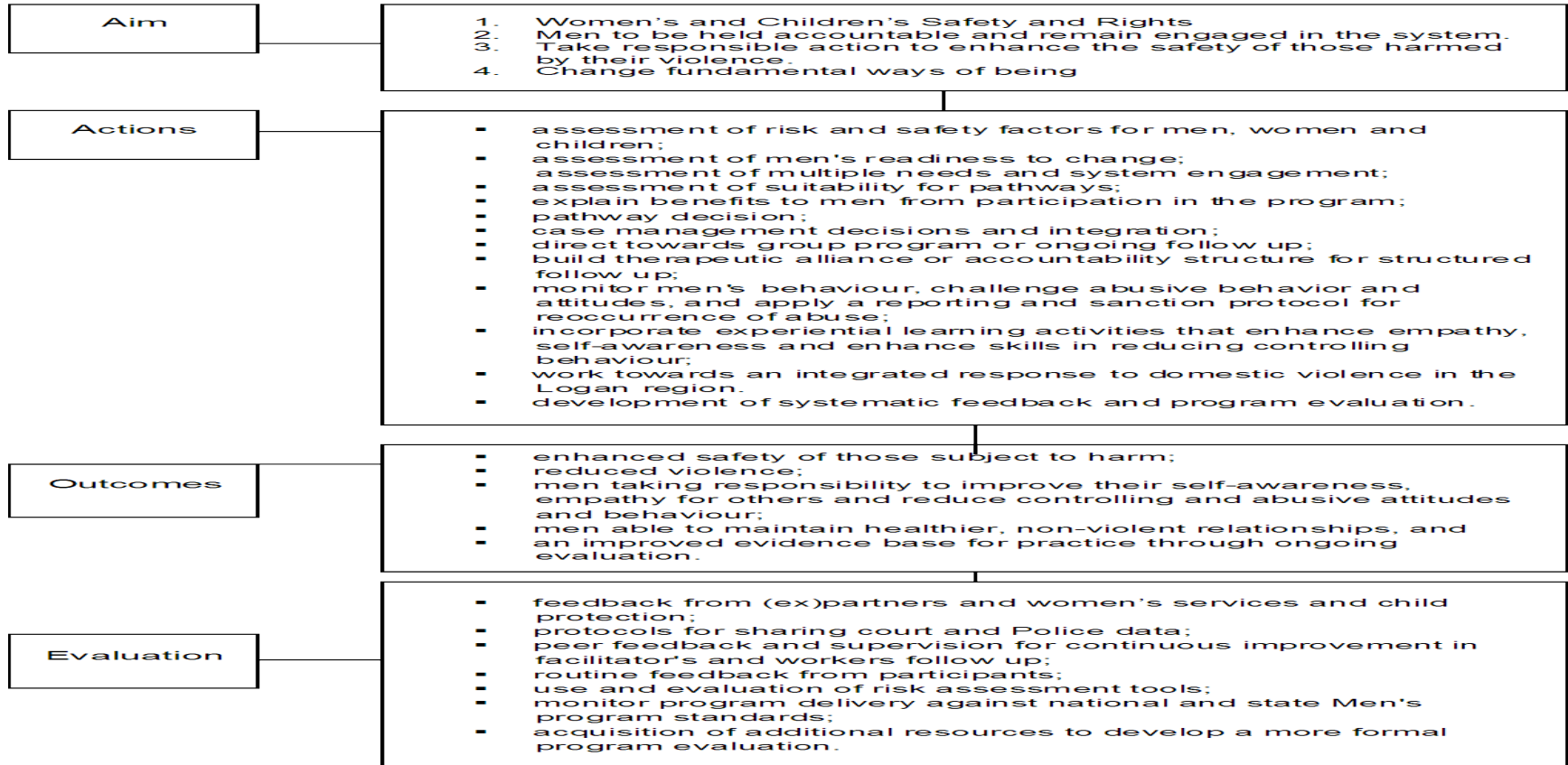
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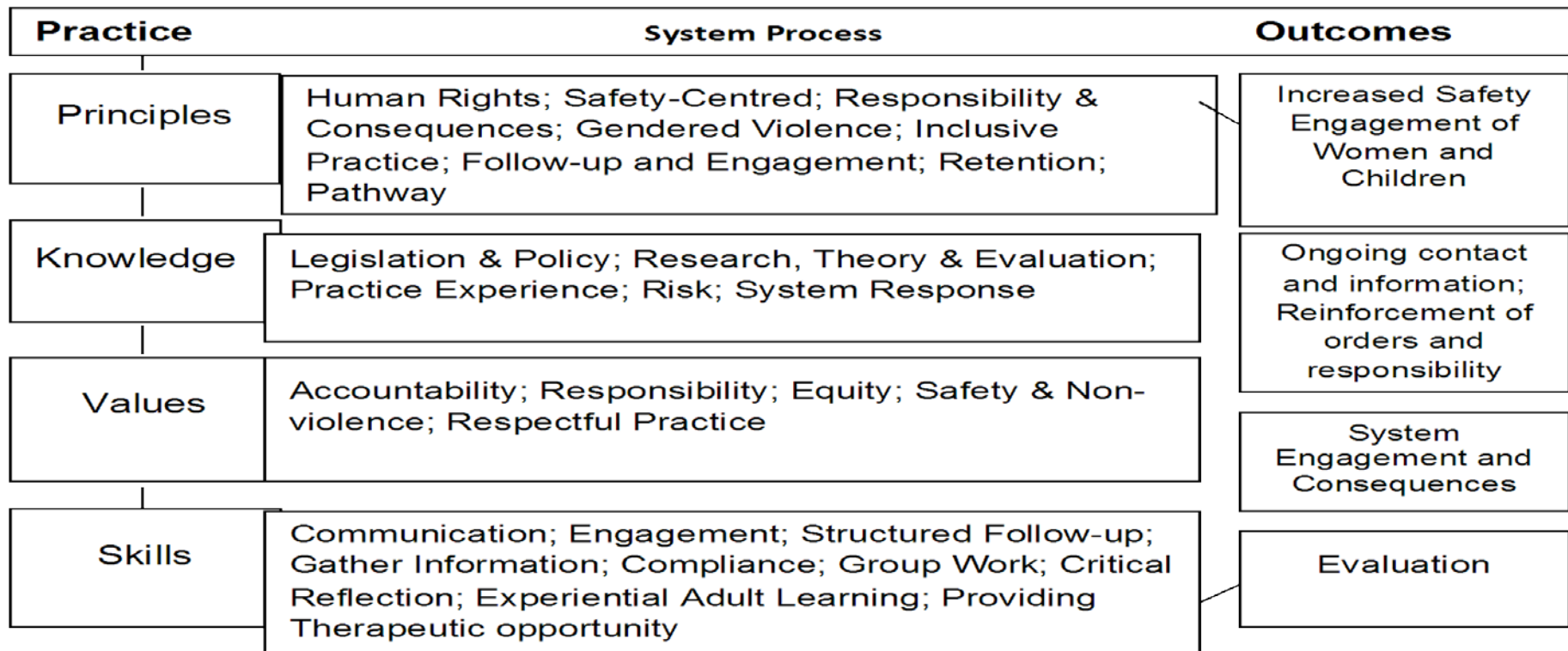
# Ideas and Experience in Reviewing Program Logic and Engagement with Men Who Use Violence

- Do We Have One?
- What Does it Say? Informed by What?
- Is it Up to Date with Evidence, Policy and Innovation?
- Critical Reflection of Current Translation of Program Logic Through Each Aspect of Policy, Process, File, Content etc
- With or Without You!

# Work in Progress Program Logic - *Responsible Men*

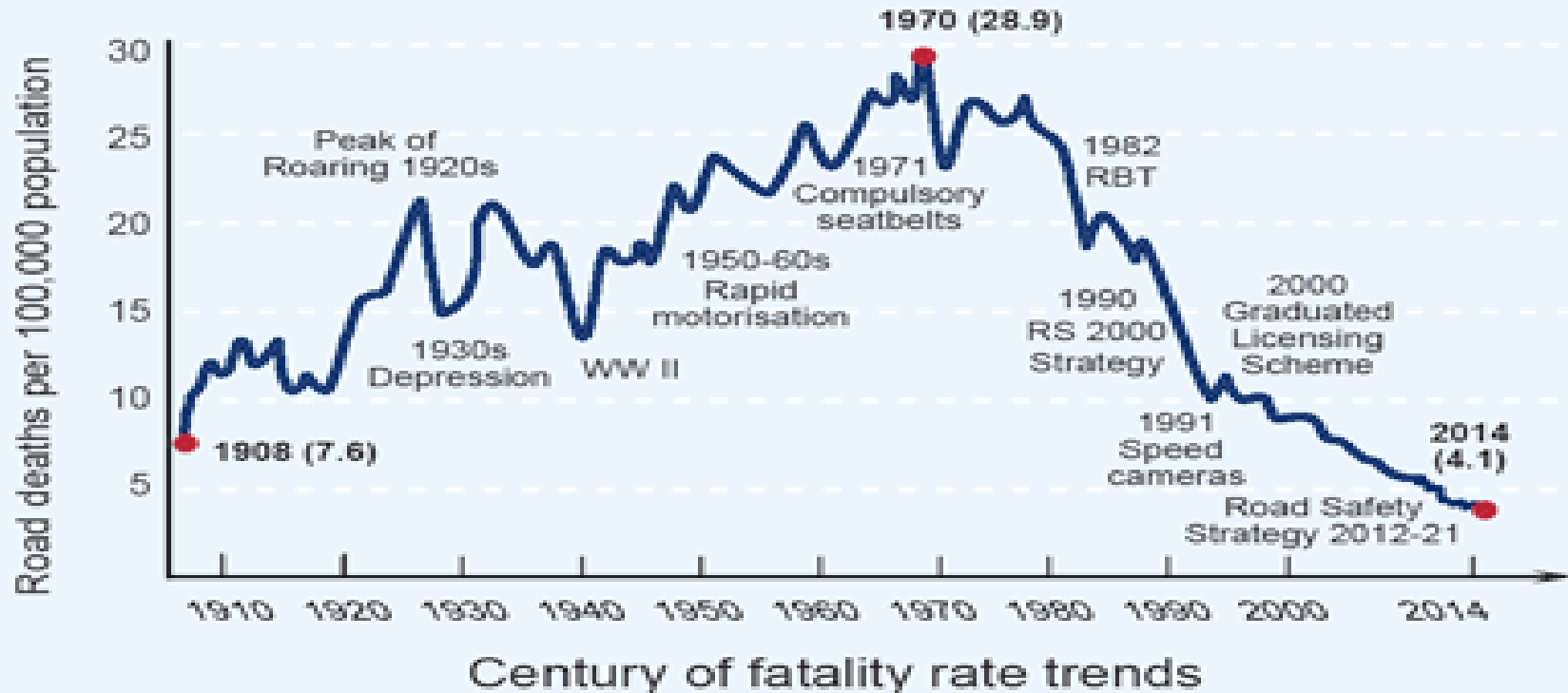


## The Responsible Men Practice Framework



Note: Adapted from the Child Protection Practice Framework Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disabilities (2007)

# Intervention does create change... ?



# Final Reflections

- Thinking beyond program intervention in groups or therapy models, might offer promise that breaks the legacy of ‘treatment’ and ‘change’ philosophies – individualised change projects.
- Program Logic is not easy to ensure it is translated in practice, outcomes and evaluation.
- **Questions and Discussion Welcome**