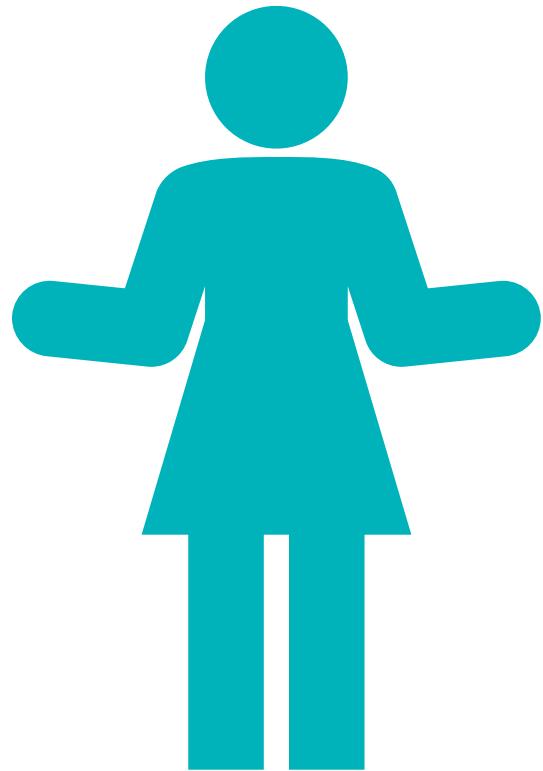


Exploring the question “Why doesn’t she leave” vs
“Why doesn’t he stop”
Taking a ‘Deeper Dive’ into Intersectionalities through a
Perpetrator Pattern Based Approach

Mark O’Hare – Stopping Family Violence



Intersectionalities

- **Australian women are almost four times more likely than men to be hospitalised after being assaulted by their spouse or partner.**
- **On average, one woman a week is murdered in Australia by her current or former partner.**



Intersectionalities

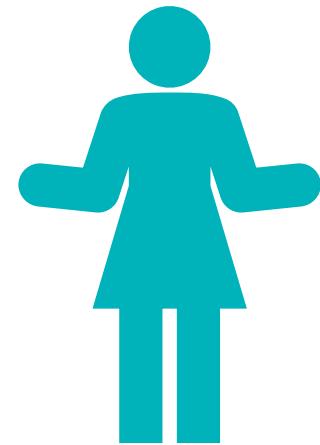
- In 2008, almost half of Indigenous males (48%) and 21% of females aged 15 years or over had been formally charged by police over their life time.
- Indigenous children were almost 10 times more likely to be placed in out of home care than non-Indigenous children in 2015-16.

Intersectionalities

- Women living with disabilities are around 40% more likely to experience FDV compared to women living without disabilities

Intersectionalities

- **92% of women who identify as LGBTQIA+ have experienced sexual harassment in their lifetime.**



Intersectionalities

Family and Domestic Violence rates are often higher in rural and regional areas of Australia

Intersectionalities

Women from CALD backgrounds are less likely to report FDV to police

Case Scenario – Helen and Shane

- Helen and Shane have been together for 7 years.
- Helen is from Ireland originally and Shane is from Australia
- Shane met Helen in Ireland and they both moved to Australia 3 years ago to live and work on Shane's family farm in a remote part of WA



Case Scenario Continued...

- They have 3 children together. 2 twin boys age 6 years old and a baby girl aged 6 months old
- Shane has been violent towards Helen including one time when he pushed and grabbed Helen around the neck in front of the children
- Helen has declined to take a Family and Domestic Violence Restraining Order out on Shane



Case Scenario Continued...

- The Department of Child Protection have concerns for the children's safety
- Shane has reported to Child Protection that Helen has mental health issues and drinks heavily
- Helen has called police numerous times but denied any issues on police arrival
- Shane's parents live on the farm and say their son is trying his best but Helen just gets too hysterical all the time
- Helen has no other family in Australia





GAS LIGHTING



“She should have noticed the warning signs earlier...”

- Sending flowers to her work
- “I’m not a jealous guy, just very passionate”
- Turns up unannounced to Helen’s work with surprise lunches
- Convinces Helen that some of her friends are negative influences
- When they had arguments, Shane convinced Helen she was being oversensitive and totally misreading the situation.
- Shane had a background in finances so offered to take care of the bills etc.
- “I don’t get like this with anybody else...I guess it’s because I love you so much”

But Why Doesn't She Just Leave...?

"If you leave, the kids are staying with me"

"The police won't believe you anyway- how many times have you lied to them?"

"If we lose the farm, the kids won't be able to go to the good school."

"Piss off back to Ireland if you want- the kids are staying with me"

"You have no money to take me to court. I will get full custody of the kids for sure"

"Child protection know you are a crazy drunk!"

"You will be dead by the time the police get here..."

"You will not get any money from the farm's trust fund which does not belong to you"

"Remember your visa depends on me"

"It's all in your head! We should be happy- you have everything you want!"

"I have guns"

"Think of the kids- are you going to stop them from seeing their dad?"



“Just Leave then!”

- “You will have to move to the city. You won’t be able to stay on the farm. I need to stay on the farm to work”
- “The kids are staying with me! Where are you going to live? You don’t have any money”

Impact on Child and Family Functioning if Helen Leaves with the Children...



Dad's are Not Disposable....



How might dad have been involved with bath, play, bed time?



How did dad provide support with cooking/ meals?



How did dad contribute to bills/ rent, school fees, meds?



How might dad have been contributing to school activities?



Was he helping around the house in any way?



How was dad involved with out of school activities/ sports religious groups with the children?



What were his parenting responsibilities with the baby?

Same Sex Relationship- Survivor

Won't disclose due to
past experience of
service response

Perpetrator using Survivor's Intersectionality

“If you tell anybody, I will tell your family/work about our relationship”

Same Sex Relationship- Survivor

Won't disclose abuse
due to fear of
repercussions on
partner

Perpetrator using Survivor's Intersectionality

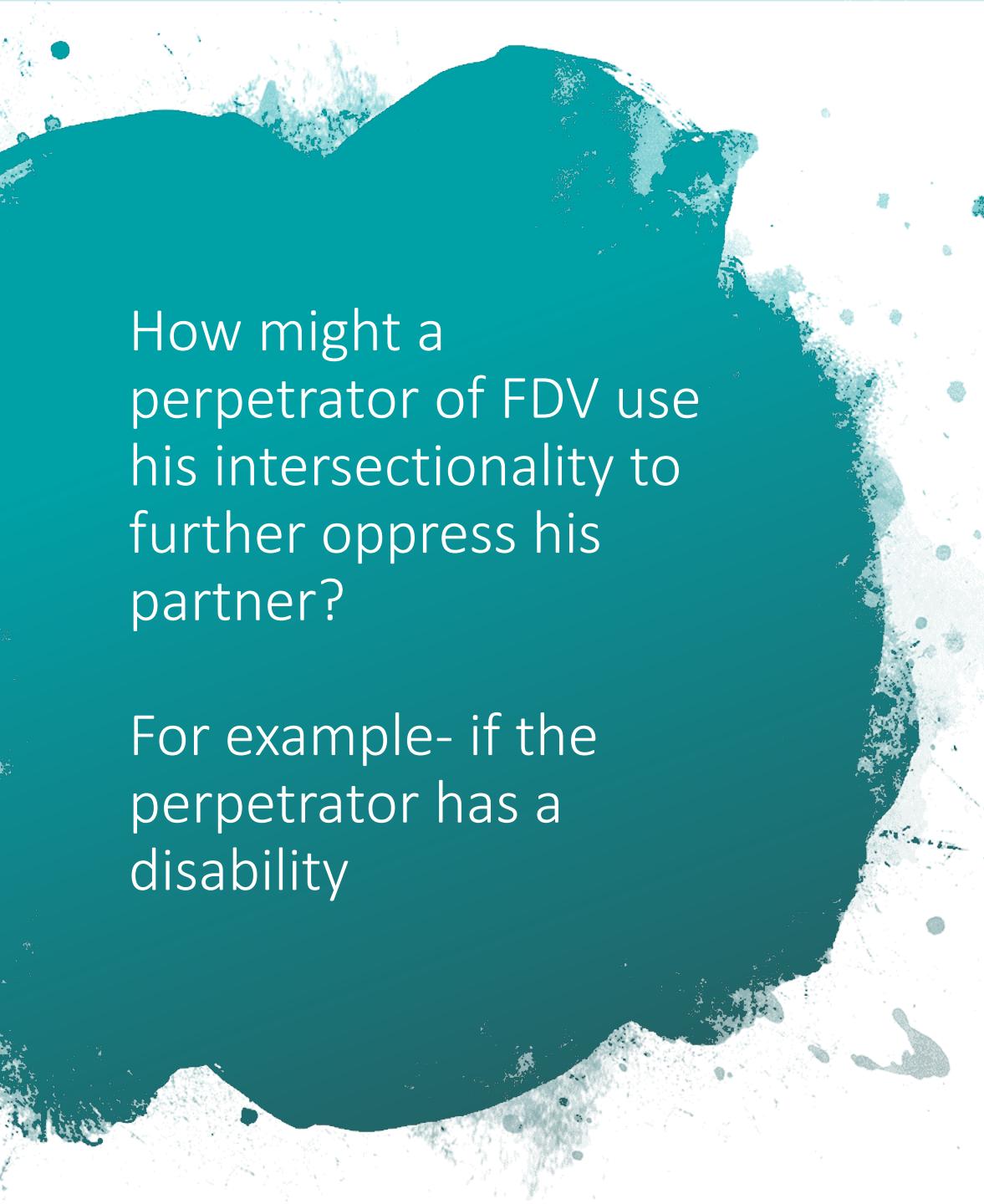
“Do you really want
me to go to prison!?”

Survivor With A Disability

Won't disclose due to
concern of not being
able to take care of her
children on her own

Perpetrator using Survivor's Intersectionality

“If you leave me, the
Dept will never leave
the kids alone with you”



How might a perpetrator of FDV use his intersectionality to further oppress his partner?

For example- if the perpetrator has a disability

- Use of disability allowance/ carers payments/ assets
- Threats of suicide
- Make the survivor feel guilty for leaving If disability occurred after relationship started
- Telling the survivor "I'm just so angry with my situation, I'm sorry for taking it out on you..."
- Perpetrator saying things like "Who will take care of me"
- What is the impact on Child and Family Functioning? For example, do children take on a caring role??

Intersectionalities- Pivoting Language

When perpetrators use their position of power to further oppress their partner, children and/or other family members...



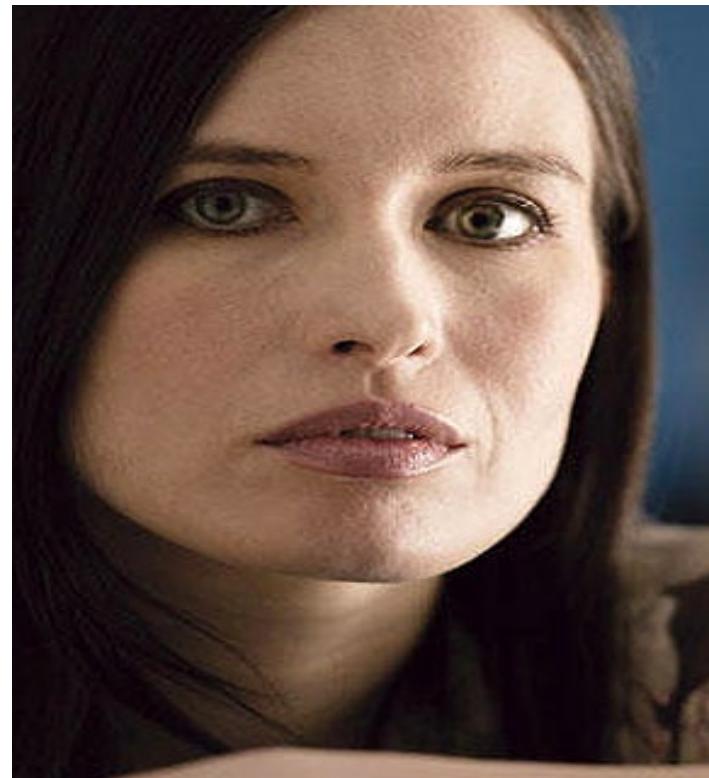
'Pivoting' our language...

*“Sometimes Family and
Domestic Violence is
cultural and women are
oppressed”*

'Pivoting' our language...

*“Sometimes perpetrators of
Family and Domestic
Violence use culture to
oppress women”*

“Why doesn’t she leave”



“Why doesn’t he stop”



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