

Change makers - working together to end violence



“ I’m excited to be part of conversations about sexual violence, because what is unspoken can remain in the shadow and therefore continue. ”

Ella Morter- Manager, Cairns Sexual Assault Service

Ella Morter has been working in community services in Cairns for the last six years, with counselling positions in Addiction, Victims of Crime, couples counselling and a management position in residential Mental Health before joining the Cairns Sexual Assault Service in October 2019.

“Throughout these roles, I have noticed the compounding impact that domestic violence has on people. A relationship is meant to be your safe place and when physical and emotional safety in a relationship is jeopardised, it has an enormous impact on overall wellbeing.” Ella shared.

Ella enjoyed helping to develop the Workforce Plans. “I’m really interested in seeing a workforce empowered to support victims and survivors heal from sexual violence within the context of Domestic violence relationships, as well as sexual violence that has occurred inside institutions and in situations where the perpetrator is known to the survivor outside of a relationship or unknown to the survivor. The more we talk openly about this the more people that will stand up and say it is not okay.”

“Change comes when society as a whole says ‘no more’. It’s the conversations we have with friends and acquaintances, it’s the submissions we provide at a more formal level, it’s empowering people from all walks of society to stand up and speak out when they hear or see something that suggests disrespect or negative attitudes around sexual violence and consent. Change comes from talking more about sexual violence, so that survivors feel empowered to speak about their experiences without blame, and any shame sits only with the perpetrators for their actions.”

“I would really love to see more men working in the sector. So if you identify as male and are interested, please consider this career.” Ella said. “The sector is full of passionate people who consider their work to be a calling far more than a way to pay the bills and while we hear lots of terrible stories, it is extremely fulfilling to support someone through their journey out of pain and into empowerment.”



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