

Change makers - working together to end violence



“Perseverance is the biggest thing. It’s a windy road, but you have to keep going because you do make change.”

Holly Brennan, CEO, Centre against Domestic Abuse (CADA), Moreton Bay Region

Holly has worked in the sector for about 25 years in sexual and reproductive health, working mostly with women at risk and a large percentage of her work has been working with women experiencing DFV and reproductive coercion.

Holly participated in the development of the Workforce Plans with her work at Children by Choice. Holly said “It’s great to see research and practice coming together. People who are practicing work don’t often get the chance to influence research and policy development. It’s exciting to see WorkUP plans being led by ANROWS and The Healing Foundation, using a cultural framework that understands Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ experiences and an evidence based DFV lens.”

“During the Covid-19 pandemic, it has made everyone reflect and look at the complexities of the work that we do in the DFV, sexual violence and reproductive health space. Generally speaking, there has been a greater understanding of the work that they do. However, the complexity is increasing.”

“This is a scary time, I would like to see more work being done, not only working with women and children, but also promoting respectful relationships and working with men who are male perpetrators. We can’t just say not now, not ever – we need to commit to resourcing this for a long time now.”

“I love working with teams of people, women who are passionate about feminism and giving power back to people, not that they didn’t have power to begin with, but giving it back to them.”

Working in the DFV sector, Holly shares that “You need to have an incredible sense of humour. We love being able to do practical things to help women. To see that we are making a tangible difference – it really helps to know you are doing something positive and practical for them. It’s important that we acknowledge this and celebrate each other and the work that we do.”



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