

## Change makers - working together to end violence



*“ I want to strengthen and empower my fellow sisters/ aunties who are either victims, survivors or witnesses to DFV, to have a voice and help create change and end DFV. ”*

### Lela Idagi – Aurukun Women Shelter Support – Cape York / Gulf RAATSICC

Lela is a change maker, helping to create change and end DFV by drawing on her cultural knowledge, along with personal lived experience and her strength as a woman working in this sector.

Starting as a Family Care worker for RAATSICC, Lela gradually worked her way up to supervisor. Lela has been working and learning in this sector for four years and still contributes to the front line work with other staff. “Every day I am learning through this ever changing sector.”

“Driving change in ending domestic violence means creating a safe happy healthy environment for the whole family dynamic.” Lela said, sharing her vision. “It means no lives lost to DFV, women and children are safe at home, women are empowered and respected and children are given the best opportunity to thrive, learn and succeed. Driving change in ending DFV also means challenging and breaking ‘norms’ in remote indigenous communities whilst encouraging safer families, homes and communities.”

Lela’s skills have been strengthened through her experience. Her advice for others in the DFV sector, is “You have to have strong supports for yourself, have confidence in the person you are and the knowledge you have and continue to be ready to learn each day. Be respectful and empathetic as well as resourceful and realistic to service users. Be able to identify self stress signals and regulate with self care as well as keep personal and professional work separate. I have great help and support from communities, particularly the ladies I work with. I would not be able to have an impact without them.”

Lela participated in workshops to help co-design the Northern Queensland Workforce Plan. “I hopefully contributed valuable knowledge, not only from my experience as a worker in the sector and working remotely, but also as a survivor and witness of DFV in the home and how it effects women and children physically, emotionally, financially and mentally.” Her contributions are vital in driving change.



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