

Change makers - working together to end violence



“ Education is key, we need to work together, to collaborate and integrate our work so that women and children come first. It’s about challenging old beliefs, critical thinking. It’s going to take a whole village, it’s not just up to the sector, the whole community needs to work together. ”

Rosemary O’Malley, CEO, Domestic Violence Prevention Centre Gold Coast Inc

Rosie is proud to be a member of the Statewide Reference Group for WorkUP Queensland. “WorkUP Queensland provides a great opportunity for professional development for the sector.” said Rosemary. “Our people are the hardest working, it’s frontline, trauma and high risk, I want to make this workforce visible, to be recognised for the work we do.”

“My part is to provide feedback, to ensure that the professional development hits the mark, is responsive and has a high impact. I want our workforce to be sustainable and we need to think about filling specialist roles, within specialist and generalist services. We have to grow advocates, they will move on, but we can think about how we retain them across the broader sector. We need to make sure we have access to the skills we need. The workforce plans support this sector development work.”

Driving change for Rosie means ending the indifference towards it. “When I step outside in my social life it’s not front and centre. So many people who are experiencing violence still don’t know where to turn. I feel the indifference. I came in through the mens work and everyone wants to talk about violent men. It feels like people don’t care as much about the women and children.”

Rosie recommends people are very clear on their intentions for wanting to do this work because rescuing is disempowering. “Not only is it unhelpful for women but rescuers get burnt out quicker. The women we work with know what they need and want. We need advocates who want to work with people where they are at and who are able to focus on what the woman wants to do not what the worker wants to do for her.”

Rosie also encourages reflection and self care for staff. “Workers need personal insight and tremendous capacity for self reflection. So anyone coming in to the sector they must be willing to engage in critical thinking and professional supervision and be in it for the right reasons.”



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