

# PATHWAYS INTO OUR SECTOR

Growing the domestic and family violence, sexual assault, women's health and wellbeing workforce.

**As a First Nations person, Nolan has opportunities to create change at a grassroots level.**

## Nolan White

Facilitator  
Youth Family Service  
Diploma of Legal Services

"I'm grateful to be creating safe environments where First Nations men and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds can discover who they are and how to make better choices," Nolan said.

Nolan's career started with the Queensland Government after school, working in frontline child protection and domestic and family violence. After 12 years, he moved overseas.

**"I take men on a journey where they can critically think about their behaviours and beliefs"**

Upon his return, Nolan worked for a local council, then worked with the Kalwun Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service as a Court Officer in the Recognised Entity Child Protection section. Nolan

then worked as a Coordinator at the Domestic Violence Service on the Gold Coast.

His current role is with Youth Family Services, a not-for-profit organisation that supports vulnerable people in Logan and surrounding areas. He facilitates 16 week men's behaviour change programs. His clients are mix of those ordered by court to attend, agency referrals through Child Safety and Corrective Services, and self-referrals by men themselves. He works with a female co-facilitator. The program is also embedded in a women's advocacy service and their role is to ensure women and children are safe, while their men are participating in these programs.

"I see myself as a tour guide rather than a teacher, taking men on a journey where they can critically think about their behaviours and

beliefs, before exposing them to new thinking," Nolan said.

"Recognising a man's humanity while not condoning their behaviours and unacceptable attitudes is critical to success in this role, as is having realistic expectations," he said.

"Burnout is one of the greatest challenges in this role. It's emotionally heavy work."

Nolan ensures he takes care of his health, tapping into the available support.

"It's important to maintain a healthy work/life balance."

Nolan has created a template for a First Nations men's program that can be adapted for and delivered in both urban and regional/remote communities, and is currently pursuing funding for this.

For more information visit:  
[workupld.org.au/resource-hub](http://workupld.org.au/resource-hub)



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