

PATHWAYS INTO OUR SECTOR

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

Bringing a big picture perspective to community work



**Talia Van Gils, Manager,
Gympie Region Domestic and
Family Violence Service**

Bachelor of Psychology, Bachelor of Arts and Drama

Talia's management role encompasses service design, risk management, staff supervision, and stakeholder relationships.

It has been an interesting journey from a degree in psychology and anthropology.

Talia's experience with several peak bodies enables her to see the big picture. She has developed a broad understanding of the community services system. This is important to ensure integrated service delivery.

Talia encourages those new to the sector to take the long view when considering how they promote

safety for the women and children they are assisting. She says we often need to approach system reform strategically.

"You can't win the battle for one woman's safety at the cost of being able to get safe interventions for all women after her," Talia said.

"I have a passion for sector development."

"Currently we're standing at the bottom of the hill waiting to catch the women as they fall rather than building barriers to prevent them getting to the edge and it can be very frustrating."

Talia recognises the emotional load of domestic and family violence work and also acknowledges the huge rewards.

"I see growth in many of the women accessing our services—from seeing them feeling frightened and alone at the beginning to having control over their lives when they leave."

Talia is currently studying a Masters in Social Work to learn more about the most effective ways to intervene early in families. She also wants to work with perpetrators in future work in the sector.

For more information visit:
workupld.org.au/resource-hub



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