

Attachment A: Practice Studio Topics

WorkUP Queensland is delighted to announce the round three practice studio topics. In this round we are doing things a little differently. Two new topics emerging from the body of evidence have been selected by us. Three topics which were not nominated for by any organisation in the last round are also included.

In addition, we are opening up the process and inviting organisations to suggest their own examples of research evidence from Australia, or internationally for implementation. Refer to Attachment B: Organisation proposed topics to select this option.

WorkUP Queensland encourages all workers in the domestic and family violence, sexual assault and women's health and wellbeing sectors in Queensland to read this document as all the topics selected represent areas of interest and relevance to the sector.

Organisations seeking to become practice studio hosts are invited to review the information below and select one topic to nominate for. Reading the source material, especially the original research reports, or at minimum the concise summary papers is essential. Please also note that organisations will be supported to connect with the research authors and will have opportunities to learn more about their work.

Some examples are provided below indicating what a practice studio on this topic would involve. Organisations are welcome to propose alternative solutions in their EOI.

Adolescent violence in the home

Adolescent violence in the home (AVITH) is a pattern of “violent or abusive behaviour used by an adolescent within their family, mostly against parents or other caregivers and siblings (Howard & Abbott, 2013; State of Victoria, 2016 as cited in Campbell et al, 2020, p. 11).

The [*PIPA project: Positive Interventions for Perpetrators of Adolescent violence in the home*](#) by Campbell and colleagues builds on previous work that identified that AVITH was of particular concern to practitioners and stakeholders, but lacked an adequate response (CIJ, 2015 as cited in Campbell et al, 2020, p.11). The PIPA project aimed to address that gap using an approach that included focus groups and interviews, analysing administrative data relating to services provided to adolescents and a case file audit.

The report found that responses to adolescents using violence were primarily legal responses, and those differed across Australian jurisdictions. Concerns raised by the authors included adolescents who may not have the capacity to comprehend or comply with orders being made respondents to protection order applications, the co-occurring status of these adolescents experiencing violence in their home environment, the presence of alcohol and substance abuse and mental illness.

In addition to recommendations made for policy makers (see the full report for details) the authors produced a series of recommendations for practitioners. They recommended practitioners increase understanding of AVITH across all human service practice areas including:

- greater focus on the importance of recognising AVITH and its complexities—including the potential presence of trauma and undiagnosed disability—within mainstream

family violence sectors

- greater focus on, and capacity building for, whole-of-family service provision
- improved collaborative, coordinated and integrated practice to respond to the complexity of AVITH, including links with schools, publicly funded legal services, and community-led responses in CALD and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, as well as developing shared understanding and referral pathways between legal, child protection and community service interventions
- increased focus on early intervention in childhood experience of trauma and violence.

A practice studio addressing this topic and responding to the recommendations put forward by Campbell and colleague could involve group or one on one interventions with young people experiencing violence, such as those outlined in this 2017 report titled 'The effectiveness of intervention for adolescents exposed to domestic violence'. An abstract for this journal article can be found here:

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1524838014566720> Please note that full access to the article is behind a pay wall. The cost of accessing resources like these can be included in a practice studio budget.

Organisations wanting to host a practice studio responding to AVITH can suggest other evidence informed approaches in their applications. If your organisation would like support to find an evidence informed approach that matches your needs, please contact theresa.kellett@anrows.org.au

Please also be aware that Australia's National Research Agenda to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children (ANRA) 2020–2022 has identified children and young people as a key priority area. As a result, ANROWS has commissioned a raft of research projects that are focused on children and young people. These projects are underway with publications due to in coming months. You can see the full list here:

<https://www.anrows.org.au/core-research/>. For more information about these research projects, contact theresa.kellett@anrows.org.au

Campbell, E., Richter, J., Howard, J., & Cockburn, H. (2020). The PIPA project: Positive interventions for perpetrators of adolescent violence in the home (AVITH) (Research report, 04/2020). Sydney, NSW: ANROWS.

Integrated and collaborative service delivery

The [*Domestic and family violence services: Practice principles, standards and guidance*](#) (Department of Justice and Attorney-General, 2021) highlight the need for services to work in integrated and collaborative way. Standard 7 requires that "Services collaborate to provide an integrated response". While there is general recognition across the service sector that collaboration and integrated service delivery can benefit clients, WorkUP has from services that integrated work can be time consuming, especially when it is not funded as a standalone activity.

A practice studio could be the opportunity to establish the structures and nurture the relationships required to make integrated service approaches work for clients with the support of funding through a practice studio to make this possible.

ANROWS has synthesised findings and recommendations from multiple ANROWS research reports relating to integrated and collaborative practice. This short synthesis paper, [Working across sectors to meet the needs of clients](#) provides an extensive list of recommendations focused both on integrated approaches and collaborative practice relevant for service providers.

Organisations seeking to improve their capacity to work in an integrated and collaborative way could identify the most relevant and testable recommendations and use those to develop a practice studio. If you have questions about how this might work in practice, please contact theresa.kellett@anrows.org.au

Topics presented in previous rounds

These topics were made available to the sector to express an interest in, in the previous round, but were not taken up by any organisation. Organisations can also express an interest in developing a practice studio with any of these topics.

Prioritising women’s safety in Australian perpetrator interventions: The purpose and practices of partner contact

Partner contact work (performed by advocates, or victim/survivor advocates in Queensland) is an essential part of Men’s Behaviour Change Programs (MBCPs). It typically involves working with the current and/or former partner(s) of the perpetrator who is undertaking the program to provide support, information, and safety planning.

This report found that across Australia, there was no consistent approach to partner contact work in MBCPs. The review of programs in various locations observed that partner contact work is often not prioritised as it is labour intensive, and resources are limited. Other problems, such as support for partners being withdrawn when perpetrators stop attending programs highlights how victim/survivors can have little control over their contact with services, which affects risk of harm.

This report includes a practice guide for MBCP’s to enhance their practice around partner contact (PC). It complements existing minimum standards and uses reflective questions to invite those working in MBCPs and other innovative DFV focused perpetrator programs to consider ways to deepen and strengthen their individual and organisational practice

A practice studio would involve implementing the practice guide and relevant recommendations from the report. It is noted in the report and important to note here that limited funding is a significant barrier to implementing program enhancements. It may not be possible to implement all the guidance contained with the guide without more funding. Equally, services funded to provide partner contact work already, may find that existing practice aligns to at least some of the recommendations for practice. It should be anticipated in doing a practice studio on this topic that an initial self-audit would be needed before implementation.

Further reading:

[Prioritising women’s safety in Australian perpetrator interventions: Mapping the purpose and practices of partner contact Key findings and future directions](#)

[Prioritising women’s safety in Australian perpetrator interventions: Practice Guide](#)

See also:

[Prioritising women's safety in Australian perpetrator interventions webinar](#)

Constructions of complex trauma and implications for women's wellbeing and safety from violence

Women with experiences of complex trauma are a significant but overlooked group of victims and survivors of gender-based violence in Australia. Women who have experienced complex trauma have interlinked health and safety needs and are often in frequent contact with crisis services and police due to domestic violence and sexual assault. The guiding question of this study was: "How can agencies and services improve collaboration to meet the health and safety needs of women with complex trauma?"

The project developed a set of key principles of best practice which promote client led, responsive, flexible, timely care and interventions facilitated through strong coordination and collaboration across services. This practice studio would aim to implement the key principles of best practice as described in the report (p. 8 of the RTPP/research summary).

Additional recommendations emerging from the report including complex trauma training and support for workers (vicarious trauma) could also be acted on.

This practice studio would require an integrated approach with one lead practice studio host supporting a range of services to come together. To that end, an organisation nominating to become a practice studio host would need to be able to demonstrate their connections with other services and their ability to bring services together.

Further reading:

[Constructions of complex trauma and implications: Key findings and future directions](#)

See also:

[Webinar: Working with women who have experienced complex trauma in mental health & refugee services](#)

Engaging men who use violence: Invitational narrative approaches

Invitational Narrative Approach (INA) combines both Narrative (engaging with people through their stories which reveal meanings they attach to lived experience) and Invitational (engaging perpetrators in an ethical journey, supporting change and taking responsibilities) practices.

"Both approaches are underpinned by the assumption that, with skilled and careful facilitation, men are capable of generating their own commitments to non-violence and to honouring the needs, rights and interests of others"

In this project, interviews were conducted with invitational narrative experts, interviews with men who use violence, with each man's invitational narrative practitioner, and (where consent was obtained) with each man's partner/ex-partner.

This practice studio would involve the implementation of INA within a service working with men to achieve behaviour change. Recommendations for practitioners emerging from the report include emphasising that invitational narrative practitioners must be highly skilled and receive ongoing supervision and training. Additionally, the implementation of INA must occur within a strong authorising environment with organisational

buy-in. When submitting an EOI for this topic, organisations should consider and detail their plans for upskilling the existing workforce to use INA and/or sourcing new talent and how they manage change within their organisation.

Further reading:

[Engaging men who use violence: Invitational narrative approaches Key Findings and Future Directions](#)

See also:

[Project page Engaging men who use violence: Invitational narrative approaches](#) *(includes symposium presentations by Professor Sarah Wendt and an ANROWS podcast episode about the report).*