

Solidarity: Safety, Justice, Wellbeing

Symposium 1: 30 March 2022



WorkUP
QUEENSLAND



Perspectives on Safety from Men's DFV behaviour change work and the SPEAQ network

Paul Monsour

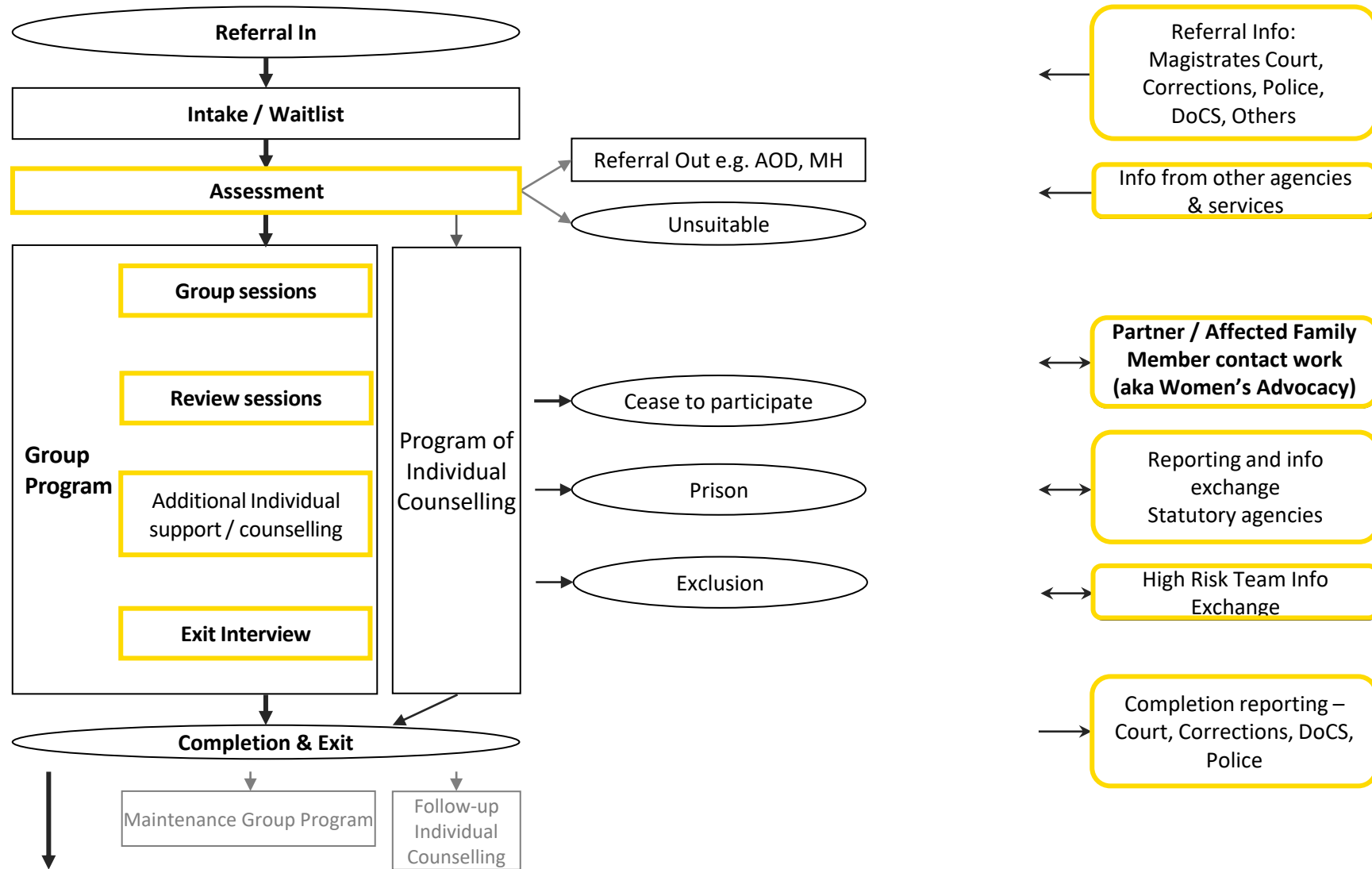
Solidarity: Safety, Justice and Well-Being

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Safety in Men's DFV Perpetrator Intervention Programs

- Safety is woven through all aspects of DFV intervention programs
 - What does that mean in practice?

Intervention Programs with Men who have used DFV



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- Direct contact with the perpetrator provides a crucial element in safety responses
 - How does this translate into collaborative work, and where are the challenges?

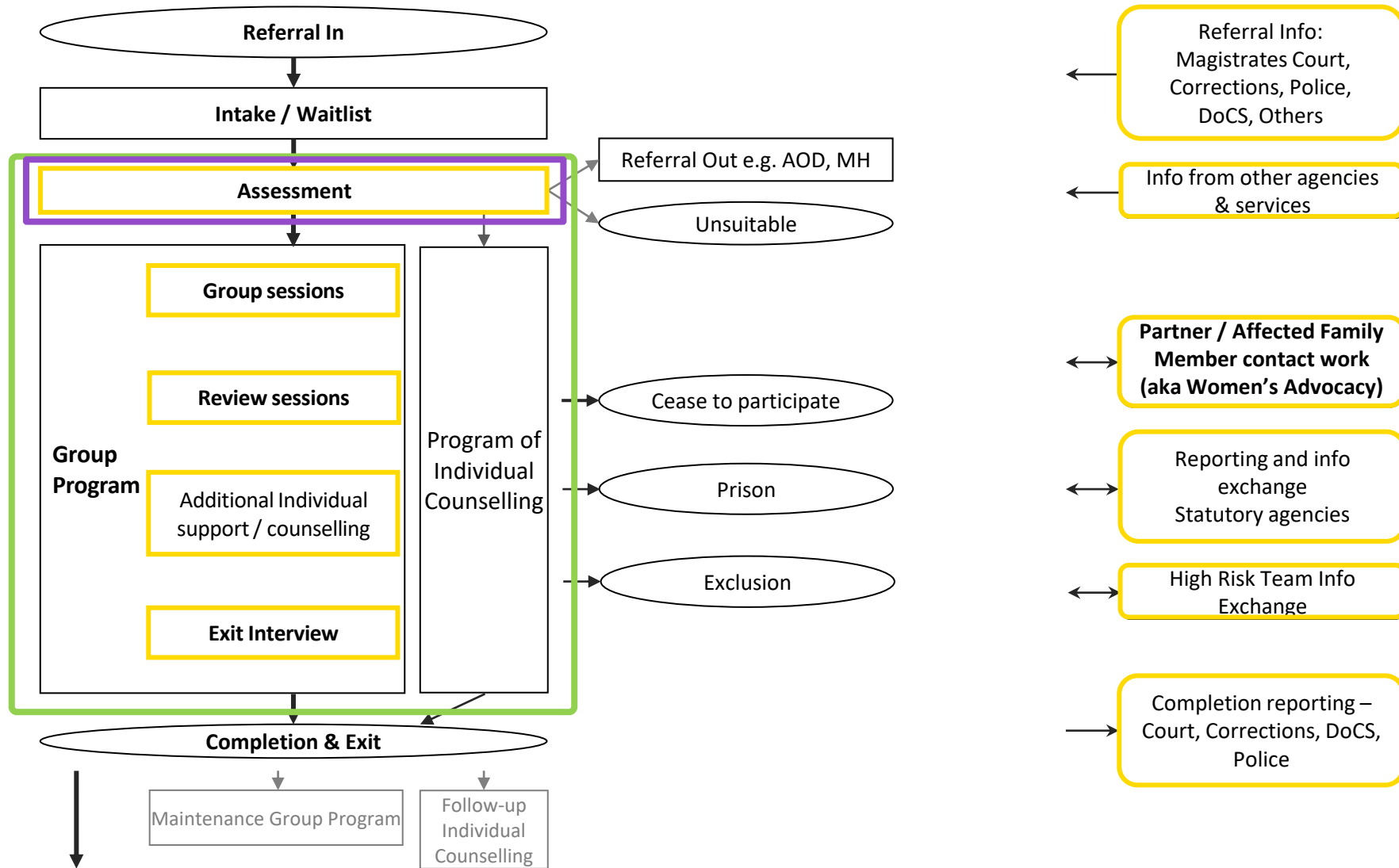
Challenges & Opportunities in collaborative work between perpetrator and victim services

- Conflicting reports
- Differing views and models
- Lack of contact / information

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- How we do the work matters
 - Facilitator skills and knowledge
 - Responding to diversity - responding to individual situations

How we do the work matters



Facilitator skills and knowledge

- Effective work with perpetrators of DFV = creating safety
- Effective work is always based on relationship
 - Holding the tension between
 - Real, engaged relationship and
 - the discomforting work of holding a mirror to the man
 - ... using the knowledge of how violence works, and how to move away from it
 - Building bridges between what he sees, and what I see
 - Creating safe space for men to do deep work
 - The quality of our presence in that space – the need to have done our own work

Responding to diversity means responding to individual situations

- Not only LGBTIQ, First Nations, CALD etc -
- Patterns of violence and control – behaviours, intentions, motivations
- The crucial importance of accurate assessment
- DFV and coercive control – the problem of conflating the two
- The danger of the single story
- Typologies: their value, limitations and dangers
- Typologies map out the territory and can be useful
- Our detailed knowledge of the person and the relationship matters more – nuance in our ‘mental models’

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 - Responding to diversity - responding to individual situations
- Collaborative self-development
 - Doing conversations (especially difficult ones) well

Collaborative self-development

- Doing conversations (especially difficult ones) well
 - Co-facilitator conversations
 - Facilitator(/counsellor) ↔ Advocate conversations
 - Program staff ↔ other agency staff conversations
 - Community of Practice Conversations
- How?
 - The willingness to listen to and hear other voices
 - The capacity to sit with discomfort
 - The willingness and capacity to speak up
 - Mutual goodwill and commitment to better understanding
 - Our ability to be present with each other
- Creating safety starts with us, inside ourselves

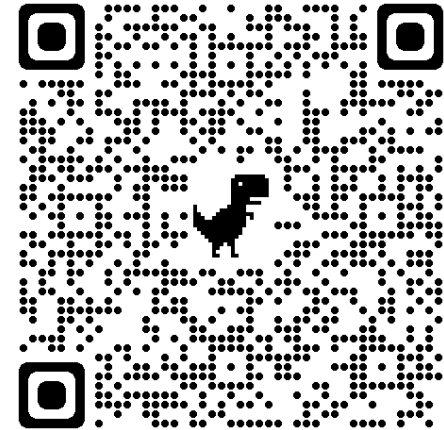
Summary

- “Preventing DFV” must include perpetrator work
- The work of building safety must happen at multiple levels
- We need to walk the talk
- Collaboration is rich with possibilities, can be difficult, and is where the work really happens

Peer groups

Would you like the opportunity to unpack these ideas with colleagues from within and across sectors?

Consider joining a peer group to keep the conversation going and create opportunities for action



To find out more about this series, visit:
<https://workupqld.org.au/solidarity-safety-justice-wellbeing/>

Contact the WorkUP Queensland team on:
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Strengthening practice: creating healing

