

Engaging men perpetrating domestic and family violence in the alcohol and other drug treatment context

MICHELLE RIDLEY¹, SARAH ETTER¹

¹Network of Alcohol and other Drugs Agencies, Sydney, Australia,

Presenter's email: michelle@nada.org.au

Background:

Domestic and family violence (DFV) is a significant issue impacting all communities across Australia and can be challenging for AOD workers to respond to. While DFV can be used and experienced by any gender, research has shown that men are the most common perpetrators and cause the most harm^{1 2}. Therefore, enhanced responses and a greater awareness is needed to better equip the AOD workforce to engage with men who perpetrate DFV³. To build workforce capacity in this area NADA developed the [Engaging men who perpetrate domestic and family violence practice resource](#).

Description of intervention:

The resource provides practice guidance for AOD practitioners to:

- have safe and non-collusive conversations with clients who cause DFV
- minimise and respond to collusion
- identify use and risk of DFV
- discuss and promote referrals to appropriate specialised DFV services using motivational interviewing techniques

Implementation:

The resource was developed and implemented through consultation with AOD workers and other key stakeholders; the delivery of recorded webinars and role plays to demonstrate best practice approaches that are freely available on the NADA website with the resource, and facilitation of face-to-face training.

Conclusion and Next Steps:

Evaluations and feedback about the resource and training materials have been positive and further activities are planned to build workforce capacity in this area.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: The Network of Alcohol and other Drugs Agencies is supported by the NSW Ministry of Health and Australian Government Department of Health.

¹ Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women 2018, Practice paper: DFV and Child Protection

² Ibid.

³ Can I Ask...? An alcohol and other drug clinician's guide to addressing family and domestic violence.