

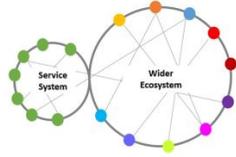


CREATING CONVERSATIONS EVENTS

# Resistance, Safety and Language

Aug 2018

## Creating Conversations Events



**Domestic and Family Violence is prevalent throughout society. Every postcode and every community.**

Domestic and Family Violence 'is a shared social issue' "... *We all have a role, we all have a part. Whether we want to take it up consciously or not.*"  
Dr Allan Wade

'Creating Conversations' events are an initiative of [Sightlines the Professional Services Division](#) of [Domestic Violence Service Management](#) and are based on the belief that;

- Society holds the answers as well as the problem.
- People experiencing Domestic and Family Violence may not engage with the service system, however all rely on many parts of society and the wider ecosystem.
- Every individual, group, organisation and community has the potential to play an important role in creating change within our society.

'Creating Conversations' events are designed to;

- Provide an opportunity for people and organisations that wouldn't ordinarily intersect or come together.
- Create the conditions for conversations that enable sharing and learning about each other's contexts, challenges and contributions.
- Discover the possibilities for individual, organisational and collective responses and pathways for progress.



## Creating Conversations Event – 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018

### RESISTANCE, SAFETY & LANGUAGE

- Recognising 'Resistance to Violence'
- Understanding acts of dignity, concepts of safety and response
- Refining language to reveal violence and clarify responsibilities.

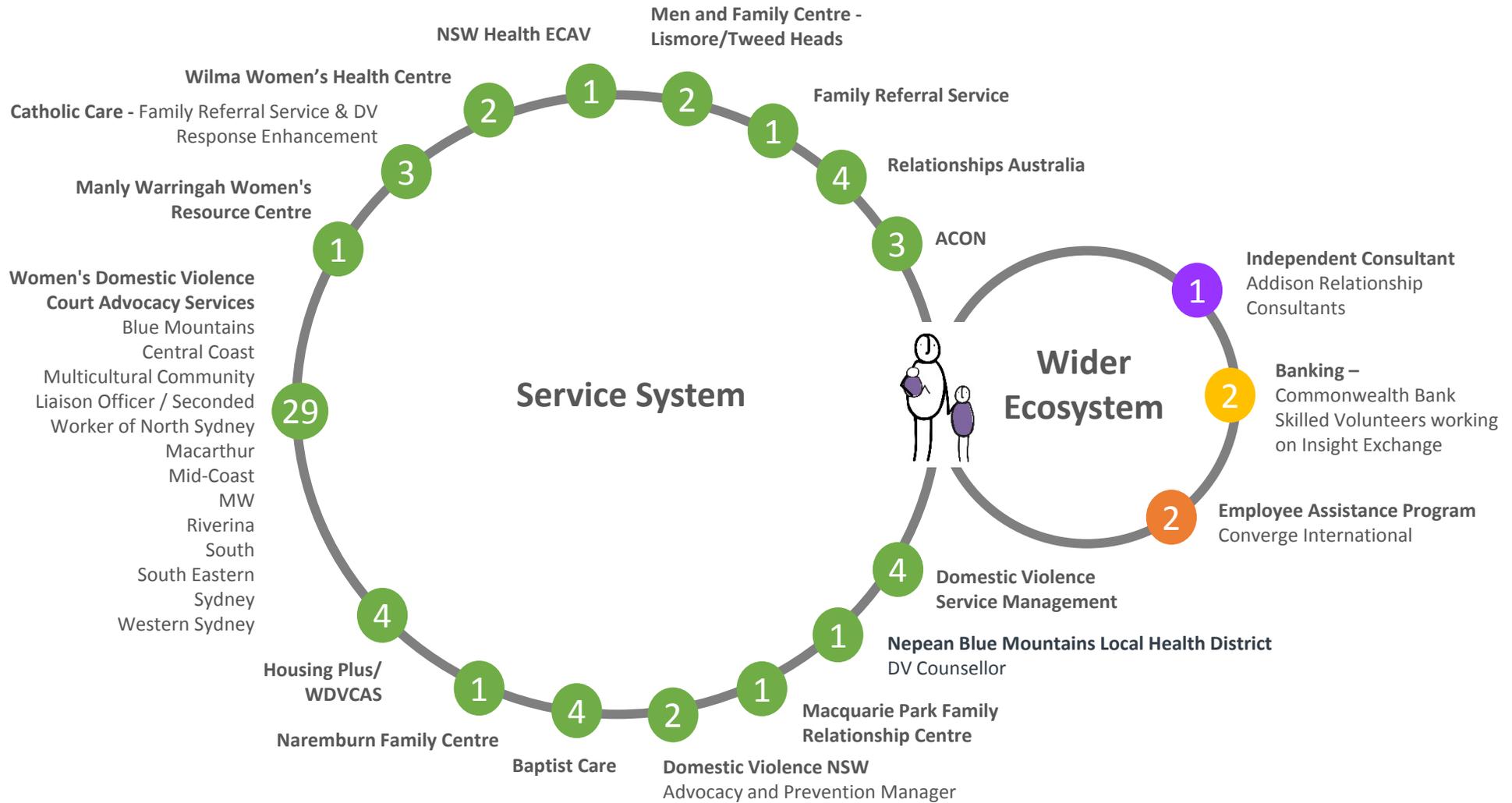
### Key Speaker / Facilitator - Dr Allan Wade



Dr. Allan Wade began his work as a family therapist in 1983. Prior to entering private practice, Allan worked in federal corrections, youth work, addictions services, child protection, and as a special education teacher.

In 1999, Allan completed his Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Victoria. In the course of his Ph.D. training, Allan focused on the micro-analysis of face-to-face communication, and on the connection between violence and language. His dissertation is entitled, "Resistance to Interpersonal Violence: Implications for the Practice of Therapy".

Allan continued to work as a family therapist while completing graduate studies. With colleagues Linda Coates and Nick Todd, Allan developed "Response-Based Practice", which is both a method of working with victims and perpetrators of violence and their families, and a framework to guide professional interventions, research on social responses to interpersonal violence, and research on the connection between violence and language. Allan teaches locally and internationally. He provides supervision and conducts workshops with criminal justice and mental health professionals from across the range of agencies involved in cases of interpersonal violence.



# What has strongly resonated with you today?

- The connection of resistance with dignity.
- Gender violence is based on colonial abuse. How do we do anything about the lies in gender violence, if we are still lying about colonial violence.
- The ease to enquire about responses, and where this may lead. Also tactics of responses and strategies of abuse.
- Language/watering down terms. No switch/can't be an asshole then a king to you. Choices not anger.
- Learning about change of language when speaking with other people. Response/affect?
- Loved everything, breakdown of language was amazing.
- Reframing the contexts and situations and actions into Acts of Resistance and as such acknowledging the rights of dignity.
- Resistance, shame as resistance, colonisation affect/effect on language/law.
- Being able to push myself and challenge my ideas and knowledge I've already gathered.
- Power of language, how power impacts, resistance of violence.
- The language used, the acknowledgment of Indigenous people, understanding of DV and women.
- Effect vs resistance.
- The generosity of Sal and your team.
- The shift in complete direction in support to the victim from treatment of impact to celebrating resistance.
- We can make our conversations with women more empowering.
- Perpetrator history is violence, victim history is resistance.
- The importance of dignity and power of language.
- Reframing acts of resistance. The fart in the art gallery analogy.
- It was a very radical and challenging approach, which made total sense.
- The connection of what I am already delivering as a worker, the effect/response.
- Honest conversations with DV.
- Language change - resistance used in a positive way.
- The power of re-phrasing common language/terms.
- Loved the way it was presented and all the content. Far prefer to look at the big picture to help me understand the situations I am seeing each day. Response vs impact and effects - makes so much sense, as does resistance. Empowering.
- Women's resistance to violence.
- Learning about resistance/how I can improve my work practice.
- The impact of language. Everyday communications and how they can impact and cover violence.
- Effects/impacts vs responses. Use of language and the valid examples provided.
- Response or effect.
- Learning the subtle resistances our clients use.
- The resistance in women.
- The importance of asking questions to understand the responses to the violence and to surface this.
- Stories, the position required, power of language.

# What, if anything, surprised you or has you curious?

- How the 'helping professionals' has unconsciously been compliant in the societal colonialisation attitude.
- Changing our language around what is response and resistance from impact and effects is going to take time and we need to be careful how we word things.
- Personality disorders/diagnoses as reasons.
- Change way of thinking re: resistance/response.
- How to bring the acts of resistance into the room and MBCP groups.
- The last part of the course which was about the language used by various organisations around the worker about violence.
- It was a day of insight, challenge and profound awakenings.
- Challenging medical model of therapy, challenging wording.
- Legal labels re: child related violence.
- How powerful language is.
- The extent of how its challenged my entire framework. The impact of language change.
- Has brought back lovely memories from previous work in a very reflective service. I still have this knowledge it just needed a dust off.
- I'll be looking for more literature from Allan and the ones he mentioned during his presentation.
- Recognising what bystanders do do.
- ADHD/personality disorders diagnoses.
- Absolutely loved this training.
- Language.
- Has left me wanting more.
- The difference in writing case notes/use the resistance in the facts.
- Definitely language and how its used.
- The language they use in the legal system.
- Language analysis (very interesting).
- Was surprised to see so many men in the room which is great as men are the key to stop violence against women.
- Mutualisation of violence through language.

# Where are the next steps for you or your organisation after today?

- More work around language and attitude to resistance.
- Being aware of my language. Changing my words and phrases.
- Conversations with many.
- Using source of the things learnt today with other colleagues.
- To inform, share and debrief with colleagues who couldn't attend.
- Change of language 'sex' term has to be consensual, misuse of language that affects the journey of the victim.
- To reflect further on my approach in working with victims of DV.
- Incorporate better use of language.
- Discuss concepts.
- Sharing ideas, thoughts and how impacted me, and giving voice not guilt to resisting violence. Creating time for conversations.
- Some discussions with counsellors around language used and resistance used in a positive way.
- To meet with Sightlines and explore opportunities to change the way our organisation responds to family and domestic violence.
- Discuss these ideas with my colleagues who attended today. Present the info to our service.
- Be more mindful in the language I've used in my interactions with clients.
- More reflection and how we can incorporate it in our work.
- Re-writing so many of our resources. Adding recognition and resistance into group content.
- I want to review what we learnt with my team and try to consolidate our learnings and where to take them.
- Language around 'abusive relationship' and 'non-consensual sex'.
- To share back in my work space.
- I can take practical examples and start to implement in my practice.
- Change language while talking to clients.
- Share this knowledge/experience.
- More information/study around this.
- Looking at the language used.
- Teaching colleagues and myself the importance of noting the clients resistance in case notes.
- Would like to see service use resource kit as a team building exercise. New practice techniques in the response to victims that we ring.
- How do we support organisations to understand and share these key themes?
- Still embedding response based approach into organisational core training.

# What else?

- This content is so important. I would love to see it used to educate our emergency services and legal services particularly in connection with victim interviews.
- Very enjoyable, will put the responses techniques in place when communicating with clients. Asking clients about resistance they had in place and what they did.
- Excellent workshop. Challenged my thinking and I feel invigorated and passionate about this work.
- Fantastic presentation. A lot of food for thought - reflective practice. A massive take away. Great interactive session.
- The importance of how language hides or colludes in making abuse and violence invisible. Noting acts of resistance that may be non-verbal or in a persons internal dialogue. Resistance is communal - noticing and drawing attention to this can be very powerful.
- Changing our language so when we speak to clients, we can get better understanding of what happened!
- The link to colonialism and the language around resistance and response.
- I wish we could educate everyone and make the changes to laws and not have to wait for change.
- Reflection and questioning will help change. When you can touch more people like a stadium would be great.

# REFLECTIONS KIT

This reflections kit is designed for any person wanting to understand more about **Domestic and Family Violence and Social Responses**.

These materials share some of our point in time knowledge and resources without cost barriers and points to ideas we are continuing to look to and learn from.

The [Centre for Response-Based Practice](#), Canada, remain instrumental in challenging and informing our understanding of dignity, resistance and responses to violence and the importance of language and accuracy to improve our social and service responses to violence. This reflections kit is not exhaustive or conclusive, and will adapt as we continue to learn from and with others.

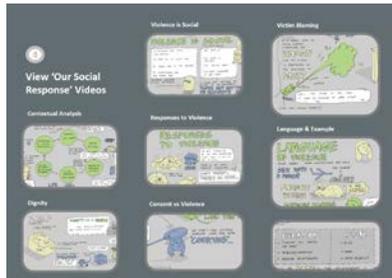
Read the DVSM's definition of [Domestic and Family Violence](#)

Read the first edition of [Follow My Lead](#)

Read about the [Follow My Lead Feedback Summary](#) about the Prototype that informed the first edition

Share your [eFeedback](#) about Follow My Lead

View the [Our Social Response Videos](#) on Insight Exchange



Explore the *Creating Conversation Kits*

Browse to learn about the initiative of [Insight Exchange](#)

Read about dignity and wellbeing in DVSM's [Practitioner Toolkit](#) (Practice Framework, Related Conversation Tools/Cards, and Practice Review Guide)

Read DVSM's [Concepts of Safety Project Report](#)

Read about and make use of any of DVSM's [Projects and Initiatives](#)

Explore some of the readings/resources at the [Centre for Response-Based Practice](#)

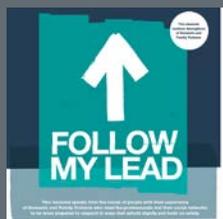
[Small acts of living \(Allan Wade\)](#) Read about the ever present nature of a person's resistance to violence and the assumption of pre-existing ability (competencies, capacities, skills and agency) which provides examples from working with people who have experienced violence.

[Coming to Terms with Violence and Resistance \(Todd, Wade and Renoux\)](#) Read about the differences between the 'language of effects and the language of responses' which provides examples from various contexts.

[Language and Violence: Analysis of four discursive operations \(Linda Coates and Allan Wade\)](#) Read about the four-discursive operations of language that are central in Response-Based Practice and understanding how the problem of violence is inextricably linked to the problem of representation. Read about how everyday language and more formal discourse can work to conceal violence, obfuscate perpetrators responsibility, conceal victims resistance and blame and pathologise victims.

# SOCIAL RESPONSES

Are you wanting to champion ideas around the importance of social responses?



One idea is to start where you are by;

1. Signposting others in your network to read [Follow My Lead](#)
2. Influencing leaders in your organisation or community to **distribute** [Follow My Lead](#) in any one of the designs to employees/members and customers – building awareness and informing responses to violence

[About Follow My Lead re-branding](#)

Contact Us:

Domestic Violence Service Management

Sightlines Professional Services Division

[www.insightexchange.net](http://www.insightexchange.net)