



CREATING CONVERSATIONS EVENTS

# Our Social Response



Nov 2017

## 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> Nov 2017 Our Social Response



**Key Speakers: Dr Linda Coates & Dr Allan Wade**

### DOMESTIC and FAMILY VIOLENCE Creating Conversations

The prevalence of Domestic and Family Violence cannot be understood or addressed by one portfolio, sector or organisation alone.

### 'Social Responses' are the most potent preventative force.

*Professor Linda Coates*

"There is good literature that shows that the quality of 'social response' is the single best predictor of the level of victim distress.

A better predictor than the severity of the violence and a better predictor than the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim"

*Professor Allan Wade.*

Our first Learning Program to 'create conversations' starts with **Professor Linda Coates and Professor Allan Wade** who are coming to Sydney to work with DVSM, Sightlines and friends to share with us their work around what 'social response' means and how we can **better understand how people resist violence.**

**Are you interested in being part of this conversation?**

## Dr Linda Coates

Dr Linda Coates is a professor in the department of Psychology at Okanagan College. She is one of the founders of Response-Based Practice, and has published and presented on topics related to violence, social interaction, and language.

Linda is particularly interested in social responses to violence and has investigated responses by helping professionals (such as therapists and psychologists), legal professionals (like police, prosecutors, defence council, and judges), and the media.

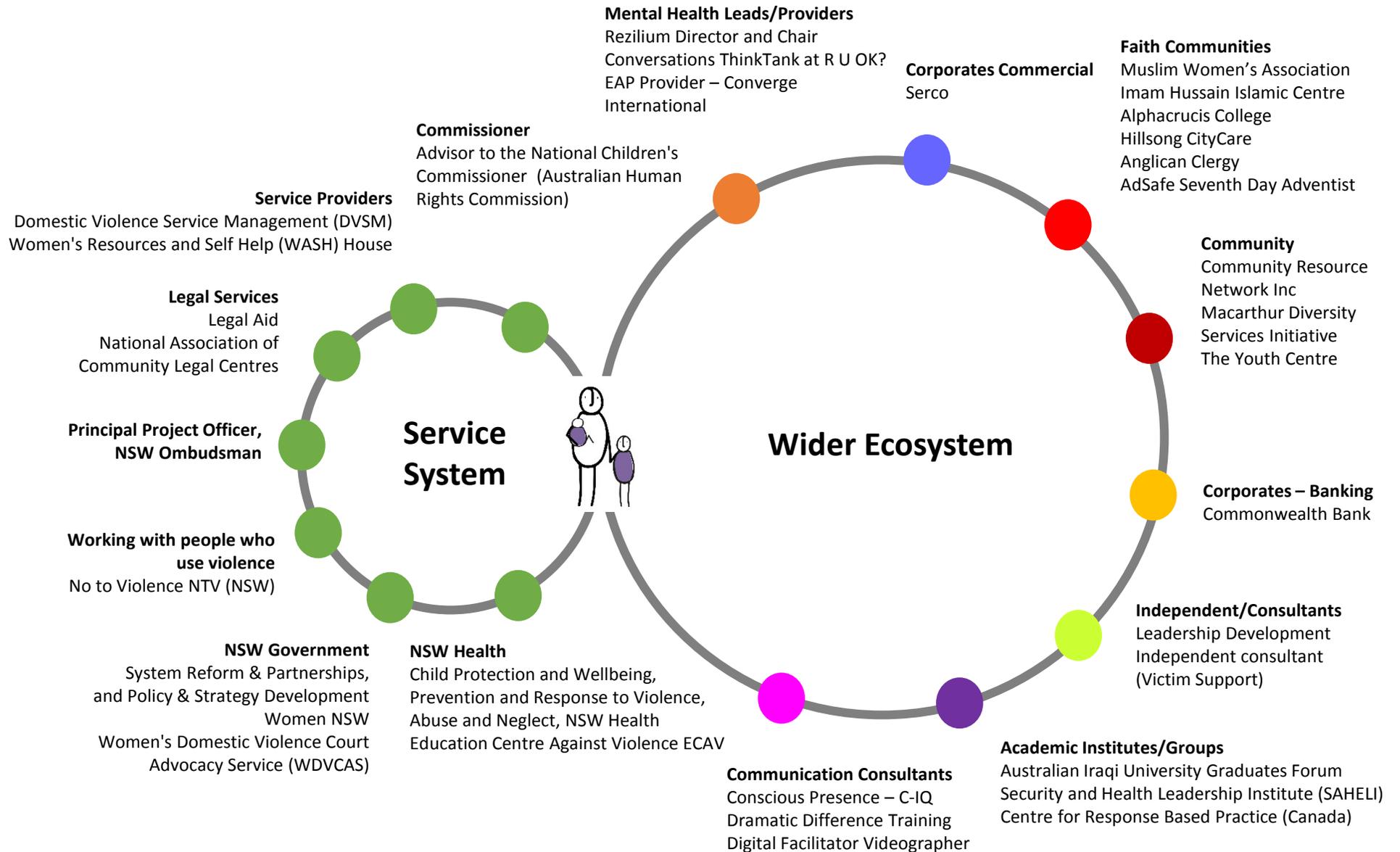
Linda has conducted numerous studies demonstrating how language can be used to conceal violence, mitigate perpetrators' responsibility, blame victims, and conceal victim resistance. She pioneered the use of the term "unilateral" to describe violent interactions, and "mutualizing" to describe how those unilateral violent actions are misrepresented as mutual.

## 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.



# The greatest insight I took from today is...

**Personal contemplation**

**Language awareness! Resistance and dignity understanding**

**The use of language, I found this most interesting and affective**

**Dignity & resistance, understanding violence unilateral not mutual, power of social response**

**Learning about social response, putting language and thought to so much**

**Language! Resistance, mutual/unilateral**

**The use of the term 'abusive relationship', clarification of unilateral and mutual - DFV is not a mutual act, 'unilateral'**

**The power of emphasising resistance (as expression of dignity)**

**Language/viewpoint/content**

**Importance of language**

**Dignity/respect, language - mutual, unilateral**

**The impact on how women/children are conceptualised, the impact of language**

**Dignity, identifying resistance**

**The importance of dignity and recognising resistance**

**The importance of dignity and maintaining that in responding. The false path of cycle of violence with absolution of responsibility for perpetrator**

**Not a lack of something but a surplus of dignity**

**How little I know about DFV. Dignity, language**

**The (shared) ongoing commitment to changing the narrative that supports violence**

**More awareness about DV**

# The greatest benefit of being part of today is...

Academic/practitioner analysis, diverse participants

Conversations with others. Hearing the words of our wonderful speakers

Disecting language, affirmations around acts of resistance that often go unnoticed

Exposure an great input

Hearing a reframe of this issue

Hearing presentation by Allan and Linda

Information, connection, going away with more knowledge

It fed my desire and inspired me to contribute to a shift in our society in some way

Learning and being challenged with the use of language

Meeting others plus the content learning

Meeting people

Networking

New perspectives, stimulating conversations, new networks

The correct naming of domestic violence acts

Time (focused) with academics/ researchers/ practioners

Witnessing the unfolding of Allan Wade's and Linda Coates' theories and view points was enriching and inspiring

## Further Comments:

### **Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program | Legal Aid NSW**

I thought the presenters were fabulous – engaging, very knowledgeable and common sense communicators – great combination in my view!

### **Consultant in Human Services**

Thank you so much for the fabulous opportunity to hear Allan and Linda speak and to meet so many like-minded professionals. It was very generous and very much appreciated. I am looking forward to seeing the record of the day – I incorporate Allan and Linda's work into my teaching of Social Workers and it will be great to use the recording as a resource.

I am very interested in hearing about other seminars your fantastic organization offers.

### **Corporate Banking – Financial Wellbeing**

I think the whole ecological understanding of dignity and resistance is so important and potentially game-changing. Anyway – I'm very grateful to have had the opportunity learn from them.

### **Private Security Company - Principal Consultant, Rehabilitation & Reintegration**

I was blown away by the presentations I saw (up until lunch). Effectively began questioning myself and my 'norm' re to language.

### **Anglican Clergy**

Allan and Linda were excellent presenters and there was excellent material and great interactions. Thanks for inviting me and everyone. I'll be interested in future opportunities like this.

### **EAP Employee Assistance Program**

I thought it was a great day with exceptional information. I look forward to the digital record of the day. I do think there is scope for future events – I think our organisation would be keen to discuss how they could be involved in this.

## Further Comments:

### **Corporate Banking**

I got so much out of the session on a number of different levels. If it's OK, I'll be sharing the content with my team and friends?

The ultimate question is how you make this scalable: train the trainer model, self-serve, networks etc. I'll have a think.

### **Community Resource Network**

Thanks for the email and for hosting such a thoughtful and thought-provoking event. It is great to see an organisation and leader that is modelling doing things differently. On a personal level I would love to have a cuppa with you sometime to learn how you foster that in your organisation. In my work I would love to chat to you about the possibility of hosting a similar gathering in our area (Blacktown).

As a connection point for many community services, I think we can play a role in deepening and reflecting some of the practices in the DV space.

### **No to Violence**

Thanks so much for bringing Wednesday together, a very inspiring day that resonated with me and sung to my own perspectives approaches and beliefs and then took it to another level!

What a privilege to be with Allan and Linda for the day – exceptional thinkers, practitioners and teachers. Thanks for recording it I look forward to having another immersion and sharing with others.

### **Independent Consultant – Communication C-IQ**

Thank you for inviting me! I found the day to be suitably challenging and the question it raised for me as to my role in changing the social impact remains strong. In fact, I attended a breakfast event the next day on workplace civility and an army officer in attendance asked questions that got me thinking, so I'm going to reach out to him. I think the ripple effects from last week will take us all in unexpected directions!