



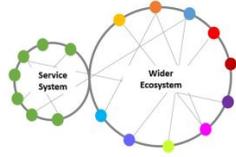
CREATING CONVERSATIONS EVENTS

Resistance, Response and Evidence

July 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 – 31st July 2018

RESISTANCE, RESPONSE & EVIDENCE

- Recognising 'Resistance to Violence'
- Understanding acts of dignity, safety and response.
- Developing new language to understand violence and preserve the integrity of evidence.

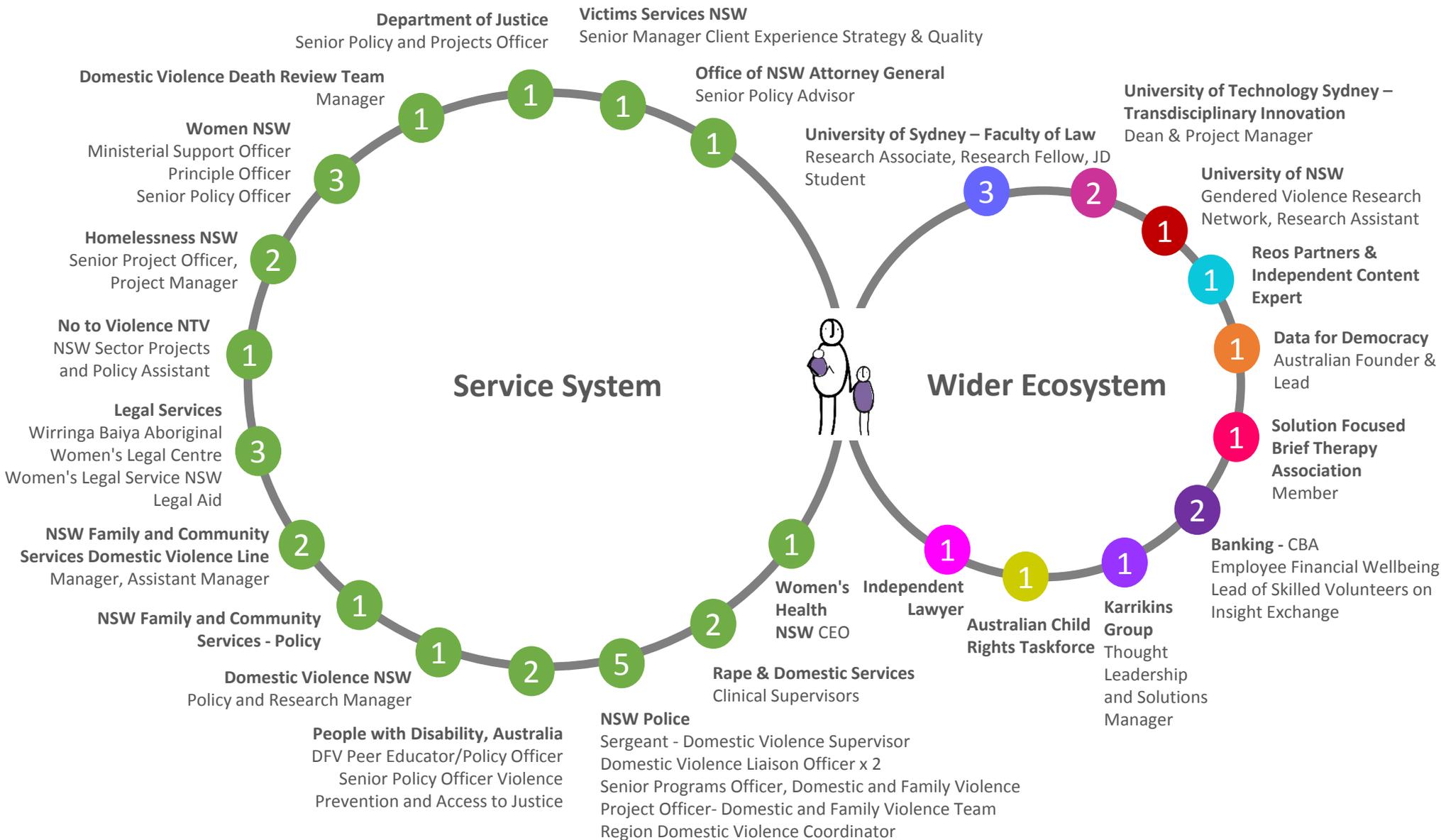
Key Speaker / Facilitator - Dr Allan Wade



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.



HOSTS

2

Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (WDVCAS) Chair & Director

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DVSM | Sightlines Professional Services
GM, Organisational Services Manager, Participation & Engagement Advisor, Project Officer, Sightlines Associate, Volunteer

NSW Police - DFV Team Performance & Program Support Command

“The event and further opportunity to speak 1 on 1 with Dr Allan Wade was an invaluable experience. Not only in the context of my work in the domestic and family violence frontline sector, but in my own way of thinking as it too was challenged and has ultimately changed, in a positive way. The fight, flight or freeze responses have been thrown out of my thinking pattern. I am now able to view an entire puzzle and I completely understand all of the little pieces that are needed to give the whole picture of an incident, without these pieces the whole puzzle cannot be built. It all starts with a simple question ‘How did you respond in that very moment?’

I understand now that a victim’s resistance is an essential part of the fact pattern. Thankyou Allan; victims and survivors of domestic and family violence thankyou for spreading this message.

I am still blown away that such a simple thing is missing in peoples own thought patterns...I can only imagine how victim's dignity would feel threatened with this flight, fight, freeze response 'way of thinking'....I feel ashamed that I did not know this earlier...I feel that I have let people down because I didn't ask more dignity centred questions....I will do so much with this learning... I am forever grateful, thankyou.”

NSW Police - Surry Hills Police Area Command

“I can say I got a lot out of the day, so much so that I have not been able to comprehend it and change it into words.

Mind blowing, relatable, new eyes to see Domestic Violence, great insight to the working mind of victims, great interpersonal skills for speaking with victim, adaptable to all situations, educational for enforcement and a great pleasure to be a part of.”

NSW Police – Sydney City PAC Domestic Violence Liaison Officer

“That the framing of questions and the attitude and pre-programmed concepts of the interviewer can distort the incident/offence and have a negative effect on the victim.

Some simple strategies and refocussing on the strengths of victims could be profound and you don't need to be a trained counsellor to do this. We can do this in our day to day work.”

“It was my pleasure to be part of the conversations. I am grateful to have the opportunity to hear Dr Wade.

In relation to my work I would like to say that the presentation allowed me to think about:

- Considerations for the language we use in creating policy, programs and training for operational police to address interpersonal violence.
- Dignity of the Victim, accuracy of gathering evidence that allows the victim's resistance to violence to be recorded.
- Sensibilities in our engagement with culturally and linguistically diverse members of our community that is ever changing and evolving.
- 'We don't know what we don't know, be prepared to be surprised’.”

“In a busy world, it is a very rare event where I don’t observe an audience habitually checking their phones. This was one of those rare events, which speaks to the engagement of the attendees in Allan’s thought-provoking, practical, challenging, yet sensitive day long presentation.

One week later I am still processing the powerful thinking that this day has evoked, and the potential that he presented for change, and will do so for much longer.”

Commonwealth Bank of Australia

“The thinking Allan introduced us to feels like a paradigm shift - and like the best paradigm shifts, kind of obvious, like it's been hiding in plain sight. Having my eyes opened to the dignity in resistance to violence and the many ways that resistance is ignored, dismissed or papered over was truly a revelation.

Professionally, this will be so important in my work; to ensure I don't simply rail against injustice but celebrate and recognise the strength and savvy of women under extraordinary and often awful circumstances. Context is everything!!

I want to thank Allan for his workshop and also the amazing women he gave due recognition to in the work behind the presentation - such class.”

NSW DV Line x 2

“Very powerful and enlightening – I have taken a breath and realised “everything I needed to know I learnt in Kindergarten” hold my hand, walk with me (at my pace), listen to what I have to say – I may not tell you everything, but how you respond is the key to where my journey could take me.”

“I was really pleased to attend the creating conversations event, there were so many highlights from the day to take away and reflect on how we can start to implement these conversations and frameworks into the frontline telephone conversations we have here on the NSW DV line.

In particular the conversations with victims as to how they have been resilient to violence, understanding from the victim what it means to be safe. It is important we focus on the victim and listen and respond to their needs, not the plans as professionals we develop for victims. Another area particularly important is the way we use language and record information regarding clients we work with on the NSW DV line. It is important we support victims particularly now we are receiving an increase in subpoenas for workers to attend court and for records we keep.”

People with Disability Australia

“The Creating Conversations Event was more than just a thought-provoking and informative event away from the day-to-day business – it was a game-changer in the way it broadened and shifted my understanding and perspective of human nature and our responses to victims of violence and their innate and deeply personal resistance.

The reframing of victims’ responses from pathological to natural expressions of human dignity, self-protection and resurrection had me rethinking my entire personal and professional history working with victims of violence and their innate resistance to oppression of all kinds. All in all, a beautifully delivered heart-opening and mind-expanding experience.”

Rape and Domestic Violence Service - Clinical Supervisor

“Don’t you just love it when someone opens your eyes to “what you didn’t know you didn’t know”. Well that was my experience as I listened to Allan.

It is so vitally important that this event and conversations continue across all dimensions we are involved with as our blindness is constructed according to operations of power.

As Allan said – it is only through conversations that ideas and practice develops. No one person holds authority over an “idea” rather ideas are developed in community.

This has been a fabulous opportunity to deconstruct the operations of power and to then be able to see an even broader context – consciousness raising continues!!!!!!

Many thanks for a very powerful and enlightening experience.”

No to Violence (Peak Body) NSW

“Dr Allan Wade invited me to consider an “ecosystem of context” that could feed into my understanding of an individual woman’s resistance, and her choice to make specific forms of resistance. As someone who works in the realm of DFV perpetrator interventions it is vital that I let those various universes of resistance round out and emphasise the kinds of violence that male perpetrators inflict, and inflict again repeatedly *in response to her resistance*. In this way, DFV is not just a series of violent incidents, but a continual and escalating exertion of coercive control.

On a more personal and level, I learnt how to see and honour resistance in all of its expressions and to validate them those actions with anyone who may disclose to me. In particular, I found it so powerful when I heard the story of one woman who explained her sense of shame was her way of recognising that she could still know right from wrong, and how that set her apart from her father and brother.”

Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre

“Allan made me think about seeing the impact of trauma in a different way.

Allan’s presentation was another good reminder about the power of language, and how we need to change language to re-frame our responses and systems.”

Women's Legal Service NSW

“Thanks very much for the invitation to participate in Creating Conversations with Allan Wade. It was great to hear further about response-based practice and to critically reflect on the use of language.

We will discuss response-based practice further in our work place and reflect upon its application to our work.

Look forward to ongoing conversations.”

UNSW Gendered Violence Research Network

“I thoroughly enjoyed this event. Sal set a sincere and inclusive tone for the day which invited collaboration and shared-learning among participants. It was valuable to have a day dedicated to exploring one engrossing topic in-depth, and having the opportunity to begin to reflect on what it could look like in our own practice contexts.

Dr Wade’s presentation was engaging, thought-provoking and at times challenging. I have already started sharing what I learned about concepts of resistance, dignity, and the importance of language within my networks, and will take it forward in my work.

I look forward to the next Creating Conversations event!”

Child Rights Taskforce

“This event challenged me to find new ways of listening to hear the voice of dignity in other people's experiences.

I sense that if we can all do this in our work, we will be helping to build a world with a stronger commitment to meaningful justice and accountability.”

REOS Partners & Independent Content Expert

“The time with Allan was thought provoking and challenging.

His insight are valuable especially in regards to language, when working with people with lived experience. It drives you to acknowledge their experience through their lens and emotions, not the lens of the listener. In particular to ensure a person’s experience isn’t mutualised to a point that the actual context and emotion is lost.

Finally, the need to ensure the social response to those with lived experience creates generative, powerful and positive outcomes for them, and not the opposite.”

Psychologist - Independent

“The Creating Conversation Event for me was a wonderful way to understand more about the different agencies that collaborate to provide better services to victims of domestic violence. The active encouragement of sharing thoughts and impressions with people in the room was a great way to get to know others in the field and reflecting continuously throughout the day.

Allan combines charm, humour and smarts to present some serious facts and alternative ways of thinking. Listening to him inspired me to want to help more people tell their stories in a different way, a way that also focuses on their resistance to the violence they have experienced.”

Karrikins Group

“Allan’s presentation was powerful and informative, and his illustrative stories and case studies brought the content to life.

Allan’s content on the importance of appropriate and precise language was highly relevant and will be used to inform our writing.

I learned that language which elicits emotion is not necessarily non-objective, and that the use of euphemistic/vague language can not only strip descriptions of their meaning, but be actively harmful.”

“Overall, I thought the workshop was really enlightening.

My research is focused on masculinities and the construction of images of masculinity, so it was really great, and also important to take a look at things from a different perspective.

I can see how asking women about their own actions in a situation can be incredibly empowering and I hope that I can take this approach into my own work.

But also this is something that as a woman I know I will utilise in conversations with my own friends and loved ones.”

Data for Democracy

“Discovering new components of violence with Dr. Wade feels like the start of a new journey. On that path, I can see the resistance behind every human who has been abused in the past and not call them victims anymore but warriors.

It also made me understand the burden and the power of words in situations like those, not only from a legal point of view but also from a psychological and moral angle.

I want to take this as the beginning of new way to look at violence.”

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.

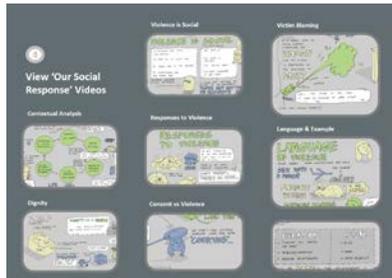
Read the DVSM's definition of [Domestic and Family Violence](#)

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