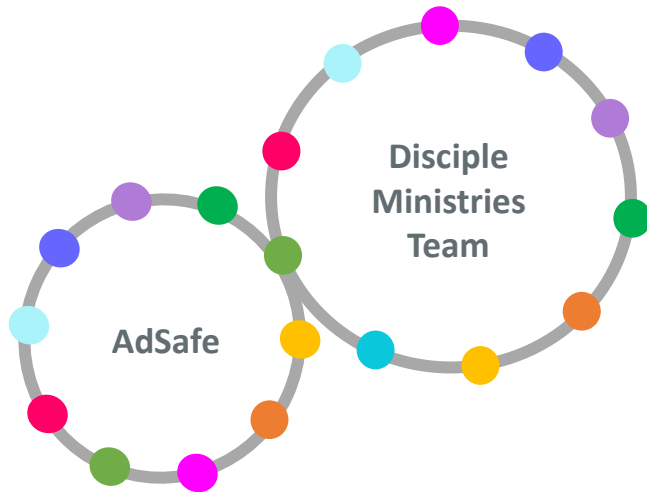


Building on best practice responses to  
Domestic and Family Violence within the  
**Seventh Day Adventist Church**  
**South Pacific Division**



When a person discloses Domestic and Family Violence it may be the first, only or last time they seek support. As such, it is vital the church community response is the best it can be.

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# Creating Conversations Masterclass

In recognition of the important role church communities play in responses to Domestic and Family Violence DVSM Sightlines Team is hosting a Creating Conversations Masterclass for the Seventh Day Adventist Church – South Pacific Division.

Featuring international keynotes **Dr Linda Coates** and **Dr Allan Wade** from the Centre for Response-Based Practice, Canada, participants can take a deeper dive in the ideas and resources hosted on [Insight Exchange](#)

The Masterclass will explore some of these ideas:

- **“Social Responses are the most potent preventative powerful force”** (Coates)
- **“If we get better at addressing violence we get better at almost everything. Because it is at the bottom of so many diverse forms of suffering”** (Wade)
- **“In the most abject and horrible circumstance – how is it that people retain dignity, and preserve dignity and the dignity of one another?”** (Wade)
- **“The problem of violence is inextricably linked to the problem of representation.”** (Coates/Wade)

## Event Details:

**Date:** Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019

**Time:** Doors Open 8:30 | Session 9am – 3pm (light lunch provided)

**Venue:** Fox Valley Community Centre  
183a Fox Valley Road, Wahroonga NSW 2076  
(enter via main entrance of the Sydney Adventist Hospital)

**Parking:** Parking is available at no cost, next to and adjacent to (behind the Wahroonga Adventist School) the Fox Valley Community Centre.

**Places are limited and bookings are essential. [Book Here.](#)**

We look forward to meeting with you in person,  
The Sightlines Team - Domestic Violence Service Management

### Zoom:

Attendance by Zoom is available to any staff who are interested in participating and cannot be in Sydney on the date. Please follow the booking link and specify that you will be using zoom. Zoom details will be provided to you in the week prior to the event.

## Why is building awareness and improving responses important?

“Despite the challenges experienced in faith-based responses to family violence, faith settings are an integral part of the community response to family violence. Faith leaders and organisations have direct and influential contact with many members of the...community, and their guidance and intervention are often sought when family violence is being experienced.

The trust communities have in their faith leaders enables these leaders to play an important role in educating communities about family violence, reinforcing community standards in relation to respect, dignity and non-violence, and providing practical advice and assistance to people in need.”

The Royal Commission into Family Violence  
Vol 5 Faith Communities

## Creating Conversations Masterclass – Keynote Speakers

### 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.