

Creating Conversations Masterclass with Dr Linda Coates and Dr Allan Wade - Founding members of the Centre for Response-Based Practice, Canada)

CROSS-CONTEXT: REPURPOSING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

This masterclass was funded by Domestic Violence Service Management (DVSM) as an [Insight Exchange](#) initiative. Insight Exchange centres on the expertise of people with lived experiences of violence and gives voice to these experiences. It is designed to inform and strengthen social, service and systemic responses to Domestic and Family Violence

ATTENDEES - MARCH 2019

105 Individuals from 43 different organisations/contexts

83% attendees had not attended a Creating Conversations Event or Masterclass previously.
13% attendees attended in their own time outside of work hours.

Role	Organisation/Context
Senior Practice Support Officer	ABSEC
Senior Practice Support Officer	ABSEC
Consultant	An overseas organisation
Coordinator	Blue Mountains Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service
Team Leader	Bonnie Support Services
Domestic Violence Counsellor	Caringbah Community Health - The Parenting Place, NSW Health
DV Counsellor	Caringbah Community Health - The Parenting Place, NSW Health
Family and Relationships Counsellor	Catholic Care
Family Relationship counsellor	CatholicCare Social Services
Manager Family Relationship Services	CatholicCare Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains
Program Manager	Community Restorative Centre - Miranda Project (Co-located with Penrith Women's Health Centre)
Caseworker	Community Restorative centre (Miranda Project)
Integrated Domestic and Family Violence Specialist	Core Community Services
Community Development & Policy Officer	CORE Community Services
Principal Advisor Women Offenders	Corrective Services NSW
Principal Manager Aboriginal Strategy & Policy Unit	Corrective Services NSW
Work Placement Third Year UNSW Social Work Student	Corrective Services NSW
Manager Offender Services & Programs	Corrective Services NSW - Dillwynia Correctional Centre
Case worker	Cumberland Women's Health Centre

Role	Organisation/Context
General counsellor	Cumberland Women's Health Centre
Social worker	Department of Human Services
Senior Policy Officer	Department of Justice
Intake and Referral Officer	Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services (Penrith)
Advocacy and Prevention Manager	Domestic Violence NSW
Service Leader	Domestic Violence Service Management
Project Officer	Drug and Alcohol Multicultural Education Centre (DAMEC)
Intern	DV NSW
Voices for Change Project Coordinator	DVNSW
Service Lead	DVSM
Manager	DVSM
Services Lead MOMO	DVSM
First Responder	DVSM
Volunteer sharing lived experience	DVSM
CEO	Health Tech Start Up
Psychologist	Heart Space Manor
Wellness Coach	Heart Space Manor
Consultant & Advocacy	Homelessness NSW
Community Liaison Domestic and Family Violence Manager	Illawarra Women's Health Centre
General Manager	Illawarra Women's Health Centre
Family lawyer	Lapointe Family law
Domestic & Family Violence Specialist	Liberty Domestic & Family Violence Specialist Services
Men's Behaviour Change Specialist	Liberty Domestic & Family Violence Specialist Services
Domestic & Family Violence Specialist	Liberty Domestic & Family Violence Specialist Services
Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Worker	Liberty Domestic & Family Violence Specialist Services
Prevention and Awareness Specialist	Liberty Domestic & Family Violence Specialist Services
Outreach Support Worker	Liberty Domestic & Family Violence Specialist Services
Domestic & family violence support worker	Liberty Domestic & Family Violence Specialist Services
Domestic Violence Specialist	Liberty Domestic & Family Violence Specialist Services
Intake & referral Officer	Local Coordination Point (Western Sydney Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service)
CEO	Lokahi Foundation
Project Manager	MAA National
Case Worker	Macarthur Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service
Caseworker	Macarthur Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service
Someone's Mother Survivor Fighter And Business Development Manager	My Life & Quality Innovation Performance (QIP)
Interest in working in this area	n/a
Domestic Violence Liaison Officer	New South Wales Police Force- Eastern Beaches PAC
NSW Sector Development Manager	No to Violence
Community Liaison Officer Senior Policy Officer	NSW Department of Justice
NSW PF	NSW Police Force
Domestic Violence Liaison Officer - NSW Police	NSW Police Force

Role	Organisation/Context
Domestic Violence Team Leader Sutherland Police Area Command.	NSW Police Force
Team Leader Domestic Violence Team Inner West Police Area Command	NSW Police Force
Northern Region Domestic and Family Violence Coordinator NSW Police Force	NSW Police Force
Court Advocacy Worker	Penrith Women's Health Centre
DVSS Case Manager	Penrith Women's Health Centre
Staying Home Leaving Violence Counsellor	Penrith Women's Health Centre
Child and Family Health - Clinical Nurse Specialist	Primary Integrated and Community Health Child, Youth and Family Services
Counsellor/Child Family Worker	Rosie's Place Inc
Counsellor	Rosie's Place Inc
Counsellor	Rosie's Place Inc
Administrator	Rosie's Place Inc
Counsellor	Rosie's Place Inc
counsellor	Rosie's Place Inc
Service Manager/Counsellor	Rosie's Place Inc
Counsellor	Rosie's Place Inc
student counsellor	Rosie's Place Inc
Family Systemic Practitioner Education	SDN Children's Services
Child and Family Health Nurse	South East Sydney Health District
Nepali Cross Cultural Worker in Maternity and Child & Family Health Services	South East Sydney Health District
Violence, Abuse and Neglect Coordinator SESLHD	South East Sydney Health District
Child Protection Educator	South East Sydney Health District
Safer Pathways Senior Clinician SESLHD	South East Sydney Health District
Nurse Unit Manager	South East Sydney Health District
Social Worker	St George Domestic Violence Service
Social Worker	St George Domestic Violence Service
Domestic violence case manager	Staying Home Leaving Violence at Penrith Women's Health Centre
Safer Pathway Senior Clinician	Sydney Local Health District
Counsellor	Sydney Women's Counselling Centre
Manager/Counsellor	Sydney Women's Counselling Centre
Counsellor / Psychotherapist - Trauma, D&FV, General Mental Health	Sydney Women's Counselling Centre
Specialist Counsellor (Trauma, Gambling Help, General Mental Health, Domestic and Family Violence)	Sydney Womens Counselling Centre
Assistant Manager	Sydney Women's Counselling Centre (SWCC)
Employee Experience Lead	Tabcorp
Business Partnership Manager	Tabcorp Holdings Ltd
invited by DVNSWSM	Volunteer
Lawyer and Researcher	Volunteer DVSM
Case Worker	Waminda, Nowra

Role	Organisation/Context
Intake & Referral Officer	Western Sydney Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services
Counsellor/supervisor at WILMA Womens Health Centre	WILMA Womens Health Centre
Counsellor at Wilma Women's Health Centre	Wilma Women's Health Centre
Counsellor	Women's Centre for Health and Wellbeing Albury-Wodonga INC
CEO	Women's Health NSW
Former NRL Player	

What the session means to me:

Viva la revolution! A fascinating and compelling dive into the history and foundations of current orthodoxy. This really helped me to consolidate some of my thoughts. Every time I get exposed to these ideas I learn more and keep re-evaluating what we do. A great day. Thankyou to all! (DVSM)

This session has given me a model/framework that fits really well to my clients experiences. It also reinforces putting a voice to the whole of women's experiences and to the importance of them identifying their resistance. (Caringbah Community Health - The Parenting Place, NSW Health)

What a wonderful and important opportunity to challenge and reflect on the context of violence. Thankyou! I have much to process! I have loved how this model is based on dignity and respect, and consciously asks us to examine language and power dynamics (esp our own as 'professionals' and deliberate nature of violence. Thankyou. (Caringbah Community Health - The Parenting Place, NSW Health)

Loved the careful unpacking of the historical underpinnings of the cycle of violence and it's inherent pathologising and victim blaming. Reframing the whole notion of 'cycles' into more inter-connected set of circumstances and influences – ever changing. Loved how Allan and Linda took us all on an exploration to view violence from a different perspective that is less isolating and reductionist. (No to Violence)

An opportunity to listen to a new perspective. Insightful day, great presenters. Challenging at times as a lot of what is taught at Uni or institute is critiqued negatively. I currently use the cycle of violence the way it was portrayed today, or the CBT. Thoughts, beliefs – feelings – actions. Looking forward to discussing this more in practice exchange. (Women's Centre for Health and Wellbeing Albury-Wodonga INC)

This session informed me far more about the importance of acknowledging victims' expertise, knowledge and skill in keeping themselves and others safe. I also liked that this session highlighted that perpetrators of violence are the ones who are responsible or violence. (Illawarra Women's Health Centre)

I came into this workshop with an open mind. The idea of sequential behaviour examining and social responses has opened my mind so much more. Interaction terms, language, concepts would be very useful to me in my working with women even in my life or community. The approach to men who have been abusive or violent, with dignity and respect is exactly what I would practice. Watching the clips and reading the materials are very informing. (Community Restorative centre (Miranda Project))

Thankyou for unpacking the importance of resistance. This is really important in the justice system. (Corrective Services NSW)

Thanks again for another day of light-bulb moments and inspiration. Your work fuels the work I seek to do with women in the criminal justice system. (Corrective Services NSW)

The response-based contextual analysis is everything. Thanks for this wonderful new information. (Staying Home Leaving Violence at Penrith Women's Health Centre)

As a lawyer working in Family law (specialist) 1-2 clients who see me have had family violence perpetrated against them or is the perpetrator. We receive no formal training in dealing with these allegations and the discussion to have with victims or perpetrators of violence. This workshop helped with the discussion and how I could assist my client in a positive way. (Lapointe Family Law)

One lightbulb moment for me was that society almost 'blames' the person experiencing violence. Why doesn't the conversation change from 'why doesn't she leave' to 'why doesn't he stop'. (Tabcorp)

It is an absolute pleasure to listen to Dr Linda Coates and Dr Allan Wade on the new language used in justice, social responder, the theory of victim resistance. All of these new challenges to the cycle of violence really make sense. Amazing tips through giving victims the lead and power to decide their journey to survival. (NSW Department of Justice)

I have been working on and perceiving violence in a certain way for years. This session has provided information that has shifted me perspective and how I will now work in the DFV field. This information must be shared and used at all levels of support, intervention and justice. As learnt today, 'quality of social responses best predicts the outcomes' for those needing support. (Department of Justice)

I think it is great that we are looking to work differently. Being well informed and confident to acknowledge all the other content that doesn't fit a model can mean. I was challenged by the content in a positive way, but was grateful for others in the room to acknowledge they were also. (Primary Integrated and Community Health Child, Youth and Family Services)

Profound! Challenging and insightful day. Very disillusioned with the 'cycle of violence' - an excellent deconstruction of the ideas, philosophies and teachings. This day has certainly opened my eyes to violence and how to maintain dignity and respect. (Child and Family Health Nurse – SESLHD)

This opens my eyes to how as a social responder, I can better support someone who I may engage with. It also provides better understanding of possible history of social responses and how this may have impacted victims of violence. It helps to restart practice response to a better way of responding to victims and perpetrators. (DVSM)

This session will set me on a path of discovery and re-thinking how to work with every counselling team – moving from promoting 'learned helplessness' with clients towards 'meaningful resistance stories'. Thankyou to DVSM and in particular the opportunity to access ideas and the richness of Insight Exchange. (CatholicCare Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains)

All the theories and concepts I learned and studied in social work shaken-up and I'm glad I will have to unlearn and re-learn all of these! (Nepali Cross Cultural Worker in Maternity and Child & Family Health Services SESLHD)

Research on animals is applied to women - to me the language used around the victim and the perpetrator was quite confronting and to some extent humiliating and specifically for the women. The session has given me an insight about thinking differently about the resilience the victims develop and how they resist violence in various and different ways. Last but not least how the man is victimised as being an aggressor and women are portrayed as a perpetrator. (DVSM)

From my experience in Palestine, I would say that getting Parliamentary Members involved in this kind of workshop could be very helpful. And because we want our work to reach out to politicians and to get everyone to understand that message. Also explaining the other types of violence may be worth talking about as domestic violence is not always physical. (Consultant – Overseas Organisation)

Eye opening. Emotional – how much harm have I been a part of and how confronting. How do I take this back to change workplace approach? Hopeful, exciting. I have a lot of work to do to replace my models and further understand the analysis and critiques of those models and learn this new way of working with clients, other services, my notes and systems. Grateful to have had the experience. (St George Domestic Violence Service)

So far I have learned some important things; the extent of victim blaming inherent to the DFV cycle, the importance of recognising, honouring and naming resistance, and the different types of resistance including maintaining dignity, values, self-compassion as well as ensuring safety for self, kids and pets. (Wilma Women's Health Centre)

Male violence is purely an act of 'choice'. Women's acts of resistance are often covert and neglected. Women leaving DV isn't always the safest option. This session has challenged me in a positive way. It helped me understand my uneasiness with applying mainstream DV counselling theories that I wasn't entirely convinced with. (Penrith Women's Health Centre)

It's been such a great opportunity to learn and reflect on practice. It has been eye opening in understanding the dominant discourse and viewing the cycle of violence from the lens of violence being interactional, and being mindful of language, and the meaning attached to it. Being here has been extremely helpful and relevant to my work. (Rosie's Place)

Being a young and quite new social worker, this experience has given me the opportunity to look at my practice in a way that I can compare my university studies and thus cater effectively and appropriately to my own work. Today's seminar has given me an informative foundation for my current and future practice as well as an insight into how Social Work as a practice is transforming rapidly and encouraging the empowerment of those effected by DV. (Rosie's Place)

Thankyou Linda and Allan! It has been overwhelmingly inspirational and innovative material and learning. It could be taught mainstream in every university and for all those training to work in helping professions including Doctors, Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Social Workers, Nurses, and Counsellors etc. More broadly this material has the potential to reduce the negative victim blaming attitudes and beliefs that dominate our daily lives. The most challenging part of the day is background material on learned helplessness model – experiments on dogs, but I can see the importance of this and parallels with how the victims are wrongly labelled with this. (Sydney Women's Counselling Centre (SWCC))

Challenging. Awareness. Learning. More questions about where to next, how to change my language and my thinking that will best support victims of violence. (Local Coordination Point (Western Sydney Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service))

It has been such an eye opening experience to hear Linda and Allan's framework. It has challenged my past learnings, which is a good thing and helped me to be more critical and understand/explore new ways of thinking about violence and resistance. (Department of Human Services)

Illuminating!! Shining a light on the innate response-based resistance that resides in all of us and is enacted in the face of abusive experiences – whether people, dogs or rats – it is not recognised in current societal systems. The flaws and lack of contextualisation in the Cycle Theory of Violence model, and trauma informed model and so much more. (Sydney Women's Counselling Centre)

A re-frame and reminder that there are always acts of resistance to be explored and illuminated. This will create empowering conversations that could be life-changing in the field of Domestic and Family Violence. (Sydney Women's Counselling Centre)

Informative, insightful, confronting, thoughtful, alarming, conscious raising. Mindfulness not to disempower women though ideas like “reverse the position from victim to someone who has the power to leave the perpetrator”. Self-amplifying, challenging the ideas - passive versus active, trauma informed. (CatholicCare Social Services)

The thoughts I will be taking with me today are that violence is a deliberate act not due to being out of control. Also the power of resistance that women can have in the face of violence is so hopeful and inspiring. (South Eastern Sydney Local Health District)

The session has helped me to look at the way I currently practice. I want to take this back to my organisation and see how we can change as a whole team. It has been amazingly eye opening! (Bonnie Support Services)

I am embarrassed that I have used cycle of violence in my practice. It seems so obvious now how destructive these practices can be. Thankyou for providing us with the opportunities to re-think all this toxic thinking. (Rosie's Place)

Confirmed but also challenged many of the ideas already held in regard to language and dominant discourses held about people's responses to interpersonal violence. I am motivated to take today's strong themes and reflect on both my practice and how I can influence other colleagues in the field. (Rosie's Place)

Given the session focused on physical domestic violence it was helpful to hear some of the truths and myths highlighted for us to digest. It remains for me to focus on the individuals in therapy, personalise the treatment and never forget that there is no one size fits all. (Heart Space Manor)

It means that I will critically analyse my practice, including the language and theories I use to ensure that my work benefits the people/victims I work for; to improve my social responses. (Rosie's Place)

So powerful, so right, it makes sense! As a society we have so far to go. Thankyou for starting the plight/movement. Response-based practice need to be constantly shared amongst all. This session gave me hope but also knowledge of the impact all responses have and the imperative notion to keep this knowledge at the forefront of practice. (Rosie's Place)

Thankyou Dr Linda and Dr Allan for you're an insightful session and thankyou DVSM for organising this. As a worker in the Domestic Violence field, I have used the cycle of violence theory as part of my practice whether it is during one on one sessions or during information sessions in a group setting. This session is extremely valuable to me as I am much more aware of how inaccurate the model really is. It would be good to focus more on the resistance of a victim against abuse. The response-based contextual analysis seems like an appropriate guidance to explain and highlight resistance. (Core Community Services)

I've had my mind blown today. I am not sure what I know anymore. But while I am trying to process this and re-group, I'll focus on the dignity of women as a guide. I want to keep going with this learning. Thankyou for today. (Safer Pathway Senior Clinician – Sydney Local Health District)

Fantastic day – blew my mind and challenged my thinking and practice enormously! Thankyou! (Child Protection Educator – SESLHD)

This presentation has sparked critical and new ideas and thinking about my work and how I practice, the context we practice within, and the support that can be provided to patients/clients & how this can be improved. (Violence, Abuse and Neglect Coordinator SESLHD)

Valuable analysis of the problematic approach of The Cycle Theory of Violence. Further education on response-based practice an how to convey it effectively. (Health Tech Start Up)

It has been hopeful and refreshing not just soak in a discourse that is dignity and truth focused, especially when the social services system which I work in can be so mired in approached and 'facts' that focus on the problems, mistakes and pathologies of people who are oppressed. (Safer Pathways Senior Clinician SESLHD)

4 Resources from DVSMs [Insight Exchange](#) initiative distributed to all participants:

- [Follow My Lead](#) – an awareness raising resource
 - [Voices of Resistance](#) – one of the 4 narratives of lived experience of Domestic and Family Violence
 - [Voices of Reflection](#) – one of the 4 narratives of lived experience of Domestic and Family Violence
 - [Guide to Selecting a Counsellor](#)
-