

# LITERATURE HIGHLIGHTS

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## Adolescent offenders

**Residential placement of intra-familial adolescent sex offenders** (2006). Grant, J., Thornton, J., & Chamarette, C. Canberra, ACT: Australian Institute of Criminology. <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/tandi2/tandi315.html>

Research suggests that some interventions with young intra-familial sex offenders, such as removing the offender from the family home, may make matters worse for families. What is the best place for young offenders to live while undergoing treatment? This paper discusses risk assessment in adolescent sexual offending, advantages and disadvantages of residential relocation, and implications for treatment. It presents an alternative model to relocation, which was developed in Western Australia.

## Adult survivors

**A capacity building process for women with a history of child sexual abuse** (2006). Van Loon, A., & Kralik, D. *Australian Journal of Primary Health*, 12(2), 167–176.

We report the research process used to promote the capacity of women made homeless by the consequences of addictions to alcohol, drugs or gambling that are considered the result of being sexually abused as children. We aimed to improve the capacity of service providers working with this client group.

**Counselling adult survivors of child sexual abuse** (2006). Sanderson, C. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

"The ... revised and expanded third edition of this ... text provides comprehensive coverage of the theory and practice of counselling survivors of child sexual abuse. Additional new material examines how trauma models explain and describe the impact of CSA, and considers CSA in relation to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other trauma reactions." (Book jacket)

**Outsider-witness practices in developing community with women who have experienced child sexual assault** (2006). Fraser, M. *International Journal of Narrative Therapy & Community Work*(3), 52–58.

The West Street Centre is a community-based service for women and young people who have experienced child sexual assault. As a feminist service, the centre is interested in addressing the issue of child sexual assault in forums beyond the therapy room and therapeutic group programs. It has been committed to finding ways to strengthen the community of women who use the service, as well as the women who work to respond to this issue in the community. Narrative outsider witness practices and a number of other key feminist community development ideas have provided a foundation for the organisation of two community forum days over the last two years. This paper describes these community days and the thinking that informed them. (Journal abstract, edited)

**'Speaking of mothers most': How does the literature portray mothers who have a history of child sexual abuse?** (2006). Breckenridge, J. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 15(2), 57–74.

The way the literature presents mothers who have a history of child sexual abuse is explored. The paper focuses on research that examines the mothers' parenting after the disclosure of their child's sexual abuse. It discusses the intergenerational transmission of risk of child sexual assault, the competency and capacity of mothers with a history of child sexual abuse to parent and support their children, and disclosure and increased stress for non-offending parents.

## At risk groups

**Figuring violence: Women attending abortion clinics** (2006). *DVIRC Quarterly*(2), 34.

Recent studies in the United Kingdom and New Zealand measured the prevalence of family violence reported by women seeking an abortion. These women were found to be at high risk of experiencing violence from intimate partners. This

article summarises the studies' results. (Journal abstract, edited)

**Intimate partner violence in deviant settings: Complex needs of women survivors** (2006). Cooper, L., Anaf, J., & Bowden, M. *Australian Family Physician*, 35(10), 791–794.

Women experiencing intimate violence within deviant settings, including bikie and other gangs and cults, have recently been the focus of research in South Australia. Domestic violence shelters are seeing increasing numbers of these women, who are often involved in high-risk behaviour and or situations that pose significant risk to themselves and any accompanying children. This article provides an overview of the profiles of women and their children escaping intimate partner violence within deviant settings, and the range of complex physical and mental health needs medical practitioners are likely to encounter in these patients. Specific women's histories of ritualised partner abuse, its cultural context, and the resultant physical and mental health issues for these women and their children is discussed. The article provides strategies for practitioners to work with these women and their children to overcome existing barriers to clinical intervention. (Journal abstract, edited)

### Community attitudes

**Big Brother and sexual assault: How far we have come or how far we have to go?** (2006). McKenzie, M., & Salloum, P. *DVIRC Quarterly*(2), 27–33.

A recent incident between housemates on the reality TV show Big Brother has generated heated debate in the community about the dividing line between sexual behaviour and sexual assault. This article looks at public reactions to the incident and what these may reveal about the influence of feminism on young people and on community attitudes. It also discusses the rise of 'raunch' in popular culture and whether this represents a forward or backward step. (Journal abstract)

### Domestic violence

**Taskforce for action on violence within families: The first report** (2006). New Zealand. Ministry of Social Development. Wellington, NZ: Ministry of Social Development. <http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/work-areas/sector-policy/te-rito/taskforce-report-action-on-violence.pdf>

The taskforce for action on violence within families was established in June 2005 to advise the Family Violence Ministerial Team on how to make improvements to the way family violence is addressed, and how to prevent family violence in New Zealand. The initial program of action will focus on leadership, changing attitudes and behaviour, ensuring safety and accountability, and offer effective support services. The next program

of action will have a strong focus on prevention as well as intervention. These plans are detailed in this report.

### Educating adolescents

**Chill Choose Change: Promoting respectful relationships and non-violent problem solving** (2006). White, T., & Hoskin, S. *DVIRC Quarterly*(2), 19–22.

Chill Choose Change is a group program to assist young people to move away from using violence. This article describes the principles and strategies used in the behaviour change groups and discusses some challenges involved in working with young people who use violence. It includes a case study. (Journal abstract, edited)

**Evaluation of the Sexual Offences Awareness Program (SOAP)** (2006). Fletcher, B., Bruce, F., & O'Brien, B. Adelaide, SA: Office of Crime Statistics and Research. [http://www.ocsar.sa.gov.au/docs/evaluation\\_reports/soap.pdf](http://www.ocsar.sa.gov.au/docs/evaluation_reports/soap.pdf)

The Sexual Offences Awareness Program (SOAP) was a school-based pilot initiative, developed between police, community services and local schools. It involved two lesson plans that could be presented by police with teacher support within secondary schools. It aimed to raise young people's awareness of sexual assault and dangerous situations, promote behaviours that would reduce their exposure to potential assaults, and advise them of the rights of and support services for victims of sexual assault. The evaluation was based primarily on pre and post surveys administered to students that measured changes in knowledge, attitudes and behaviours, particularly in relation to parties and events involving alcohol and drug use.

**Ready willing and able: A young person's guide: consent and sexual activity** (2006). Sexual Assault Resource Centre. Education and Training Unit. Subiaco, WA: Sexual Assault Resource Centre. 1 DVD (10 mins) + notes.

This DVD for young people contains information about, and dramatic illustrations of, consent to sexual activity. It gives definitions of consent, sexual assault and sexual abuse, and discusses drink spiking, Internet safety, alcohol and other drugs, date rape and the effects of sexual assault. The accompanying training notes include suggestions for group discussion.

### Educating couples

**The strongest link: The couple: Instructor handbook** (2005). Doub, G., Morante, A., Simile, M., & Simile, E. Parramatta, NSW: Anglicare.

This publication is part of the Family Wellness program, and aims to provide family wellness instructors with additional theory, content and

skills for working with couples. There are six core sessions that include content on communications skills, problem solving, knowing personal values and goals as well as couple goals, money management, intimacy, and paying back the community with the skills learned. Additional lesson plans are included for: stepfamilies, parent and in-law issues, domestic violence; parenting as a couple; new and expectant parents, and separations due to military deployment, business, health or jail.

### Effects of violence

**History of domestic violence and physical health in midlife** (2006). Loxton, D., Schofield, M., Hussain, R., & Mishra, G. *Violence Against Women*, 12(8), 715–731.

Domestic violence has been linked to poorer general health and increased chronic health problems among victims. Data on women aged 45–50 years, taken from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health, were examined for associations between domestic violence and physical health.

**Psychological health in midlife among women who have ever lived with a violent partner or spouse** (2006). Loxton, D., Schofield, M., & Hussain, R. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 21(8), 1092–1107.

The psychological health correlates of domestic violence in mid aged (47–52 years) women were examined. This study, which used data from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health, looked at associations between domestic violence and depression, anxiety and psychological wellbeing. The study found that having ever lived with a violent partner was consistently linked with decreased psychological wellbeing.

### Elder abuse

**Elder abuse** (2006). Westcott, M. Brisbane, Qld: Parliamentary Library, Queensland Parliament. <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/view/publications/documents/research/ResearchBriefs/2006/RBR200623.pdf>

Elder abuse is an act that causes harm to an older person within a relationship of trust. It may take the form of physical, psychological, financial or sexual abuse or neglect. This research brief describes the type of conduct that constitutes elder abuse, provides information about the number of elderly people who suffer abuse, and examines why elder abuse occurs. It then looks at the safeguards that are in place to protect the elderly in Queensland and other Australian jurisdictions – such as through the use of domestic violence laws, guardians, the aged care complaints resolution scheme, spot checks of nursing homes, police checks. It details other measures that have been recommended by various bodies and people to reduce the

incidence of elder abuse – these include mandatory reporting, amendments to the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000 (Qld) to encourage people to report instances of elder abuse, an Older Queenslanders Act, education and further studies.

### Family dispute resolution

**Family dispute resolution: Opportunities, risks and challenges in the new system** (2006). Bickerdike, A. *DVIRC Quarterly*(2), 11–15.

The new emphasis on providing dispute resolution services for separating couples is examined. The article discusses the opportunities of the new system for separating parents, the risks for clients affected by family violence and some of the dilemmas for mediation service providers. It summarises some results of research that examined the use of mediation services. It discusses screening, practices that assist disclosure, assessing the abuser, assessing the victim's capacity to participate, mediation strategies, neutrality, boundaries and limitations of the mediator's role, the need for clear information and the need for containment.

### Homelessness

**The secret life of us: Young homeless women with complex needs** (2006). Graham, M. *Parity*, 19(6), 25–26.

What are the effects of childhood trauma on the likelihood of becoming homeless? This article discusses research that examined symptomatic factors of homelessness for young women, and government responses to homelessness. It looks at sexual assault, engagement in self harm and mental health treatment.

### Law reform

**Family law changes: Privatising family violence** (2006). Alexander, R. *DVIRC Quarterly*(2), 6–10.

Concerns about the impact of the Federal Government's amendments to the Family Law Act on victims of violence are explored. Research on family law has found that the current system has not worked well to protect those affected by family violence or child abuse. This article argues that the reforms will only make the situation worse. It discusses conflicting principles, research on existing problems in family law, problems with equal shared parental responsibility, 'reasonable' grounds to show abuse, a narrow definition of child abuse, punitive measures for false allegations, and Family Relationship Centres.

**Protection orders and family violence** (2006). Oppermann, M., & Bronitt, S. *Legaldate*, 18(3), 6–7.

The way the legal system has treated family violence in the past is discussed. The article then

looks at changes since the 1970s, including the introduction of protection orders. It explains the function of protection orders, how they are obtained, consequences for breach of an order, and possible effects of the use of protection orders.

**Researching family violence** (2005). Winter, R. Hobart, Tas: Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies, University of Tasmania. [http://www.utas.edu.au/tiles/publications\\_and\\_reports/briefing\\_papers/TILES%20BRIEFING\\_June\\_06.pdf](http://www.utas.edu.au/tiles/publications_and_reports/briefing_papers/TILES%20BRIEFING_June_06.pdf)

New family violence legislation was announced in Tasmania in 2005. This paper summarises the changes and the recent research on family violence. The Safe at Home initiative promotes a pro arrest, pro prosecution and pro interventionist approach to family violence and enables victims to access an expanded range of services. The paper looks at the following aspects of Safe at home: the expansion of the use of risk assessment screening tools; reporting issues; mandatory reporting; and risk and surveillance.

**Review of South Australian rape and sexual assault law: Discussion paper** (2006). Chapman, L. Adelaide, SA: Review of SA Rape and Sexual Assault Law, Attorney-General's Office. <http://www.justice.sa.gov.au/publications/RapeLawReformDP.pdf>

The discussion paper addresses the terms of reference relating to rape and sexual assault law. Its role is to encourage discussion in relation to the rape and sexual assault laws in South Australia with a view to possible reform of some of those laws, with comment to be submitted by 14 June 2006. The terms of reference on which the government is seeking comment are as follows: a) The treatment of complainants of sexual offences in the criminal justice system, including their experience of investigative, prosecution and trial procedures and changes to legislation and/or administrative arrangements that would enhance their treatment; b) The elements of sexual offences, the joinder and severance of charges of sexual offences, and the admissibility of evidence (including similar fact and hearsay evidence) in sexual cases; c) Judicial directions to juries in trials of sexual offences, including whether they should be put in a statutory form that reflects contemporary community standards; d) Police authority to remove an alleged perpetrator of domestic violence from the family member's home to prevent ongoing abuse; e) Escalating sanctions against perpetrators of domestic violence where there have been repeated or cumulative breaches of restraint orders; and f) Whether there is a need for a community-based public awareness program on domestic violence laws and the legal boundaries of sexual behaviour. Policy and practice in other jurisdictions is discussed.

**Sentencing snapshot: Sentencing trends for rape in Victoria** (2005). Sentencing Advisory Council. Melbourne, Vic: Sentencing Advisory

Council. [http://www.sentencingcouncil.vic.gov.au/CA256902000FE154/Lookup/SAC\\_PDFs/\\$file/007-Sentencing\\_Trends\\_for\\_Rape\\_in\\_Victoria-Dec-2005.pdf](http://www.sentencingcouncil.vic.gov.au/CA256902000FE154/Lookup/SAC_PDFs/$file/007-Sentencing_Trends_for_Rape_in_Victoria-Dec-2005.pdf)

Sentencing outcomes for the offence of rape, and details of the age and gender of persons sentenced for rape in the Supreme and County Courts of Victoria between 1999–2000 and 2003–04 are summarised. The report includes data on the number of men sentenced and the proportion that received a custodial sentence, sentence types, principal sentences of imprisonment and total effective sentences of imprisonment, non parole periods, age of offender and compensation for victims.

**Time for change** (2006). Carr, J. *Alternative Law Journal*, 31(3), 167–168.

A recent review of Victoria's Crimes (Family Violence) Act found that the civil protection order system often fails to offer protection to women and children who have experienced family violence. This article summarises the issues in the review and the recommendations for change made by the Victorian Law Reform Commission, which has taken a human rights based approach.

### Medical treatment

**Emergency medical response to sexual assault** (2006). The Royal Women's Hospital. Parkville, Vic: ErcMedia, Educational Resource Centre, The Royal Children's Hospital. 1 video (23 min.).

"This video has been produced to assist medical and nursing staff who may be required to respond to a victim/survivor of a recent sexual assault ... [The video] takes the form of a discussion between an emergency department doctor, the Clinical Director of Emergency, a counsellor/advocate from CASA House and a lawyer from the Royal Women's Hospital exploring concerns and questions that may arise ..." (Container jacket)

### Migrant & rural women

**The right to be safe from domestic violence: Immigrant and refugee women in rural Victoria** (2006). Success Works. Melbourne, Vic: Immigrant Women's Domestic Violence Service.

The perceptions and experiences of rural Victorian women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds of the barriers to addressing domestic violence are examined. This report presents the results of focus groups that were held with women and service providers. It identifies action priorities: building relationships, organisational and staff development, a strategic approach to overcoming barriers, provision of information, and joint action.

## Monitoring offenders

**Sex offenders in a risk society: Setting limits on freedom** (2006). Edney, R. *Law Institute Journal*, 80(10), 53–55.

Victoria's Serious Sex Offenders Monitoring Act provides for the control of particular classes of offenders in an effort to reduce risk. This article explains the objective and application of the legislation. It looks at determining an application for an Extended Supervision Order, conditions of the order, and implications of the legislation.

**When is community protection putting the community at risk? Questions arising from International Community Notification Laws in managing sex offenders in the community** (2005). Freeland, J., & William, W. In *Delivering crime prevention: making the evidence work: conference papers*. Canberra, ACT: Australian Institute of Criminology. <http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/2005-cp/freeland.pdf>

Every state in the United States has adopted a law authorising the public access of personal information of convicted sex offenders. Canada has limited adoption of Community Notification Laws (CNL); Australia and the United Kingdom have no CNL but do have sex offender registers. This paper explains what CNL are and examines whether they protect the community. It looks at implications of CNL in a therapeutic context and implications of CNL in a community context.

## Mothers

**Helping mothers move forward: A workbook to help provide assessment and support to the safe carers of children who have been sexually assaulted** (2006). Regan, L. Lyme Regis [England]: Russell House.

"Offering tried and tested approaches for work with safe carers of children who have been sexually abused – principally but not exclusively mothers – this workbook allows you to adapt and evolve its framework during both the investigative and reconvict stages of their individual experiences." (Back cover)

**Mothering through domestic violence** (2006). Radford, L., & Hester, M. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

"Based on findings from six primary research studies carried out by the authors themselves and existing research, this book reveals how undermining mothering – specifically, family courts and social work agencies blaming mothers for their own victimization – plays a key role in locking women into abusive relationships and exacerbating the damage done by domestic violence. A clear conclusion is drawn from the research: that the needs of individual victims should inform risk assessment

and safety planning by welfare practitioners. Case studies are used to explore key issues that should be considered during assessment and planning, such as the psychological impact on children of living in an abusive household; mother and child protection from an abusive partner during court proceedings; and child contact with an abusive parent." (Book jacket)

## Sex trade

**Children in the global sex trade** (2005). Davidson, J. O. C. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press.

"Julia O'Connell Davidson draws attention to the multitude of ways in which children become implicated in the sex trade, and the devastating global political and economic inequalities that underpin their involvement. She sensitively unpicks the relationship between different aspects of the sexual exploitation of children, including trafficking, prostitution and pornography, at the same time challenging popular conceptions of childhood and sexuality." (Book jacket)

## Statistics

**Personal safety survey, Australia, 2005 (reissue)** (2006). Australian Bureau of Statistics. Canberra, ACT: Australian Bureau of Statistics. <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4906.0?OpenDocument>

This publication presents results from the national Personal Safety Survey (PSS) conducted during August to December 2005. Information is about men's and women's experience of physical or sexual assault or threat by male and female perpetrators.

## Training resources

**The wellness way: skills and strengths for families affected by domestic violence: instructor handbook** (2005). Doub, G., Morante, A., Simile, M., & Simile, E. Parramatta, NSW: Anglicare.

This publication is part of the Family Wellness program, and aims to provide family wellness instructors with additional theory, content and skills for working with domestic violence populations. The curriculum is intended for use in prevention courses for families and post treatment courses for survivors and people who abuse. There are twelve sessions covering the following topics: building something better – expectations of the series; modelling health in the family; tool box of abuse – understanding domestic violence; adult relationships built on equality; parents as leaders; parents as models; raising violence free children; belonging in healthy families; change in families; problem solving; breaking the cycle; and recognition and celebration.