

# LITERATURE HIGHLIGHTS

COMPILED BY JOAN KELLEHER, LIBRARIAN

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## Abduction

**Victims of abduction: Patterns and case studies.** (2006). Fitzgerald, J., & People, J. Sydney: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. [http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/bocsar/ll\\_bocsar.nsf/vwFiles/cjb94.pdf/\\$file/cjb94.pdf](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/bocsar/ll_bocsar.nsf/vwFiles/cjb94.pdf/$file/cjb94.pdf)

Police figures suggest that New South Wales has the highest recorded rate of abductions in Australia. This report discusses the circumstances that give rise to reports of abduction or kidnapping in New South Wales. It describes the nature of the 238 offences recorded between January and June 2004, the motivation of offenders, the age and gender of victims, the victim-offender relationship and the victim's experience of physical and sexual violence. Of the 393 cases, 57% of victims were actually abducted, 32% of cases were attempted abductions, and the remaining incidents did not occur or did not fit the definition of abduction or kidnapping.

## Adolescent offender treatment

**GetOverIt!: Facilitator's manual.** (2006). Men and Relationships Program, Lifeline Darling Downs & South West Queensland. Toowoomba, Qld.: Author.

The GetOverIt! program is a 5–6 week community-based intervention group program targeting adolescents who are identified by the youth justice or education systems as exhibiting violent and aggressive behaviours. It promotes healthy family and school relationships and skills for addressing anger and violence. This manual explains the theoretical framework of the program and outlines each session.

## Adolescent offenders

**Treatment of young men who sexually abuse: The involvement of family.** (2006). Boyd, C.

*Family Relationships Quarterly*, 2, 6–8. <http://www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/pubs/newsletter/newsletter2.html#treatment>

Should families be involved in the therapeutic treatment of young people with sexually abusive behaviour? This article considers whether family background contributes to sexually abusive behaviour, given that young men engage in sexually abusive behaviour in a gendered social and cultural context. The article outlines the appropriate level of involvement for family members in the assessment, supervision and treatment of young offenders.

## Adult survivors

**Point last seen: A road to recovery after childhood sexual abuse and domestic violence.** (2006). Hunter, R. Noosa Heads, Qld: Debut Publishing.

The author, a victim of abduction and sexual abuse as a child and of domestic violence as a wife, recounts her experiences, the coping strategies she developed and the path she followed to recovery.

## Depression

**Depression: Women's sadness or high-prevalence disorder?** (2006). Clarke, H. *Australian Social Work*, 59(4), 365–377.

Depression is expected to become one of the world's largest health problems by 2020, with women twice as likely as men to receive this diagnosis. While psychiatry focuses on inherited symptoms and brain chemical deficiencies, psychology stresses individual dysfunctional thinking styles. These practices have reinforced the development of depression as a high-prevalence disorder resulting in the medicalisation of women's depression.

However, is this the only way to understand depression? Women themselves focus on how they have become demoralised by aspects of their lived experience, aspects such as abusive or unsupportive relationships, inadequate housing, financial insecurity and the competing demands of their culturally defined caring roles as women. These are familiar social work issues. Should we understand these women as sick or sad? Women seeking help in dealing with depression often report feeling that they are not listened to or taken seriously by health professionals. In contrast, women who have attended a support group describe feeling accepted and encouraged by the discovery that they are not alone in experiencing these kinds of feelings. The present article examines current ideas about why women may become depressed and then outlines a group-work program, focusing on improving women's emotional wellbeing, that was implemented as an alternative response to depression. (Journal abstract, edited)

### Domestic violence

**Children and domestic violence: A system of safety in clinical practice.** (2006). Cooley, B., & Frazer, C. *Australian Social Work*, 59(4), 462–473.

This paper provides a framework for working with children and families where there are domestic violence and child protection concerns. A model of practice developed by the St George Domestic Violence Counselling Service and the St George Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service in the South East Sydney and Illawarra Health Service is outlined. The paper includes a discussion on a recently developed service agreement between the two services and a case study focusing on a system of safety when working with children. It focuses on the effects of domestic violence on women and children by male perpetrators. The paper does not ignore that men may be victims of domestic violence; however, the authors recognise the gendered nature of domestic violence and the significant number of women and children who experience and live with domestic violence. (Journal abstract, edited)

**Family violence in the United States: Defining, understanding, and combating abuse.** (2005). Hines, D. A., & Malley-Morrison, K. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage Publications.

This book examines all types of family aggression. The book is designed to provoke readers into questioning assumptions, evaluating information,

formulating hypotheses and designing solutions to problems of family violence in the United States. Using an ecological framework, authors Denise A. Hines and Kathleen Malley-Morrison provide a discussion not only of the most well-recognised forms of maltreatment in families, but also of less understood and more controversial issues, such as husband abuse, parent abuse and gay/lesbian abuse. (Book jacket, edited)

**Talking with men who have used violence in intimate relationships: An interview with Tod Augusta-Scott.** (2006). Augusta-Scott, T., & Denborough, D. *International Journal of Narrative Therapy and Community Work*, 4, 23–30.

Tod Augusta-Scott works in Canada with men who have used violence in their intimate relationships. This interview considers a number of key themes in this work, including ways of inviting men to consider the effects of their violence, ways of exploring expressions of shame and remorse, the importance of developing alternative story lines of respect and responsibility, approaches to group work and the use of documentation. Tod also reflects upon his own work practices and performance of masculinity. (Journal abstract, edited)

**Victorian Family Violence Database: Five year report 1999–2004.** (2006). Kirkwood, D., & Diemer, K. Melbourne, Vic: Victorian Community Council Against Violence, Department of Justice. <http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/DOJ+Internet/Home/Crime/Research+and+Statistics/JUSTICE++Victorian+Family+Violence+Database++Five+Year+Report++PDF>

This report is in three parts: part one (30 pages), part 2 (32 pages) and an appendix (163 pages). It outlines the findings from the analysis of family violence incidents reported in Victoria between 1999 and 2004 and recorded on the Victorian Family Violence Database (now administered by the Victims Support Agency in the Department of Justice). It includes data from Victoria Police family violence incident reports, finalised intervention order applications from the Victorian Magistrates' and Children's Courts, and the Victorian Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP). The analysis provides a snapshot of the numbers and characteristics of people accessing these services. The appendix contains information on family violence incidents reported to police and finalised intervention order applications in the Magistrates' and Children's Courts of Victoria, by

the residential Victorian Local Government Area (LGA) for aggrieved family members/victims.

**Violence-induced disability: The consequences of violence against women and children.** (2006). Olle, L. Collingwood, Vic: Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre.

Information on disabilities resulting from domestic violence, including how domestic violence may precipitate disability or further disability, is presented. The paper covers terminology; violence during pregnancy; shaken baby syndrome; indirect violence against children; developmental, learning, behavioural and social disability; violence, unwanted pregnancy and disability; a 'violence and disability' cycle; violence and mental health, post-traumatic stress, depression and anxiety, and eating disorders; violence and acquired brain injury; violence against older women; current federal and Victorian government policy and policy gaps; a specialist service response; community education campaigns; public health campaigns and links to other public policy; and recommendations for further research.

### Gender issues

**Are women as violent as men?** (2006). Hopkinson, S. *Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research Newsletter*, 5(2), 4–8. <http://www.noviolence.com.au/public/newsletters/news18.pdf>

Despite evidence that men commit significantly more domestic violence than women do, there seems to be less and less willingness to accept that domestic violence is a gendered problem. This article looks at evidence from the 2005 Australian Bureau of Statistics' Personal Safety Survey and other studies to clarify this issue. It considers where ideas of gender neutral violence come from and discusses the fathers' rights anti-feminist movement.

**Conversations in groups with women about their experiences of using anger, abuse and violence.** (2006). Sach, J. *International Journal of Narrative Therapy and Community Work*, 4, 32–44.

This paper considers the gendered construction of anger and how women's experiences of using anger, abuse and violence may be shaped by these. It also examines the contribution of difficult life experiences like trauma and abuse in shaping women's anger responses. The article describes an evolving approach to group work

with women that seeks to address some of these complexities. (Journal abstract)

### Intimate partner abuse

**'Intimate' violence against women: When spouses, partners, or lovers attack.** (2006). Lundberg-Love, P. K., & Marmion, S. L. Westport, Conn.: Praeger.

In this concise work, a team of writers examines the emotional, physical and sexual abuse of women. They explain the risk factors for becoming a target of 'intimate' abuse, including the effects of class and culture on this type of violence. They look at potential legal issues and explore effective treatments for recovery. (Book jacket)

### Law reform

**Family law dispute resolution: The implications for victims of violence.** (2006). Kirkwood, D. *DVIRC Quarterly*, 4, 16–23.

What issues does the introduction of dispute resolution for separating couples raise for cases involving family violence? This article looks at arrangements for screening for family violence cases in the new family law system, the conflict between traditional principles of mediation and compulsory mediation under the new system, the financial implications of parenting agreements, the potential benefits and disadvantages of dispute resolution, and concerns about dispute resolution in cases involving family violence.

**Sexual assault procedures change.** (2006). Victorian Law Reform Commission. *Law Institute Journal*, 80(12), 84.

The Victorian Government has recently implemented several recommendations made by the Victorian Law Reform Commission for legislative reform in the area of sexual assault. These include improved police responses, improved court efficiency, training for prosecutors and judges, and prevention programs within the Department of Justice and Department of Human Services.

### Legal issues

**Seeking safety, needing support: A report on support requirements for women experiencing domestic violence and accessing the Family Court.** (2006). Tinning, B. Townsville, Qld: Sera's Women's Shelter.

Women coming into contact with the Family Court in Townsville as a result of family violence were interviewed about their experiences of the court system. This report presents the findings of the study, showing that the support needs of women who are separating from an abusive partner are different from those of other separating couples in the court system. It recommends the development of a support program for such women.

### Offender treatment

**Responding to men's violence: An interview with Nancy Gray.** (2006). Gray, N., & Denborough, D. *International Journal of Narrative Therapy and Community Work*, 4, 3–14

In their work with men who have enacted violence against their partners, a team of workers at New Start in Halifax, Canada, draws upon the metaphor of 'migration of identity' to assist men to move away from violence and domination and towards different forms of masculinity. This interview describes some of the key ideas that inform their work. It conveys how the migration of identity map and the reauthoring conversations map can be put to work with men who are violent. It also conveys some of the unexpected discoveries that emerge as a result. (Journal abstract, edited)

### Police role

**Domestic violence: Improving police practice.** (2006). New South Wales Ombudsman. Sydney, NSW: NSW Ombudsman. <http://www.nswombudsman.nsw.gov.au/publication/PDF/specialreport/DV%20Improving%20police%20practice%20dec%202006.pdf>

These recommendations, the result of an examination of policing in New South Wales, are targeted at enhancing the policing and prevention of domestic violence. The report focuses on enhanced support for victims of domestic violence; better cooperation between NSW Police and other agencies, especially the Department of Community Services and local courts; and more effective frontline policing responses. It discusses the incidence of domestic violence in NSW, the legislative framework, the role of police, how police currently respond to domestic violence, police officers' views about responding to domestic violence, service providers' views about how police respond to domestic violence, Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders, Domestic Violence Liaison Officers, the court

system, child protection, the need for an effective interagency response, family and domestic violence in Aboriginal communities, domestic violence training for police, frontline policing strategies for responding to domestic violence, and achieving a comprehensive response to domestic violence.

**Lessons learned from the Domestic Violence Enforcement Campaigns 2006.** (2006). Police and Crime Standards Directorate. [London]: Home Office. <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/Domestic-Violence-10731.pdf>

This report outlines the findings of research conducted by police forces in England and Wales during two Domestic Violence Enforcement Campaigns carried out in February/March and June/July 2006. The campaigns were designed to improve police performance in gathering evidence, enforcing the law, and increasing the number of offenders brought to justice. Results were encouraging in that, during the second campaign, offenders were more likely to be charged rather than cautioned, and there was a reduction in the number of 'no further action' and 'bail over four weeks' outcomes. The second campaign, which was timed to coincide with the FIFA World Cup finals, indicated a strong link between sporting events, alcohol consumption and reports of domestic violence. The report recommends that police and other agencies be aware of this connection, and factor it into their planning for such events.

### Prevention programs

**Developing ethical sexual lives: Young people, sex and sexual assault prevention.** (2006). Carmody, M., & Willis, K. Drummoyne, NSW: NSW Rape Crisis Centre.

A three-year joint project by the University of Western Sydney and NSW Rape Crisis Centre, from July 2005 to June 2008, focuses on promoting ethical non-violent relationships between young women and men. This report on Stage 1 of the project contains the literature review, describes the research methodology, and presents and discusses the quantitative and qualitative findings of interviews with a sample of young women and men from three metropolitan areas and three regional towns in New South Wales. The interviews focused on how young people negotiate sexual intimacy and how they make decisions about having sex or not and

with whom, and what influences their decision-making.

**Sexual violence and the spectrum of prevention.** (2006). Davis, R., Parks, L. F., & Cohen, L. Enola, Penn.: National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

'This article describes a primary prevention approach to addressing sexual violence. Sexual violence is a learned behavior that can not be learned in the first place. In other words, sexual violence is preventable. Grounded in the belief that a single individual or sector cannot address the problem alone, it explores the conditions that create environments in which sexual violence occurs, and provides a tool, the Spectrum of Prevention, for effectively developing a comprehensive prevention strategy. It is designed for advocates, practitioners, and educators who are interested in advancing a community solution to preventing what is unacceptable, yet all too common—sexual violence.' (p. 3)

## Rape

**Real rape: Help for women sexually assaulted by male partners.** (2006). McOrmond-Plummer, L. *DVIRC Quarterly*, 4, 11–15.

Women who are raped by their partners are often not recognised as victims of a crime. This article describes the author's experiences of sexual assault by a partner, and the impact of common myths that this is not 'real' rape. The article summarises the research on the prevalence of partner rape, outlines some of the problems with current service responses and describes a book the author wrote for women raped by partners. (Journal abstract, edited)

## Recidivism

**High-risk offenders: Post sentence supervision and detention: Discussion and options paper.** (2007). Victoria. Sentencing Advisory Council. Melbourne, Vic: Sentencing Advisory Council. [http://www.sentencingcouncil.vic.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/Sentencing+Council/resources/file/eba90107f6f1edf/High\\_Risk\\_Offenders\\_Dis-Opt\\_Paper.pdf](http://www.sentencingcouncil.vic.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/Sentencing+Council/resources/file/eba90107f6f1edf/High_Risk_Offenders_Dis-Opt_Paper.pdf)

This discussion paper considers whether a continuing detention scheme for high-risk offenders should be introduced in Victoria. It is intended for use with offenders who have reached the end of their sentence but are still considered dangerous, such as sex offenders and

violent offenders. The paper discusses the legal and moral bases of these schemes, and how such a scheme might operate, and examines examples of similar schemes in other Australian states, New Zealand, Canada and the United Kingdom.

**Is risk management enough? Approach and avoidance goals in the treatment of sex offenders.** (2006). Eccleston, L., & Ward, T. In R. Wortley & S. Smallbone (Eds.), *Situational prevention of child sexual abuse* (Crime Prevention Studies vol. 19, pp. 223–250). Monsey, NY, USA: Criminal Justice Press.

This chapter reviews situational theories of offending and the risk management approach to sexual offending. Standard approaches to rehabilitation and treatment focus on changing internal implicit theories and controlling external situational conditions. The chapter argues that treatment places too much emphasis on avoidance goals and negative goods in the environment, and suggests that it would be more productive to strike a balance between risk management and need fulfilment. It proposes a 'good lives model' in which sexual offenders are equipped with internal and external conditions to secure primary goods in adaptive ways that reduce their situational risk of offending.

**Recidivism of sex offenders research paper.** (2007). Gelb, K. Melbourne, Vic: Sentencing Advisory Council. [http://www.sentencingcouncil.vic.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/Sentencing+Council/resources/file/eb820202da647a8/Recidivism\\_Sex\\_Offenders\\_Research\\_Paper.pdf](http://www.sentencingcouncil.vic.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/Sentencing+Council/resources/file/eb820202da647a8/Recidivism_Sex_Offenders_Research_Paper.pdf)

This research paper focuses on the recidivism of sex offenders and is designed to provide background information to a further discussion paper examining current legal responses in Victoria and other jurisdictions to high-risk offenders. The research paper examines the most recent evidence about whether sex offenders do indeed pose the danger to the community that they are often perceived as posing, discussing the tension between community protection and legal principles. Although they are the least common form of sexual assault, sexual offences committed by strangers have been the priority for policymakers over the years, despite the fact that most sexual offences are committed by ordinary men in the context of everyday relationships. Statistics are provided on the incidence and prevalence of sexual offences in Victoria, and on the nature and costs of

sexual offending. The literature is reviewed to determine what is known about sex offenders and their crimes and to clarify the evidence on levels of recidivism among sex offenders. A brief overview of treatment programs and their efficacy is provided, with a final discussion of the implications of the research evidence for current policy and prevention programs.

### Risk assessment

**Assessing risk for violence in the Australian context.** (2005). Ogloff, J. R. P., & Davis, M. R. In D. W. P. Chappell (Ed.), *Issues in Australian crime and criminal justice* (pp. 301–338). Chatswood, NSW: LexisNexis Butterworths.

The level of risk presented by an individual in the context of the criminal justice system is difficult to determine. This chapter considers the practice of violence risk assessment and looks at areas of contemporary Australian criminal law that may require violence risk assessment. It discusses forensic psychiatric patients, serious offenders and indefinite sentences, the evolution of the accuracy of the assessment of risk for violence, the violence risk factors of mental illness, psychopathy and substance abuse, some violence risk measures or schemes, and risk for violence among sexual offenders.

### Sex offender treatment

**Engaging resistance: Creating partnerships for change in sexual offender treatment.** (2006). Flinton, C. A., & Scholz, R. Oklahoma City, OK: Wood 'N' Barnes Publishing.

*Engaging resistance* explores the manner in which offenders resist change and how this resistance both mirrors and is facilitated by treatment providers, the criminal justice/child welfare systems, and society. The book suggests that resistance at each of these levels creates obstacles to effective partnerships and sustainable interventions. The authors believe that any meaningful change in reducing the vast number of sexual offences will require a multi-system approach that increases client motivation and public awareness and facilitates changes that hold the offender, society and the criminal justice/child welfare systems accountable for reducing sexual offending. (Book jacket, edited)

**Treating sexual offenders: An integrated approach.** (2006). Marshall, W. L., Marshall,

L. E., Serran, G., & Fernandez, Y. M. New York: Routledge.

This book is a comprehensive guide that prepares clinicians, administrators, parole and probation officers, and court officials to effectively treat identified sexual offenders. Focusing on adult males, this essential resource is based on research and clinical activities in prison-based and community-based programs, making it applicable to a variety of settings and with a number of different disorders. (Book jacket, edited)

### Sex offenders

**An investigation into the effective and ethical interviewing of suspected sex offenders.** (2006). Kebbell, M., Hurren, E., & Mazerolle, P. Canberra, ACT: Australian Institute of Criminology. <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/tandi2/tandi327.html>

Sexual assault is less likely to be reported to police than other crimes and, once reported, can be difficult to prosecute successfully. This paper examines ways of increasing the likelihood that guilty offenders will confess during police interviews, thus making it easier to secure more convictions in adult sexual assault cases. Confessions are likely to depend on the credibility of the evidence and the manner in which it is presented to the suspect during the police interview.

**Sexual offending: Victim, gender and sentencing dilemmas.** (2005). Warner, K. In D. Chappell & P. Wilson (Eds.), *Issues in Australian crime and criminal justice* (pp. 233–251). Chatswood, NSW: LexisNexis Butterworths.

What is the impact of gendered notions of sexuality on offender behaviour; the legislative boundaries of sexual offences; the reporting behaviour of victims; and police, prosecution, trial and sentencing processes? This chapter looks at evidence on the incidence and nature of sexual offending, the impact of rape and sexual assault and criminal justice processes on victims, and discusses the effectiveness and the slow nature of rape law reform, moving the risk of misunderstanding from complainant to defendant, and sentencing. It argues that a reduction in the incidence of sexual assault will depend on changes to social attitudes to women, but notes that the law plays an important symbolic role in reinforcing ideas of what is normal in sex and gender roles.

**Victoria's Serious Sex Offenders Monitoring Act 2005: Implications for the accuracy of sex offender risk assessment.** (2006). Wood, M., & Ogloff, J. R. P. *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law*, 13(2), 182–198.

Victoria's new *Serious Sex Offenders Monitoring Act 2005* established a new regime whereby high-risk child sex offenders can receive intensive long-term supervision in the community post-incarceration. This article reviews the nature and purpose of this new sex offender legislation and discusses some of the theoretical, practical and clinical issues in forensic psychiatric and psychological research highlighted by its implementation. The sole focus of the legislation on child sexual offenders implies that these offences are more severe or more recidivistic than other sexual or violent crimes, a contention that is not wholly supported by the literature. Furthermore, research on many of the crimes specified under the Act is limited and many questions remain unanswered regarding our ability to predict sexual recidivism, particularly in legal contexts where the consequences of false predictions are so severe. (Journal abstract, edited)

#### Violence statistics

**Measuring domestic violence and sexual assault: A review of the literature and statistics.** (2006). Phillips, J., & Park, M. (Rev. ed.). Canberra, ACT: Parliamentary Library. <http://www.aph.gov>.

[au/library/intguide/sp/ViolenceAgainstWomen.htm](http://www.aifs.gov.au/library/intguide/sp/ViolenceAgainstWomen.htm)

Major research and studies on violence against women and sexual assault in Australia, and some major international surveys, are summarised. The report presents information on the incidence of violence against women; on whether violence against women is growing in Australia; what proportion of victims know the perpetrator; injuries to women in cases of sexual assault; state and territory comparisons; how many victims access support services; criminal justice system outcomes; women's fear of violence; the economic, social and health costs of violence against women; and at-risk groups.

**Violence against women and men in Australia: What the Personal Safety Survey can and can't tell us.** (2006). Flood, M. *DVIRC Quarterly*, 4, 3–10.

The Personal Safety Survey, a national survey of physical and sexual violence against women and men, has recently been released. Key findings include that rates of violence against women have declined, and that there is a high rate of violence against men. This article discusses the contrast between men's and women's experiences of violence, and raises concerns about the survey's definitions and measurements of violence and the possible misuse of survey data to claim that one-quarter of domestic violence victims are men.

## ACSSA PUBLICATIONS FEEDBACK

ACSSA welcomes any feedback that enables us to better resource the sector and provide accurate information. In this section, and with the writers' permission, we reprint feedback of a substantial nature on our publications, particularly corrections or additions to our published material, in the interest of keeping readers well-informed and up-to-date.

### We invite your views

ACSSA invites readers to discuss the issues raised in our publications through our email discussion list, *ACSSA-Discuss*. *ACSSA-Discuss* is a moderated email list for the discussion of topics of interest to people involved with the sexual assault field. To join *ACSSA-Discuss*, send an email to "majordomo@aifs.gov.au" with the message "subscribe acssa-discuss", and leave the subject line blank. For more information about the ACSSA email discussion group, visit the Mailing Lists page on the ACSSA website at [www.aifs.gov.au/acssa](http://www.aifs.gov.au/acssa).