

Order in the Court! Workers in Support!



Presentation at the
DVCAN 5th State-wide Conference
Cairns October 2005




Domestic Violence in same sex relationships

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Issues from Brisbane 2003 conference

- **Same sex community not aware of inclusion of same sex relationships in DV legislation**
- **Services assisting both women – working with both complainant and perpetrator**
- **Lack of Indigenous same sex information**
- **Services feel manipulated by the perpetrator**

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- **What has changed since 2003?**
 - **How many here have had opportunities to learn about gay & lesbian issues, discrimination & homophobia.**
 - **What have you learnt from recent media reports and programs.**

Violence to lesbians & gay men

Recent NSW report

- **56% of lesbians and gay men had experienced homophobic abuse or violence in the last 12 months.**
- **85% of lesbians and gay men have experienced harassment or violence during their lifetime**
- **1 in 4 report being physically attacked at some time in their life**
- **Because of their sexuality!**

Same sex relationships

- **Happen!**
- **Children**
- **Animals**
- **Lack recognition**
- **Other differences such as ethnicity, culture, age**

Partner abuse in same sex relationships

- **Few official statistics**
- **US research indicates that SSDV occurs at same rate as DSDV**
- **Australia is thought to be the same**

Excuses used by perpetrators of SSDV

- **Blaming partners**
- **alcohol, drugs, stress, overwork, financial problems**
- **illness**
- **HIV status**
- **childhood abuse**
- **previous experiences of racism or homophobia.**

Pressure to stay in relationship

- **To prove that we can have a lasting relationship**
- **Lack of family support**
- **Belief that DV only happens in different sex relationships**
- **Fear of “coming out”**
- **Low self-esteem due to homophobia**
- **Shame**

Other issues in same sex DV

- **Threatening to make reports which would jeopardise child custody, immigration or legal safety**
- **"Outing" or threatening to "out" partner to family, friends, employers**

Sexual orientation

- **Physical & emotional attraction to others – same sex, different sex or both.**
- **Due to homophobia sexuality may be denied**
- **Sexual orientation may change over the years**

EXCUSE ME YOUNG
MAN. I WANT TO KNOW
WHY YOU PEOPLE
ARE LIKE YOU
ARE...



Sexual behaviour

- **How we express ourselves sexually.**
- **Sexual behaviour does not always match our sexual identity or orientation**

Sexual identity

- **How we see ourselves and how we present ourselves to others.**
- **Sexual identity may change over the years**

Homophobia

- **Fear of lesbians, gays, transgender & intersex people**
- **Fear of associating with homosexuals**
- **Feelings of anxiety, disgust, aversion, anger, discomfort, fear**
- **Homophobia has several levels**

Discrimination

- **Assumption that everyone is heterosexual**
- **Proscribed in our laws – ATO, superannuation, inheritance**
- **Same sex DV only recently recognised in legislation – yet recognised for over 30 years**

BECAUSE WE TRULY
CARE, OUR SERVICE IS
OPEN TO EVERYONE...

...EXCEPT DEVIANTS
AND PEOPLE WE DON'T
APPROVE OF...



YEAH, WELL IN THAT
OUTFIT I THINK YOU'RE
FLAUNTING YOUR
IDENTITY!



KENTON
FORGET

SHE'S GOT WHAT MEN WANT!



ROMANCE

PASSION

SEE IT NOW!

BRIDAL

BOYS TROUSERS

FRILLY GIRLS WEAR

I THINK IT'S TERRIBLE! YOU DON'T SEE US GOING ON AND ON ABOUT BEING HETEROSEXUAL!

SAME SEX MARRIAGE BAN TO SAVE TRADITIONAL INSTITUTION



FAMILY SIZE

LOVELY PENNEY

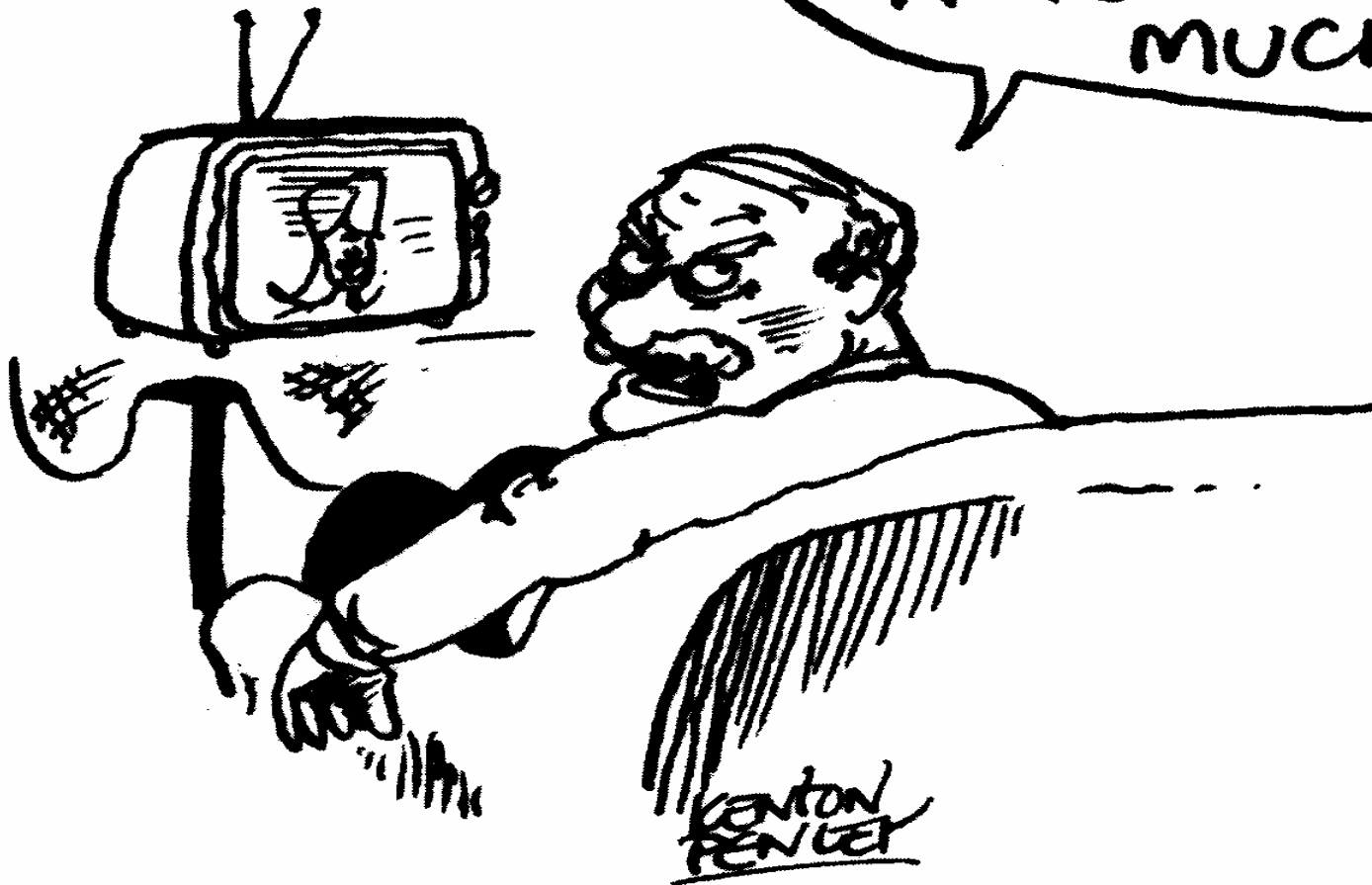


I'M A LESBIAN TOO!



WOMAN'S BLAH A WOMAN'S PLACE
HEY GIRLS! IS HE THE MAN FOR YOU?

IT'S THAT TWO-
HOUR BROADCAST
AGAIN! ISN'T ONCE
A YEAR A BIT
MUCH!?



Repulsion

AND-URGH-WHEN I THINK ABOUT WHAT THOSE PEOPLE DO IN BED... IN GRAPHIC DETAIL... AGAIN AND AGAIN...
...OVER AND OVER....



OF COURSE IF YOU
WERE MARRIED TO STEVE
YOU'D BE QUITE WELCOME
TO BRING HIM... BUT
THAT'S NOT GOING
TO HAPPEN...



Pity

BUT I DO LOVE
YOU DEAR... YOU
CAN'T HELP BEING
BORN DEVIANT...



Tolerance

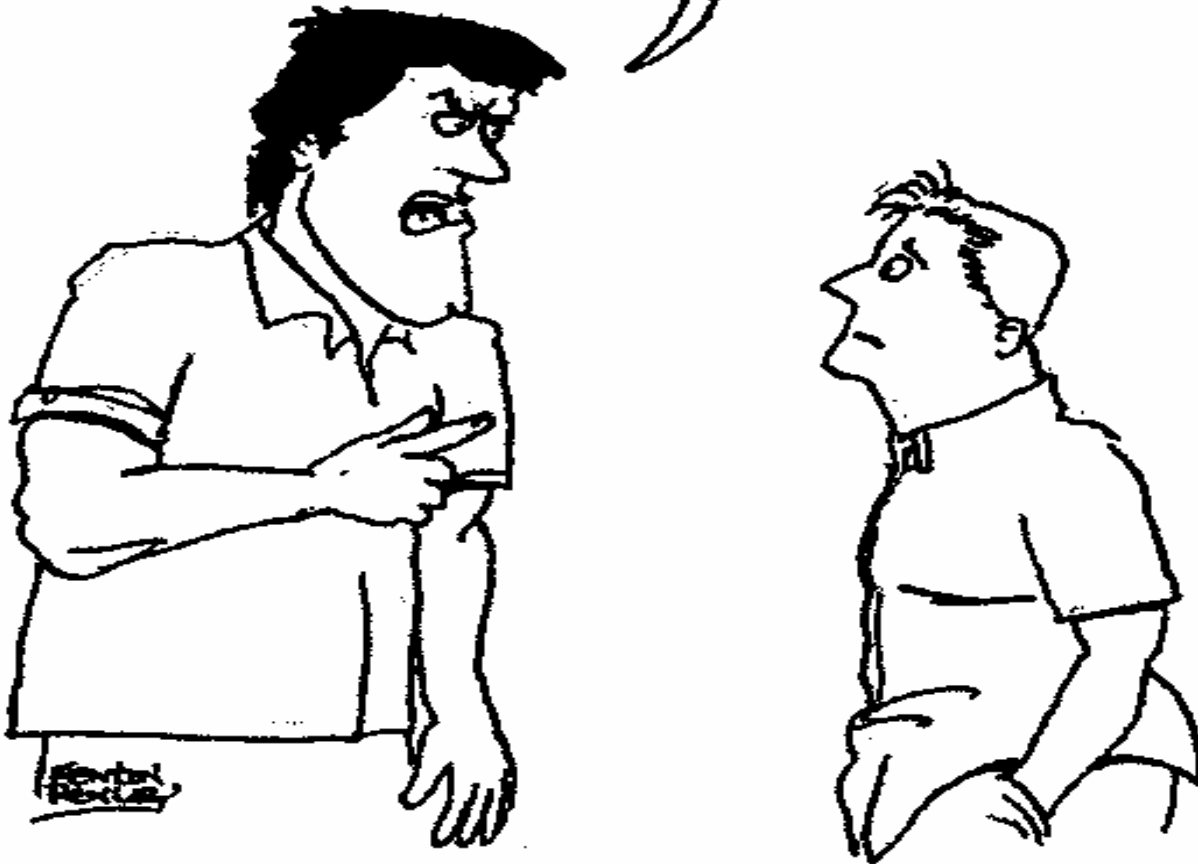


Acceptance



Support

LOOK, WHEN I THINK ABOUT
WHAT YOU PEOPLE DO IN BED
IT MAKES ME FEEL SICK.. BUT
I'LL DEFEND YOUR RIGHT TO
DO IT AND GET A FAIR GO!



Internalised homophobia

- **Self loathing on some level as a result of knowing that some sections of society wish that we did not exist**
- **LGBTI person has internalised negative messages about their sexuality**
- **Can lead to lower expectations of service providers, poor self-care, low expectations of family of origin**

Appreciation

NAH STELLA, THE NEXT ROUND'S ON ME... JUST TO SAY 'THANKS' FOR HOW YOU ADD TO THE LOCAL COLOUR....



Admiration

NO, REALLY JANET... I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW YOU DO ALL THIS AND SOMEHOW COPE WITH BEING A LESBIAN TOO!

I END UP CLOCKING UP LESS LESBIAN HOURS...



KENTON
PENLEY

Nurturing

BUT SIS.. WHEN I SAID
I NEEDED NURTURING,
AS A GAY MAN I DIDN'T
MEAN... AH... THAT'S THE
SPOT!



Myths

- **Myths help to stereotype & hence direct our attitude to a group of people**
- **Myths can be common amongst lesbians & gays**
- **Myths about LGBTI people common in society**
- **Myths help to excuse the abuse or “blame the victim”**

Future

- **What can you do in the next 2 years to make domestic violence services more inclusive?**
- **Are same sex issues included in business plan?**
- **Do you have same-sex appropriate resources available?**
- **What does your waiting room or office say about your service?**