



Order in the Court! Workers in Support!

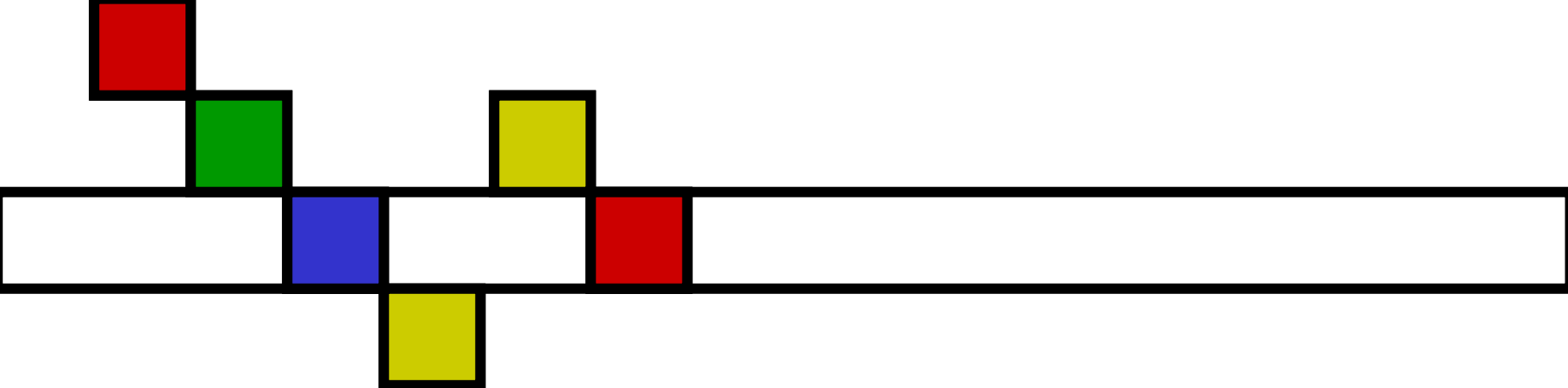


Presentation at the

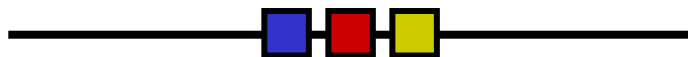
# DVCAN 5th State-wide Conference

## Cairns October 2005





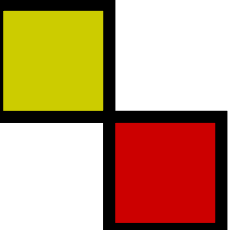
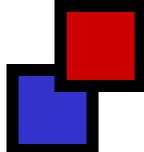
# WORKING WITH PERPETRATORS



Compassionate Collaborative Confrontation

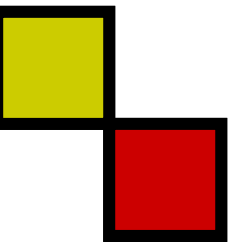
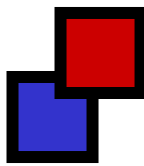


# Hypermasculinity (Mosher & Sirkin)

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- Lack of Empathy
  - Violence as Manly
  - Sexual Callousness
  - High Risk-taking Behaviour
  - To be unlike women, and to be in control
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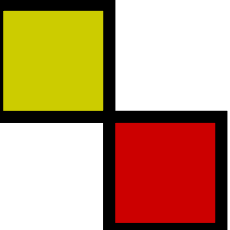
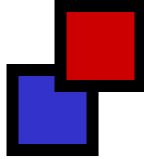
# The Abusive Personality (Dutton, 1995)

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- Shamed and Humiliated by Father/figure
  - Witness/Victim of Domestic Violence
  - Insecure Attachment with Mother
  - PTSD?
- 



# Effective Intervention

*"Can water flow through a pipe and not wet the pipe?"*

- 
- What is 'effective' intervention for men?
  - Can these men change at all?
  - How do we evaluate effectiveness?
  - How do we monitor effectiveness during the program?
  - How long after the program has finished do we monitor effectiveness?
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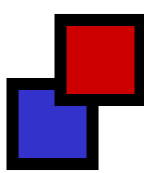
# Research into Effective Intervention

- What if a man does not push or strike his partner but increases his verbal abuse and emotional control?
- What if the man is a non-violent now but his wife (partner) remains deadly fearful of him?
- What if he pushes and shoves, but does not punch or kick now?
- What if the man reports non-violence but his partner has left him and is not accessible to him at present?



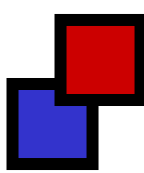
# Research into Effective Intervention

## Bad News and Good News

- Bad news: Most programs can experience high attrition (drop-out) rates within 3 months and drop-outs can tend to have more serious criminal offences, drug and alcohol problems, and anti-social issues
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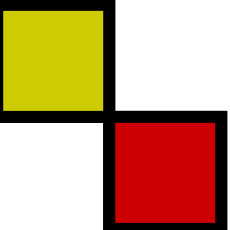
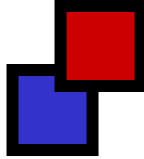


# Research into Effective Intervention

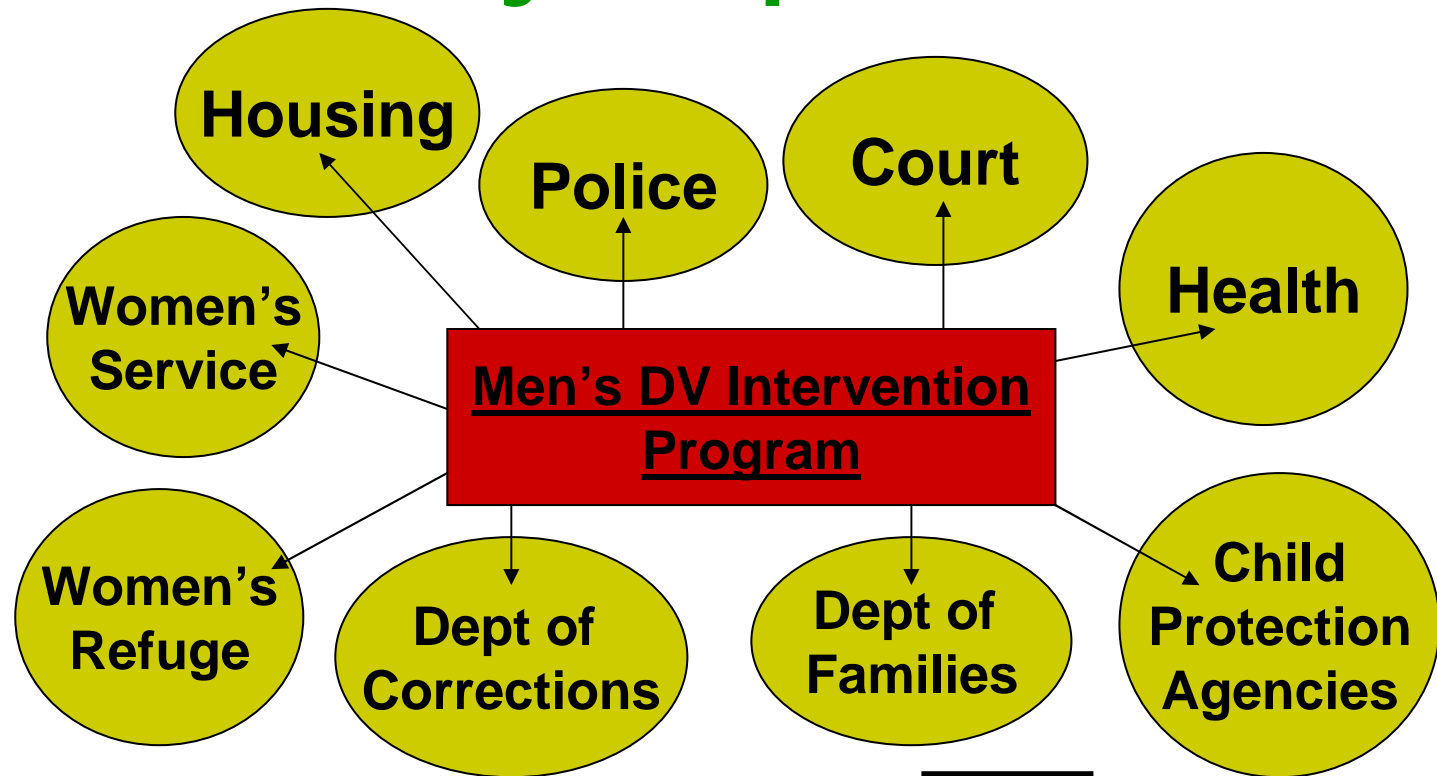
- Good news: Cessation of violence for between about 60%-80% and less verbal abuse (Gondolf, 1997). 2 out of 3 men receiving educational programs involving structure and processing reported not violent by women partners during 6 and 18 month follow up (Edleson & Syers, 1990, 1991).
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# Program Length

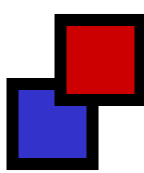
- 
- Comprehensive long-term programs (at least 6 months) with connections to courts, police, corrections, and women's services have better outcomes and lower recidivism rates than short term programs
  - Long term programs have more chance to break through fake-compliance, denial and resistance
  - Challenging and changing abusive beliefs and abusive behaviour is not quick work – it takes time and process
  - Time is needed for men to resocialize and connect with others in the program
  - A more accurate picture of an offender's commitment to change; longer monitoring of attendance, participation, demonstration of learning, and responsibility
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# A Coordinated and Integrated Community Response



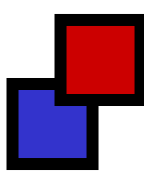


# Benefits of a Coordinated and Integrated Community Response

- Trauma to women and children is measurably reduced
  - Offenders are held more accountable, both legally and therapeutically
  - Better coordination and allocation of community resources
  - More effective decisions regarding case planning
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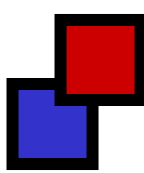


# Benefits of a Coordinated and Integrated Community Response

- Increased multi-disciplinary understanding of each system's role and expertise in responding to domestic violence
  - DV cases are more quickly resolved and off the Court's lists
  - The community's level of understanding and knowledge regarding the impact and dynamics of DV is increased – increased knowledge may increase the chance of community and family safety
  - The continuum of care offered to members of the community is expanded to more fully meet needs
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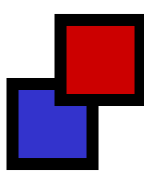
# A Coordinated and Integrated Community Response to DV 1

- NB: Preliminary evidence suggests that program implementation, linkage to courts, victim advocacy and services, police, and community values and norms may be significant factors in determining program outcome and effectiveness
  - Longer term comprehensive coordinated programs (26 weeks at least) = higher rates of change and lower recidivism
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# A Coordinated and Integrated Community Response to DV 2

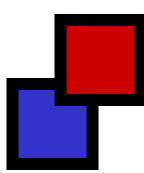
## Key Responsibilities

1. Avoid placing women and children in more danger
  2. Collect information from collateral sources
  3. Evaluate the men – risk and lethality; prior violence; drugs and alcohol; mental health; appropriateness for group intervention
  4. Contact men's spouses/partners – receive feedback from women's services and shelters
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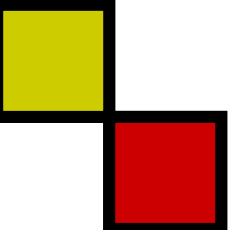
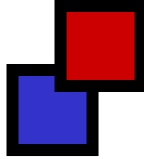
# A Coordinated and Integrated Community Response to DV 3

## Key Responsibilities ctd.

5. Provide compassionate collaborative and confronting learning experience
  6. Provide a structured safe environment with clear limits and consequences
  7. Communicate with courts and police re compliance
  8. Maximise efforts to hold men accountable for violence
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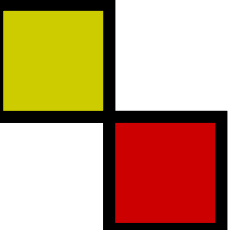
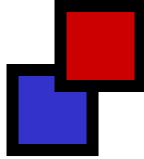


# Group Treatment Effects

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- Dilutes transference and countertransference effects
  - Breaks destructive isolation
  - Maximizes positive reinforcement
  - Offers role modeling that promotes positive re-socialization process
  - Forum for experiencing, exploring, and expressing feelings (Carden, 1994)
  - Chance to break secrecy and silence
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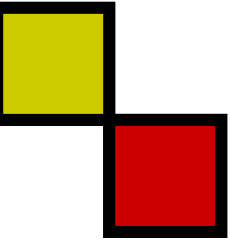
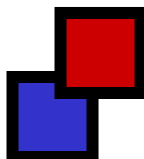


# Stages of Change

- Precontemplation
  - Contemplation
  - Preparation
  - Action
  - Maintenance (Prochaska & DiClemente)
- 
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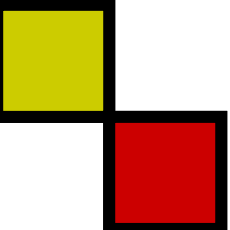
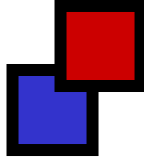


# The Change Process - 1

- 
- Consciousness raising – increasing awareness and about causes, consequences, and cures for the problem
  - Dramatic relief – activating emotional responses from offenders about their current behaviour and beliefs – and the relief that can follow change
  - Environmental re-evaluation – where the offender combines an emotional and cognitive assessment of how his behaviour affects his social environment and relationships and how changing might affect his social environment
- 

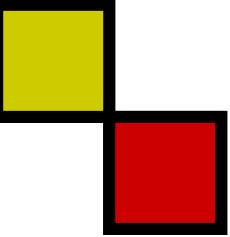
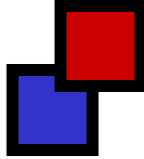


## The Change Process - 2

- 
- Self re-evaluation: What might you be like free of your violence and abuse? How might your life and others be better off?
  - Self-liberation: Motivation and commitment to be free of abuse – What are your choices?
- 

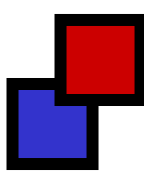


## The Change Process - 3

- 
- Counter-conditioning: Learning healthier alternative to abuse
  - Stimulus control: modifying environment to increase cues to healthier responses: using group to reduce relapse risk
  - Helping relationships: these combine caring, openness, trust and acceptance as well as support for change
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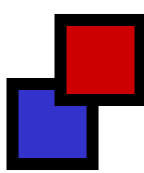


# How Violent Men Change – The Transformative Process 1

- Believing that change is possible
  - Acquiring motivation
  - Pros and Cons of DV
  - Shifting dynamics of change from external constraints (arrest, jail, fines etc) to internal controls (beliefs, attitudes, behaviour rejecting violence)
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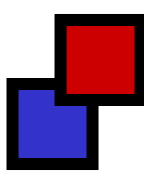


# How Violent Men Change – The Transformative Process 2

- Changing view of self from Object to Subject
  - Adopting new ways of thinking and learning/new skills of talking and listening
  - New skills of dealing with conflict
  - Replacing old discourse supporting violence to new talk that acknowledges harm and rejects abuse
- 



## How Violent Men Change – The Transformative Process 3

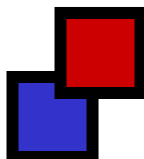
- Accepting responsibility for their actions
  - Learning empathy – awareness of partner as a ‘person’
  - Learning alternatives to violence
  - Changing belief that violence is manly – redefining ideas about masculinity
- 



# Stages of Treatment 1



- Denial

- Of the acts
  - Of premeditation
  - Of responsibility
  - Of seriousness
  - Of internal guilt
  - Of the difficulty of changing
- 



## Stages of Treatment 2

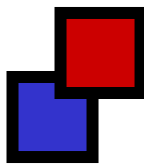
- Resistance
  - Rationalization
  - Justification
  - Blaming victim



# Stages of Treatment 3



- **Acceptance**

- Ownership
  - Responsibility
  - Awareness that intervention is good for me and for others in my life
- 



# Stages of Treatment 4

- 
- **Impact and Understanding**
    - Insight
    - Introspection
    - Growth
    - Relapse prevention
    - Ongoing commitment to change
- 



# Safety and Security for All

## GROUP RULES

### 4 Group Rules

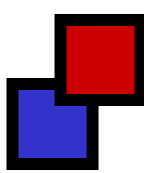
- Be Respectful
- Participate
- Be Responsible
- Be Non-violent



# Safety and Security for All

## GROUP RULES – 1

### Be Respectful

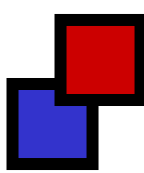
- Use partner's first name please
    - Speak in a calm manner
  - Use respectful non-swearing language
    - Be confidential
  - Ask permission to leave group
- 



# Safety and Security for All

## GROUP RULES 2

### Participate

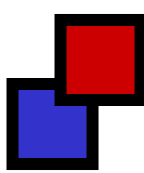
- Be open to new information
    - Do your homework
  - Be involved in group discussion
  - Report your abusiveness to group
  - Help and support each other in change
- 



# Safety and Security for All

## GROUP RULES 3

### **Be Responsible**

- Be on time
  - Attend all sessions
  - Take responsibility for payment
  - Call if you have to miss a session
  - Try out new learned behaviours
  - Be sober and drug free on group day
- 



# Safety and Security for All

## GROUP RULES 4

### **Be Non-Violent**

- Use non-threatening words
  - Use words that do not insult or humiliate
    - Carry and use your safety plan
    - Keep your hands to yourself
  - Remain in your seat until asked to leave
    - Definitely be weapon-free
- 