



Community of Practice – *Working with Male Perpetrators: Good practice and local services*

Central Highlands Integrated Family Violence Committee welcomed a group of 80 attendees to the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute on 19th September 2019 for the sixth in the series of CHIFVC Community of Practice forums: ***Working with Male Perpetrators: Good practice and local services.***

After introductions by **Libby Jewson**, Chair of CHIFVC, **Dr Margaret Kertesz from the University of Melbourne** delivered the keynote address: *'Keeping the Perpetrator Visible: An all of family approach to working with fathers who use violence and control'*.

Margaret's presentation focused on research led by University of Melbourne, including *PATRICIA*, *Invisible Practices*, *STACY*, *STACY with children*, *Fathering Challenges*, *Caring Dads* and *Keeping Safe Together*.

Key considerations for working with fathers who use violence were: build confidence in working with men generally; map the different forms of harm posed by the perpetrator; focus on men's parenting behaviours; prepare for any interview; avoid collusion; and assess behaviour change by asking the woman and children.



The Central Highlands Integrated Family Violence Committee acknowledges the traditional owners of the land we meet and work on and pays our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.



Following on from the keynote, local services which work with male perpetrators gave a brief presentation and led into a panel discussion. Programs and organisations represented included: **Ballarat FV Investigation Unit (VicPol), Child Protection, Specialist FV unit (Ballarat Magistrates' Court), CAFS (Dad's Toolkit, Step Up, Men's Behaviour Change), Caring Dads (Berry Street), Relationships Australia Victoria (Men's Behaviour Change), BADAC Family Violence Program.**



The group then moved into an interactive activity, facilitated by **Michael Brandenburg from No to Violence**. The activity challenged attendees to reflect on their own beliefs and consider how they impact on their engagement and collusion with perpetrators. Groups discussed what engagement and collusion can look like and came up with strategies to incorporate into their practice.

The CHIFVC would like to thank the members of the organising committee and all who made a contribution to the day.

The next Community of Practice event will be held in Ararat. Visit the [CHIFVC news](#) page or [follow us on Twitter](#) for updates about events or email info@chifvc.org.au to be added to our mailing list.

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