

MEDIA RELEASE

Inaugural ACT Violence Prevention Woman of the Year, Mirjana Wilson, seeks focus on perpetrators of domestic violence

“With two weeks until the ACT Budget is released and one week having now passed since the [GAP Analysis Report](#) has been released, I want to remind the ACT Government of the need to focus on the perpetrators of domestic and family violence by providing real platforms for change. Failing to provide appropriate programs available to all perpetrators of domestic and family violence is only putting more people at risk in the long term” says DVCS Executive Director, Mirjana Wilson.

The Gap Analysis Report summarises that “...perpetrator programs and their effectiveness are not given priority in the ACT...” and that “...there are limited programs that work intensively with the whole family, in particular the person using violence...”

Ms Wilson goes on, “There is a lack of available options for early intervention, ongoing and therapeutic support for men who use elements of intimate partner violence, of which many are not physical. The community is well aware of the physical aspect of domestic and family violence, but might be lacking understanding of all the other elements which include emotional, financial, psychological, property damage and technology amongst others. Because of this we are missing the early signs and opportunities to intervene before long term damage is caused to these families.”

“I encourage the ACT Government to appropriately resource the work to provide longer term therapeutic support to men who are at risk of using, or have already used, any element of intimate partner violence, regardless of whether there is already a criminal conviction. How do we go about this? Well, at this time when a woman fears for her safety, we move her (and the children) to a safe place. Wouldn't it be nice for her to stay at home with her children, in an environment they are familiar and comfortable with, close to support networks, schools and familiar infrastructure and move the person at risk of perpetrating violence into a live-in therapeutic support program where he can maintain his employment in the ACT, maintain his own support network and learn, develop and understand how he can better manage himself and his use of intimate partner violence?”

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