



## **Intimate Partner Abuse of Men Position Statement**

This statement is aimed at clarifying MAN's position on family and domestic violence plus provides the context in which the study of intimate partner abuse of men was undertaken.

MAN **says no** to all forms of abuse and violence and has made several submissions on the issue. These, plus other submissions that MAN has made on domestic violence and other issues are available at:

<http://www.man.org.au/AboutMAN/Submissions/tabid/81/Default.aspx>

MAN recognises that men are the main perpetrators of domestic violence.

MAN wishes to build alliances with other organisations that are involved with family and domestic violence. Although this study is concerned with male victims, MAN wishes to also see the effectiveness of male perpetrator programs improved.

In particular, MAN hopes that a united approach can be forged with the various women's support services and organisations to tackle the devastating impact of family and domestic violence on not only women and children, but also men and the broader community.

MAN is opposed to sexism, racism and all forms of discrimination. This is clear from the core values of MAN and the submissions that it has made on a range of issues. The core values, which form part of the vision and mission statement, may be viewed at:

<http://www.man.org.au/AboutMAN/CoreValues/tabid/63/Default.aspx>

MAN has been concerned for many years that male victims of intimate partner abuse are not even recognised as a legitimate client group by many social and community services and their existence, in effect, is denied.

**MAN calls for specialist support services to be provided for male victims of intimate partner abuse and for generic services to improve their engagement with male victims.**

MAN recognises that the services for female victims cannot meet the demand.

MAN is not suggesting that funds should be taken from these services in order to provide services for male victims.

MAN realises that there are no additional funds immediately available, but hopes that existing counselling and support services will promote the fact that they recognise that men are also victims and they are prepared to support them.

MAN worked with the Family and Domestic Violence Unit, to establish a steering committee for the project, with 13 different agencies having been involved. The members of the steering committee are listed in the attachment.

The steering committee prepared the application to Lotterywest, developed the study brief, selected the Psychology Department at Edith Cowan University as the research partner, provided advice to the researchers and input to the final report.

The study did not attempt to quantify the frequency of the occurrence of male victims.

Some people have questioned the validity of the methodology of the study, in particular, the small number of victims who were interviewed in phase one. This was the qualitative phase and after interviewing 15 male victims, saturation was reached. That is, no new themes had been identified by the last few interviews. The researchers deemed that there was no point in continuing to interview more victims as nothing new would be gained.

The results of the survey of 198 service providers are relevant to any agency with an interest in providing services to, or dealing with, males experiencing violence from an intimate female partner.

The full report is available at:

<http://www.man.org.au/Portals/0/docs/Intimate%20Partner%20Abuse%20of%20Men%20Report.pdf>

It was unfortunate, but probably understandable, that the study did not attract Aboriginal, same-sex, CALD men or those under 30 years of age. Further work will be required to investigate the particular situation of men from these groups.

The MAN and Lotterywest Boards are to be congratulated on being prepared to tackle the issue of male victims, which some people consider to be controversial.

The easy course of action would have been to do nothing. However, to ignore the plight of male victims would be in breach of the principles of social justice and human rights.

There was no funding available from any other source for this research. Thank goodness for Lotterywest.

**The major issue that MAN wishes to raise is that male victims are not recognised, believed or assisted by many social and community services.**

The Men's Advisory Network is the peak body for men's health, well-being and other issues affecting men and boys in Western Australia and has a service agreement with and receives funding from the WA Department of Health.

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## Steering Committee Members

- Gary Bryant:** Men's Advisory Network  
**Judith Chernysh:** Family and Domestic Violence Unit, Department for Communities from August 2008  
**David Cain:** Department for Child Protection  
**David Cain:** Same Sex Domestic Abuse Group until September 2007  
**Samuel Dinah:** Aboriginal Legal Service of WA  
**Julie Dixon:** Family and Domestic Violence Unit, Department for Community Development until June 2007  
**Rob Donovan:** Curtin University from July 2007  
**Mark Glasson:** Family and Domestic Violence Unit, Department for Community Development until March 2008  
**Lauren Hancock:** Rockingham-Kwinana Division of General Practice from September 2007 until December 2007 and continuing as a private citizen  
**Dennis Medley:** Crisis Care and Men's Domestic Violence Helpline from January 2008  
**Terry Melvin:** Mensline Australia until July 2007, TL C21 until August 2008 and then Monash University until December 2008  
**Garreth Meeriman:** Curtin University from July 2007 until December 2007  
**Karen Merrin:** Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre  
**Sherrilee Mitchell:** Family and Domestic Violence Unit, Department for Communities from August 2008  
**Vlasta Mitchell:** Fremantle Multicultural Centre Inc  
**Vivian Pillay:** Multicultural Women's Advocacy Unit until September 2008  
**Yolanda Strauss:** DVAS Central from December 2008  
**Matt Tilley:** Crisis Care and Men's Domestic Violence Hotline until December 2007 and Curtin University from January 2008  
**Bree Van De Zuidwind:** Same Sex Domestic Abuse Group from October 2007 until December 2007

The steering committee held the first meeting in May 2007 and unless otherwise indicated those mentioned are still serving on the committee.

## Research Team

- Alfred Allan:** Professor of Psychology, Edith Cowan University  
**Greg Dear:** Senior Lecturer, Edith Cowan University  
**Emily Tilbrook:** PhD candidate and Senior Research Assistant, Edith Cowan University