

## **Project Title - *“How can we increase men’s awareness that family violence has a harmful effect on their children?”***

### **Research Theme – 3 - Service Responses and Interventions**

#### **Objective**

This research aimed to identify evidence-based resources currently being used in men’s behaviour change programs and other similar groups to increase men’s awareness about the possible harms that exposure to family and domestic violence can have on children. The intention was to develop a best practice education module, based on these resources, which could be used in a variety of settings.

#### **Research Setting and Participants**

The research was conducted in Tasmania, Australia. The research engaged with a range of stakeholders ( $n=114$ ) including professionals working in the family and domestic violence sector, or related services, and men who had previously used violence in their relationships.

#### **Method**

The research initially involved a search for evidence-based resources followed by a series of collaborative workshops, focus groups and interviews with stakeholders. Data from these forums were analysed using a thematic analysis approach that informed the development of a project report detailing the research findings.

#### **Results**

The research found it was difficult to assess the evidence-base underpinning most resources identified through initial searches. It was also difficult to access a comprehensive range of resources in the public domain due to the ‘commercial in confidence’ nature of most program course materials.

In response the researchers engaged with stakeholders to identify what they thought was needed to raise awareness of the possible harms to children exposed to family and domestic violence.

Research participants perceived a general lack of awareness about the issue in the wider community and made recommendations for how this could be addressed, including a proposal for a multi-faceted social marketing campaign. Participants also described what they thought should form the basis of any proposed best practice training module developed to raise awareness of the issue among men who use violence in family situations.

## **Conclusions**

Any resources currently being used to raise awareness of the possible harms to children exposed to family and domestic violence in men's behaviour change groups, and any resources proposed for future use, should be subjected to appropriate evaluation processes to determine their effectiveness

Investment needs to be made in increasing broader community awareness about the range of harms that children exposed to family and domestic violence may experience

## **Key words**

Perpetrator Interventions - Children - Contemporary Issues

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## **Learning Objectives**

To increase understanding of issues relating to men's awareness of the possible harms to children exposed to family and domestic violence

To increase understanding of the evidence base underpinning resources currently being used to raise awareness of the issue in men's behaviour change groups

## **Personal Biography**

Dr Peter Lucas is a Research Fellow at the University of Tasmania. His current areas of research include measuring healthcare students knowledge, attitudes and preparedness to manage intimate partner violence patients and empathy levels among healthcare students.

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