Welcome!

Welcome to the first Bulletin from Strategic Partners, the company contracted to undertake the ‘meta-evaluation’ of the Partnerships against Domestic Violence (PADV) for the PADV Taskforce. This Bulletin will be sent to all Partnerships projects to keep everyone up to date with the progress of the evaluation. It will therefore provide an outline of the nature of the project, provide some details on the consultancy team and will also include some of the initial material presented by the consultants to the December meeting of the Partnerships Taskforce. This Bulletin and future such communications will link with the Taskforce’s overall Communication Awareness Strategy, which will include a Web site and a Bulletin or newsletter. The newsletter will also be posted on the OSW website: www.dpmc.gov.au/osw

Meta-Evaluation Objectives

The objectives for the meta-evaluation include:

◆ Bringing together the collective learning that will be gained over the life of the initiative about how better to provide assistance to people affected by domestic violence, and improve strategies to prevent its occurrence. Improving the effectiveness of the intervention and preventing domestic violence from occurring are fundamental;

◆ Informing government decisions regarding future directions for domestic violence policy and program development; and

◆ Satisfying basic accountability requirements for the overall initiatives funded by Partnerships.

The wide range of projects funded under PADV requires a meta evaluation which will incorporate information from three different levels:

◆ the evaluation of national projects identified and developed by the Partnerships Taskforce through Office for the Status of Women;

◆ the evaluation of projects under the auspices of Commonwealth and State/Territory departments; and

◆ the evaluation of the sum of all parts of the initiative.

Meaning or purpose serves as a point of reference. As long as we keep purpose in focus in both our organisational and private lives, we are able to wander through the realms of chaos, make decisions about what actions will be consistent with our purpose, and emerge with a discernible pattern or shape to our lives.

Margaret Wheatley
Meta Evaluation

The concept of meta evaluation warrants some explanation. Meta evaluation is a complex process which is about building a credible body of knowledge greater than the sum of the parts. Individual evaluations done for each project are a rich source of information for a meta analysis which looks at the relationships between findings across various studies. Drawn originally from medical science, and then applied to psychology, meta analysis attempts to find common threads across various research studies and builds theory and knowledge from a range of studies. In the case of the Partnerships evaluation, it will distil the learnings from a number of thematically linked projects. The evaluation will bring together, synthesise and analyse the outcomes and relationships between and across projects. The project will build a body of knowledge that is greater than the sum of the individual parts.

There are four key aspects within a meta evaluation:

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS
- planning and design of tools
- developing mechanisms for data collection
- aggregation of funding on a cumulative basis
- cross comparisons
- developing empirical ‘building blocks’

PROCESS
- developing a national evaluation network
- consulting across projects/jurisdictions
- interchange of ideas - providing a ‘clearing house’ function
- providing an integrative approach

THEORY DEVELOPMENT
- connecting the ‘building blocks’
- identifying what is known and what works
- analysing what is relevant (not all information is relevant)
- identifying:
  - causal relationships
  - gaps in knowledge
  - ‘best’ practice
- problem solving

SOCIAL POLICY INPUT
- answering key questions, including:
  - what does this mean for current practice?
  - what needs to change?
  - how might this occur?
  - who needs to be engaged?
  - what further research/information is required?

Meta evaluations take place within a complex context and address:
- credibility and accountability issues
- economic issues
- values and beliefs
- effectiveness and efficiency

Justice... is so subtle a thing that to interpret it one has only need of a heart.

JOSÉ GARCÍA OLIVER
Evaluation Framework

At the recent Taskforce meeting, the consultants presented, and had confirmed, a ‘meta evaluation framework’ for the project. This framework depicts the overall evaluation methodology, the key tasks, the different types of projects and the project outcomes.

Since when do you have to agree with people to defend them from injustice?

LILLIAN HELLMAN

A tree that can fill the span of a man’s arms grows from a downy tip;

A terrace nine storeys high rises from hodfuls of earth;

A journey of a thousand miles starts from beneath one’s feet.

LAG-TZU
# Evaluation Methodology

## Steps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
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</table>
| 1. Literature Review | Develop evaluation models | + Develop evaluation models  
+ Review current data  
+ Highlight issues |
| 2. Framework Development | Create theoretical foundation | + Create theoretical foundation  
+ Ensure consistency  
+ Build on individual project evaluations  
+ Ensure efficient and effective data design and management |
| 3. Systems Development and Data Collection | Manage collation and analysis of significant amounts of data | + Manage collation and analysis of significant amounts of data |
| 4. Monitoring and Co-ordination of All Evaluations | Establish basis for meta-evaluation | + Establish basis for meta-evaluation  
+ Monitor developments and trends in project evaluations  
+ Feed in data and analysis to overall evaluation framework |
| 5. Process Evaluation | Provide an overview of the entire Partnerships Initiative | + Provide an overview of the entire Partnerships Initiative  
+ Document how the Initiative has been shaped, what took place and the evolution of the Project |
| 6. Identification of Emerging Learnings and Best Practice | Identify what has worked well | + Identify what has worked well  
+ Document the key features of successful projects - 'practice wisdom'  
+ Identify principles and key models to assist future government policy development and decisions and field practice |
| 7. Development of Policy Directions | Identify critical learnings from the entire Initiative | + Identify critical learnings from the entire Initiative  
+ Develop key recommendations for future policy and practice |
| 8. Communication Strategy | Increase communication | + Increase communication  
+ Share learnings  
+ Maintain effective relationships  
+ Build knowledge base |

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Strategic Partners / The Research Centre for Gender Studies, University of South Australia

META EVALUATION OF PARTNERSHIPS AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

February 1999

Bulletin 1
Project Timelines

The project will continue until early in the year 2001. You will note that the consultants will be conducting initial State/Territory and Commonwealth consultations in late February/early March, 1999.

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<tr>
<td>Establishment</td>
<td>Framework development</td>
<td>- Literature review</td>
<td>- Document analysis</td>
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Schedule of State Visits

The first round of State visits are designed to provide a context briefing for the consultants, commence the data gathering exercise and set up contacts between the consultants and the State/ Territory projects.

- 8th February: Brisbane
- 9th / 19th February: Sydney
- 18th February: Melbourne
- 22nd February: Hobart
- 25th February: Canberra
- 1st March: Adelaide
- 2nd March: Perth
- To be advised: Northern Territory
## Summary of Projects

Following is a summary of the currently approved PADV projects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>THEME</th>
<th>Practice</th>
<th>Infrastructure</th>
<th>Research</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Working with children and young people</td>
<td>Early Intervention and Prevention</td>
<td>+ Young Women’s Relationship Pilot Project (F&amp;CS)</td>
<td>+ Young People’s Attitudes to and Experience of DV (NCP/DETYA)</td>
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<td>+ Adolescent Domestic Violence Prevention [NCP]*</td>
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<td>+ Domestic Violence Workshops for Young People (DETYA)*</td>
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<td>+ Working with Adolescent Boys (F&amp;CS)</td>
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<td>+ Relationship Violence Peer Education (SA)</td>
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<td>Practice Infrastructure Research</td>
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<td>+ Relationship Support Services for Men (F&amp;CS)</td>
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<td>+ Training for Agencies Working with Indigenous Women (ATSIC)</td>
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<td>+ Training for Service Delivery (WA)</td>
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<td>+ Training Modules Project [SA]</td>
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<td>+ Recovering from Grief and Trauma for Women (Vic)</td>
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<td>Working with Adults</td>
<td>+ Koori Family Strengthening (Vic)</td>
<td>+ Family Violence Advocacy Project (ATSIC)</td>
<td>+ Review of Programs – Perpetrators of Domestic Violence (NCP)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>+ Working with Families (F&amp;CS)</td>
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<td>+ Consultation Project (SA)</td>
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<td>+ Domestic Violence Education Package for Young People (NT)</td>
<td>+ Website Development (Tas)</td>
<td>+ How Women Survive Domestic Violence (OSW)*</td>
<td>+ Literature Review on Violence in Indigenous Communities (NCP)*</td>
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<td>+ Resources for Multi-cultural Communities Project (SA)</td>
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<td>+ Research to inform the Development of a Communication Strategy – incorporating media strategy and public awareness (National)</td>
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<td>+ Community Action Project (SA)</td>
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<td>+ Communication Strategy (incorporating media strategy and public awareness (National))</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working with the Community – Educating Against Violence</td>
<td>Protection of the Law</td>
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<td>+ Court Mandated Domestic Violence Offender Program (NT)</td>
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<td>+ Indigenous Family Relationships Pilot Project (ATSIC)</td>
<td>+ Domestic and Criminal Violence History of Migration Sponsors (DIMA)</td>
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<td>+ Website Development (Tas)</td>
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<td>+ Resources for Aboriginal Communities (SA)</td>
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<td>+ Development of National Competency Standards (National)</td>
<td>+ Best Practice Intervention for children and young people who witness domestic violence (Qld)</td>
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<td>+ Identifying Family Violence Resource Kit (Vic)</td>
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<td>+ Supporting Children and Young People who have experienced domestic violence (Vic)</td>
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<td>+ Rural and Remote Domestic Violence Initiative (F&amp;CS)</td>
<td>+ Enhancement of Family Violence Protocols (Vic)</td>
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<td>+ Rural Domestic Violence Intervention Projects (NSW)</td>
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<td>+ Aboriginal Family Violence Intervention (WA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural and Remote Communities</td>
<td>Information and Best Practice</td>
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<td>+ Electronic Restraint Order Lodgement and Information Sharing System (Tas)</td>
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<td>+ Regional Multi-cultural Access Projects (WA)</td>
<td>+ Criminal Justice System Interagency Guidelines (NSW)</td>
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<td>+ Domestic Violence in Rural and Remote Communities (C’wealth - will be transferred to Transport &amp; Regional Services)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>+ Evaluation of Coordinated Community Intervention Project (Gippsland) (Vic)</td>
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* = Associated Project. An associated project is one which is closely related to the themes and objectives of Partnerships but is not funded from Partnerships allocation.
Strategic Partners

Strategic Partners Pty Ltd is a national company formed in 1995 by a group of consultants, each with their own successful consulting business in their state. In the last two years Strategic Partners has completed a number of major national projects for the Commonwealth, two in the SAAP sector and three in the youth and family services sectors.

We are undertaking this project in conjunction with the Research Centre for Gender Studies at the University of South Australia. The full consulting team is as follows:

- **Project Manager**: Dr. Tricia Szirom, Director, Strategic Partners Pty Ltd.
- **Communications and Administration Manager**: Russell Jaffe, Director, Strategic Partners Pty Ltd.
- **Donna Chung**, Research Centre for Gender Studies, University of South Australia.
- **Dr. Rhonda Sharp**, Associate Professor, School of International Business; Director, Research Centre for Gender Studies, University of South Australia.
- **Rachel Manley**, Strategic Partners Associate, Perth.
- **Helen Myles**, Strategic Partners Associate, Cairns.
- **Biff Ward**, Strategic Partners Associate, Canberra.
- **Dr. Geoffrey Stuart**, Specialist Research Adviser and Statistician, Melbourne.

**DR TRICIA SZIROM**

Managing Director of Success Works Pty Ltd and a Director of Strategic Partners Pty Ltd, Tricia has had extensive experience in both non-profit and public sector agencies with particular involvement in health, community and organisational issues.

Tricia has considerable experience in this field, being Project Manager for the ‘Criminal Assault in the Home’ Project undertaken by the Women’s Policy Co-ordination Unit in Victoria and having conducted review and planning projects with refuges.

In the past twelve years Dr Szirom has authored/co-authored and published seven books on educational and personal development strategies.

**DONNA CHUNG**

Donna has worked on a range of social research, policy, planning and evaluation projects from the local community level through to national projects.

Donna is an experienced researcher in the area of domestic violence using both qualitative and quantitative methods. She is undertaking doctoral research related to domestic violence in adolescent dating relationships and has recently undertaken research comparing the perceptions of men and women as to the effects of domestic violence on their children.

Donna’s involvement in women’s health services and policy development in SA gives her a strong local working knowledge of the issues for women experiencing domestic violence.

**RUSSELL JAFFE**

Prior to becoming a consultant in 1985, Russell had been a social worker, Family Court counsellor and staff trainer in the health and welfare sector. As a consultant, he conducted major reviews and change projects across the health, welfare and disability sectors, as the New Zealand Social Services were restructured.

Russell’s work in Australia has been in the areas of change management, strategic planning and organisational review, involving contracts with major Government Departments, Local Governments and many community agencies.
Stay in Touch!

For Further information and regular updates on Partnerships Against Domestic Violence and the evaluation, why not visit the website at [www.dpmc.gov.au/OSW](http://www.dpmc.gov.au/OSW)

and click on the PADV logo:

![Partnerships Against Domestic Violence Logo](image)

There are also hot links to other relevant sites related to domestic violence such as National Crime Prevention at [www.ncavac.gov.au](http://www.ncavac.gov.au)

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**CONTACT**

Strategic Partners and the Research Centre for Gender Studies look forward to working with the various project personnel on this evaluation over the next two years.

For any queries, comments or observations, please feel free to call us on (03) 9486 7781 or email us at admin@strategic-partners.com.au

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*The best way to predict the future is to create it now.*

Peter Drucker