

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Respect and violence prevention with men and boys

Professor Moira Carmody, Dr Michael Salter and Dr Geir Henning Presterudstuen of the School of Social Sciences and Psychology, have been awarded funding to investigate the best ways of engaging men and boys in measures to prevent domestic, family and sexual violence. The year-long project, supported by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services, will evaluate world's best practice in violence prevention.

'There are many ways men and boys perform masculinities; they are not one generalised group,' says Professor Carmody. 'Some males live in settings where hyper-masculinity is highly valued and in which violence against women and children and other men is the norm. Other men demonstrate a potential for violence based on factors such as age, socio-economic status, cultural background, and environmental and peer influence. Many other men are respectful and non-violent.'

In the 12 months to September 2012, NSW police recorded more than 30,000 domestic and family violence assaults, about 40 per cent of all calls to police. Domestic Violence NSW says statistics show that for women aged under 45 domestic and family violence is the single greatest cause of death, ill health and disability. The NSW government says its approach to dealing with domestic and family violence is now squarely focused on prevention and early intervention.

Key objectives of this project will be to develop a comprehensive approach to engage men and boys in the prevention of gendered violence. The four-stage study will include a literature review of national and international best practice in violence prevention and early intervention; national consultation with services working with men and boys, including sports groups, youth, community,



faith-based and cultural groups; and recommendations for future action by government to promote best practice prevention.

The framing of the research project recognises the diverse experiences of Australian men and boys. Professor Carmody's research team has experience in gender violence prevention across several disciplines, including sociology, public health, criminology, anthropology and psychology. The team is interested in identifying and promoting the social and cultural foundations of respectful relationships amongst men and boys, and to address issues of social justice. The distribution of the final report, findings and recommendations will be important in building the capacity, knowledge and skill base of the violence prevention sector which is still in its infancy in Australia.

Project Title: Violence Prevention Program Review and Evaluation Study One: Men and Boys' Violence Prevention

Funding has been set at: \$220,000

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