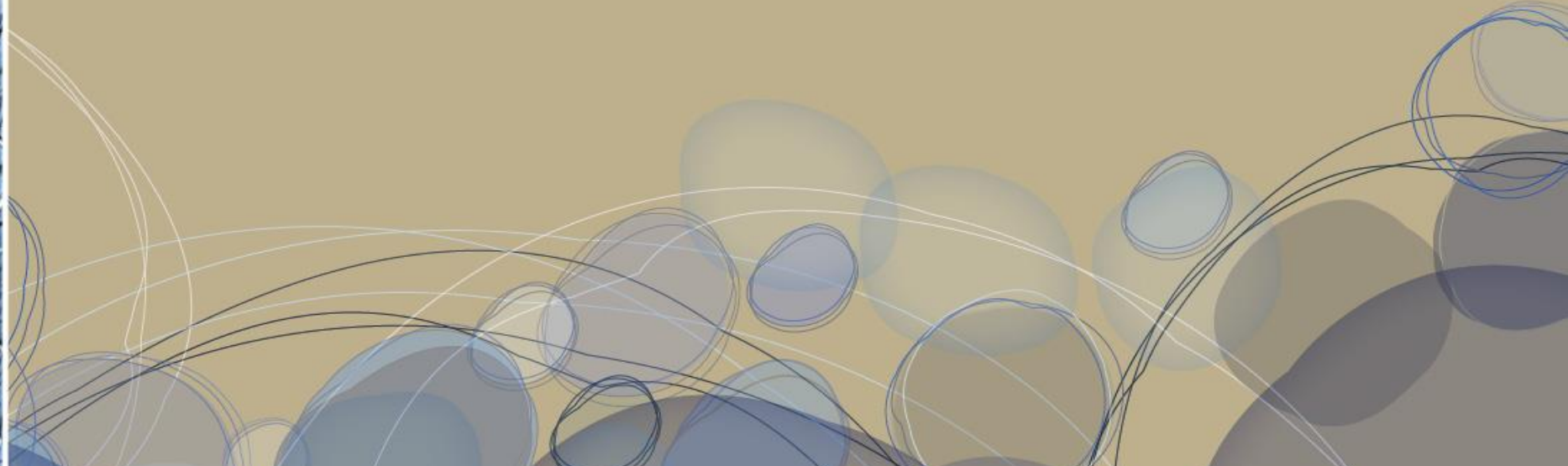




Lessons in Disaster

Gender and Disaster Australia
WEBINAR

Community Legal Centres Queensland



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live and work and pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We understand that Aboriginal sovereignty was never ceded.



Lessons in Disaster: Objectives

- Recognise and address the safety needs of women, men, LGBTIQ+ people and other minority groups in disaster planning, response and recovery.
- Develop strategies for:
 - ✓ Raising awareness of damaging stereotypes and gendered expectations in emergency management settings
 - ✓ Including awareness of family violence and diversity in emergency planning, response and recovery.



About GADAus

- **Intent:** We seek to reduce the risk of gendered harms, including domestic and family violence, in all phases of disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, and in collaboration with communities at risk of disaster, influence improved outcomes.



Lessons in Disaster: Training sessions

SESSION 1

Gender and disaster: The evidence

SESSION 2

The gendered drivers of family violence

SESSION 3

Disaster, gender and diversity

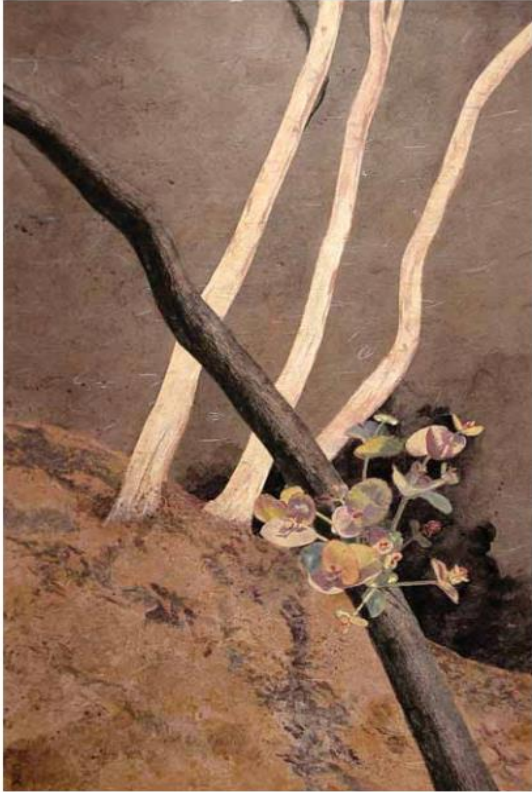
SESSION 4

Working towards change



'The way he tells it ...'

Relationships after Black Saturday



*The Way He Tells It: Relationships after Black Saturday (2011)**

- Seeking help with no positive outcome
- Family members ignored or accused of over-reacting
- Women blamed for not caring well enough for their men
- Health professionals failing to follow up on initial conversations, and willing to drop the issue if the man denied any violence
- Women retracted significant parts of their transcripts due to fear of recrimination from community
- Being passed on to inappropriate services.
- Police did not follow their own Code of Conduct and asked women to 'give it some time'.

* Qualitative research with 47 workers and 30 women affected by the Black Saturday fires in the Mitchell and Murrindindi Shires

Bushfires: Women's experiences of family violence

Women's traditional reluctance to report violence against them was exacerbated in the aftermath of the Black Saturday bushfires.

Parkinson, D. (2011) *The way he tells it: Relationships after Black Saturday*. Women's Health Goulburn North-East, Wangaratta

Qualitative research with 47 workers and 30 women affected by the Black Saturday fires.

'The way he tells it ...'

Relationships after Black Saturday



Men on Black Saturday (2013): What the researchers found

Men on Black Saturday

Risks and opportunities for change



- Disaster impacts can be severe and long-lasting
- Men do talk about their disaster experiences – just ask them
- May be penalised for seeking psychological help
- Employment issues
- Community aggression and male violence increase
- Alcohol abuse, mental health issues and suicide rise
- Gender norms are more salient
- Acceptance of anger but not tears

Bushfires: Men's experiences

Increased pressure on men to conform to rigid, damaging masculine stereotypes during and following disaster i.e. during response and recovery.

Fear of failing to live up to a hyper-masculine ideal during disasters.

Men on Black Saturday

Risks and opportunities for change



Gender, disaster and LGBTQA+ people

Research evidence and lived experience tell us that during disaster response and recovery LGBTQA+ people experience:

- *Disrespect of same-sex relationships and families*
- *Forced 'outing' due to homelessness or damage to 'private spaces' provided by home*
- *Church-based organisations running recovery (often), with exemption from anti-discrimination legislation*
- *Little or no access to dignity/safety in recovery/relief centres*
- *Risk of discrimination and violence.*

Source: Dominey-Howes, D., Gorman-Murray, A., & McKinnon, S. (2018). On the disaster experiences of sexual and gender (LGBTI) minorities : insights to support inclusive disaster risk reduction policy and practice. *Australian Journal Of Emergency Management*, 60-68.



Literature Reviews 2023/24

Current on website:

- ✓ Disability and Disaster Risk Reduction
- ✓ First Nations Gender and Disaster
- ✓ Men, Masculinities and Disaster
- ✓ Rurality and Gender and Disaster

In final stages:

- CALD people, gender and disaster
- Economic impacts of disaster by gender
- Gender diversity and disaster



OUR WATCH – the gendered drivers of violence against women*

1. Condoning of violence against women
2. Men's control of decision-making and limits to women's independence in public and private life
3. Rigid gender stereotyping and dominant forms of masculinity
4. Male peer relations and cultures of masculinity that emphasise aggression, dominance and control

*The gendered drivers are taken from Our Watch(2021). Change the story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women in Australia (2nd ed.). Melbourne, Australia: Our Watch

*



Drivers of violence against women after disasters

1. Increase in existing gender inequalities.
2. Increased pressure to conform to rigid, binary gender stereotypes.
3. Privileging men and their suffering as an excuse for violence.
4. Promotion of unrealistic versions of masculinity and 'male' forms of heroism.

Contributing Factors

- Reduced or no employment
- Grief and loss
- Financial stress
- Homelessness
- Media coverage
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Rebuilding/red tape
- Trauma
- Perceived unfairness

“Violence against women is only the tip of the iceberg,
underneath that exists discrimination of all kinds.”

B. K. Roy, MASVAW member

murder
rape & sexual abuse
physical & emotional abuse

control & threats
leadership barriers
gender pay gap
glass ceiling
degrading language
sexualisation of women
rigid traditional roles
sexist comments
& jokes

gippsland
women's
health

Make the Link

Gender equality
prevents men's violence
against women

Approaches to speaking to a woman about family violence

UNIVERSAL APPROACH

Presenting everyone with an information pack that includes family violence information such as the resource cards. The least invasive way of presenting this is to go through the whole pack and point out all the information.

DIRECT APPROACH

Directly approaching a woman about family violence is not easy. Having a prepared approach can sometimes make this initial contact easier.



disaster is no excuse for family violence

You can help in just 4 steps:

1. **ASK:** Are you safe at home?
2. **NAME IT:** What you've just described to me is violence and it's a crime.
3. **RESPOND:** Give contact details of the local Domestic Violence Service, CASA and Victoria Police.
4. **FOLLOW UP:** 'Last time you spoke about your safety. I'd like to know how you are now.'

www.genderanddisaster.com.au

(Adapted from 'Raped by a Partner')

'She dances on the wind' by Ona Henderson (03) 9712 0393



Gender & Disaster Pod

An initiative of WHGNE, WHIN & MUDRI

Safe Steps 24/7 – 9322 3555 or 1800 015 188. Support, info or referral to safe accom. www.safesteps.org.au

CASA 24/7 – Centres Against Sexual Assault 1800 806 292 www.casa.org.au

Victoria Police – 000

1800RESPECT 24/7 – 1800 737 732 Support for sexual assault, family violence and abuse. www.1800respect.org.au/inclusive-practice/violence-in-times-of-disaster

Yarning Safe'n'Strong 24/7 – 1800 959 563, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and families who need to have a yarn with someone about their wellbeing

Kids Helpline 24/7 – 1800 55 1800 www.kidshelpline.com.au

Men's Helpline 24/7 – 1300 78 99 78 www.mensline.org.au

QLife – 1800 184 527 Anonymous LGBTIQ+ peer support & referral, 3pm – midnight every day. <https://qlife.org.au>

Men's Referral Service 24/7 – 1300 766 491 (Toll Free). www.ntv.org.au

Resources

Postcards

Services

[GADAus](#) training, research and resources

[GEM Guidelines](#)

Disaster Context Sheets

Research Department



Gender and Emergency Management Action Checklist

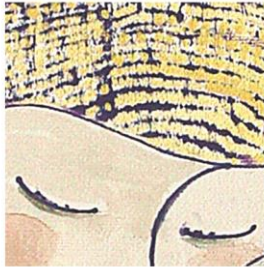
1. Engagement in disaster and EM
2. Planning
3. Workforce development/Training
4. Documentation/Technical
5. Program Design/Resourcing
6. Facility design.

Accessible at

<https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/media/5374/gem-guidelines.pdf>



Thank You



Gender & Disaster Australia

www.genderanddisaster.com.au