

We are working to stop the violence

OUR FOCUS :

- Safety
- Integrated program
- Consistent intervention
- Support and advocacy
- Law reform
- Debriefing

OUR GOALS :

- 1 Safety for all members of the community exposed to violence.
- 2 Develop protocols for all services working against domestic violence.
- 3 Protocols with "dovetail" ensure that appropriate services are provided for all those exposed, involved and affected by domestic violence.
- 4 Monitor the efficiency and effectiveness of the Domestic and Family Violence Act.
- 5 Monitor the domestic and family violence systems.
- 6 Work towards law reform
- 7 Advocate for change.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES:

To meet regularly, exchange information and be committed to the Dovetail philosophy and processes.

To monitor domestic and family violence programs within the Townsville and Thuringowa community.
Program includes; Fax-Back, Court Support and Men's Program.

THE DOVETAIL PHILOSOPHY

Dovetail, a Townsville response to domestic violence, was initiated to ensure that no matter where a person affected by domestic violence first presents, each will have access to the same integrated range of services and these will be the best available.

All agencies dealing with matters of domestic violence, whether it is their primary goal or a small part of their work, agree on the following broad philosophy which is intended to provide the framework for service provision:

- Townsville and Thuringowa community members have a right to live without domestic and family violence.
- All Dovetail participants acknowledge that domestic violence is a crime.
- We agree that our first priority is the safety of at-risk family members and no worker will at any time minimise the victim's experience.
- We acknowledge that men are the predominant perpetrators of violence against women, children and others.
- We accept that there are male victims.

Dovetail recognises the need for perpetrator education programs to encourage men who use violence to take responsibility for their actions, to help them to learn conflict resolution skills that don't involve violence as a response, and to demonstrate that change is possible.

OUR KEY PRINCIPLES:

- Violence in the home is dealt with as a crime.
- The abuser is held accountable for their actions.
- The onus of intervening is shifted from the victim to the community and agencies which deal with domestic violence.
- All agencies involved – police, courts, victim support, social services, probation and abuser education - are integrated and consistent in their approach through coordinated protocol development.
- All systems are monitored to ensure accountability and compliance with policies.

*Violence is a choice.
There are consequences
for this choice.*

We are striving to
STOP THE VIOLENCE
and our commitment to this
is the basis of
dovetail

**Violence is learned
and can be unlearned**

OUR FUTURE VISION:

- Men's programs monitored by the Criminal Justice System.
- Townsville and Thuringowa Domestic and Family Violence responses monitored by Dovetail.
- Development of a dedicated domestic and family violence court.
- Development of Dovetail Memorandums of Understanding across key government and non-government services to increase integration.
- Development of systems that hold the perpetrators accountable and responsible for their use of violence.
- Working towards women and children staying in their own homes by developing safe places for police to take male respondents for help to stop violence.
- Working with, and contributing to, best practice for responding to the safety needs of women and children.

It is time that communities act consistently to eschew violence, to hold batterers solely responsible for their violent and coercive conduct, to safeguard battered women and children, to compel economic and social restitution by batterers, and to shoulder responsibility for stopping the violence.

Sipe, B., Hall, E., 1996

The Secretariat of Dovetail is provided by the North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Service

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Participating in the Dovetail Process:

- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Services
- Centacare
- Centrelink
- Corrective Services
- Defence Community Organisation
- Department of Child Safety
- Department of Communities
- Department of Housing
- Family Law Court
- Family Relationship Centre
- Legal Aid
- Legal Services
- Nth Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Service
- OzCare
- Queensland Police Service
- Police Prosecutors
- Domestic Violence Liaison Officers
- Relationships Australia
- Salvation Army
- Sera's Women's Shelter
- The Women's Centre
- Townsville City Council
- City Safe Program
- Women's Advisory Committee
- Thuringowa City Council
- Townsville Magistrates Court

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Townsville & Thuringowa's

Integrated Response to Domestic Violence

**WORKING TOWARDS A
VIOLENCE FREE COMMUNITY**

Mission Statement

Townsville and Thuringowa agencies working together to provide a consistent and pro-active intervention with domestic violence, irrespective of which agency is the first point of contact.