



# Northern Family and Domestic Violence Service

## Keeping Women and Children Safe: *Nurturing the Relationship* in the Face of High Risk Family Violence

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Strengthening Risk Management Project

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# Acknowledgement



# Australian Statistics...

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[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOLRTMBKfzE&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOLRTMBKfzE&feature=player_embedded)

# A New Direction...

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## Time for Action: The National Council's Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children

- ✓ The first door is the right door
- ✓ Hold both child and mother in mind

## Report of the Protecting Victoria's Vulnerable Children Inquiry 2012

- ✓ Recommendation 18: "...specialist adult services should be required to adopt family-sensitive practice guidelines"
- ✓ Recommendation 21: simplify case planning processes and **improve collaboration** and pathways **between statutory child protection** services **and** other services, particularly **family violence...**"



- NFDVS recognises that family violence is a **gendered crime** and that typically abuse is **perpetrated by men against women**.
- Violence within relationships is a **fundamental violation of human rights**, unacceptable behaviour, and some forms constitute criminal acts.

**Berry Street and NFDVS works towards the elimination of violence against women and children through provision of a range of supportive & active interventions.**

# International MARACS Model

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Uploaded by Sussex Police Force on Nov 28, 2011

“Sarah explains the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), which helps to coordinate a community response to domestic abuse. Information is shared between partner agencies to increase the safety, health and well-being of victims and children. Each case is risk assessed to provide specialist support and to reduce the risk of harm.”

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<http://youtu.be/Z4yKmy3ImCc>



# Hume Strengthening Risk Management Demonstration Project

## Aims of the project

1. To strengthen risk management practice for women & children who are most vulnerable to continuing and potentially lethal family violence.
2. Deliver an effective, multi agency risk assessment and case management approach to improve safety for women and children in the City of Hume and increase accountability of men who use violence.



# RAMP – Risk Assessment & Management Panel

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- A locally based forum where new ways of working collaboratively will be tested across multiple agencies & sectors.
- Opportunity to bring all relevant players to the table to design, implement & deliver a coordinated multi-agency response.
- Voices of women and children will be represented at RAMP.
- Assess & identify expectations of men (by case management response).



# Confidentiality and Privacy

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- **Information Privacy Act 2000 (Vic)**
  - “Personal information must only be used and disclosed for the primary purpose it was collected, unless the organisation reasonably believes that the use or disclosure is necessary to **lessen or prevent a serious and imminent threat to an individual's life, health, safety or welfare**”
- **Confidentiality agreement** signed by all professionals sitting at the table at each meeting
- Chair reads out confidentiality statement before each meeting
- Informed consent where possible



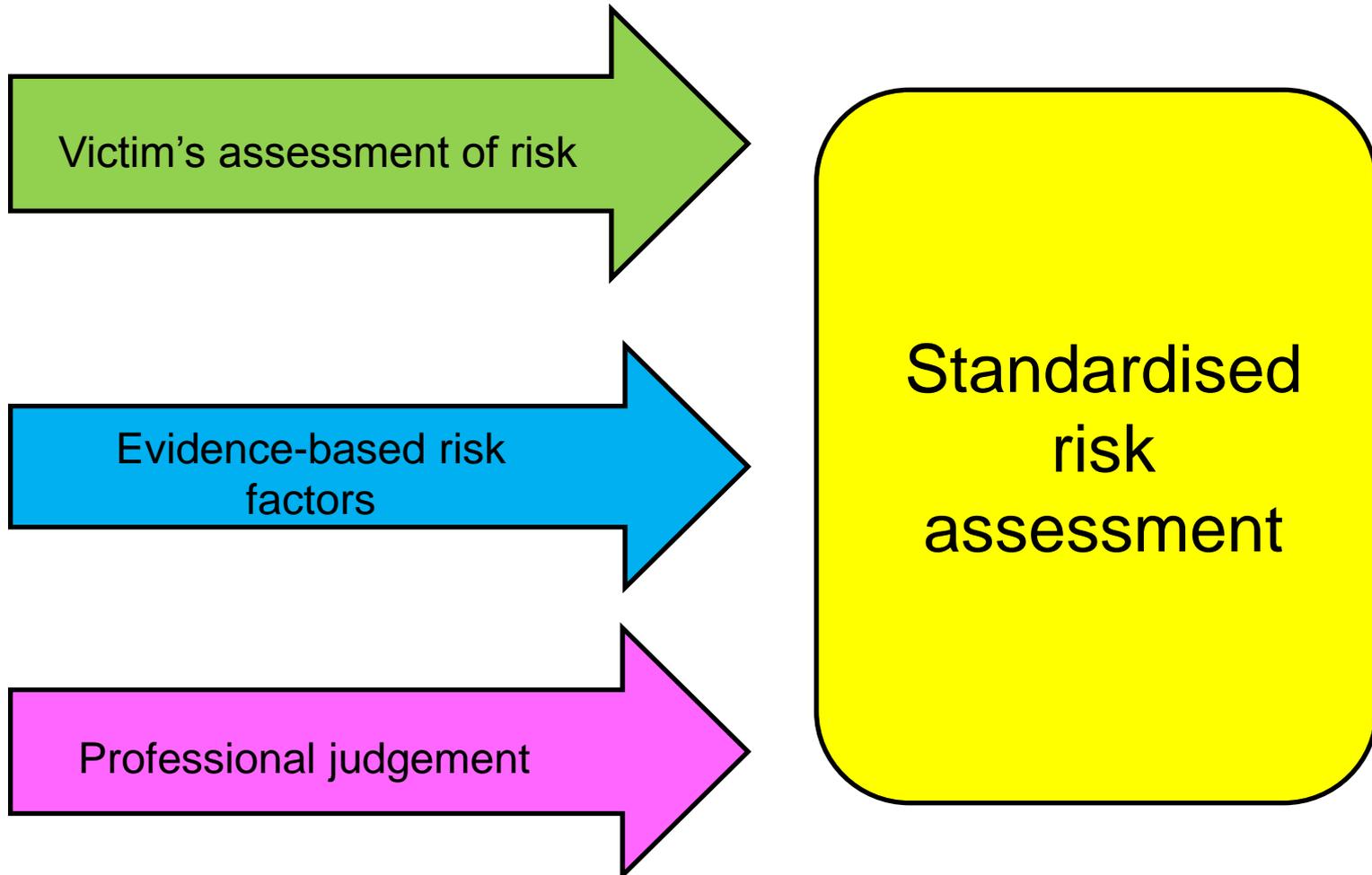
# Who are the core members of RAMP?

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- Berry Street- Northern Family and Domestic Violence Service
- Victoria Police
- Child Protection
- Corrections Victoria
- Hume Maternal Child and Health
- Hume/ Moreland Child First Alliance
- ReGen (formally Moreland Hall)
- Office of Housing- Broadmeadows office
- Vincent Care (Housing)
- North West Area Mental Health Service
- Centrelink
- Northern Hospital (Social work dept.)
- Men's Active Referral Service

# Common Risk Assessment Framework (CRAF)

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# What do we mean when we say 'high risk'?

## Risk associated with the perpetrator

- Serious physical assaults resulting in injury
- Choking
- Use/ access to weapons
- Drug and alcohol abuse/ misuse (esp. ice)
- Involved with other criminal activities
- Respect for the law- incl. breaching intervention order
- Controlling, obsessive, jealous behaviours
- Threats to kill woman and her children
- Sexual assault



## Risk in the relationship

- Recent separation
- Escalation in the severity/ frequency



## Risk associated with the woman

- Pregnancy/ new born
- isolated

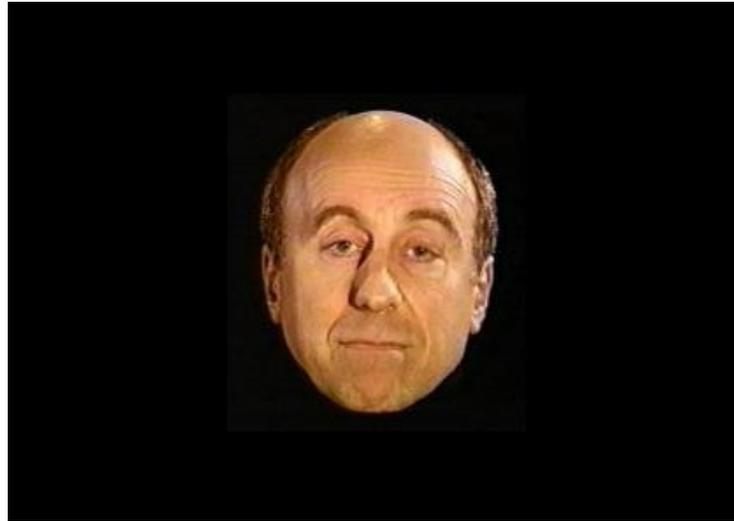


## Risk towards children

- Physical assaulted by perpetrator
- Sexual assault
- Witness to assaults/ other incidents of family violence
- Kidnapped by perpetrators

# The Turtle Program

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–Red Dwarf (#1.5)

- ***“Emergency. Emergency.***
- ***There's an emergency going on.***
- ***...It's still going on.”***

# The Turtle Program

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- A therapeutic program for infants, children and their mothers after family violence.
- Aims to help children and their mothers to:
  - feel safer within their relationship with one another
  - make sense of the impact of violence upon their relationship in a safe and playful environment
- Aims to help practitioners to:
  - understand the impact of violence upon child-parent relationships and child development
  - improve their capacity to respond



# What is mother-child psychotherapeutic intervention, specifically?

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## 1. Capacity to consider the multi-factorial influences on traumatized mother-child relationships

- Intergenerational 'ghosts' and 'angels' in the nursery (Lieberman 2005)
- Impact of family violence on mother-child relationship (Humphreys 2010)
- Representations of child toward mother and mother toward child (Stern 1985)
- Impact of trauma on child development (Perry 2007)
- Impact of family disruption and parental separation on the child's experience (Bowlby 1982)



## 2. Deliver a dyadic intervention that weighs these influences and matches intervention according to what child and mother can make use of in the moment

- Different ports of entry (Lieberman 2005)

# Case study

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- Jenny- single mother, Lebanese/ Australian background, living in public housing
- Dakota 6yrs old and Lucas 3 yrs old both in her care.
- Recently separated from the perpetrator who is the biological father of the children
- Jenny has experienced violence for the duration of the relationship (10 years)
- Jenny has been presented at RAMP twice

# What has this partnership demonstrated?

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- This project has provided an intensive non-formulaic response to high-risk family violence
- Streamlining a service system response to most vulnerable families via multiagency information sharing
- Creating greater perpetrator accountability via new partnerships
- Embedding a child & parent focussed response within an adult-focussed family violence service
- Utilising therapeutic secondary consultation and brief interventions to nurture the mother-child relationship