



A Family Safety Worker's reflective evidence based practice to compare perpetrator self-assessment of violent and controlling behaviours versus the lived experience of affected family members

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Aim:

A Family Safety Worker's (FSW) reflective evidence based practice to compare perpetrator self- assessment of violent and controlling behaviours versus the lived experience of affected family members (AFM) over a 14 week period at DPV Health's Men's Behaviour Change Program (MBCP).

Method:

DPV Health's Men's Behavioural Change Program is available to men, aged 18 and over, who reside in Banyule, Darebin, Hume, Moreland, Nillumbik, Whittlesea and Yarra, and are willing to take responsibility for their abusive behaviour. A "Violent and Controlling Checklist" is completed by the perpetrators pre and post program to reflect on the frequency and type of violence used. This checklist is used as a comparative tool during the FSW's contact with the AFM to assess whether behavioural change has occurred over this period.

Results:

A clinical comparative analysis of perpetrator perception of their own behavioural change versus the lived experience of the AFM proved to be a useful tool to assess perpetrators perception of their own behavioural change versus the lived experience of the AFM. Anecdotal evidence suggests a more formal evidence –based approach in relation to data collection and analysis is needed to measure perpetrator behavioural change outcomes which should be supported by ongoing research funding for Men's Behavioural Change Program's from the Victorian Government.

Significance of the Findings for Allied Health: Men's Behavioural Change Program's aim to be a *driver of change* in eliminating family violence in our communities and thus reduce the negative impact on allied health service funding and resources. The Victorian Government needs to provide ongoing research funding in this specialized area. Funding would provide evidence based outcome data to measure perpetrator behavioural change and provide ongoing information on ways to improve and inform the delivery of Men's Behavioural Change Program's and thus **stop the violence** within our communities.