

Kornar Winmil Yunti ARC Program

Accountability

Responsibility

Change

Trigger warning a video in this presentation may cause someone to be triggered. It is not our intention to upset anyone. If you feel triggered please accept our deepest apology. Feel free to talk with us after the presentation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the traditional owners of this land that we are meeting on today, we also acknowledge Elders past and present. We acknowledge any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people present and that the traditional owners spiritual connection to the land is as strong today as it has always been

WELCOME

My name is Jak Wilson

My name is Tod Stokes,

We work at Kornar Winmil Yunti – KWY. A non-for profit organisation that works with the Aboriginal community, families and males, to keep women and children safe

Understanding domestic and Aboriginal family violence

- Domestic and Aboriginal family violence is largely about the misuse of power and control in the context of male dominance
- All forms of violence are unacceptable and must be challenged at all times
- Men are responsible for their use of violence
- Men can change and challenge other men to work toward change

Domestic and Aboriginal family violence can be in the form of :

- Physical violence
- Sexual violence
- Emotional abuse
- Verbal abuse
- Social abuse
- Financial abuse
- Spiritual / Religious abuse
- Damage to property
- Damage/cruelty to pets
- Stalking
- Male privilege

What we do, how we do it?

We are part of the system response to Domestic violence. Any man that is mandated by courts because they have been violent to partners or loved ones can be referred to KWY. We will also take community referrals.

Our program works on the narrative base, men are encouraged to share their emotions and feelings in a safe manner without fear of judgement or shame.

What we do, how we do it?

Our program also holds them accountable for their behaviour.

The men we see often already understand that what they did was wrong. But have no tools to act in a different manner.

So we support the men to come up with better solutions to situations they find themselves in.

Why work with men who use violence?

- **WE ARE HOLDING THOSE MEN ACCOUNTABLE**
- **WE ARE ASKING THOSE MEN TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY**
- **WE ARE WORKING TOWARDS A SAFER ENVIROMENT FOR ALL CHILDREN AND WOMEN**

Why are we Working with men ?

- Supports many women's wishes – “I don't want the relationship to end, I just want the violence to stop.”
- Men, women and children can all benefit
- Potentially addresses many other issues faced by men
- A gendered issue – almost all family violence is used by men towards women, and most violence experienced by women is from current or former partners
- Family/intimate partner violence is not the same as violence in general – vast majority of men who use violence towards partners do not use violence towards anyone else.
- Integral to prevent violence happening in the first place, or violence happening again

Appropriate ways of working with men for change

- Change is about choice and responsibility
- Men need to be supported and challenged to take responsibility
- Men require education about violence and the opportunity for personal exploration
- The change process is gradual and takes time
- It must never be done in a shaming way or you risk the safety of the entire family

Key elements of working with men who use violence

There are a number of primary elements of this work which we must consider.

- 1. Safety***
- 2. Whole-Of-Family Approach***
- 3. Practice Standards***
- 4. Multiple Pathways For Men's Entry***
- 5. Accountability***
- 6. Case Management***
- 7. Evaluation***
- 8. Access and Equity***
- 9. Engaging Men***

White Ribbon clip **Trigger Warning**

Our Program

The A.R.C Program and KWAY works closely with the Women's Safety contact officer. Meeting at least every fortnight to discuss the men's behaviour, or any issues we may have with the man. The Wsco gives KWAY feedback on the effectiveness of our program from the women's perspective. This partnership is vital to our success.

Our Program

Our program goes for 12 weeks in those weeks we discuss many topics including

- Taking responsibility
- Beliefs that shape me
- Culture and violence
- Working toward stopping my violence

As discussed before we do this in the narrative. KWY believes that this is the best way to work with our client base.

Challenges to change

Often we are faced with many challenges mostly around men's beliefs , or his lack of understanding of the intricacies of relationships.

- Men may not fully understand what domestic and Aboriginal family violence is nor its impact;
- In relation to sexual violence, many men focus on issues of consent and co-responsibility rather than their own power and control
- Men often blame external factors, such as alcohol/substance abuse and poor anger management skills;
- Many men believe violence is understandable in certain circumstances (e.g. discovering infidelity, constant nagging)

Men's Challenges to change

- Many men may take on a 'siege mentality', believing they are persecuted and unfairly blamed for all family violence;
- Men may not locate their behaviour and experience within the family violence discourse that is used to address them;
- Men may excuse their behaviour on a '**deficit model**' arguing that dominant ideas of masculinity
- Limitations to their ability to communicate in relationships, understanding their role in relationships and deal with pressure;
- Domestic and Aboriginal family violence involves co-responsibility, where the man sees himself as user of violence as well as 'victim'
- Services have an anti-male approach, are adversarial and punitive

Our Program Challenges those beliefs

Our role is to invite an alternative view point to the beliefs that men that use violence may have. This is done by identifying the why.

Why do I want to change?

Often men understand the impacts of their behaviour. if they don't we deconstruct the behaviour and ask the men to find alternative outcomes that can support the safety of everyone in the family. This then also provides some reason for change

Men's motivators that can assist to commence and remain within the change process:

- The potential/real loss of contact with his partner or children (e.g. children's protective services intervention);
- The men would not want their kids to grow up and behave like them;
- The criminal and legal consequences of their actions (e.g. charges laid, Intervention Order);
- He is not the only man who has behaved like this and sought help;
- He, like other men, can change;
- Help is available.
- They love their partner and children

In conclusion

Without working with men, society will never address violence against women and children, Men are key to the conversation. Way to often the man is left to continue his behaviour. Our primary aim is to ensure that the men that come to us leave us with a better understanding of how their violence is detrimental to the relationships in their families. Our service is a safe place for men to express their feelings without shame. Often we find that after men have started the journey on the path to recovery, other parts of the lives are also impacted in a positive way.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

