

## !Male Victimization?

Some reflections on 20+ years work in field of family violence

## !Male Victimization?

### ■ PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL

Since 1988: private practice, Family Court counsellor, victim support, Probation Officer, counselling contractor to Corrective Services, approved FDV program developer, groups facilitator and supervisor, spiritual abuse support, men's FDV crisis services, early intervention FDV, Child Protection, separated fathers' counselling service, childhood abuse victimisation.

## !Male Victimization?

### ■ DEFINITIONS

DVPI definition 1999 and 2000: DV is considered to be behaviour which results in physical, sexual and/or psychological damage, forced isolation, economic deprivation, or behaviour which causes the victim to live in fear.

FAMILY COURT definition 2008: FV means conduct, whether actual or threatened, by a person towards a person or property of a member of the person's family that causes that or any other member of the person's family reasonably to fear for, or reasonably to be apprehensive about, his or her personal wellbeing or safety.

## !Male Victimization?

Appear to apply equally to both genders, but do not consider differential male and female:

- help seeking behaviours
- services appeal
- services access availabilities
- victimisation experiences
- perpetration reporting behaviours
- societal stigmatisation

## !Male Victimization?

### ■ PERPETRATOR PROGRAMS

- Involvement with offenders most challenging and satisfying
- Facilitators: undervalued, very special human resources
- Right mix of specialist knowledge, empathy, insight stimulation, individual and group engagement
- Facilitators forced to comply for sake of agency dependence on funding body requirements
- No real change by enforcement, compliance, control
- No therapeutic basis of client dignity
- Program content: program only a vehicle
- No such thing as "Best Practice model"
- Program validity and success rate questionable, many drop outs

## !Male Victimization?

### ■ THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

- Duluth model: interagency patriarchal violence model
- Presumption of power imbalance and male oppression
- Claiming exclusive sociopolitical rights to this truth
- Found an ally in Justice, Family Law, counselling etc
- Endeavours to enforce ideology unto treatment programs
- Complains that programs don't work
- Applies the very abuse tactics it abhors and accuses others of
- Has forgotten where it came from: humbleness, empathy etc
- Denies, silences, pays lip service, minimises, patronises male victimisation concerns

## !Male Victimisation?

- Promotes adversarial "us and them" positioning
- Labels males and females
- Because you are a man, you are controlling
- Hence, the man can not be a victim
- Because you are a man, the female is the victim
- Hence, the female can not be a perpetrator
- Males use violence to enforce authority
- Females use violence in self-defence
- Cannot consider other victimisation contexts
- Increasing number of female FDV offenders for whom no treatment

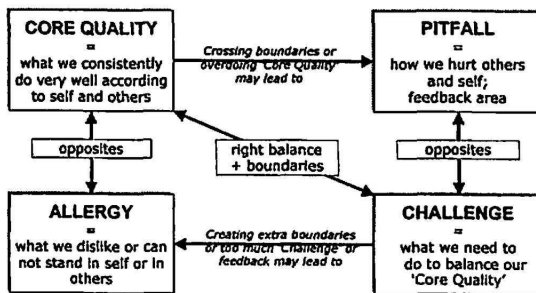
## !Male Victimisation?

Duluth model points out or describes certain violent and abusive behaviours quite well.

But not in a balanced way.

What needs to occur to recreate balance in FDV research and treatment applications?

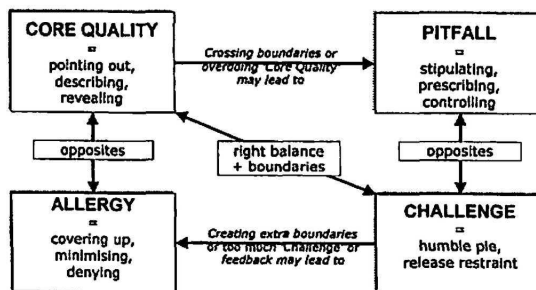
### CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK MODEL



### PERSONALISING CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK ISSUES

CORE QUALITY OR STRENGTH	PITFALL OR DOWNFALL	CHALLENGE OR FEEDBACK	ALLERGY OR DISLIKE
LOYALTY	COLLUSION	OBJECTIVITY	BETRAYAL
DETERMINATION	BULLYING	RESPECT	UNCOMMITTED

### CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK MODEL



## !Male victimisation?

CORE QUALITY OR STRENGTH	PITFALL OR DOWNFALL	CHALLENGE OR FEEDBACK	ALLERGY OR DISLIKE
Describing	Prescribing	Release restraint	Covering up