

Research Project

Prioritising women's safety in Australian perpetrator interventions: the purpose and practices of partner contact

Curtin University, Stopping Family Violence, Mr Rodney Vlasis
Funded by ANROWS

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Background

- National research project
- Led by Professor Donna Chung at Curtin University
- Industry Partners: Stopping Family Violence and Mr Rodney Vlasis
- Funded by ANROWS
- 2 years – scheduled for completion September 2019



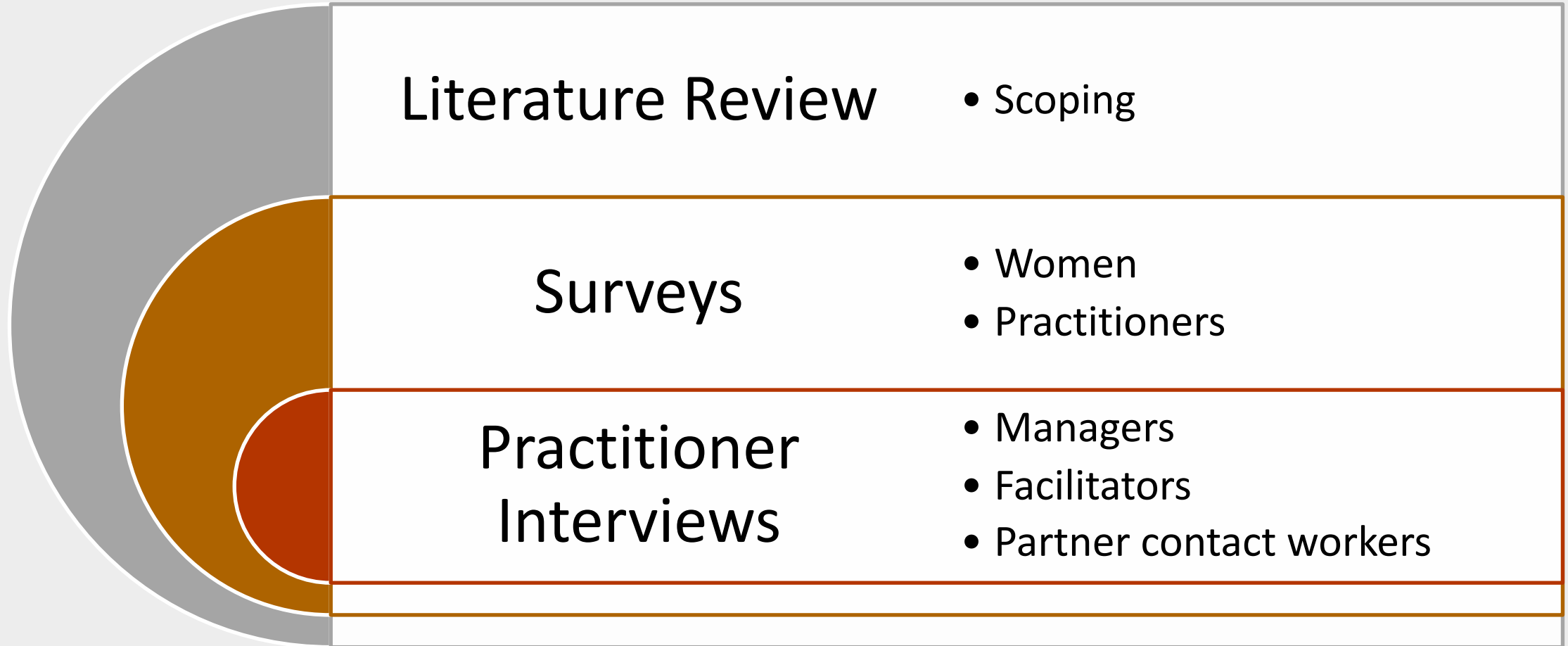
Project Aims and Objectives

- Document national practice of victim/partner contact across Australian MBCPs
- Examine how MBCPs support women and children's safety through partner contact and its benefits.
- Explore how diverse populations are catered for in terms of MBCP partner contact (Aboriginal or culturally and linguistically diverse; diverse sexuality and gender).
- Understand MBCP partner contact in both metropolitan and regional areas.
- Improve the quality and consistency of support provided to women and children by current and future MBC programs and perpetrator interventions more broadly.

Proposed Outcomes

- A detailed understanding of partner contact practices in Australia
- Greater integration between perpetrator intervention systems and the service system for women and children's safety
- Tailoring responses to achieve safe outcomes outside the metropolitan areas and in diverse populations
- Development of Practice Guide Manual
- Training programs

Research Methodology



What do we know so far?

- What is considered quality partner contact practice?
 - Genuine, flexible and ongoing support
 - Focussing on women's strengths
 - Navigating the complexities of confidentiality, information sharing and appropriate use of the man's disclosure
 - Being aware of "... love and hope coexisting with violence and abuse" (Opitz, 2014, p. 18).
- Key variables of partner contact
 - Who provides the contact (In house vs. external)
 - Frequency of contact
 - When contact begins
 - Form of contact
 - Duration of contact
 - Who is partner contact provided to

What do we know so far?

- Child contact
 - Identified need for more dedicated support services for the children of men attending MBCPs
 - Complexities associated with child contact work
 - Informing and involving children when their fathers are attending a MBCP
 - Research suggests that fathers attending a MBCP should be encouraged to share information with their children in ways that are appropriate for their level of understanding (Lamb, 2017; Alderson, Kelly & Westmarland, 2013).
- Barriers to partner contact

Progress to date

- Literature review complete
- Practitioner survey complete (130)
- Women's survey underway
- Practitioner interviews have commenced (30)

Next steps

- Complete practitioner interviews & women's surveys
- Analyse and synthesise information
- Compile report
- Prepare Practice Guide