Partnerships Against Domestic Violence

META EVALUATION

Welcome!

Welcome to the first Bulletin from Strategic Partners, the company contracted to undertake the 'meta-evaluation' of the *Partnerships against Domestic Violence (PADV)* for the *PADV* Taskforce. This Bulletin will be sent to all *Partnerships* projects to keep everyone up to date with the progress of the evaluation. It will therefore provide an outline of the nature of the project, provide some details on the consultancy team and will also include some of the initial material presented by the consultants to the December meeting of the *Partnerships Taskforce*. This Bulletin and future such communications will link with the Taskforce's overall Communication Awareness Strategy, which will include a Web site and a Bulletin or newsletter. The newsletter will also be posted on the OSW website: www.dpmc.gov.au/osw

Meta-Evaluation Objectives

The objectives for the meta-evaluation include:

♦ Bringing together the collective learning that will be gained over the life of the initiative about how better to provide assistance to people affected by domestic violence, and improve strategies to prevent its occurrence. Improving the effectiveness of the intervention and preventing domestic violence from occurring are fundamental;

♦ Informing government decisions regarding future directions for domestic violence policy and program development; and

♦ Satisfying basic accountability requirements for the overall initiatives funded by Partnerships.

The wide range of projects funded under *PADV* requires a meta evaluation which will incorporate information from three different levels:

♦ the evaluation of national projects identified and developed by the Partnerships Taskforce through Office for the Status of Women;

♦ the evaluation of projects under the auspices of Commonwealth and State/Territory departments; and

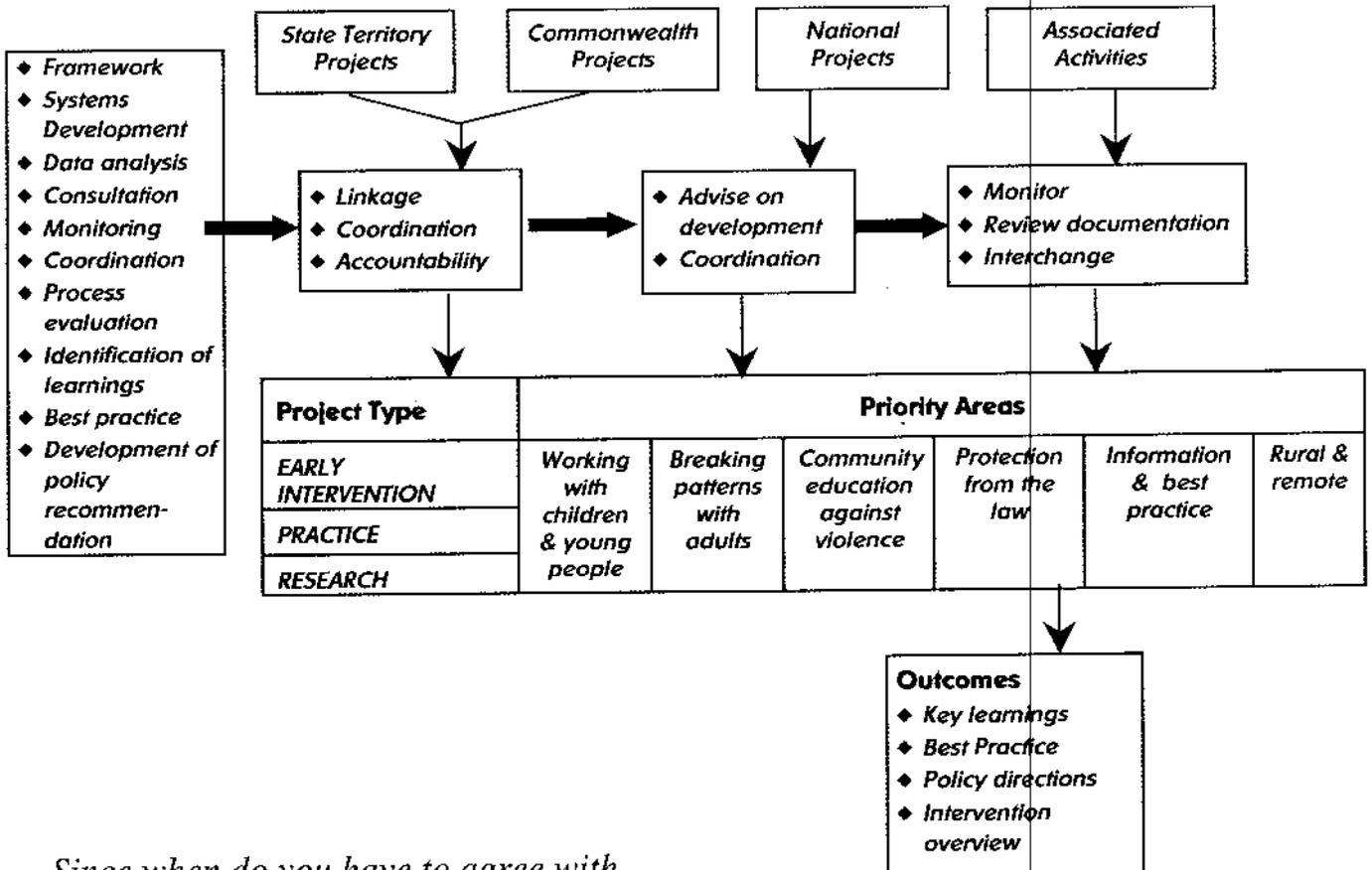♦ the evaluation of the sum of all parts of the initiative.

Meaning or purpose serves as a point of reference. As long as we keep purpose in focus in both our organisational and private lives, we are able to wander through the realms of chaos, make decisions about what actions will be consistent with our purpose, and emerge with a discernible pattern or shape to our lives.

MARGARET WHEATLEY

Evaluation Framework

At the recent Taskforce meeting, the consultants presented, and had confirmed, a 'meta evaluation framework' for the project.

This framework depicts the overall evaluation methodology, the key tasks, the different types of projects and the project outcomes.

- ◆ Framework
- ◆ Systems Development
- ◆ Data analysis
- ◆ Consultation
- ◆ Monitoring
- ◆ Coordination
- ◆ Process evaluation
- ◆ Identification of learnings
- ◆ Best practice
- ◆ Development of policy recommendation

| State Territory Projects | Commonwealth Projects | National Projects | Associated Activities |

- ◆ Linkage
- ◆ Coordination
- ◆ Accountability

- ◆ Advise on development
- ◆ Coordination

- ◆ Monitor
- ◆ Review documentation
- ◆ Interchange

Project Type	Priority Areas					
EARLY INTERVENTION	Working with children & young people	Breaking patterns with adults	Community education against violence	Protection from the law	Information & best practice	Rural & remote
PRACTICE						
RESEARCH						

Outcomes
- ◆ Key learnings
- ◆ Best Practice
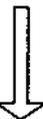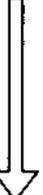- ◆ Policy directions
- ◆ Intervention overview

Since when do you have to agree with people to defend them from injustice?

LILLIAN HELLMAN

A tree that can fill the span of a man's arms grows from a downy tip;
A terrace nine storeys high rises from hodfuls of earth;
A journey of a thousand miles starts from beneath one's feet.

Evaluation Methodology

Steps

Rationale

1. Literature Review

- Develop evaluation models
- Review current data
- Highlight issues

2. Framework Development

- Create theoretical foundation
- Ensure consistency
- Build on individual project evaluations
- Ensure efficient and effective data design and management

3. Systems Development and Data Collection

- Manage collation and analysis of significant amounts of data

4. Monitoring and Co-ordination of All Evaluations

- Establish basis for meta-evaluation
- Monitor developments and trends in project evaluations
- Feed in data and analysis to overall evaluation framework

5. Process Evaluation

- Provide an overview of the entire Partnerships Initiative
- Document how the Initiative has been shaped, what took place and the evolution of the Project

6. Identification of Emerging Learnings and Best Practice

- Identify what has worked well
- Document the key features of successful projects - 'practice wisdom'
- Identify principles and key models to assist future government policy development and decisions and field practice

7. Development of Policy Directions

- Identify critical learnings from the entire Initiative
- Develop key recommendations for future policy and practice

8. Communication Strategy

- Increase communication
- Share learnings
- Maintain effective relationships
- Build knowledge base

Project Timelines

The project will continue until early in the year 2001. You will note that the consultants will be conducting initial State/Territory and Commonwealth consultations in late February/early March, 1999.

	1998			1999												2000												2001		
	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
Establishment																														
Framework development - Literature review - Document analysis																														
Consultation on framework				Discussion paper																			4papers							
Systems			Database Development																				Analysis							
Monitoring and co-ordinating																														
Process evaluation																														
Identify emerging learnings					Workshops																Workshops									
Identification of good practice																														
Policy analysis																														
Bulletins Every two months				B		B		B		B		B		B		B		B		B		B		B		B		B		
Reports							1st Progress							2nd Progress		3rd Progress		4th Progress										Draft Final		
Task Force				14 to 16						11 to 13				8 to 10																

Schedule of State Visits

The first round of State visits are designed to provide a context briefing for the consultants, commence the data gathering exercise and set up contacts between the consultants and the State / Territory projects.

8th February	Brisbane
9th / 19th February	Sydney
18th February	Melbourne
22nd February	Hobart
25th February	Canberra
1st March	Adelaide
2nd March	Perth
To be advised	Northern Territory

Summary of Projects

Following is a summary of the currently approved *PADV* projects.

TYPE THEME	Early Intervention and Prevention	Practice	Infrastructure	Research
Working with children and young people	• Young Women's Relationship Pilot Project (F&CS) • Adolescent Domestic Violence Prevention (NCP)* • Domestic Violence Workshops for Young People (DETYA)* • Working with Adolescent Boys (F&CS) • Relationship Violence Peer Education (SA)			• Young People's Attitudes to and Experience of DV (NCP/DETYA)
Working with Adults	• Koori Family Strengthening (Vic) • Working with Families (F&CS)	• Relationship Support Services for Men (F&CS) • Training for Agencies Working with Indigenous Women (ATSIC) • Training for Service Delivery (WA) • Training Modules Project (SA) • Recovering from Grief and Trauma for Women (Vic)	• Family Violence Advocacy Project (ATSIC)	• Review of Programs – Perpetrators of Domestic Violence (NCP) • Consultation Project (SA) • How Women Survive Domestic Violence (OSW)*
Working with the Community – Educating Against Violence	• Domestic Violence Education Package for Young People (NT) • Resources for Multi-cultural Communities Project (SA) • Community Action Project (SA) • Communication Strategy (incorporating media strategy and public awareness (National)	• Indigenous Family Relationships Pilot Project (ATSIC)	• Website Development (Tas)	• Literature Review on Violence in Indigenous Communities (NCP)* • Research to inform the Development of a Communication Strategy – incorporating media strategy and public awareness (National)
Protection of the Law		• Court Mandated Domestic Violence Offender Program (NT) • Inter-agency Family Violence Intervention Program (ACT)	• Domestic and Criminal Violence History of Migration Sponsors (DIMA)	
Information and Best Practice	• Resources for Aboriginal Communities (SA)	• Development of National Competency Standards (National) • Identifying Family Violence Resource Kit (Vic) • Supporting Children and Young People who have experienced domestic violence (Vic)	• Enhancement of Family Violence Protocols (Vic) • Electronic Restraint Order Lodgement and Information Sharing System (Tas) • Criminal Justice System Interagency Guidelines (NSW)	• Best Practice Intervention for children and young people who witness domestic violence (Qld)
Rural and Remote Communities	• Regional Multi-cultural Access Projects (WA)	• Rural and Remote Domestic Violence Initiative (F&CS) • Rural Domestic Violence Intervention Projects (NSW) • Aboriginal Family Violence Intervention (WA)		• Domestic Violence in Rural and Remote Communities (C'wealth – will be transferred to Transport & Regional Services) • Evaluation of Coordinated Community Intervention Project (Gippsland) (Vic)

* = Associated Project. An associated project is one which is closely related to the themes and objectives of *Partnerships* but is not funded from *Partnerships* allocation.

Strategic Partners

Strategic Partners Pty Ltd is a national company formed in 1995 by a group of consultants, each with their own successful consulting business in their state. In the last two years Strategic Partners has completed a number of major national projects for the Commonwealth, two in the SAAP sector and three in the youth and family services sectors.

We are undertaking this project in conjunction with the Research Centre for Gender Studies at the University of South Australia. The full consulting team is as follows:

x   Project Manager: Dr. Tricia Szirom, Director, Strategic Partners Pty Ltd.
x   Communications and Administration Manager: Russell Jaffe, Director, Strategic Partners Pty Ltd.
x   Donna Chung, Research Centre for Gender Studies, University of South Australia.
x   Dr. Rhonda Sharp, Associate Professor, School of International Business; Director, Research Centre for Gender Studies, University of South Australia.
x   Rachel Manley, Strategic Partners Associate, Perth.
x   Helen Myles, Strategic Partners Associate, Cairns.
x   Biff Ward, Strategic Partners Associate, Canberra.
x   Dr. Geoffrey Stuart, Specialist Research Adviser and Statistician, Melbourne.

DR TRICIA SZIROM

Managing Director of Success Works Pty Ltd and a Director of Strategic Partners Pty Ltd, Tricia has had extensive experience in both non-profit and public sector agencies with particular involvement in health, community and organisational issues.

Tricia has considerable experience in this field, being Project Manager for the 'Criminal Assault in the Home' Project undertaken by the Women's Policy Co-ordination Unit in Victoria and having conducted review and planning projects with refuges.

In the past twelve years Dr Szirom has authored/co-authored and published seven books on educational and personal development strategies.

DONNA CHUNG

Donna has worked on a range of social research, policy, planning and evaluation projects from the local community level through to national projects.

Donna is an experienced researcher in the area of domestic violence using both qualitative and quantitative methods. She is undertaking doctoral research related to domestic violence in adolescent dating relationships and has recently undertaken research comparing the perceptions of men and women as to the effects of domestic violence on their children.

Donna's involvement in women's health services and policy development in SA gives her a strong local working knowledge of the issues for women experiencing domestic violence.

RUSSELL JAFFE

Prior to becoming a consultant in 1985, Russell had been a social worker, Family Court counsellor and staff trainer in the health and welfare sector. As a consultant, he conducted major reviews and change projects across the health, welfare and disability sectors, as the New Zealand Social Services were restructured.

Russell's work in Australia has been in the areas of change management, strategic planning and organisational review, involving contracts with major Government Departments, Local Governments and many community agencies.

Stay in Touch!

For Further information and regular updates on *Partnerships Against Domestic Violence* and the evaluation, why not visit the website at www.dpmc.gov.au/OSW

and click on the PADV logo:

Partnerships Against Domestic Violence

There are also hot links to other relevant sites related to domestic violence such as National Crime Prevention at www.ncavac.gov.au

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CONTACT

Strategic Partners and the Research Centre for Gender Studies look forward to working with the various project personnel on this evaluation over the next two years.

For any queries, comments or observations, please feel free to call us on (03) 9486 7781 or email us at admin@strategic-partners.com.au

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The best way to predict the future is to create it now.

PETER DRUCKER

Meta Evaluation

The concept of meta evaluation warrants some explanation. Meta evaluation is a complex process which is about building a credible body of knowledge greater than the sum of the parts. Individual evaluations done for each project are a rich source of information for a meta analysis which looks at the relationships between findings across various studies. Drawn originally from medical science, and then applied to psychology, meta analysis attempts to find common threads across various research studies and builds theory and knowledge from a range of studies. In the case of the *Partnerships* evaluation, it will distil the learnings from a number of thematically linked projects. The evaluation will bring together, synthesise and analyse the outcomes and relationships between and across projects. The project will build a body of knowledge that is greater than the sum of the individual parts.

There are four key aspects within a meta evaluation:

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS
- planning and design of tools
- developing mechanisms for data collection
- aggregation of funding on a cumulative basis
- cross comparisons
- developing empirical 'building blocks'

PROCESS
- developing a national evaluation network
- consulting across projects/jurisdictions
- interchange of ideas – providing a 'clearing house' function
- providing an integrative approach

THEORY DEVELOPMENT
- connecting the 'building blocks'
- identifying what is known and what works
- analysing what is relevant (not all information is relevant)
- identifying:
  - causal relationships
  - gaps in knowledge
  - 'best' practice
- problem solving

SOCIAL POLICY INPUT
- answering key questions, including:
  - what does this mean for current practice?
  - what needs to change?
  - how might this occur?
  - who needs to be engaged?
  - what further research/information is required?

> **Meta evaluations take place within a complex context and address:**
> - credibility and accountability issues
> - economic issues
> - values and beliefs
> - effectiveness and efficiency

Justice... is so subtle a thing that to interpret it one has only need of a heart.

JOSE GARCIA OLIVER