



A primary prevention of violence project on the land of the Bundjalung Nation in the Northern Rivers Region of NSW

Men & Family Centre

Building safe respectful relationships

"I think the content was sensational and so well delivered...thank you for creating an environment that felt supportive and comfortable to share in"

"Thank you for speaking so clearly and simply about the social attitudes towards women that can lead to domestic violence"

"We need more things like this in our community"



Men and Family Centre, Lismore and Tweed Heads

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Background

Violence against women is a serious and widespread problem in Australia, with enormous individual and community impacts and social and financial costs

Goals

The ARC project seeks to challenge underlying beliefs, attitudes and social systems that enable violence in our families and communities

Frameworks

- Gender transformative approaches
- Intersectional feminist framework

"Thank you for supporting communities to rethink gendered experiences of violence and how we as individuals can initiate change within our own lives and communities"

Activities

ARC Gender Relations is a multi-tiered project, and has involved

1. Sector development and training
2. Communities of practice
3. Groups for men including a Dad's Group and a group for men who have caused harm
4. Community development project that engages male identified people to support them to work as allies in the community
5. Organisational development

Outcomes

"For me it has changed the language that I use, how I communicate in challenging conversations, day to day conversations, with colleagues, pretty much across the board"

- Facilitating men to engage in a process of self-reflection regarding gender stereotypes, accountability, safety, power, privilege and entitlement
- Increasing participants' knowledge about gender stereotypes, gender equity, respectful relationships and violence as an expression of masculinity
- Empowering community participants to be change agents
- Supporting men to engage with other men in the community to foster better understanding of gender stereotypes and gender equity
- Increasing levels of understanding of sector professionals about how stereotypical gender relations impact the workplace and ways to work effectively with men
- Increasing sector knowledge about integrating gender transformative approaches into professional settings