

NON-LETHAL STRANGULATION SYMPOSIUM

A National Conversation

This event is an Australian first, enabling us to shine a light on this critical issue.

21-22 February 2024
Royal on the Park Hotel
Brisbane

PROGRAM >>>>

The Symposium is hosted by the Red Rose Foundation in partnership with:



WELCOME

On behalf of the Red Rose Foundation, welcome to Australia's First Strangulation Symposium on non-lethal strangulation.

This Symposium brings together a diverse range of disciplines including researchers, practitioners, policymakers, frontline professionals and importantly strangulation survivors. It is our hope, the discussions will be informative and thought provoking leading to real change in how we respond to non-lethal strangulation.

The Red Rose Foundation is proud to have led the way on putting non-lethal strangulation on the national agenda. This included lobbying for legislative change and then ensuring people across all aspects of the service system have had access to training and information that is current, evidenced based and provides skills in identifying, documenting and prosecuting domestic violence strangulating offences. Our priority is ensuring victims of non-lethal strangulation are safer and better supported.

In May 2021, the Red Rose Foundation opened Australia's first and only Strangulation Trauma Centre providing a safe place for women to seek counselling and other supports which are specialised and responsive to the needs of strangulation survivors. Since then hundreds of women have sought out our services. During 2023, 562 women survivors of strangulation were provided with counselling and other supports across 9372 contacts. 42% of referrals are from police.

Our recognition of strangulation as a high risk and possibly lethal form of violence has greatly impacted the way in which we respond to domestic violence and sexual assault. We know from research that women who have experienced any form of strangulation or smothering are 8 times more likely to be killed by the perpetrator. Others may die from medical complications, months or at times years later from stroke and other health related causes. Non-lethal strangulation is now recognised as a significant risk factor in identifying and responding to high risk domestic violence. We also know that strangulation is often accompanied by rape and other forms of sexual assault.

We thank our partner organisations, Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research, WorkUp Qld, Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence, Bangle Foundation and the Tara Brown Foundation.

Betty Taylor

Founding Director Red Rose Foundation

HONOURING LIVES LOST

We pause at the beginning of this important Symposium to reflect on the exacting toll of domestic violence on the lives of women across Australia. We know that the majority of domestic violence related deaths are both predictable and preventable. We all must come together to #ChangeTheEnding.

We are honoured to have two women with us today to light the remembrance candle in memory of their daughters and all women and children killed in domestic violence.

Natalie Hinton: Mother of Tara Brown

Tara Brown was murdered by her ex partner on 8th September 2015

Sonia Holiday: Mother of Bianca Girven

Bianca Girven was strangled by her boyfriend on 30th March 2010
She died 31st March 2010

Both Tara and Bianca left behind young children and grieving families

Both Natalie and Sonia have been strong advocates for change

10 Australia women have died this year to date

64 Australia women died in 2023



Together we can #ChangeTheEnding



Tara Brown
FOUNDATION

RED ROSE FOUNDATION

NON-LETHAL STRANGULATION SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

Day 1 – Wednesday 21 February 2024

TIME	Program	Speakers
8.30 am	Delegate arrival and registration.	Tea & Coffee available
9.00 am - 9.05 am	Housekeeping & Welcome	MC: Dr Brian Sullivan
9.05 am - 9.10 am	<i>Welcome to Country</i>	
9.10 am - 9.20 am	<i>Lighting of Remembrance Candle</i>	Natalie Hinton Sonia Holiday
9.20 am - 9.30 am	<i>Official Opening</i>	Hon Yvette D'Ath Attorney General Minister for Justice & Minister for Prevention of DFV.
9.30 am - 9.50 am	<i>Shining A Light on Non-Lethal Strangulation</i>	Betty Taylor Director / Founder Red Rose Foundation
9.50 am - 10.05 am	<i>Listening to Survivors</i>	Kristy & Kathy
10.05 am - 10.30 am	<i>Strangulation: Your Life In His Hands</i>	Magistrate Linda Bradford-Morgan
10.30 am - 11.00 am	Morning Tea	
11.00 am - 12.30 pm	<i>Understanding & Responding to NLS 90-minute Interactive workshop</i>	Gael Strack Esq CEO Hope Alliance USA
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm	Lunch	
1.30 pm - 2.00 pm	<i>Family Violence, Sex, Strangulation & Consent</i>	Professor Heather Douglas Dr Leah Sharman
2.00 pm - 2.20 pm	<i>Non-lethal Strangulation: A Life Sentence?</i>	Associate Professor Heather Lovatt Dr Nicola Cheyne
2.20 pm - 3.00 pm	<i>Addressing the Reality Of Diversity</i>	Yasmin Khan Sono Leone
3.00 pm - 3.30 pm	Afternoon Tea	
3.30 pm - 4.30 pm	Panel Q &A	Panel with all presenters Facilitated by Kerrin Bradfield
4.30 pm	Closing Remarks	Dr Brian Sullivan

RED ROSE FOUNDATION

NON-LETHAL STRANGULATION SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

Day 2 – Thursday 22 February 2024

TIME	PROGRAM	SPEAKERS
8.30 am	Delegate arrival	Tea & Coffee served
9.00 am - 9.10 am	Housekeeping Lighting of Candle	MC Betty Taylor Director / Founder Red Rose Foundation
9.10 am - 9.30 am	<i>National Response to Violence Against Women</i>	Commissioner Micaela Cronin, Domestic, Family & Sexual Violence
9.30 am - 10.00 am	<i>Strangulation, Sex, Pornography and Sexual Violence</i>	Di Macleod
10.00 am - 10.30 am	<i>Addressing Health Risks and Responses in Non-Lethal Strangulation</i>	Dr Jo Ann Parkin Meg Bagnall
10.30 am - 11.00 am	Morning Tea	
11.00 am - 12.30 pm	<i>Understanding & Responding to NLS 90-minute Interactive workshop Including a Justice Focused Panel</i>	Gael Strack Esq; Judge Eugene Hyman (retired); Rob Veale NZ; Mel Wilson, Principal Crown Prosecutor; Inspector Lee Wyld
12.30 pm - 1.15 pm	Lunch	
1.15 pm - 1.45 pm	<i>Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander women's perception of traumatic brain injury from family violence: Voices from Regional & Remote Australia</i>	Dr Michelle Fitts
1.45 pm - 2.15pm	<i>Learnings from Reform Implementation</i>	Susan Beattie Snr Sergeant Rowena Hardiker Amie Carrington
2.15 pm - 3.00 pm	<i>Are We There Yet?</i>	Gael Strack
3.00 pm - 3.30 pm	Afternoon Tea	
3.30 pm - 4.00 pm	<i>Key Symposium Messages by Art Balm</i>	Rachel Apelt
4.00 pm - 4.15 pm	<i>Closing Address: Keep the light shining.</i>	Betty Taylor Dr Brian Sullivan

*information correct at time of printing however subject to change



BETTY TAYLOR

Betty Taylor is the Founding Director of the Red Rose Foundation. She has worked across the domestic and family violence sector for the past 35 years. Her career has spanned service development and management, training, advocacy, reform, consultation and collaboration. In 2002, Betty was awarded a Churchill Fellowship which enabled her to study collaborative responses to domestic violence in the USA and Canada. It was through this study that Betty first learnt of both domestic violence death reviews and the potential lethality risk of strangulation. On returning to Australia, Betty established the Queensland Domestic Violence Action Group with several other legends from the dv/sa sectors, with the aim of lobbying the Queensland Government for the establishment of a domestic violence death review board and a stand-alone offence of strangulation within the Criminal Code. In 2008, she wrote *Dying to Be Heard*. Betty was appointed to Queensland Domestic & Family Violence Death Review Board when it was established in 2016. During her career, Betty established the Gold Coast Domestic Violence Prevention Centre, chaired the Queensland Domestic Violence Council for 2 terms, and more recently established Australia's first Strangulation Trauma Centre. Betty remains passionate about the prevention of the violent deaths of women and has been pivotal in pushing for more effective responses, systems and laws to provide better protection for women and children. Her recognitions include Centenary Medal, Australian of the Year State Finalist (senior), Westfield Local Hero, and Queensland Great recognition.



DR BRIAN SULLIVAN

Brian has over twenty years' experience as an academic, professional practitioner, trainer, supervisor, and educator in the domestic violence sector. Initially, he was trained in the Duluth coordinated community approach to working with perpetrators and has been a facilitator of men's programs for many years. His PhD research, completed in the USA, explored the effectiveness of court-mandated programs for male DV offenders. Brian is a member of the Red Rose Foundation. He is also a member of the QLD Police Service Domestic and Family Violence Advisory Committee. He was an invited QLD Delegate for the National Summit on Women's Safety Forum – Perpetrator Intervention and Working with Men.

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS



G A E L S T R A C K E S Q

Gael B. Strack is the Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of Alliance for HOPE International, programs of which include: National Family Justice Center Alliance, Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention, Camp HOPE America, Justice Legal Network and VOICES Survivor Network. Prior to launching Alliance for Hope International, Gael served as the Founding Director of the San Diego Family Justice Center from 2002 to 2007. After graduating from Western State College of Law she joined the San Diego City Attorney's Office in 1987, serving in many capacities including prosecutor and Head Deputy City Attorney responsible for the Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Unit. Gael has also worked as a Deputy Public Defender and a Deputy County Counsel for the San Diego County Counsel's office handling juvenile dependency matters. Gael is a former board member of the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, former President of the San Diego Domestic Violence Council and former commissioner of the ABA's Commission on Domestic Violence. She is also an adjunct law professor for California Western School of Law where she teaches "Domestic Violence and the Law." Honoured with numerous awards, Gael has also co-authored a series of strangulation articles and five books with Casey Gwinn, JD, on the Family Justice Center movement.



J U D G E E U G E N E H Y M A N (R E T I R E D)

Judge Eugene M Hyman is a retired Judge of the Superior Court for the State of California, County of Santa Clara where he presided over cases in the Criminal, Civil, Family, Juvenile, and Probate divisions of the Court for twenty years before his retirement. In 1999 along with the County Probation Department, the Juvenile Domestic Violence and Family Violence Court was begun to intervene with youth family violence. The Court was honored with a United Nations Public Service Award in 2008. Judge Hyman has taught as an Adjunct Faculty Member at Santa Clara University School of Law for over 25 years. He has lectured on domestic violence related issues before judges, attorneys, police, probation, and others in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Germany.



R O B V E A L E

Having served 30 years in the NZ Police force, Rob is now an advisor specialising in enhancing safety through providing domestic violence and general violence reduction expertise. Rob is passionate about reducing domestic violence and the effects of violence, was a member of the Family Safety Team National Steering Committee and current member of the NZ Family Violence Death Review Committee.



M E G B A G N A L L

With over a decade of commitment in the family violence sector, Meg Bagnall brings a nuanced understanding of the challenges and needs within this field, including an acute awareness of various systems of oppression. In her role at VAADA, she focuses on enhancing the sector's response to family violence, leveraging a deep knowledge of the MARAM framework and an intersectional approach to address the structural oppression that empowers gendered violence.



S U S A N B E A T T I E

Susan Beattie is an Independent Decision Maker with the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. Susan previously led the domestic and family violence death review process in Queensland including supporting the State Coroner in his position as Chair to establish the independent multidisciplinary Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board. More recently, she was a Director, Policy and Systems at the Queensland Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (QNADA), the peak organisation for the non-government alcohol and other drug treatment and harm reduction sector in Queensland and a Director at the Independent Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service Responses to Domestic and Family Violence (2022). She is also Secretary of the Red Rose Foundation.



K E R R I N B R A D F I E L D

Kerrin Bradfield (she/they) is a Clinical Sexologist and Accredited Sexuality Educator who has delivered sexuality education and training to tens of thousands of people from Kindergarten students to United Nations staff. They are a passionate advocate for lifelong sexual rights and are committed to supporting people to talk openly and frankly about sexuality to combat the shame and secrecy in society. Kerrin is the Education Coordinator at the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence and co-director of Respect Collective Pty Ltd with Dr Tessa Opie. Kerrin is deeply committed to improving access to relationships and sexuality education for all individuals, working with policymakers, researchers, and advocacy groups to promote comprehensive RSE. They have advised the Queensland Department of Education on the consent education rollout, and have contributed to the development of a national framework for Respectful Relationships Education under the National Plan. Kerrin actively works to create meaningful social change around sexuality and gender, through trauma informed approaches to psychological wellbeing, justice, and community building.

L I N D A B R A D F O R D - M O R G A N



Linda was appointed as a Queensland magistrate in January 2004. From 2016 to 2023 she presided in the Brisbane Magistrates Court specialist domestic violence list before her appointment to the Brisbane Specialist Domestic Violence Court. Linda holds a Masters of Law; and Bachelor of Arts and Laws degrees, and completed the Strangulation Prevention Masterclass in San Diego in October 2019. Linda's other achievements include:

>>Appointment as a member of the Council of the Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association (CMJA) to represent the Pacific Region from 2015 to 2022 and CMJA Gender representative for the Pacific since 2015 >>Address to the CMJA 2021 international conference on Gender-based violence and unconscious gender bias in assessing the credit of witnesses in trials and delivery of judgments >>Chairing and presentation at the CMJA Cardiff conference September 2023 on Protecting Women and Children through Criminal and Civil Orders >>Vice-president for the Pacific region on the Council 2022-2025 as the nominee of the Australian Judicial Officers' Association (AJOA) and honorary life membership of the AJOA in 2022 >>Address to the United Nations in Vienna on Gender-based violence and was one of fifteen international expert judges appointed by the UNODC to attend a 3 day conclave to prepare a Handbook for the Global Judiciary on Effective Court Responses for Gender Based Violence against Women and Girls >>Delivery of a keynote address at a Red Rose Foundation event on Strangulation: Changes to the Legal and Justice framework in June 2018 and an address at the launch of the Australian Institute for Strangulation Prevention (AISP) in 2019 as well as being an inaugural executive member of the AISP - Delivery of several workshops for the Queensland Law Society on Advocacy for domestic and family violence practitioners.

Linda was named on the 2019 Women Lawyers Association of Queensland List of Inspirational Judicial officers.

A M I E C A R R I N G T O N



Amie is a passionate leader, dedicated to ending gender based violence. Amie is the CEO of the Domestic Violence Action Centre, the largest regional specialist domestic, family and sexual violence service in Queensland. DVAC provides frontline supports to victim survivors of domestic, family and sexual violence to increase safety and healing. DVAC also provides specialist men's behaviour change services. Amie also holds influential positions as the Chair of the Women's Services Network Board, and Co-Chair of Ending Violence Against Women and children Queensland.



DR NICOLA CHEYNE

For the past eight years, Nicola has worked as a lecturer and researcher at QCDFVR, leading a project on non-lethal strangulation and forming part of a team on projects such as an evaluation of men's behaviour change programs, police domestic violence training and a sexual assault response team trial. Nicola's current role involves leading the strategic direction of the teaching program in domestic and family violence practice at the Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and Masters levels. She has 18 years of university teaching experience as a lecturer and tutor and 19 years of high-quality research, supporting developing researchers through her expertise in quantitative and qualitative research.



COMMISSIONER MICAELA CRONIN

Micaela commenced as Australia's first Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner on 1 November 2022. Micaela began her career as a social worker in family violence and sexual assault services, and has held leadership roles across the social service sector in Australia and internationally, including President of ACOSS. Micaela was the CEO of an international non-government organisation based in Asia, working to build global service delivery and strategic partnerships to tackle human trafficking and human rights abuses. In 2014, Micaela was awarded the Robin Clark Leadership award, Victoria's most prestigious Children's Protection award, recognising a leader who inspires others in achieving the best outcomes for children, young people and their families.



PROFESSOR HEATHER DOUGLAS

Professor Heather Douglas AM, researches at the Melbourne Law School. She has worked on legal responses to domestic and family violence for over twenty years. With Associate Professor Robin Fitzgerald (Social Science, The University of Queensland), she holds an Australian Research Council Discovery Grant exploring the strangulation offence as a response to domestic violence. She is also the Deputy Director (Interdisciplinary and Translation) of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW).



DR MICHELLE FITTS

Dr Michelle Fitts is an Australian Research Council DECRA Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Culture and Society at Western Sydney University and lives in Mparntwe (Alice Springs). She started her career in alcohol and public health research in Queensland in 2010. Since 2015, she has committed her research energy to disability, with a focus on the rehabilitation and recovery needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living with traumatic brain injury. She is currently leading a project on improving understanding of the needs and priorities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who live with traumatic brain injury from family violence.



SENIOR SERGEANT ROWENA HARDIKER

Rowena graduated with a Bachelor of Justice and joined the Queensland Police Service (QPS) in 2002, commencing her career in general duties policing across the Gold Coast and Redcliffe Districts, before embarking in an intelligence role in the Brisbane region. Rowena's passion for investigating domestic and family violence (DFV) was developed whilst working as a District Domestic and Family Violence Coordinator (DFVC) in Mount Isa as well as a general duties officer and DVLO in Normanton. Rowena is passionate about improving the sharing of information between all services responding to DFV, and educating police and community members about DFV, particularly on the risks associated with sexual violence, strangulation and coercive control. Rowena is highly regarded across the QPS and is renowned for her expertise and knowledge of DFV matters. This month she commenced in the Strategic Integration area, coordinating implementation of the legislative amendments arising out of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce and Commission of Inquiry into QPS Responses to DFV, after leading the QPS DFV and Vulnerable Persons Command Training Unit for 2023. Prior to this, she supported the QPS response to the Commission of Inquiry where she reinvigorated her personal commitment to doing more to protect vulnerable persons.



YASMIN KHAN

With an Australian heritage stretching back 130 years, Yasmin Khan creates connections and breaks down barriers to show how Muslims have made a great contribution to our nation. In 2005, Yasmin founded Eidfest – the largest Muslim gathering in Queensland to celebrate the end of Ramadhan and to showcase Muslim diversity and cultures. A well-known speaker, Yasmin works with schools, the media and community groups to share insights into her religion and her life experiences. Yasmin represents her community on multiple reference groups, recently being elected as the Chair of the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland, and is a multicultural ambassador for the AFL and Asian Cup, and was one of the first female cricket umpires in Queensland. A vocal commentator on domestic violence in multicultural communities, Yasmin has established a support centre for Muslim women and women from the Indian sub- continent, regardless of their religion. At the helm of many highly-successful events and community activities, Yasmin continues to demonstrate why diversity makes Australia a stronger nation.



S O N O L E O N E

Sono Leone is a Butchulla and Garrawa woman, proud of her Tongan and South Sea Islander heritage. She is the founder and CEO of Strong Women Talking, a grassroots organisation for First Nations women based in Brisbane that supports women to heal from the trauma of family and domestic violence.



A S S O C I A T E P R O F E S S O R H E A T H E R L O V A T T

Heather was appointed QCDFVR Director in March 2018, after working at the Centre as a Senior Researcher for several years. In this role Heather has led a diverse range of research projects relating to gendered violence. There is a tangible intersect between research and practice at QCDFVR epitomising an integrated approach that links education/training, sector development and research. With a background of working with community services in government and non-government sectors prior to her current role, Heather has a particular interest in applied research that has a social impact; ensuring the knowledge and wisdom of those impacted by gendered violence, priority populations and front-line practitioners are prioritised. Heather leads a team that is contributing to informed policy, practice and workforce development.



D I M A C L E O D

Di is a daughter, wife, mother and grandmother, founder and current Director of the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc., Chair of the Red Rose Foundation, Vice Chair of the Queensland Sexual Assault Network, member of the Queensland Sexual Violence Prevention Roundtable and Expert Advisory Panel member of Australian Institute for Strangulation Prevention. Di has worked in the area of gender-based violence for over 45 years as a care provider, counsellor, refuge worker, advocate, educator and service manager in New Zealand and Australia. She was instrumental in securing the funding for and the development of the Gold Coast Domestic Violence Service and Macleod Women's Refuge, which is named after her. Di developed the inaugural Sexual Violence Awareness Month Campaign on the Gold Coast. This is now a formal Queensland wide event observed every October and she also brought the global Start by Believing Campaign to Australia. Di continues to be a strong advocate for timely, ethical and effective responses that increase victim/survivor safety and hold offenders accountable for their actions



DR JO ANN PARKIN

Dr. Jo Ann Parkin brings over a decade of expertise to her role as a Clinical Forensic Physician at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM). In her 13 years at the VIFM, Dr. Parkin has been a driving force in the field of forensic medicine, particularly in education and research. She leads the Forensic Registrar training program and serves as an Adjunct Senior Lecturer in the Department of Forensic Medicine at Monash University.



DR LEAH SHARMAN

Dr Leah Sharman is an ARC DECRA Research Fellow in the School of Psychology at the University of Queensland. Her research interests are broadly in the fields of Social, Emotion, and Health Psychology with much of her research involving interdisciplinary collaborations across Law, Medicine, and Public Health. Dr Sharman's postdoctoral research is currently focused on understanding how victim-survivor experiences of loneliness are associated with health and social outcomes after escaping from intimate partner violence.



MELISSA WILSON

Mel is a Principal Crown Prosecutor with the Queensland Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Mel has worked for the ODPP for 17 years and been a Crown Prosecutor for the last 10 years, appearing as lead counsel in District Court and Supreme Court trials as well as the Queensland Court of Appeal.



ACTING INSPECTOR LEE WYLD

Acting Inspector Lee Wyld is currently in the position of Inspector Performance, Engagement & Government, North Brisbane District. The portfolio's responsibilities include: The North Brisbane District Domestic, Family Violence & Vulnerable Persons Unit, District Crime Prevention and Cross-Cultural Liaison Unit and Police Liaison Officers. Lee's substantive position is the Officer in Charge of the North Brisbane District DFV & VPU based at Clayfield. Her team consists of uniform specialist DFV officers, detectives, high risk team and an embedded DFV specialist case worker. Lee has been a police officer for just over 30 years and her passion and drive is for helping victim survivors and improving and supporting the frontline response to DFV investigations.

Thank you to our Partners



Tara Brown
FOUNDATION



GOLD COAST CENTRE
against sexual violence inc.



www.redrosefoundation.com.au