



20 YEARS

Annual Report
2021/22

DVCONNECT
Be heard. Be safe.





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20 years as DVConnect

Over 40 years ago, 'Womensline' was funded as a service in Queensland. In 2002, 'Mensline' was funded for the first time and with these services combined, our organisation became known as DVConnect. In this Annual Report, we are celebrating 20 years as DVConnect.

During this time, DVConnect has expanded to deliver the Pets in Crisis Program with the RSPCA Queensland, the Sexual Assault Response Helpline, 1800RESPECT, Bella's Sanctuary and VictimConnect. Our growth has been both exponential and essential in terms of improving how we are able to respond to and appropriately support people in Queensland impacted by domestic, family and sexual violence.

We are so proud to celebrate our 20 year milestone and share some of our incredible achievements with you in this special anniversary edition of our Annual Report



2012
DVConnect in the community for the 16 Days of Activism

1980's
Womensline commenced

2005
Pets in Crisis commenced

2002
Mensline commenced

2009
Sexual Assault Helpline commenced

2015
DVConnect staff attend a Red Rose Rally in Brisbane City





2017

DVConnect's Mensline on a visit to the Torres Strait



2019

DVConnect Board and Staff at the opening of Bella's Sanctuary



2022

DVConnect CEO, Beck O'Connor at a Press Conference at Parliament House for the tabling of Coercive Control legislation in Queensland



2018

DVConnect staff at the Darkness to Daylight Fun Run



2020

DVConnect CEO Beck O'Connor supporting the first LGBTQ DV Awareness Day

2019
Bella's Sanctuary commenced

2021

Press Conference at DVConnect to announce the \$10 billion Housing Australia Future Fund

2017
1800RESPECT commenced

2022
VictimConnect commenced





Opening Statement

BY THE HONOURABLE DAME QUENTIN BRYCE AD CVO

Gender inequality is deeply entrenched in our society.

One of the most alarming impacts of gender inequality is the rate of domestic, family, and sexual violence women and children are subjected to.

This violation of basic human rights is a national crisis. It must be a priority for every single one of us to address the underlying factors that contribute to women, children, and families being unsafe in their homes.

In 2015, The Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland delivered the Not Now Not Ever Report.

In my role as Chair, I reviewed the landscape of domestic and family violence responses across Queensland.

We engaged thousands of Queenslanders through online surveys, listening tours, summits, focus groups, round tables, and individual group meetings.

Participating in deep listening and community consultation was critical to how we approached the Not Now Not Ever Report and the 140 recommendations we made to urgently address domestic and family violence in Queensland.

The stories shared with us by women and families impacted by violence were moving and powerful.

Their real-life experiences motivated our efforts to lead real change.

So too did listening to family violence response services like DVConnect. Through engaging with DVConnect as part of this process, I gained insights into the deeply committed workforce that walk alongside people impacted by violence.

More than 6 years on from the Not Now Not Ever Report, DVConnect continues to be a leader in contributing to the change that we all know is possible – working towards the elimination of domestic and family violence.

DVConnect's state-wide helplines provide a lifeline for people in Queensland who have been impacted by domestic and family violence. They also provide an essential service for holding perpetrators of abuse to account.

I am absolutely honoured to have been asked to write the opening statement for DVConnect's 20-year anniversary Annual Report. It is a privilege to be DVConnect's first and longest Patron for the past 20 years.

I want to congratulate DVConnect for 20 years of vital service in the community and acknowledge the contributions of all the team members over the years who have played a role in making Queensland safer for all.

Thank you for your service and congratulations.



DVConnect's Statement of Support for the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Report and Project

DVConnect is a proud supporter of the Australian Human Rights Commission's Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) Report and project. The report, released in December 2020, is the first time since 1986 that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls have been consulted as a collective about their rights, needs and aspirations. As Wiyi Yani U Thangani states, First Nations women and girls are strong, brave, determined and resilient—they have remarkable skills, knowledge and boundless potential. The structural inequalities, poverty, trauma and discrimination that First Nations women and girls live with in Australia today, is unacceptable and must be addressed and overcome.

The Wiyi Yani U Thangani report puts on the table an ambitious and necessary First Nations female-led plan for structural change. DVConnect supports the Report's principles, key findings, overarching recommendations and pathways forward. We also back the major calls for action to hold a First Nations women and girls National Summit, and from this to develop a National Action Plan. These actions are critical to respond to the priorities set out in Wiyi Yani U Thangani so together, all Australians can achieve First nations gender justice and equality.

It is time to respond to First Nations women and girls' voices by implementing the Wiyi Yani U Thangani report.





Because of Her We Can

BY STEVIE O'CHIN

It was a pleasure and an honour to be given the opportunity to paint this story on domestic violence for DVConnect. I would like to commend DVConnect for the confronting work they perform and the empathy shown towards all that connect with the service, seeking change.

This painting represents all women and families impacted by the traumatising effects of domestic violence. The pink and white dots connecting represent a pathway being created for a life free from violence and fear. The pink flowers scattered throughout this piece represent women past and present that have been, and are still going through domestic violence.

The twelve circles symbolise DVConnect's values and what the organisation stands for as they continue their work in combating domestic violence and creating awareness of the social impacts and implications -

- Prevention
- Strength
- Healing
- Advocacy
- Compassion
- Empowerment
- Coordination
- Confidentiality
- Service Environment
- Accountability
- Respect
- Access and Equity

Commissioning 'Because of Her We Can'

The ongoing impacts of colonisation in conjunction with gender inequality are directly responsible for perpetrating violence against First Nations women and girls, and also responsible for driving high rates of violence against First Nations communities in Australia.

The violence that we are referring to in the form of domestic, family and sexual is perpetrated by men and individuals of all cultural backgrounds. Our goal is to ensure that DVConnect is a safe place for First Nations people to call when seeking help.

We endeavour to continue learning, growing in our cultural responsiveness, and providing culturally appropriate supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, children, men, and families. As we actively work towards reconciliation, part of this long-term journey to date has involved working with Aboriginal artist in residence at the Birrunnga Gallery, Stevie O'Chin who created the unique and inspirational artwork shared throughout this Annual Report.

Stevie's painting, what it represents, and the process of working with Stevie to have this art come to fruition, is one small step we are taking as an organisation to demonstrate our commitment to reconciliation.



Message from Fiona

ACTING BOARD CHAIR

I write this message as Acting Chair, standing on the shoulders of those before me, and excited about those ahead. I would like to start by recognising the amazing leadership of Shaan Ross-Smith, both as Director and Chair of DVConnect for 7 years, and your continued leadership in the sector. We have greatly valued your passion, insight and vision for this organisation, and the world we all want to live in.

The beginning of the financial year 2021-2022 dawned with yet another lockdown in Queensland, and DVConnect continued to navigate through these uncertain waters, working to provide paths to safety for women and children across the State.

For some years we have been providing phone counselling services for the 1800RESPECT Program nationally, but this year we pursued the tender opportunity to be the national clinical delivery in partnership with Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre and 54 Reasons. We are delighted to be working alongside Telstra Health in this essential service, scaling up DVConnect's operations to double our previous capacity.

Further opportunities came our way and we are pleased to now be delivering the VictimConnect program. Both new programs went live in July 2022, so the year gone was intensive in its scoping, planning, and transition.

The Board of DVConnect has rolled up their sleeves once again, and supported the amazing leadership team in this journey – managing risk, legal and strategic alignment – whilst also providing we hope, some moral support to the team who were on the ground, round the clock. I'd like to thank all our Directors, particularly those who guided the transition process from a board perspective.

DVConnect is now the largest specialist domestic and family violence service in the country, and we take this privilege and responsibility seriously. I would like to commend our CEO Beck O'Connor for her leadership of the organisation through this massive change but also her continued energy for domestic, family and sexual violence, to have a voice in every forum, including

intersecting issues of mental health, housing and justice. To truly change the dial, awareness and conversations about domestic violence need to be at all levels of government, and the team have made great headway this year.

This growth has been timely for the DVConnect Board to reflect on its new, increased responsibilities, and its governance brief moving forward. We are delighted to welcome 3 new Directors – Trina Hockley, Patrick O'Leary and Carly Jacobitz. Trina will assume the role of Chair in late 2022. I'd also like to recognise the significant contributions of Directors who have left us – Sarah McAllister-Smiley, Shaan Ross-Smith, and previous Director then Cultural Advisor, Auntie Heather Castledine.

I would like to note an entertainment and indeed awareness highlight of the year, with DVConnect supporting the LGBTQ DV Awareness Foundation's first Gala Ball. A spectacular night, with plenty of glitter, sparkle, but also shining a spotlight on the staggeringly high statistics around how domestic violence affects this community particularly. We look forward to seeing the Foundation's growth in years to come.

Thank you to all our supporters – donors, sponsors, government partners – this is big and difficult work, but it becomes all the more impactful with you by our side.



Message from Beck

CEO

It's hard to believe that in the last 20 years, DVConnect has grown from a small number of dedicated staff to a 160 strong team. Our expansion has been essential to support the growing number of people who bravely pick up the phone and ask for help from our Womensline, Mensline and Sexual Assault Helplines.

More people reaching out for support does not mean that more people are suffering. It means less are suffering in silence. Our community knows that they can make a call to a stranger at DVConnect and be heard and be safe. To me, that is the biggest honour and the reason why I am so proud to be writing this message for the 20-year anniversary edition of the DVConnect Annual Report.

In the last 20 years of DVConnect,

- Mensline commenced in 2002, joining our existing Womensline program
- The Pets in Crisis partnership with the RSPCA QLD commenced in 2005
- We added the Sexual Assault Helpline to our programs in 2009
- 1800RESPECT commenced in 2017
- We opened Bella's Sanctuary in 2019
- VictimConnect commenced in mid-2022.

Within 20 years, our impact and our influence has grown from supporting clients in Queensland through our various programs, to supporting people across Australia through the National Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Counselling Service, 1800RESPECT. We are proud to be involved in delivering the national front door for all people impacted by domestic, family and sexual violence across Australia.

The change and growth that DVConnect has gone through these past 20 years has been fought hard by the staff that came before me, and those I walk alongside today. I am grateful to them all.

Every single person who has worked with DVConnect over the last 20 years has played a role in the reputation of our service, known for its compassion, humanity, and wealth of experience. We have built the trust of the community, sector, and government through investing in ourselves.

That's not to say that there is no room for improvement of our service, or the systems we are working in. We will always be a work in progress, learning and collaborating to ensure we continue to deliver a service that is victim-centric and focuses on the 'choice' to use violence. I believe that along with our compassion and experience, it is our commitment to listening, learning and collaborating that is the reason DVConnect is celebrating 20 years of service.

Every person has the right to feel safe.

Our impact over the last 20 years has only occurred because we have stayed true to our purpose, which is that all people deserve to live free from violence and fear.

Being entrusted to support victim survivors of domestic, family and sexual violence in Queensland has been a privilege. Every day, my team hears the stories of brave survivors on our phone lines. Every challenging call pales in comparison to the challenges faced by those living with domestic and family violence. They are our inspiration and our reason for showing up to work every day for the last 20 years.

Thank you for celebrating 20 years with us.





Special Acknowledgment OF AUNTIE HEATHER CASTLEDINE

DVConnect would like to recognise the service of Auntie Heather Castledine, as Board Director for more than 8 years, and then continuing to guide our governance as First Nations Cultural Advisor for 3 years.

Auntie Heather is a proud Kamilaroi-Kooma woman, with an extensive career as an Aboriginal Cultural Consultant, particularly in health, reconciliation and champion for the greater Logan area. She provided a strong guiding hand for DVConnect across many areas of First Nations work and issues, including cultural competency, protocols, and community engagement. Further, Auntie Heather was kind, generous, and incredibly committed to her work with the organisation.

As First Nations women and children are disproportionately impacted by domestic and family violence, our service aims to work alongside, and be guided by First Nations services and community-led organisations to provide a service that is culturally respectful and safe for our clients.

With the strong starting point that Auntie Heather has provided, we look forward to growing our First Nations leadership and voices across the organisation, to make positive change for the whole community.

Board of Directors



Shaan Ross-Smith, Chair

Shaan commenced at Griffith University in late 2016 as the Director of the MATE program delivered through Griffith University's Violence Research and Prevention Program. Prior to commencing at Griffith University Shaan spent 16 years working with the Queensland Corrective Services through various managerial and director roles, including Director of Offender Rehabilitation and Management across Queensland. Shaan chose to diversify this experience in 2014 to work with victims/ survivors at the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre as the Integrated Response Manager. Shaan did this while continuing to work with perpetrators through a behaviour change program. Shaan is passionate about ending gender-based violence. Shaan holds post graduate qualifications in Psychology.



Enid Hughes, Deputy Chair

Enid is a strategic thinker and experienced management consultant bringing to the table broad executive capabilities across; business strategy, HR management, project management, brand management, organisational change and information technology. Her experience covers the private, public and not-for-profit sectors. Enid is focused on performance; with a passion for business transformation through technology and organisational change. Enid is an advocate of women at all levels and in all walks of life and is an active mentor. Enid holds a Master of Business Administration, Bachelor of Applied Science (Computing), and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Ben Bjarnesen, Director

Ben is a passionate educator, campaigner, speaker and advocate for improved services for LGBTQ victims and survivors of DV. Ben is a 2016 Churchill Fellow who travelled to the USA, Canada, UK and the Netherlands where he explored best practice solutions for Police Departments to enhance the way in which they respond to domestic violence in LGBTQ communities. He has since been actively involved in advising government and NGOs around Australia on a range of initiatives designed to improve service delivery to LGBTQ communities. Ben is an operational Police officer and volunteers as Regional Coordinator of the QPS LGBTI Liaison Officer Program. In 2020 he founded the LGBTQ Domestic Violence Awareness Foundation.



Fiona Maxwell, Director

Fiona Maxwell's career has spanned the non-profit, government and university sectors in Australia and the USA. Fiona is currently Executive Director, Queensland for FareShare, Australia's largest charity kitchen. Fiona was the CEO of Brisbane Powerhouse for 6 years, the Queensland Manager for Philanthropy Australia, and Queensland Manager for Artsupport Australia. Fiona holds a Bachelor of Arts from QUT, a Masters from the University of New South Wales and has completed the Executive Program for Non-profit Leaders at Stanford University. She is a fellow of the Australia Council Arts Leaders Program.



Naomi Meade, Director

Naomi Meade is an employment law and employee relations specialist, with experience in both the public and private sector. Currently, Naomi is a Human Resource Manager at QIC. Previously she worked as the Queensland and Northern Territory Manager for employment relations case management at Qantas and as a practicing solicitor in workplace law with Crown Law in the DJAG. She started her legal career as a family law solicitor, working in private practice, at the Women's Legal Service, and at the Family Court of Australia as a Legal Associate in the appellate division. Naomi holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB), Bachelor of Business (BIntBus) Law and Graduate Diploma.



Fatima Deen, Director

Fatima is a Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) with 20 years experience in the insolvency, turnaround and restructuring fields focusing on small to medium enterprises. Fatima holds a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Business (Accountancy) from the Queensland University of Technology, A Graduate diploma in legal practice, Advanced certifications in Insolvency and Restructuring & Turnaround (Australian Restructuring Insolvency and Turnaround Association and The University of New South Wales).



Sarah McAlister-Smiley, Director

Sarah is a commercial advisory specialist with 20 years professional experience, 15 of which were at Deloitte including 6 years as a Partner. In May 2020 she established her own firm – McAlisterSmiley Partners. Sarah predominantly works with C-Suite clients and Boards on financial and economic modelling, commercial advisory, business cases, feasibility studies and the development of visualisation tools. Sarah also served for 4.5 years on a pastoral Board and is currently on the Advisory Board of Exent. Sarah holds a Bachelor of Economics, Honours in Econometrics (Class 1) and a Bachelor of Laws with Honours. She also holds a Graduate Diploma of Applied Finance and has completed the Company Directors Course with AICD.



Linda Dreghorn, Secretary

Linda is currently Company Secretary for Green Cross Australia, and Manager, Business Performance – Governance at Arts Queensland. Previous roles include Company Secretary and Legal Counsel for Major Brisbane Festivals Pty Ltd, General Manager of Brisbane Festival 2006, Secretary and Director of the Secretariat of the Queensland Law Society Inc., Co-ordinator of Due Diligence for SunWater's acquisition of major water infrastructure and Lecturer in Law at the Queensland University of Technology. Linda has a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Queensland, a Graduate Diploma in Company Secretarial Studies and is a graduate of the AICD Company Directors' course.



Heather Castledine, Cultural Advisor

Heather is a proud Kamilaroi-Kooma (Aboriginal) woman and is actively involved with many Indigenous organisations in Queensland. She is the Aboriginal Chair for Reconciliation Queensland Inc., committee member for The Logan Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Community Elders and Chair of Murrigunyah (Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders for Women, a Sexual Assault service), and a Director of Youth & Family Service (YFS). Heather works as an Indigenous Cultural Consultant to a team of clinicians for the Child & Youth Mental Health Service (CYMHS) of Queensland Health. Heather holds a Bachelor of Social Work, Certificate IV in Indigenous Leadership and a Diploma of Community Services.



OUR Vision

Our vision is for all relationships to be free from domestic, family and sexual violence.

OUR Values

Integrity
Compassion
Accountability
Respect
Empowerment

OUR Purpose

Creating pathways for a life free from violence and fear.



OUR GUIDING Principles

1. Domestic, family and sexual violence is one of the most prevalent, pervasive and serious human rights violations.
2. Everyone has the right to be respected and live without fear from violence.
3. The use of violence is a choice and people need to be held responsible and accountable for their behaviour.
4. We operate from an intersectional feminist framework, acknowledging that domestic and family violence is gender-based violence, predominantly perpetrated by men against women.
5. It is critical that we continue to learn from and include diverse voices of survivors and culturally diverse communities when seeking to prevent violence.
6. We provide inclusive services that are evidence-based and trauma informed.
7. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People know best what their communities need and want.
8. We acknowledge and respect the abilities, strengths, goals and needs of people living with disability.
9. We are committed to working collaboratively as part of a broader system.
10. Our governance will be robust, ethical and transparent.

OUR Strategies



Impact



Influence



Strength



Courage



Growth

Our Services and Programs





Womensline

Womensline supports women and their children in Queensland who have been impacted by domestic and family violence.



Mensline

Mensline supports men in Queensland experiencing abuse or using abuse in their intimate partner or family relationships.



Pets In Crisis

The Pets In Crisis Program in partnership with the RSPCA QLD provides pets with safe accommodation, food and vet care.



Sexual Assault Helpline

The Sexual Assault Helpline is for any person in Queensland who has been or suspects they have been sexually assaulted or wants to help a friend.



VictimConnect

VictimConnect supports people who have been impacted by violent crime in Queensland through information, referral, counselling and case management.



Bella's Sanctuary

Bella's Sanctuary is a safe place for women and their children in Queensland after they have left refuge, to rebuild and heal.



Training

DVConnect delivers tailored training packages on domestic and family violence to workplaces, in-person and virtually.



1800RESPECT

1800RESPECT is the National Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Counselling Service. 1800RESPECT provides specialist counselling through a panel of expert non-profit sexual assault, domestic and family violence support services, including DVConnect. This partnership is integral to ensuring a high quality service, while meeting the significant number of contacts to 1800RESPECT.

Our Impact





1 call for help
every 5 minutes



of safe accommodation
for women and children



Calls to our
Sexual Assault Helpline
increased again this year



10,000+
referrals to our Mensline
from the police

DVConnect's Mensline
received, on average,
25 referrals
from the police every day



DVConnect provided
29 nights
of emergency
accommodation
to men

**"I wanted to tell you
that I'm grateful
for the service
and safety that
DVConnect provides."**

Survivor and DVConnect client



Bella's Sanctuary

THREE YEARS STRONG

In 2019 Halcyon, Mirvac, 90 local businesses and DVConnect designed and built a 5 unit medium-term housing residence on the Gold Coast. It was an Australia-first in response to a lack of affordable housing options which meant women faced homelessness or returning home to the person using violence after leaving refuge.

Three years on, DVConnect proudly manages and operates this safe place for women and children. Up to five families at a time call Bella's Sanctuary home.

Bella's Sanctuary includes 5 private, individual homes, a communal kitchen, living room, laundry, play area, garage, administration office, 24/7 security camera system, and more.

Bella's Sanctuary is a safe place for women and children to heal and rebuild after violence. It's an example of the corporate sector and the not-for-profit sector collaborating to change the future of those who have escaped domestic and family violence.



First family welcomed to Bella's Sanctuary **September 2019**



Bella's Sanctuary costs over **\$80,000** per year to run and is funded by community donations



Five families at a time call Bella's Sanctuary home

Here's what some of the residents at Bella's had to say:



"After initially being placed in a motel for a week with my daughter and our dog, then a refuge for 3 months, I can't tell you how amazing it was to walk into a place that felt like home. Bella's will be of benefit to many women and children in a situation like ours. I would love to see more homes built like this."

"The professional and caring staff (at Bella's) helped me start to put the pieces of my life back together. Bella's gave me time to process so much that had happened to destabilise my life."

"I feel so blessed to have stayed at Bella's. Good fortune like that doesn't usually happen to me. I now feel like I can breathe again and start to rebuild my life without feeling fearful."



Celebrating Our People

As a crisis-response service, we don't always see the longer-term impacts of our work in facilitating safety and validating a person's experience. But occasionally the people we have supported will contact us to share the impact that our support has had on their life.

There is no greater privilege than hearing their stories and we thank every survivor that puts their trust in our service and our people.

Here is what they had to say:

"More than 20 years ago, I was 15 and in a DV shelter with my mum. Today, my mum and I are making a donation to this same shelter to help women and children in similar situations. Please pass on thanks to everyone at DVConnect for saving our lives. We are filled with gratitude."

"I just wanted to say thank you for the support you gave me. I'll be joining in the candle vigil today."

"4 years ago you helped me and I wanted to let you know your support has had an enduring positive impact on my life."





Staff Spotlight

Sue, Team Leader 1800RESPECT

What do you enjoy about the work you do ?

Mostly I love feeling like I have supported and advocated for specialist counsellors who are on the frontline and supporting our callers who have all suffered some forms of trauma and assisting them to make sense of the callers impact on them personally.

If you could write your own job title that best describes what you do here what would it be ?

Advocate, supporter, active listener, administration worker, and middle ground between the organisation and frontline staff and callers.

If you could turn back time what advice would you give yourself on your first day at DVC ?

This will be the job that will see out your career in social work and be the most rewarding role you will have.



Sue (middle) is pictured with other 1800RESPECT Team Leaders, (left to right) Kaye, Maria, Sue, Salome and Rachel.

Connection Day

Connection Day is the only day of the year where the majority of our staff step away from their enormous responsibilities to come together for a team building day. They share food, relax and reflect. They squeeze in a healthy dose of competition (mini golf), and exchange learnings and ideas in a safe space.

Showing appreciation for our team and their work is an important part of our annual Connection Day, but it's not the whole point.

On Connection Day, we show the team how their work as individuals fits into a much bigger picture. A picture which influences policy and law reform, challenges systems when they harm our clients, creates best practice in a highly specialised field, and prevents violence from happening in the first place.

While we share our wins with the team all year round, Connection Day is the one day of the year where we pull everything together to show the critical role that every person at DVConnect plays in preventing and eliminating violence in Queensland.

When you are working with individuals every day, it can be hard to see the broader change your work brings about. That's the idea behind our Connection Days.

What Connection Day means to our team members

Brianne: One of the reasons Connection Day is important to me is because it allows us to understand and celebrate the unique skills, abilities and knowledge that each person brings to the team.

Robyn: Connection Day is important as it helps us pause to remember that connection is a part of being human and helps fill our emotional space.

Joanne: Our workplace as a family coming together to share ideas, celebrate achievements and plan for improvement. It solidifies why I do this work, every year.

Sharon: It provides the opportunity to come together, learn more about each other and how we can better support each other when working remotely.

Lora:

Caring About Another
Organic
Negotiation/Fairness
Nurturing/Supportive
Empathetic
Conscious Communication
Trust/Rapport
Is Intrinsic
On message: DFV/SA
Nourishing/Invigorating



Our Advocacy

Memberships and Partnerships

- LGBTQ DV Awareness Foundation
- Queensland Council of Social Services (QCOSS)
- National Queer Family Violence Sector Network
- Queensland Sexual Assault Network (QSAN)
- Services and Practitioners for the Elimination of Abuse Queensland (SPEAQ)
- Ending Violence Against Women Queensland (EVAWQ)
- Queensland Domestic Violence Services Network (QDVSN)
- SafeNet Australia
- Stopping Gender Violence Advisory Board, QUT Centre for Justice
- CALD Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Roundtable Advisory Group, Queensland Government

Submissions

- Queensland Mental Health Select Committee
- Women's Safety & Justice Taskforce
- Joint Letter to Women's Safety Ministers
- Independent Commission of Inquiry into QPS Responses to Domestic and Family Violence
- National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children
- Queensland Women's Strategy
- Response in relation to Queensland legislation governing public access to, and reporting of, sexual offence and domestic and family violence matters.
- Joint submission to the Australian Curriculum Review consultation

Proud Supporter

- Reproductive Rights through signatory to the Children by Choice Position Statement on Roe v Wade
- Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) Report and Project
- Uluru Statement from the Heart

Event Participation

- Understanding Pathways to Safety Forum
- Stop DV Conference 2021
- Brisbane Candle Lighting Vigil on the National Day to Remember
- Light Up the Night Charity Gala for the LGBTQ DV Awareness Foundation
- Red Rose Rallies, Brisbane City
- Brisbane Pride Fair Day
- DVConnect Webinar Series on Workplace Sexual Harassment
- We Need To Talk DV Awareness Sessions for mother's, father's and sons
- Women's Safety Summit

Social Media Campaigns

- May DFV Prevention Month #AbuselsAChoice
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month Regional Service Spotlight
- Sexual Violence Awareness Month, 1 educational post a day for October
- Consent in Your Language
- FAQ Friday's (Instagram Reels)
- Sexual Consent in Auslan video series

Our Partnerships

We are grateful that we have meaningful and collaborative partnerships with services and networks who share our vision to end domestic, family, and sexual violence. This year, we wanted to highlight four very special partners that we are privileged to work alongside every day.



Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre

On opposite sides of Australia, Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre (Marnin) and DVConnect work towards their shared goal of empowering women and strengthening families.

The relationship between Marnin and DVConnect was formalised in June 2022 when both organisations, alongside 54 reasons, partnered as specialist providers for the National Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Counselling Service, 1800RESPECT with Telstra Health. Prior to the formalisation of this partnership, Marnin and DVConnect had recognised and leaned on each other's expertise at various times over the course of 12 months, including through providing support in the form of professional supervision in exchange for deepening DVConnect's understanding of cultural responsiveness. This partnership has evolved into one of two-way learning in support of families healing from violence and the impacts of trauma, including inter-generational trauma. At DVConnect, we want to celebrate the work of Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre and are humbled by their trust in our partnership.

54 reasons

54 reasons

At DVConnect, we believe that every person has the right to feel safe. 54 reasons (formerly Save the Children Australia) are well aligned in their support of this fundamental human right for all lives to be free from violence, with a strong focus on children. We partnered with 54 reasons in acknowledgement of their specialist expertise in working alongside children and communities impacted by domestic, family, sexual violence, and other violent crimes.

DVConnect's relationship with 54 reasons is multidimensional. In June 2022, we partnered with 54 reasons and Marnin as specialist providers for 1800RESPECT with Telstra Health. At the same time, we formalised a partnership with 54 reasons to deliver the state-wide support service for victims of violent crime in Queensland, VictimConnect. This program provides counselling and case management support to people who have been impacted by violent crimes such as assault, attempted murder, kidnapping, sexual assault, and other crimes. Our partnership strengthens our ability to be responsive to the needs of those seeking our support, and we feel privileged to be sharing this work.



QSuper

QSuper has been a long and proud supporter of our work at DVConnect. As a key donor and champion of change within their own industry, QSuper have remained engaged about the issues of domestic and family violence and shown commitment to being a part of the change we need.

QSuper funds a specialist practitioner who works on our 24/7 crisis response line, helping us to answer an extra 4,000 calls every year.

The commitment doesn't end there. QSuper engage with our team throughout the year and have participated in training on recognising and responding to domestic and family violence to provide a safe work environment responsive to their staff and responsive to broader community need.

Thank you to QSuper, for your ongoing commitment and generous support.



Bank of Queensland

Our partnership with Bank of Queensland is particularly critical given the devastation of financial abuse that is experienced by many families who contact us for support.

Acknowledging the intersect between domestic and family violence, the prevalence of financial abuse, and the touch points provided by financial institutions, DVConnect and BOQ have worked well together to respond to need.

DVConnect and BOQ have worked together to train staff in domestic and family violence and implement procedures to support BOQ clients impacted by DFV, including financial abuse.

BOQ also provides generous donations to our service which have an enormous impact in enabling people to live free from violence and abuse.

Thank you BOQ for your partnership.

Financial Report

Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022

DVConnect Limited ABN 66 101 186 476

DVConnect Limited:

Is a Registered Charity (Public Benevolent Institution entity subtype) with the ACNC

has been endorsed by the ATO as a Deductible Gift Recipient

has authority to fundraise in Queensland under Charity Number CH1459

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2022

	2022	2021
REVENUE	12,303,095	11,041,275
Other income	750	1,478
Employment expenses	(9,203,650)	(8,128,337)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(540,196)	(428,120)
Administrative expenses	(853,670)	(534,332)
Client related expenses	(1,221,488)	(1,164,664)
Property expenses	(191,640)	(166,361)
Finance costs	(47,958)	(44,021)
CURRENT YEAR SURPLUS (LOSS)	245,243	576,918
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:		
Total comprehensive income / (losses) for the year	245,243	576,918

Statement of Financial Position

for the year ended 30 June 2022

	2022	2021
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	4,672,861	2,811,618
Trade and other receivables	55,255	11,961
Financial assets	1,000,407	-
Other current assets	32,291	17,130
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	5,760,814	2,840,709
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	2,116,895	1,991,078
Right of use assets	2,040,938	1,065,269
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	4,157,833	3,056,346
TOTAL ASSETS	9,918,646	5,897,055
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	3,490,888	735,829
Lease liabilities	349,123	217,448
Provisions	752,514	648,158
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	4,592,525	1,601,435
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Lease liabilities	1,600,968	874,665
Provisions	205,655	146,699
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,806,623	1,021,364
TOTAL LIABILITIES	6,399,148	2,622,799
NET ASSETS	3,519,499	3,274,256
EQUITY		
General Reserve	3,519,499	3,274,256
Accumulated surplus	-	-
TOTAL EQUITY	3,519,499	3,274,256



Womensline

1800 811 811 | 24 hours, 7 days

Mensline

1800 600 636 | 9am – midnight, 7 days

Sexual Assault Helpline

1800 010 120 | 7:30am – 11:30pm, 7 days

VictimConnect

1300 318 940 | 24 hours, 7 days

1800RESPECT

1800 737 732 | 24 hours, 7 days

DVConnect Contact Details

 PO Box 10575, Adelaide Street,
Brisbane QLD 4000

 07 3156 2323

 mail@dvconnect.org

 www.DVConnect.org

 @DVConnect

 @DVConnectQld

 @qldsexualassaulthelpline

 @DVConnectQld

DVConnect acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Land we live and work on all across Queensland, and pay our respects to Elders Past and Present. We want to acknowledge First Nations Peoples extraordinary contributions and their journey to healing. As well as their aspirations for a better future based on justice and self-determination. At DVConnect, we are committed to continue learning from and including the voices of First Nations women and other survivors of violence and abuse.

We are committed to helping anyone experiencing domestic and family violence and/or sexual violence. This includes the LGBTQ+ community, children, pets and people of all ethnicities, religions, ages and physical abilities. Our core values are integrity, compassion, accountability, respect, empowerment.

DVConnect acknowledges the many women, women's organisation and survivor advocates who have spoken out about their experiences for decades. The work that we are doing builds on their legacy, their dedication and their advocacy that has preceded us. It is critical that we continue to learn from and include the voices of women when seeking to prevent violence across society.

