

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018



PO Box 589  
Everton Park QLD  
4053

[cwrg\\_seqld@hotmail.com](mailto:cwrg_seqld@hotmail.com)  
[www.cwrg.org](http://www.cwrg.org)

# Chairperson's report

During the year 2017-2018 the CWRG has continued to provide the forum for refugees to meet and discuss both current and emerging issues specific to refuge. This opportunity is invaluable as refugees and workers face practice matters unique to our services and the meeting of likeminded people who understand the challenges of our work is necessary to build strategies to improve service and meet new challenges.

This year we have celebrated our first year of Partnership with Australia's CEO Challenge. Through ACEOC, CWRG has experienced the funding of the Secretariat for the first time. This has caused a significant difference to those of us who occasionally rose at 3am in order to haul donated items to markets or cook sausages to raise funds. While participating in these fundraising activities was always turned into a fun team building activity, it always held an uncertainty about our ability to raise the amount we needed. It has been very much appreciated by all, that the funding of the Secretariat is a concern we have not had to deal with this year.

CWRG members continue to attend other networks to advocate for the needs of the women and children we work with. Karyn, Debb and Claudia regularly attend the Department of Housing Inter-agency Working Group. The aim of this is not only to improve outcomes for families who have complex housing cases, but also to raise awareness of the needs of women and children escaping domestic violence in general. It is hoped that the Managers

of the various Dept of Housing Service Centres will gain some insight into the challenges faced by the families we work with as cases are presented.

The refuge sector as a whole, are currently working through the HSQF process. This is an enormous undertaking and demands an investment of time which refuge staff just do not have. CWRG is acting as an information sharing forum, an arena to support each other and are liaising with QCOSS to provide workshops to assist us with gaining Certification. Refuge audits are scheduled for July 2019 and CWRG aims at negotiating with QCOSS to deliver workshops early in the new year.

CWRG as a whole and the Executive Committee in particular have continued to work on updating the CWRG Constitution. This is an enormous job and time consuming, however extremely relevant at this time. The aim of the project is to ensure our Constitution supports our application for DGR status. With DGR status, the CWRG can then facilitate and manage brokerage funds to support women and children with no income. As we know, families who are not eligible for Government support payments are some of the most vulnerable people we work with. While refuges do accommodate families with no income, we also have to balance our organisations financial position with the number of referrals we can accept. CWRG holding and managing a pool of funds which refugees could access on behalf of these families would be

a practical and responsive strategy to assist with this issue.

CWRG will continue to advocate to Government at every opportunity around the needs and vulnerability of women and children who have no income as well as the impact this situation is having on our organisations.

This year CWRG has worked on strengthening the relationship between refuge and DV Connect and addressing the myths that still exist around refuge. Stacey and Karen have delivered training to DV Connect staff around what refuge is and what we do, letting them know we are "More than just a bed". They have highlighted the experiences of women through the referral process and what happens when they enter refuge. CWRG hopes this will increase understanding between refuge and DV Connect and allow us to work more seamlessly, which will of course flow onto improving the journey women take when entering refuge.

This year we have lost Stacey from Save the Children, Jebb and Gareema refuges, who has worked with and supported the CWRG, including serving on the Executive Committee for many years. Stacey is a strong advocate for women and children and the refuge sector. She is moving on to a new area within Save the Children and while we are happy for her we are also sorry to see her leave the CWRG. We would like to take this opportunity to say Thank You to Stacey and wish her the very best.

CWRG would also like to acknowledge Jean Ramshaw, who provided an amazing service to women and children escaping domestic and family violence for over 30 years. Jean started Women Helping Women as a drop in centre when she saw the need for a service where women could go to gain support, information and connection. From this drop in centre Jean quickly realised that women in the community needed a place of safety to escape domestic and family violence. Jean, without funding, quickly obtained a house and turned it into a refuge. Despite never gaining Government funding, Women Helping Women successfully operated until 2017. Jean is an exceptionally committed, passionate and driven woman who has changed the lives of hundreds of women. I do not doubt that Jean will continue to be a staunch advocate for women and children escaping domestic violence and we will continue to see her within the sector. Our very genuine admiration and respect to Jean for all you have done and who you are.

Needless to say many hours this year were spent preparing for CWRG's 40th birthday celebration. The CWRG members, and the Executive in particular, painstakingly planned all aspects of the celebration and training event, from the first negotiation with CEO Challenge to fund the event, to the last minute arrangements. The event was aimed at not only being a celebration of 40 years, but to act as a forum to raise awareness of the situations women and children face when escaping domestic and family

violence and the support refuges provides to them in their journey.

The event also gave back to refuge staff by providing training that was relevant, timely and outstanding, and training that would normally be beyond the affordability of refuge.

Jenny Gilmore presenting on Feminist Practice and Penny Gordon presenting on Trauma Informed Care and Practice as well as Sustaining Resilience Whilst Working in Domestic and Family Violence was a wonderful opportunity for all refuge staff and we thank Jenny and Penny for not only their role at the event, but their longstanding support and contribution to the sector as well.

Cathy and Bernadette spent many hours researching and formatting our Herstory of CWRG brochure and picture display. This included significant time at the UQ Archives Library where CWRG's historical documents are now stored.

CWRG and particularly Liz worked closely with Catherine from Australia's CEO Challenge, and her team who put an amazing level of effort and commitment into this event. Jacque, Matt, Catherine, Holly and Elly were all enthusiastic about the event and I think enjoyed it almost as much as we did. We also give sincere thanks to Marnie from Majella refuge who was our wonderful MC for the event.

CWRG would like to thank CEO Challenge for funding this amazing event and Minter Ellison for hosting us at their beautiful venue and providing all the lovely catering. It really highlights would corporates and non-government organisations joining together can achieve.

As I have only held the position of Acting Chair for 3 months this year I am aware of the work that has taken place before me. I would like to thank the previous Chair Lisa, the Executive Committee - Cathy, Bernadette, Heath and Sue and the Committee members who somehow find time in their time poor days to meet and represent the refuges and staff in South East Queensland and the needs of women and children escaping domestic and family violence.

Lastly thank you to Liz for once again going far beyond the hours we allocate you and always being there to answer our many and varied, and possibly strange questions.

Thank you all.

**Tracey Amos**  
Chairperson

# Combined Women's Refuge Group (SE QLD) Annual Report 2018

**Chairperson** - Lisa Marriage  
Madonna House

Succeeded by Tracey Amos  
Koongoora

**Vice Chair** - Karyn Rosenthal  
Mary & Martha's

**Secretary** - Cathy Johns  
Ipswich Women's Shelter

**Treasurer** - Bernadette O'Byrne  
Windana Support Centre

## General members -

Heath Truda  
Women's House Shelta

Sue Clarke  
Koongoora

Stacey Larkin  
Jebb

Carrie Colonna  
Chisholm

## Congratulations on 40 years!

Our highlight this year was without a doubt our 40th anniversary celebration this November. This 2 day event brought together refuge workers from all over South East Qld, together with corporate partners and key stakeholders in Government. Our refuge workers took part in 2 days of training sponsored by Australia's CEO Challenge, focussing on Feminist Practice, Trauma Informed Care and Maintaining Resiliency which was a fantastic investment into the workers in our sector. The first day also featured a forum celebrating

the achievements of the CWRG over its 40 years, and some successes of the partnerships facilitated by Australia's CEO Challenge. This was a brilliant afternoon which took us from laughter to tears and back again, celebrating our journey and that of the brave women who came before us. We were happy to have the Minister for Communities Di Farmer, and reporter Matt Wordsworth join us for an informal chat over lunch on the second day. This also served to highlight the brilliant work done by refuges and many positive ways we can work together going forward.

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Our special thanks to Save the Children for our meeting space and to all our guest speakers for 2017-2018

# Treasurer's report

## Year ended 30th June 2018

2018 saw CWRG (SE QLD) celebrate our 40th year of operation. Records suggest that the first group of women sat down for a CWRG meeting in 1978 and the brochure that we just published for our recent celebration event details the achievements that our members have made over the years. These successes were achieved through hard work, volunteering and "on the smell of an oily rag". Statistics indicate that we have much still to do. We have just experienced a horror month in October for domestic violence homicides with 10 women killed in Australia by their intimate partner or family member (Counting Dead Women Australia). Statistics also reveal that 70 women and 20 children have been killed through violence since the beginning of the year (<http://www.impactforwomen.org.au/death-toll-of-violence-in-australia-2018.html>).

### Income and expenditure

This year has seen a massive improvement in the financial viability

of the CWRG (SEQ). Australia's CEO Challenge came on board and offered to fund our Secretariat wages. We have struggled over the years to find the money to pay for this integral position as memberships have not kept pace with wages. During the 2017/2018 financial year, CEO Challenge contributed \$6448.72 towards the cost of the Secretariat, memberships raised a further \$5510 and we paid \$55 in bank fees.

### In appreciation

Australia's CEO Challenge also contributed an incredible \$10,000 towards our recent two day 40th birthday celebration hosted by Minter Ellison. This event was very successful and we combined training, a celebration of successful corporate partnerships, guest speakers and networking opportunities for all of our members and guest attendees. This event was also attended by Di Farmer, the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and the Minister for

Child Safety, Youth and Women, as well as Matt Wordsworth, a television presenter with the ABC. I would like to thank in particular Jacque Lachmund and Catherine Lamb from ACEOC for their advocacy and hard work on our behalf as well as the entire CEO Challenge team and Minter Ellison staff who worked so hard to support this event. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the CWRG Executive Committee and our Secretariat, Liz MacDonald. The event would not have gone ahead without the efforts of these people.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Liz, our Secretariat, for her years of hard work and advocacy. She has gone above and beyond in her role and it is largely due to her that we have been able to accomplish some of the big events over the years such as the launch of the position paper "More than Just a Bed" and our recent 40th birthday celebrations. I would also like to thank Lisa and Tracey for assuming the role of Chair (a position that is always difficult to fill) and Karyn as Vice Chair and other exec members such as Catherine Johns who contributed so much time to trawl through archives to obtain an accurate herstory of the CWRG. It would not have been possible without these women and also the general members of the committee, Sue, Heath, Stacey and Carrie. Finally, I would also like to thank Koongoora who administered the wages of the Secretariat throughout the 2017/2018 financial year.

### Treasurer's Certification

I hereby certify that the Combined Women's Refuge Group (SE QLD) keeps financial records in a way to properly record the association's income and expenditure and dealings with its assets and liabilities.

**Bernadette O'Byrne**  
Treasurer

### Statement of Income

#### For the Year Ended 30th June 2018

<b>Income</b>	
Donations	\$0.00
Corporate Partnerships	\$8,621.50
Memberships	\$5,510.00
Bank Interest	\$0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$14,131.50</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Bank Fees	\$55.00
Consultant's fees	\$0.00
Fees and charges	\$0.00
Wages and salaries	\$8,621.50
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$8,676.50</b>
<b>Net Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$5,455.00</b>



DFV SECTOR TRAINING AND PARTNERSHIPS FORUM  
1-2 Nov 2018





# CWRG 40th anniversary



# Combined Women's Refuge Group SE QLD Herstory

**1978** First CWRG meeting

**1979** First CWRG state-wide conference

**1980** First CWRG child support worker meeting

Contact Book- 12 refuges listed

Pet's in refuge (issue raised)

CWRG Statewide Conference held

**1980** Department of Communities Crisis Care program starts to operate Crisis Care telephone line, start of 1800 811 811

Annual camps at Bribie Island

**1983** First women's refuge brochure released

**1984** Immigration funds one off 3 year grant for refuge migrant worker

**1985** Supported Accommodation Assistance Program established

**1986** Crisis Accommodation Program established

**1987** DV Taskforce in QLD set up

**1988** "Beyond these Walls" published

CWRG supports submission to extend Crisis Care's operating hours

**1989** Domestic & Family Violence Protection Act introduced

**1991** Refuge opens at Redlands, last refuge established until "Not Now Not Ever Report" 2015

**1993** MWESS became incorporated body (now IWESS)

Statewide Conference held

**1994** Most refuges agreed SAAP was not the best fit program for refuges as safety is the priority not accommodation

**1995** IWSS receives funding from QLD Health to establish sexual assault service.

**1998** SAAP conference - discusses inadequate funding of women specific services and advocates for 100% funding to pay award wages.

**1999** CASH Award introduced

CWRG becomes Incorporated body

1978-1988

1989-1999

- 2001** Refuges start to move from communal to unit style accommodation.  
Practice Standards Working with Women Affected by DFV implemented
- 2002** DV Connect establishes womensline/mensline/service line
- 2004** Body Shop state-wide campaign for emergency relief for migrant women with no income  
Brisbane City Council commits to setting up CEO Challenge
- 2005** Blue Book lists 27 refuges and 10 non-accommodation services  
Gambling Community Benefit funds CWRG brochure promoting women refuges
- 2006** CWRG advocates for reinstatement of refuge interpreter funding
- 2007** ATSI rep speaks to CWRG about Aboriginal women being forced into mainstream organisations due to lack of specific services, encourages CWRG to advocate for Murri Sisters to receive an appropriate refuge
- 2008** Blue Book distributed to regional DFV Services for the first time  
**CWRG has a funded secretariat!**

2000-2008

- 2009** Pathway Report published  
Brochure launch at CWRG 30th celebration  
CWRG adopts new logo  
State Pay Equity Case- new award gives much needed pay rises for staff but funding did not increase accordingly and many refuges have to reduce staffing levels.
- 2010** Pathways forums held and new guidelines established regarding intake and referral hours for refuges  
CWRG launches website [www.cwrg.org](http://www.cwrg.org)
- 2014** Department of Housing implements mobile support in refuge service agreements
- 2015** CWRG writes open letter to state Premier regarding the epidemic of domestic violence, particularly in QLD.  
CWRG launches “More Than Just A Bed” position paper
- 2018** CEO Challenge partners with CWRG and funds secretariat  
Five year service agreements for all refuges

2009-2018

# Domestic violence

## Key statistics

Women killed around the world each day by their partners or other family members



137

Every single day in 2017, an average of 137 women and girls were killed around the world. "According to the 2018 report on the killing of women and girls released by the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime, about 87,000 were killed worldwide in 2017, 58 percent of them victims of domestic or family violence." [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/GSH2018/GSH18\\_Gender-related\\_killing\\_of\\_women\\_and\\_girls.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/GSH2018/GSH18_Gender-related_killing_of_women_and_girls.pdf)

Counting Dead Women Australia - known deaths due to violence against women in Australia

63

Counting Dead Women Australia counts every known death due to violence against women in Australia. The count for 2018 has reached 63 by November 22, 2018. The total count of women killed by violence in Australia for 2017 was 53. October 2018 was the worst month on record since this count was begun six years ago, with 11 women killed in only 22 days.

Our thanks to the researchers who do this heartbreaking and difficult work. They are the Counting Dead Women Australia researchers of Destroy the Joint.

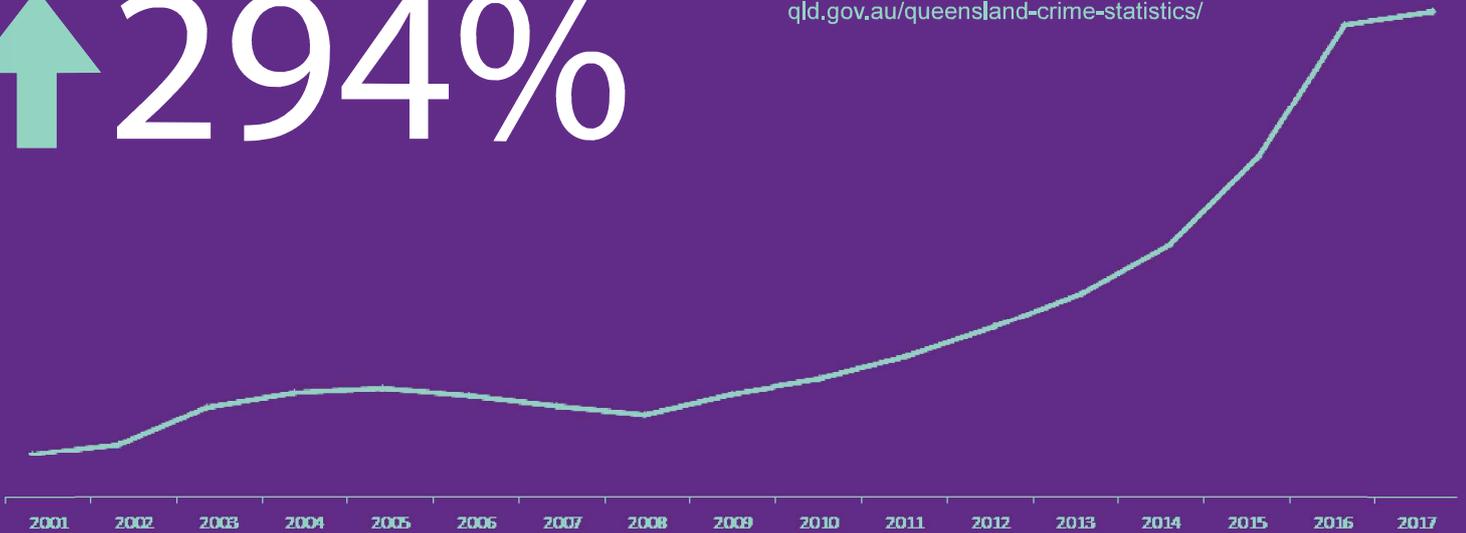
Cost of domestic and family violence to the QLD economy is estimated to be up to:

\$3,200,

## Breaches of domestic violence orders in QLD

↑ 294%

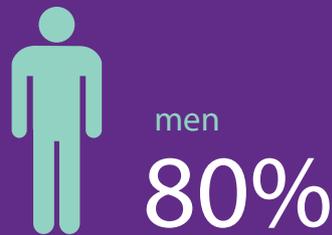
Breaches of DVO's have increased over 297% from 2001 to 2017 (Breaches have increased from 6,500 in 2001 to 25,624 in 2017). <http://mypolice.qld.gov.au/queensland-crime-statistics/>



Intimate partner homicide victims in QLD 1/7/06 - 30/6/18

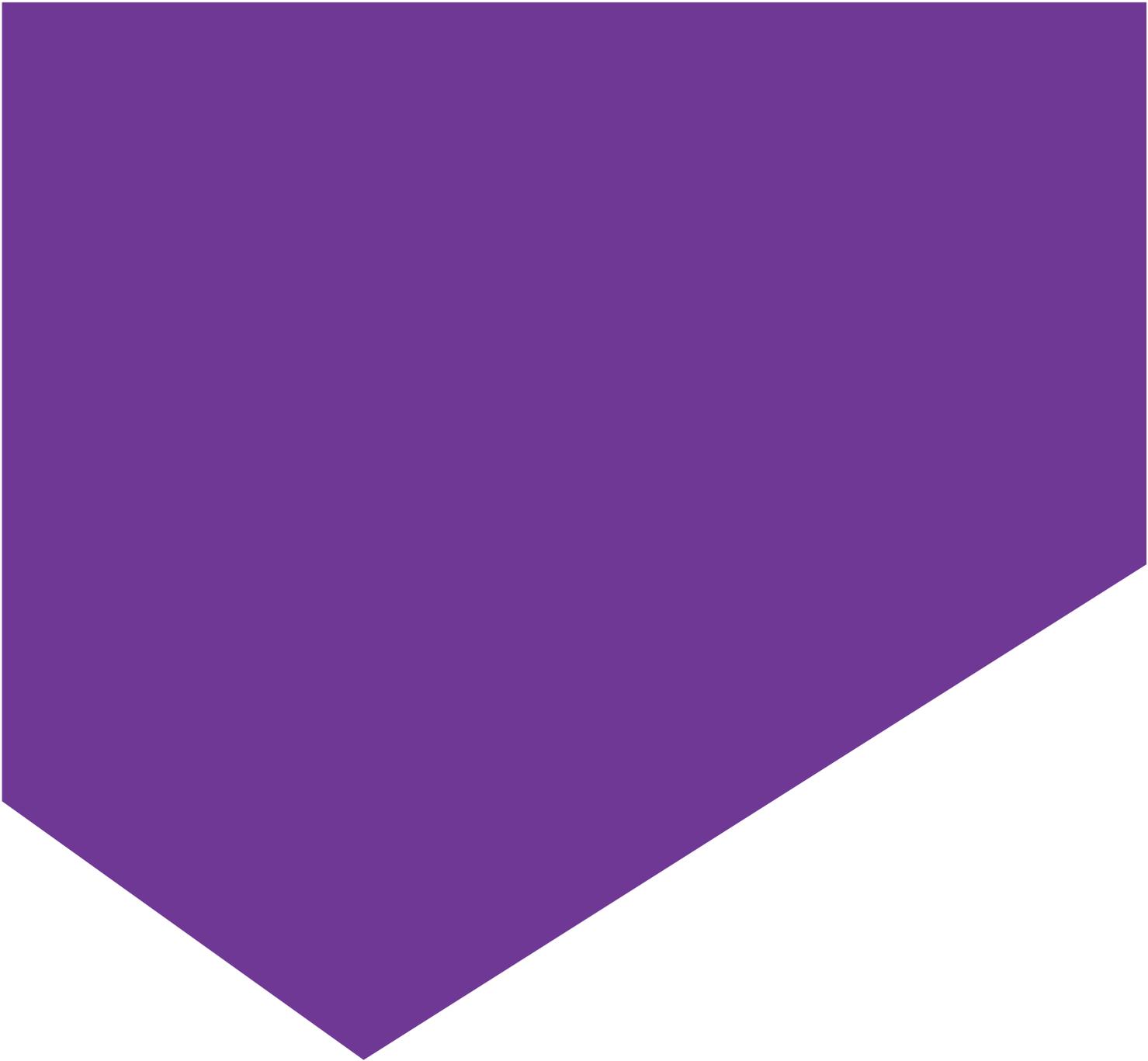


Perpetrators in intimate partner homicides in QLD 1/7/06 - 30/6/18:



Among intimate partner violence homicides where the deceased was female, the deceased was recorded as the victim of violence in 95.3% of cases. In contrast, for intimate partner violence homicides with a male deceased, the male was the perpetrator of violence in the relationship in 68.2% of cases, and was recorded as both using and experiencing violence in a further 27.3% of cases. [https://www.courts.qld.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/586182/domestic-and-family-violence-death-review-and-advisory-board-annual-report-2017-18.pdf](https://www.courts.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/586182/domestic-and-family-violence-death-review-and-advisory-board-annual-report-2017-18.pdf)

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