



- **10.1 Matter of public interest**
  - Attachment 1 Matter of Public Interest - Domestic and Family Violence  
Prevention Month .....3

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Matter of Public Interest      Council Ordinary 27/5/2022

Mayor and Councillors, I bring to your attention a Matter of Public Interest.

This is Domestic and Family Violence Month. The matter of domestic and family violence is of concern to all of us: not only is it devastating and dangerous for victims, but consumes resources that could have a better purpose. This includes police and court time, financial support of organisations like the Domestic Violence Action Unit, and the need for organisations like Ipswich City Council to endorse prevention programs.

Domestic and family violence is inversely affected by changing social conditions: the cost of living, housing insecurity, and unemployment.

But at heart are some very profound questions about gender equality, the rights of women to live lives unfettered by surveillance, and the rights of children to live secure lives untouched by violence.

There is considerable expenditure on prevention programs. One of the highlights of this is the Perpetrator Intervention Program. The Perpetrator Intervention Service offers support and behaviour change intervention to individuals aged 16 – 25 years who are using violence in their intimate partner relationships past and present.

We expect this will assist individuals who would not be eligible or suitable for a group the opportunity to gain the support required to change their behaviour.

In the Men's Behaviour Change Program in Toowoomba, qualified experienced facilitators provide domestic violence education and support to men who use violence in their intimate partner relationships.

The program is designed to provide education on what domestic violence is and, through the themes covered in the program, to assist the participants attending to understand and change their behaviours of violence and abuse towards their partner or ex-partner.

In these programs, men:

- learn new skills to deal with difficult situations
- understand their patterns of behaviour and triggers
- strategise to keep their family safe
- enhance communication
- create healthier relationships
- become a safe role model for their children.

Work with women affected by violence leads them to think of themselves as survivors, not victims, as they learn life-changing skills. It is a difficult and challenging change to a way of living that is dangerous at every turn and leaves children fearful and confused, and without a moral example.

Ipswich City Council supports the work of domestic violence activists, and we envision a world where no woman or child lives in fear of violence.

