



NSW Domestic Violence Death Review Team

*This fact sheet summarises the Ask LOIS webinar on this topic, presented by Dr Lesley Laing
NSW Domestic Violence Death Review Team and Senior Lecturer, University of Sydney
on 7 November 2013. This webinar can be downloaded for free at www.asklois.org.au/webinars/past-webinars.*

What is a Domestic Violence Death Review Team?

- Collaboration of government & non-government agencies
- Seeks to reduce domestic violence related homicides
- Identifies & recommends improvements to agencies
- Monitors implementation of recommendations
- Draws on emerging research to develop best practice guidelines

Your notes: -

Key Drivers in NSW

- Long campaign by NSW DV Coalition
- Political context
- Murder of Melissa Cook, Dec. 2008
- Interagency Panel
- Non-Government Chair
- Short time-frame to May 2009
- BOCSAR 5 year review
- 43% deaths not flagged as DV related on COPS
- 36% of those were intimate partners/intimate partner related
- DVDRT announced May 2010

Your notes: -

Advisory Panel – February – May 2009

- Define 'domestic & family violence related' homicide
- Consider the BOCSAR's analysis of trends & patterns in DFV related homicides in NSW for 1 January 2003 - 30 June 2008
- Consider elements of an ongoing review mechanism, including –
 - The need for a legislative basis
 - The need for any amendments to privacy legislation
 - Data collection methodology
- Recommend changes to practices & procedures to reduce preventable DFV related homicides, including a model for an ongoing review mechanism



Your notes: -

Panel Method

- Review of research literature
- Consideration of the analysis of DV related homicides 2003-2008 conducted by BOCSAR
- Analysis of international models for DV homicide reviews
- Documentation of existing death review mechanisms in NSW
- Consultations with officers from NSW Ombudsman and Coroner
- Attempted analysis of 5 case studies of DV related homicides

Your notes: -

Essential Features

A DV homicide review mechanism for NSW should include a **strong legislative framework** incorporating:

- Protection from disclosure in legal proceedings;
- Immunity to those who disclose information;
- Exemptions from freedom of information legislation;
- The ability for the review mechanism to compel information from relevant agencies;
- Objectives that centre on a 'no blame' philosophy;
- A requirement that members are bound by confidentiality
- A clear notification process;
- The power to make recommendations public;
- A mechanism to ensure implementation of recommendations;
- Membership that includes all relevant government & non-government service providers
- Capacity to seek expert advice where required;
- Minimum number of required meetings per year;
- Oversight mechanisms; &
- Periodic statutory review.

Positive Outcomes

- DVDRT finally established after >10 years of advocacy
- Includes suicides & 'accidental' deaths in addition to homicides
- Legislative base (

Your notes: -
