

FACT SHEET- About Beyond DV



Carolyn Robinson is the Founder/Managing Director of Beyond DV Ltd, an Australian charity focused on prevention through supporting women and children as they rebuild their lives after domestic and family violence and by educating the community about domestic and family violence.

In 2017, Carolyn's younger daughter went through a domestic violence experience. Accompanying her to court, Carolyn was profoundly impacted by the enormity of domestic violence in the community, as evidenced by the large number of women, from all walks of life, who were also in court for DV matters.

Carolyn felt compelled to find a way to utilise her 30 years as an Educator to help children when they needed to relocate schools after fleeing domestic and family violence and to help women rebuild their confidence. Beyond DV was subsequently launched in January 2018.

Through her hands on work with DV survivors, Carolyn identified more gaps in existing services and has set about creating many innovative recovery programs to meet the needs of families in the Greater Brisbane Area, based around "Five Pillars of Recovery"

- Social Support- online support group, weekly morning teas & social events
- Housing Support- Hannah's Sanctuary, regular visits from Tenants Qld & Department of Housing
- Health Support- DV counselling (individual/group), parenting programs, wellness classes, allied health support, food relief
- Legal Support- free legal advice by volunteer lawyers, regular visits from QPS
- Financial Rebuilding- career mentoring, financial counselling, job readiness, training opportunities (onsite/offsite), work experience/employment pathways

In 2020, Beyond DV opened their first Recovery Centre in Brisbane- a "one stop shop" hub of Recovery Services giving DV survivors a place that many now call a "home away from home". Beyond DV opened a second Recovery Centre in 2021 in Brisbane's north and has now opened a third in Brisbane's west to provide families with greater access to support across Brisbane.

Also in 2020, Beyond DV and Carolyn were inducted into the Queensland Government Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Honour Roll, in both the Organisation and Individual categories.

The other major focus for Beyond DV is the prevention of Domestic and Family Violence through their "We Need to Talk" program which delivers DV Awareness sessions across Brisbane for Parents and young people aged 15-18 years, in collaboration with several other organisations.

Beyond DV



beyonddv.org.au



In late 2021, Carolyn developed the highly innovative Love&Learn Teen Relationship App, which educates young people about the signs of healthy & unhealthy relationships, as well as where and how to seek support. This free App, available to Apple and Android, has been widely downloaded across the globe.

In March 2022, Beyond DV launched the first HOPE Hub at Westfield Carindale- a highly-secure and highly-accessible space where community members can access support around social issues, with a focus on domestic violence and mental health.

In May 2022, Beyond DV became the Lead Organisation for Queensland in the newly formed Australian Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Recovery Alliance. The Alliance advocates for the importance of high-quality, holistic, long-term recovery as a critical form of domestic and family violence prevention.

In May 2023, Beyond DV officially opened Hannah's Sanctuary, a nine-townhouse transitional housing project, in partnership with the Small Steps 4 Hannah Foundation and a very generous Developer Philanthropist. Families impacted by domestic violence, and who are out of the high-risk crisis stage, will have the opportunity to live at Hannah's Sanctuary for 12-18 months while they rebuild their lives.

In July 2023, Beyond DV's new Young Person's Program will commence as an extension of their highly successful "HOPE 4 Life" Youth Program. Funded by the Department of Youth Justice, this program will focus on providing holistic early intervention around three Recovery Pillars, to young people aged 10-15 years who have been impacted by domestic and family violence. Our focus is to minimise the impact of this Adverse Childhood Experience on their future lives, with the program involving collaboration with many other organisations in the community all working towards a common goal.

In August 2023, Beyond DV will launch the first six episodes of their podcast "Stories Beyond DV", which will give Survivor Advocates, who have been trained through our Inspire2Aspire program, a platform to share their stories of recovery. Supported by the voices of experts, our hope is that "Stories Beyond DV will bring hope and inspiration to others who have been impacted by domestic and family violence.

The desire to listen to survivors and turn a negative experience into something positive will continue to be a focus for Carolyn and the Beyond DV Team.