

## Introducing Our New Chief Executive

Hello and welcome to the December issue of Victims' Voice. Firstly, allow me to introduce myself – my name is Tony Waters and I commenced with Victim Support Service (VSS) in September. I have qualifications in psychology and law, as well as over twenty years of experience in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors.

In October I was able to meet with some of you at our Annual General Meeting and I thank you for your attendance. I have spent much of my time meeting the range of internal and external stakeholders that VSS works with to deliver our services to victims of crime. I would also like to acknowledge and thank all parties both within and external to government that work with VSS in assisting with the support of victims throughout the various aspects of the criminal justice system.

VSS is now approaching its 32nd year of providing support to victims of crime around South Australia. In the past year alone over 2,300 initial contacts, and some 18,000 total contacts, were made with victims of crime by VSS. The increase in the need for our services comes despite a decrease in victim reported crime in South Australia over the past ten years. We will strive to continue to provide best practice counselling to those who need it. We will provide relevant information to clients in regards to the criminal justice system and Victims of Crime Compensation. We will continue to advocate wherever necessary on behalf of victims to meet their needs and protect their rights. Furthermore we will seek to make our services more accessible to all South Australians and particularly to vulnerable groups in our community.

I would also like to announce a new initiative that VSS will be providing throughout South Australia from December. For many victims of domestic violence the only option is to leave home, often with their children, finding themselves homeless or at risk of homelessness. The object of this new program is to enable women and children who are victims of domestic violence to remain safely in, or return safely to, their homes. With assistance from South Australia Police and other community organisations, VSS will undertake a risk and safety assessment and provide a safety package that makes the houses of victims safer to return to. I would like to thank the Department for Families and Communities, the Attorney-General's Department and the Commissioner for Victims' Rights for their support of VSS in delivering this very important initiative.



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The work that VSS does in the regional areas in which we operate continues to be of importance and we believe provides a wonderful asset for these communities. We want our services to support individuals and communities, help rebuild lives and keep individuals at the heart of justice in South Australia. To achieve this we believe that people affected by crime should readily be able to access emotional and practical support and information, no matter where they live or whatever barrier they may have.

Over the next few months I hope to continue to meet all our many supporters and hope that together we can continue to advance the rights and needs of all victims of crime throughout South Australia.

## Volunteer Activity in 2010

This year has seen several changes and developments in the Court Companion and Public Speaking Programs.

Nikki Lamshed became a Court Companion Coordinator in September 2007. During her time in this role, Nikki contributed immensely and amongst other achievements, was involved in creating and facilitating two recruitment training programs. Nikki stepped out of the role in September this year and we will miss her energy and dedication to the program.

With the departure of Nikki came the arrival of a new coordinator, Elaina Priori. Elaina joins me, Emma Lee Kumar, to coordinate the Court Companion and Public Speaking Programs. Elaina is a counsellor with the Intake, Assessment and Brief Intervention Team and has been at Victim Support Service (VSS) since November 2009. I would like to welcome Elaina to the role and look forward to working with her.



*Emma Lee Kumar & Elaina Priori,  
Court Companion & Public Speaker Coordinators*

As mentioned above, two Court Companion training programs were run for new recruits. One was held in Adelaide and the other in Mount Gambier (which was co-facilitated by Virginia Hill, Regional Coordinator, South East). The two training programs resulted in VSS gaining six new volunteers which is a welcomed addition to the volunteer team.

As I write this article, I am in preparation for a Court Companion “refresher training” later in the week. This training aims to refresh our existing Court Companions’ understanding of: their role and purpose; the criminal justice system; and the issues and needs relating to victims of crime.

This year has proven to be another busy and successful year for our volunteer programs and I would like to thank our committed volunteers for their time and effort to support victims of crime.

*Emma Lee Kumar  
Court Companion & Public Speaker Coordinator*

## Taxi Driver Survey Report 2010

In the September edition of *Victims’ Voice*, we informed our readers that the *Taxi Driver Survey Report* would be available on our website.

There was a slight delay in uploading the report, but please note that it is now available on the home page of our website at [www.victimsa.org](http://www.victimsa.org)

# Murraylands Criminal Justice System Seminar

On 25 August 2010, a Criminal Justice System Seminar was held in Murray Bridge. Twenty local workers attended, including employees from health and support organisations, private practitioners and local school chaplains. As the representative from Victim Support Service, I organised the event in conjunction with Eliza Schmerlaib from Yarrow Place Rape & Sexual Assault Service, and Nina Travers and Fabiana Vielle both from the Witness Assistance Service (Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP)).

The day was a success, with attendees gaining insightful and valuable information to assist their clients who may be going through the criminal justice system as a victim of crime, or the family of a victim. Much information was sought surrounding the Prosecutor's role, court procedures and the supports available throughout the system for vulnerable clients. Sandy MacDonald, a Senior Crown Prosecutor with the ODPP, attended and provided astute and constructive answers to the many questions asked of her.

Those in attendance were asked to comment on the day and the information provided to them; the responses were both positive and pleasing. Attendees found the information obtained invaluable and encouraged others to attend similar events in the future, for the benefit of vulnerable victims and their families as they progress through the criminal justice system.

VSS looks forward to continuing to provide these important Criminal Justice System Seminars in country regions across South Australia.

*Amy Pridham  
Regional Coordinator, Murraylands*

## Court Companion Program in the South East

The Court Companion team in the South East has been strengthened with the introduction of three new volunteers.



*Pauline, Shirley & Jenni (new Court Companions)  
with Virginia Hill (Regional Coordinator,  
South East) & Jodie Sloan (Manager,  
Regional Services & Strategic Development)*

The newly trained Court Companions were presented with certificates at a celebration morning tea to mark the special occasion. Representatives from South Australia Police, Mount Gambier Magistrates Court and the judiciary attended the morning tea where Jodie Sloan (Manager, Regional Services & Strategic Development), welcomed the new members. Jodie stated, "It takes a very special type of person to do the work. People don't forget their experiences in court and they don't forget the people who supported them."

The new Court Companions will join two long-serving volunteers in supporting victims and witnesses in the Magistrates, District and Supreme Courts, as well as assisting victims in the Federal Magistrate's Court and Family Conferences.

*Virginia Hill  
Regional Coordinator, South East*

# 2010 Annual General Meeting

The 2010 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on Wednesday 27 October. Due to the success of last year's milestone AGM, the meeting was again held in the Old Methodist Meeting Hall behind the Adelaide Town Hall.

Chaired by Birgitte Sorensen, Chairperson of the Victim Support Service (VSS) Board of Management, the meeting was attended by approximately 40 members, volunteers, staff members and interagency colleagues. For many attendees, it was their first chance to meet our new Chief Executive, Tony Waters, who addressed the audience later in the meeting.

The meeting was preceded with afternoon tea and began with an acknowledgement of the Kaurna land. Birgitte then announced the Victim Worker of the Year and Honorary Life Membership recipients.

Richard Murray was awarded Victim Worker of the Year 2010. Richard worked at the Crown Solicitor's Office for over 20 years and was Manager of the Victims of Crime / Debt Recovery section for most of that time. He provided outstanding support for victims going through the Victims of Crime Compensation process, making himself available around the clock. Richard's ability to explain complex issues in easy-to-understand language was appreciated by victims as well as other professionals. He often organised advance payments so that victims could receive immediate dental and medical treatment to assist with their recovery from crime. Richard now works for Fletchers Lawyers, assisting victims apply for compensation claims. He is a great example of someone who goes the extra mile and we acknowledge the support he provides.



*Richard Murray (Victim Worker of the Year), Birgitte Sorensen (VSS Chairperson), Donna Murphy (Honorary Life Member) & Tony Waters (VSS Chief Executive)*



*Birgitte Sorensen presenting Honorary Life Membership to Donna Murphy*

Two Honorary Life Memberships were bestowed upon longstanding VSS volunteers, Donna Murphy and Janzy Murphy. Donna has been a volunteer for VSS Port Pirie since the office opened in 2001. She works in a number of roles to support the Regional Coordinator, Jenny Lewis, including her invaluable work as a Court Companion at the Magistrates and District Court. She also offers support for victims at Family Conferences, fulfils Public Speaker requests, organises stalls at community events and helps with Victim Awareness Programs for young offenders. Jenny has received excellent feedback about Donna's assistance, from stakeholders such as South Australia Police, Youth Justice Coordinators and the Witness Assistance Service (Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions). Her reliable support is very much appreciated by Jenny and the rest of the staff at VSS.

Janzy has been a volunteer with the service since 2002. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her volunteer roles as a Court Companion, Public Speaker and Intake Support. Janzy has always embraced the opportunity for different volunteering roles and her flexibility and reliability is highly valued. Her patient, gracious and kind-hearted characteristics are extremely desirable in a Court Companion, and it's therefore not surprising that she is often requested by referring services. The Court Companion and Public Speaker Coordinators are extremely grateful for Janzy's dedication to the service and hope that she continues to be part of the volunteering team for many years to come.

Unfortunately, Janzy was unable to attend the AGM to accept her award. Instead, she was presented with her certificate and gift at a Court Companion meeting in November.

Following the award ceremonies, the formalities began. Birgitte presented her Chairperson's Report which was followed by the financials, read by Susan Mackenzie (Manager, Human Resources & Administration) in Peter Hall's absence. Peter was VSS Treasurer during the 2009-10 financial year. He has since stood down from the position and we would like to thank Peter for his many years with VSS. His knowledge, experience and dedication will be missed.

The Chief Executive's Report was presented by David Kerr, who was the Acting Chief Executive in the months between Michael Dawson's departure and Tony Waters' arrival. Taking the stand for the Chief Executive's Report for the second year in a row, David's report highlighted the achievements and changes for VSS throughout 2009-10.

With Peter's departure comes the arrival of our new Treasurer, Amanda Noto. Birgitte acknowledged this and the election of Tom Osborn to the Board of Management. Tom has been an appointed Board Member since 2007 and we welcome him as an elected member.

Our guest speaker this year was none other than Tony Waters. Tony used the opportunity to introduce himself as the new Chief Executive and give the attendees a snapshot of his career to date. He acknowledged the service as it currently stands and expressed his desires to build upon the quality services already provided.

So after another successful year, another AGM has passed. Thank you to all who attended and congratulations again to Richard Murray, Donna Murphy and Janzy Murphy.



*Tony Waters speaking to the audience*

## Membership for 2011

As the year comes to an end, it is time for renewal of your Victim Support Service membership. For those who are already members, please find your invoice included with this newsletter. If you are not yet a member, please consider financially supporting the organisation and helping victims of crime in South Australia. Please find a membership form in the envelope or you can access it online at [www.victimsa.org](http://www.victimsa.org)

The Board of Management reviewed the membership fees and have chosen to keep them at the same price for 2011. The membership fees are (GST inclusive):

- Individual - \$22
- Individual Concession - \$17
- Family - \$27
- Family Concession - \$22
- Community Group - \$52

If you would prefer to make a donation, please complete the donation section on the membership form. Your financial support will be greatly appreciated.



# Headlining Crime

Recent media commentary and manoeuvring by parties has seen crime, victimisation and community safety once again being headlined. Claims of crime rates decreasing sharply and counter claims of increases in violence have brought into the spotlight the difficulties in determining levels of crime and violence and appropriate policy responses within a community such as South Australia.

It is well-established that both administrative data, such as victim reported crime and also survey data, have shortcomings in respect to providing a true picture of the level of crime, violence and hence safety within a community. The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) has provided research that shows assaults are almost three times less likely to be reported to police than motor vehicle thefts (AIC: Johnson 2005). In addition, despite having higher rates for all types of personal crime, younger people are the group most likely to under report (AIC: Johnson 2005). On the other hand, survey data can vary according to survey methodology and are dependent on what people are willing to disclose. In comparing these two sources of data, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) concluded that "victimisation rates based on administrative data tend to be significantly lower than those based on survey data as many people do not report crimes to the police." (AIHW: Young Australians - 2007).

The Commissioner for Victims Rights, Michael O'Connell, was reported as saying that there were still a high number of unreported crimes and that the actual number of crimes was therefore "mysterious" (AdelaideNow: 19 October 2010).

What other indicators are there that can be used to paint a broader picture of "activity" within the criminal legal system? Perhaps one could look at the level of activity and effort by various stakeholders such as the police, courts, public prosecutors, providers of support services and prisons.

In addition to victim reported crime, South Australia Police (SAPOL) annual reporting also provided information on crime reported due to proactive police activity. These include public order offences, drug offences and traffic offences. During the period 2000-01 to 2008-09, these reported crimes increased by some 18%. (SAPOL: Annual Reports)

The Courts Administration Authority (CAA), in their annual reporting, show that Total Criminal

Lodgements in the Supreme and District Courts have increased some 38.4% over the period 2005-06 to 2008-09. The Chief Justice commented in the 2008-09 Annual Report that the "Council continues to believe that the trend in lodgements indicates that more criminal courts will be needed if waiting times are to be reduced to acceptable levels". (CAA: Annual Reports)

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) has also seen increased workloads. During the period of 2004-05 to 2009-10, the number of Supreme and District Court (Adelaide and Circuit) Briefs finalised increased by 46%. In addition, referrals to the Witness Assistance Service increased from just over 200 in 1997-98 to over 1,100 in 2009-10. (ODPP: Annual Reports)

Victim Support Service (VSS) is a statewide, community based not-for-profit organisation in South Australia. Qualified staff and trained volunteers provide a comprehensive range of services for adults and older adolescents who have experienced crime. Over the last decade the number of new clients that VSS has provided services to has increased by over 13%.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics in their report 'Prisoners in Australia' show that the number of prisoners in South Australia has increased by 40.4% over the period 1999-2009. In addition, the same publication shows that the imprisonment rate per 100,000 adult age population in South Australia rose from 120 in 1999 to 155 in 2009. (Australian Bureau of Statistics: Prisoners in Australia 2009)

The above figures give a broader context to the level of activity within the criminal legal system in South Australia. Focusing on one headline rate or countering with another does not necessarily give a deeper understanding of criminal activity, the number of victims within South Australia and the appropriate policy responses. Our courts are stretched, our prisons are host to more people, public prosecutors are dealing with more briefs and more witnesses and victims are receiving and needing support services.

*Tony Waters  
Chief Executive*



# Crime Statistics: The Mystery of the Crime Problem

The media, politicians and others often use police crime statistics to describe the numbers and types of criminal offences. These statistics are readily available and can be useful, so they are the most widely cited. The statistics can be presented as raw figures (i.e. the actual number of recorded offences); as a percentage of offences recorded to show, amongst other things, variations in offences over a period of time; and, as crime rates (i.e. the proportion of offences per 100,000 people). National standards allow for many crimes to be compared across Australia. These statistics, however, have deficiencies such as: crime victims do not report all crimes to the police because, for instance, they believe there is nothing the police could do or the incident is a private matter.

Generally the decision to report an offence is voluntary, although for property offences, private insurance companies usually require the offence be reported to the police and victims intending to apply for state-funded victim compensation are obliged to report the offence.

The police may not record all offences which are known to them because, for instance, recording is done at the discretion of individual officers who might interpret the law differently or for multiple offences, only the most serious offence might be recorded.

Consequently, there is a 'dark figure' of crime. Sometimes this is explained using the metaphor of the iceberg. Like a ship's captain who sees only the tip of the iceberg, police statistics show crime that is visible or known to the police, whereas much crime is invisible or unknown to them. In other words, police crime statistics do not necessarily provide a true account of the real crime problem, so other ways of measuring crime have been developed.

Examinations of data on '000' calls taken by police illustrate, for instance, that there is a gap between police statistics and the everyday experience of the public. One study found instances of these requests for assistance, despite alleging sometimes serious offences, did not lead to reported crime being recorded.



Victim-surveys – the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Crime and Safety surveys and Women's Safety Survey are prime examples – aim to identify the extent to which a representative sample of people (usually adults) have been victims of crimes. The accuracy of the data attained can be questionable because victims do not always remember or reveal offences; and, they misinterpret incidents as crime. The sample itself might be biased so certain people who are at high risk of victimisation are not surveyed. The survey data, however, can be compared with police statistics to indicate the level of under-reporting. Thus, a more complete picture of the extent of crime can be drawn.

Conversely, self-report studies focus on samples of offenders who are asked to reveal details of all offences they can recall having committed. Their responses provide another indication on crime.

Each source of statistics has short-comings. No one source paints a complete picture of the so-called crime problem. Comparing different sources – police statistics, victim survey data and self-report studies – can provide a more comprehensive insight into both the extent and nature of crime. Alas, public trust in crime statistics is frequently undermined by the misrepresentation and misuse of crime statistics. Public confidence depends on the integrity of crime statistics as well as the accuracy of the reporting on these statistics.

*Michael O'Connell  
Commissioner for Victims' Rights*

# Building the Future: Challenging Family Violence Conference in Whyalla

On 24 September 2010, Whyalla hosted the Building the Future: Challenging Family Violence Conference, held at the University of South Australia campus.

The theme of the conference was "Building the Future", with key speakers being: Dr Elspeth McInnes AM; Dr Peter Merton; the Commissioner for Victims Rights, Michael O'Connell; local Magistrate Roseanne McInnes; Suzanne Fuzzard; and Senior Constables Christie Siebum and Debra Penney.

After an acknowledgement of the land by Wilhelmine Lieberwirth, Senior Constable Christie Siebum delivered her opening address. This set the tone for the day as she described how significantly family violence affects victims, their families and the community as a whole, and the role that police play in assisting those affected by family violence.



Dr McInnes enlightened participants on the Impact of Violence on Children and Maternal Parenting, explaining how children are affected and traumatised by witnessing their mother being abused and how abuse can then affect a woman's abilities to be an effective and loving parent. She went on to explain how family violence can lead to behavioral and emotional issues in children and how the mother-child relationship can also suffer when living in stressful abusive relationships.

Dr Merton followed with an excellent presentation on the Impact of Violence on the Development of Children, where he gave a wonderful insight into brain development and why the brain reacts to trauma such as family violence in the way that it does.

Michael O'Connell spoke about how having a Commissioner for victims of crime can help domestic violence victims.

Suzanne Fuzzard provided an informative talk on the Peer Mentoring Program for Women and how it benefits both domestic violence victims and the mentors.

Magistrate McInnes gave a fascinating insight into family violence matters within the Magistrates Court system.



The day ended with a moving ceremony when a remembrance candle was lit by conference committee member, Alberto Salatino, in memory of lives lost due to domestic violence.

*Kate Kemp-Turner  
Regional Coordinator, Whyalla*

*Kate Kemp-Turner (VSS Regional Coordinator, Whyalla), Michael O'Connell (Commissioner for Victims' Rights), Dr Peter Merton & Dr Elspeth McInnes*

# Holiday Driving Safety Tips

## Drink Driving

Alcohol affects your driving skills, moods and behaviour. Once it's been consumed the effects cannot be reversed. The only thing that will sober you up is time. Getting back to zero (sobering up), takes a long time. No amount of coffee, food, physical activity or sleep will speed up the process.

You don't have to be drunk to be affected by alcohol. You might feel normal but no one drives as well after drinking alcohol.

Novice drivers with any level of alcohol in their blood are at a much higher risk of crashing. This is why learner and provisional licence holders are restricted to a zero alcohol limit.

## Driver Fatigue

When setting off on a long trip don't leave too early in the morning because your body clock believes you should still be asleep.

Have a 15 minute rest every two hours. On a long trip, especially in holiday season, there are Driver Revivor stops which provide a cup of tea or coffee. Make sure you take advantage of them.

Keep an eye out for the signs of driver fatigue which are: yawning; sweaty hands; tired eyes; poor concentration; restlessness; drowsiness; boredom; slow reactions; and over-steering.

## Tow Check

If towing a trailer or caravan, ensure:

- good tyre condition and suitable tyre pressure (including spare).
- towbar & towing equipment is secure.
- all electrical connections are secure and lights work correctly.
- trailer brakes work correctly.
- rear view mirrors are adjusted correctly.

## Distance Between Your Car and the Car in Front

It's a good idea to always keep a minimum three seconds gap between you and the car in front. When it's raining and/or foggy, double the distance to six seconds no matter what speed you're doing.

## Smooth Driving

Don't rush into things. Plan ahead when driving. Make early decisions on braking and accelerating. Change gears and brake smoothly to avoid skidding. This will provide a smoother drive for yourself and

your passengers while also providing less wear and tear on the vehicle and helping you save on fuel costs.

## Keep Left Unless Overtaking

When driving on a dual lane road, always keep to the left lane. Use the right hand lane for overtaking, turning right or when roadworks are being carried out and there is no other choice.

## Indicate Early

Always indicate when changing lanes, 30 metres wherever practical, to advise other motorists of what you are doing.

## Expect the Unexpected

Drive with your line of sight parallel to the road, not looking down onto it. By doing this you see further into the distance so you can be better prepared if there is a problem ahead. It may even mean you can avoid a crash.

## Overtaking

Ensure you have enough room to go past the vehicle you are overtaking and not cut them off. Pick your time carefully as

overtaking can be quite dangerous and making the wrong decision may result in a serious crash.

## Stopping Before the Intersection

Always slow down coming to an intersection especially if you are towing a van. Your braking distance will be greater than when you're not towing, so make sure you allow for this. You must stop on a stop sign/line.

## Driving at Night

Driving at night requires more skill and concentration than at daytime due to your restricted vision. Oncoming headlights can obscure your vision and pedestrians can be near impossible to see. Leave a bigger gap between you and the car in front to allow for your reduced vision and reaction time.

## Road Rage

Stay relaxed and try not to let other people's driving skills or decisions worry you. If another driver makes a mistake, don't get angry, just concentrate on your own driving skills, behaviour and safety.

If another driver is courteous towards you, then acknowledge the good deed with a wave.

\* Tips sourced from: [www.mynrma.com.au/cps/rde/xchg/mynrma/hs.xsl/holiday\\_driving.htm](http://www.mynrma.com.au/cps/rde/xchg/mynrma/hs.xsl/holiday_driving.htm)



# What's New in the Resource Centre?

Welcome to the Resource Centre update. If you would like to borrow from our unique collection, please ask at your local VSS office or look online at [www.victimsa.org](http://www.victimsa.org)

Below are some resources that may help with the effects of family violence or other crimes, including two recently published in South Australia.

## Self-Help Resources

### **A Guide to What Works for Depression in Young People**

*Rosemary Purcell, Patch Callahan, Faye Scanlan & Antony F. Jorm, 2010*

<http://www.youthbeyondblue.com/factsheets-and-info/>

*VSS Reference Online De03*

What is depression? This online booklet is a summary of what depression is and the treatments that work for young people. The treatments considered are: complementary; lifestyle; medical; and psychological. Tips are given about assessing whether you need help, the different kinds of depression, how to go about getting help, and how your family and friends can help you.

### **Sleep Well, Live Better: 3 Steps to Good Sleep**

*Leon Lack & Helen Wright, 2010*

*VSS Reference Se96*

The authors are sleep researchers and clinicians, based at Flinders University. They provide information about different kinds of insomnia, and offer programs to help insomniacs - even for those who have suffered from lack of sleep for a long time. Their book will help you to get back to a normal sleep pattern without the use of drugs.

### **Survivors: what we can learn from how they cope with horrific tragedy**

*Gregory K. Moffatt, 2010*

*VSS Reference Tr56*

Patience, determination and resilience: these are some of the qualities that Psychology Professor, Gregory Moffatt, identifies in people who have coped with unbearable tragedies in their lives. He illustrates his book with cases such as: victims of the Nazi Holocaust; survivors of spinal injury; victims of violent crime; adult victims of child abuse; and survivors of the Rwandan genocide. He offers a series of protective factors, and recovery strategies, including clinical intervention.

### **The mindfulness code: keys for overcoming stress, anxiety, fear and unhappiness**

*Donald Altman, 2010*

*VSS Reference Fe28*

Altman helps you to find a different approach to dealing with your problems. He shows you how to change your brain's reactions, to observe and examine the thoughts that have caused you stress, and to accept happiness, harmony, peace and joy. This book describes how to integrate mindfulness into your daily living, both in your own life and in your relationships with others.

## Professional Resources

### **Are you okay? A Practical Guide to Helping Young Victims of Crime**

*Pete Wallis, 2010*

*VSS Reference Ju13*

A guide for counsellors on how to assist youth who have been victimised. It shows how young people are affected by crime, what symptoms they display because they are suffering, and how their recovery can be facilitated. Crimes that are considered in this book include: assault; bullying; hate crime; cyber crime; child sexual abuse; kidnapping; spouse abuse; emotional abuse; robbery; violence; and sexual assault by a peer. It also includes a guide to the criminal justice system.

### **Child Abuse and Family Law: Understanding the Issues Facing Human Service and Legal Professionals**

*Thea Brown & Renata Alexander, 2007*

*VSS Reference La17*

This research addresses an escalating problem in Australia: children are being abused, often violently, following the end of their parents' relationship (separation or divorce). This book has been written for family law practitioners, the judiciary and social workers to provide

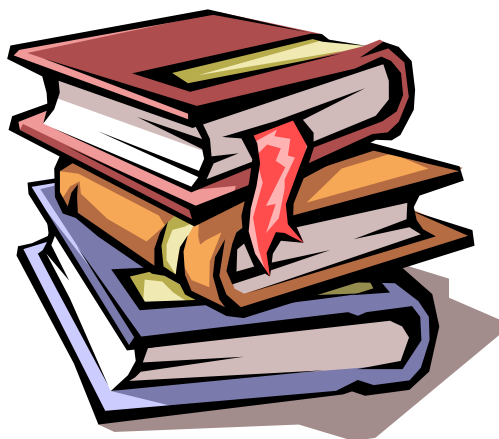
a practice framework to assist abused children effectively. Illustrated with case studies.

### **Domestic Violence Through Children's Eyes**

*Northern Violence Intervention Program, 2003*

*VSS Reference DVDDv01*

A group of young people, aged eight to 16, whose lives were impacted by domestic violence, wrote, sang and acted in a play about it. The play was turned into this DVD by the Northern Violence Intervention Program, who had been assisting them. It offers awareness for the community about the violence that children have suffered in their



homes. A short booklet is included, describing: the creation of the DVD; effects of domestic violence; interventions used to prevent domestic violence; discussion points; and debriefing.

### **Exposing the Dark Side of Parenting**

*Mary McKenna, Rosalie O'Connor & Jussey Verco, 2010*

<http://www.flinders.edu.au/ehlt/humanities/exposing-the-dark-side-of-parenting.cfm>

VSS Reference Online Dv17

A South Australian report on violent behaviour of children and adolescents towards their parents (mostly towards their mothers, whom they blame for the behaviour). The report considers: the ages of children with behavioural problems; descriptions of the behaviour and the impact it has on different members of the family and family life; the health and well-being of the parents; help-seeking by the parents; and suggestions from the parents about what support would be helpful.

### **Restorative Justice and Violence Against Women**

*James Ptacek [Ed.], 2009*

VSS Reference Re29

An overview of restorative justice models being implemented in the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. This spectrum of models provides restorative justice for violence against women. Some of the writers discuss the benefits of restorative justice methods, whereas others see danger in the use of restorative justice for crimes of violence against women. Illustrated with case studies.

### **Trauma Competency: a Clinician's Guide**

*Linda A. Curran, 2009*

VSS Reference Tr59

A handbook for clinicians in two parts: 'Stabilization' and 'Working through trauma'. The author outlines symptoms, diagnosis and the many types of therapy used for healing the after-effects of trauma. She explains the current theories and neuroscience relating to post traumatic stress and borderline personality disorder, giving insights into self harm, suicidal thoughts and pathological dissociation.

### **Trauma Model Therapy: a Treatment Approach for Trauma, Dissociation and Complex Comorbidity**

*Colin A. Ross & Naomi Halpern, 2009*

VSS Reference Tr54

A comprehensive manual for counsellors on treating trauma, dissociative disorders and comorbidity. This book may also be used by people suffering from these problems, but with professional guidance. It provides a variety of techniques and strategies to cope with trauma, addiction and other disorders, particularly for people who have had a history of trying to cope with several psychological problems at once.

I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year. Thank you to all members of the VSS Borrowers' Club and for those of you who aren't a member, please feel welcome to browse our selection over the holidays.

*Fiona Hemstock  
Librarian*

## Continued Sponsorship

The Board and staff of Victim Support Service (VSS) would like to thank Community CPS Credit Union for renewing their sponsorship once again.

Community CPS have sponsored VSS since 2004 and their financial assistance is much appreciated.

We suggest that you talk with a Community CPS representative for any of your financial needs.



*Dean Stewart (Community CPS Credit Union) presenting the cheque to Tony Waters (VSS Chief Executive)*

# Merry Christmas

The Board and staff of Victim Support Service would like to thank our members and volunteers for all their support during 2010. We'd also like to thank the readers of *Victims' Voice* and give special thanks to those who have contributed articles and victim stories.

*May everyone enjoy a happy and safe festive season!*



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