



PROGRAM REPORT:
ACCOUNTABILITY, RESPONSIBILITY TO
CHANGE (ARC) PROGRAM,
KORNAR WINMIL YUNTI, ADELAIDE.

Contents

Acknowledgements 2

Executive Summary 3

Background 4

 Kornar Winmil Yunti 4

 Family violence 5

 Intervention response model for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men 5

Purpose 6

Method 6

Accountability, Responsibility and Change (ARC) program 7

 ARC referral process 8

 ARC Program Outcomes 9

 Feedback from ARC Program clients 11

 ARC Program potential opportunities 12

Appendices 14

 figure 1. Service elements under the Intervention Response Model 14

 figure 2. The ARC referral process 15

REFERENCES 16

ACRONYMS

AMC	Adelaide Magistrates Court
ARC	Accountability, Responsibility to Change
CAA	Courts Administration Authority
DCSI	Department for Communities and Social Inclusion
DV	Domestic Violence
DVPP	Domestic Violence Prevention Program
IO	Intervention Order
IRM	Intervention Response Model
KWY	Kornar Winmil Yunti
OCSAR	Office of Crime Statistics and Research
ROIO	Reoffending of Intervention Order
SAPOL	South Australia Police
VCBC	Violent and Controlling Behaviour Checklist (for men)
WSCO	Women's Safety Contact Officer

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Kornar Winmil Yunti (KWY) would like to acknowledge the Government of South Australia Department for Communities and Social Inclusion, as the funding body of the ARC program. KWY would like to thank the Office for Women (South Australia) for their continual support, and the homelessness, domestic violence and Aboriginal family violence sector in South Australia for their ongoing support in our endeavors.

KWY would also like to acknowledge and thank the contribution of Kootsy Canuto for generously volunteering his time to produce this ARC program report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Kornar Winmil Yunti (KWY) are a not-for-profit organisation that supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men from around South Australia and is responsible for delivering the Accountability, Responsibility to Change (ARC) program, funded by the Attorney Generals Department via DCSI as part of the Intervention Order Response Model (IRM). The ultimate goal is to 'improve the safety of women and their children who are victims of domestic and Aboriginal family violence, by holding perpetrators accountable for their violence and facilitating cooperation information exchange between the Courts Administration Authority, perpetrator and women's support services' ¹.

There is high demand for domestic and Aboriginal family violence (DV) services in South Australia to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in addressing and resolving such issues. This level of demand combined with the underfunding of culturally competent services in South Australia results in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, particularly men, being unable to accept accountability for their actions, and responsibility to take the necessary steps to change their behaviour.

Provoked by the current political environment and the uncertainty surrounding future funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, KWY took on the responsibility to provide its stakeholders and the South Australian community with a better understanding of the ARC program.

KWY is funded to provide services to 50 individuals per year through the ARC program. However, from July 2014 to June 2015, a total of 164 men approached KWY to participate in the ARC group program; 85 completed an intake assessment, 59 engaged in the ARC program resulting in 31 men completing the program. For the same period, 174 men approached KWY for one on one support through the ARC program.

Forming part of the ARC program is the Violent and Controlling Behaviour Checklist (VCBC). The VCBC is administrated by KWY staff before, during and after the ARC program to assess any change in client's behavior ². For the 31 clients that completed the ARC program, 97% (30/31) had an improvement in their VCBC score; one client's score remained unchanged. The rate of reoffending for the 31 clients that completed the program was 3.2% (1/31). From before the program to after the program no one had their VCBC score decrease.

KWY consistently has more clients seeking services from them than they were funded to provide. There is currently a massive gap in the DV sector in South Australia surrounding services and programs provided for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male perpetrators and their families. It is evident that with additional funding, there is undoubtedly an enormous opportunity for KWY to support many more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men in South Australia, and their families, through engagement with the ARC program.

BACKGROUND

KORNAR WINMIL YUNTI

Kornar Winmil Yunti is an Ngarrindjeri name meaning ***Men Working Together***. KWY are a not-for-profit organisation that supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men from around South Australia and have links to Aboriginal men's support groups from around Australia. To ensure the safety and well-being of families and community in South Australia, KWY aims to;

- Work with all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men who are marginalised and need direct assistance to engage with the health system, their community and social groups,
- Offer a safe place to re-establish with their tradition and culture, as well as restoring individual and community self-esteem and respect,
- Optimise opportunities to intervene through direct health services that focus on positive changes to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men, women, children, individuals, families and the community,
- Through direct counselling, provide leadership and guidance in supporting men to take responsibility for themselves,
- Establish collaborative and consultative links with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations concerned with addressing social determinants of health,
- Promote, educate and disseminate knowledge about living non-violently in our community and the benefits of respectful relationships, and
- Engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men who may be involved predominantly in domestic violence and substance misuse, to build personal self-esteem as well as respectful relationships with their family and community.

Forming part of a National plan to reduce violence against women and their children, the Government of South Australia, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI), has allocated funding to KWY to address the following strategic plan targets;

Target 6 – Aboriginal Wellbeing: Improve the overall wellbeing of Aboriginal South Australians, and

Target 18 – Violence against Women: A significant and sustained reduction in violence against women through to 2022 (baseline 2005) ¹.

As a result, KWY is responsible for delivering the Accountability, Responsibility to Change (ARC) program, a DCSI funded Intervention Order Response Model (IRM) program whose ultimate goal is to 'improve the safety of women and their children who are victims of domestic violence, by holding perpetrators accountable for their violence and facilitating cooperation information exchange between perpetrator and women's support services' ¹.

KWY also provides the following services;

- Aboriginal Cultural Competency Workforce Development Project, and the
- Aboriginal Men's Group Support Program.

FAMILY VIOLENCE

Family violence is a significant issue among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females are 35 times as likely to be hospitalised due to family violence related assaults compared to their non-Indigenous counterparts³. As a result, many of the perpetrators and victims become involved with the justice system.

Unfortunately, any children affected by family violence similarly become entangled in the justice process, adding a further layer of complexity to an already highly emotive and stressful situation. Consequently, the difficulties endured by all concerned throughout the subsequent justice process can at times become insurmountable, resulting in complete family breakdown, incarceration or even loss of life⁴.

There is high demand for services to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in addressing and resolving such issues. This level of demand combined with the underfunding of culturally competent services results in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, particularly men, being unable to accept accountability for their actions, and responsibility to take the necessary steps to change their behaviour.

‘The safety of women and children is at the heart of everything that we do at KWY. Working with perpetrators of domestic and Aboriginal family violence, to hold those men responsible and accountable and to change their attitudes towards women and violence is critical. The work we do with perpetrators is often underestimated and undervalued’.

(Craig Rigney CEO, KWY, 2015)

INTERVENTION RESPONSE MODEL FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER MEN

In 2014 a review was conducted of Intervention Orders (IO) and the IRM by the Office of Crime Statistics and Research for the South Australian Attorney-General’s Department (OCSAR)⁵. The report mentioned that KWY are funded by DCSI to run domestic violence prevention groups for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men in metropolitan Adelaide⁶.

However, the KWY program was not included in the evaluation. The evaluation also failed to provide information on the number of Aboriginal men with intervention orders or where they end up being referred to.

The review concluded that the IRM is inappropriate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people including the conditions of the orders for people located in rural and remote locations⁶.

PURPOSE

Provoked by the current political environment and the uncertainty surrounding future funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, KWY took on the responsibility of sourcing external assistance to provide a program report/evaluation for the ARC program, subsequently, the CEO of KWY approached Kootsy Canuto (KC) to assist with the report/evaluation. When such an initiative is driven by the organisation and not mandated by funders, it clearly demonstrates an understanding of the importance such an initiative can provide, and an ambition to continually improve program service quality.

KWY consistently has more clients seeking services from them than they were funded to provide. There is currently a massive gap in the DV sector in South Australia surrounding services and programs provided for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male perpetrators and their families.

This report provides key stakeholders and the South Australian community with a better understanding of the ARC program delivered by KWY. The report includes a reflective evaluation of the ARC program (July 2014 – June 2015) highlighting the value the program provides to clients.

The report also highlights KWY's potential to further contribute to the domestic violence sector in South Australia by expanding upon their services.

METHOD

As an Indigenous organisation, KWY believes an Indigenous lens is imperative to examine both Indigenous specific, and government required, objectives concerning Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and having an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person or organisation at the helm of the evaluation process is important as evaluations are about reaching judgements of worth⁷. Therefore, KWY approaches KC to assist in this program report.

A strong and trusting relationship between the organisation and the individual preparing the program report/evaluation is vital for the collection and evaluation of data, and is imperative for honest and open communication. Subsequently, after many discussions between KWY and KC it was agreed that ongoing monitoring and reflections of ARC program outcomes will be beneficial to KWY and their funders, it would also provide good monitoring of the ARC program. An organisation that can provide good monitoring of their programs can easily evaluate such programs as evidence is consistently being 'collected and analysed throughout the life of the program'⁸.

KWY and KC met in person many times throughout the life of this program report, including numerous emails and phone calls to clarify any misunderstandings of the data, and or direction of the report. KWY had also been collecting data to inform this report, including, but not limited to, their financial information, client statistics and client comments/feedback from their exit interviews. This information, along with open lines of communication between KWY and KC, has enabled the resulting report to be meaningful and an accurate reflection of the ARC program.

ACCOUNTABILITY, RESPONSIBILITY AND CHANGE (ARC) PROGRAM

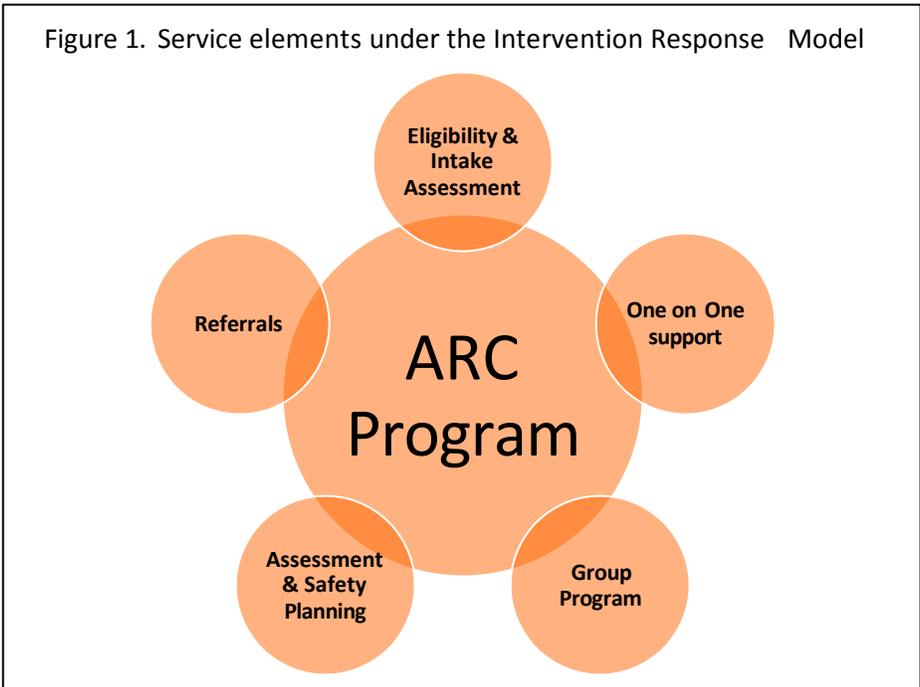
KWY is the only organisation providing a culturally appropriate domestic violence program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men in metropolitan Adelaide, and is funded to deliver services to 50 contacts per year.

Total number of contacts will be 50 per year

There will be four 12 week programs delivered per year

- 40 clients per year will undergo the 12 week group program
- 10 clients per year will be engaged in one on one support ¹

The Accountability, Responsibility and Change (ARC) program is a multi-faceted program for DV perpetrators. KWY deliver the program exclusively for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and non-Indigenous men whose (ex) partner is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander woman. There are five service elements to the program ¹.



Eligibility and Intake Assessment: Men referred to the program undertake an eligibility assessment, including risk assessment to determine suitability for the program. Individuals are assessed by an interview process that includes mapping responses to the perpetrator behavior analysis (PBA) tool.

One on One Support: Education and support is delivered face-to-face to develop capacity and responsibility of clients to participate in the group program. One on one support is also offered in conjunction with group work. Sessions are evaluated every six weeks which allows a pattern of behavior to be recorded and reported in notes and conveyed to the woman’s safety contact officer (WSCO).

Group Program: KWY deliver four 12 week Family Violence Intervention Programs per year. The group program engages men and challenge attitudes and behaviours that allow violence to occur, provide opportunities for men to become active leaders in their communities and to address external contributors to men’s use of violence and abuse.

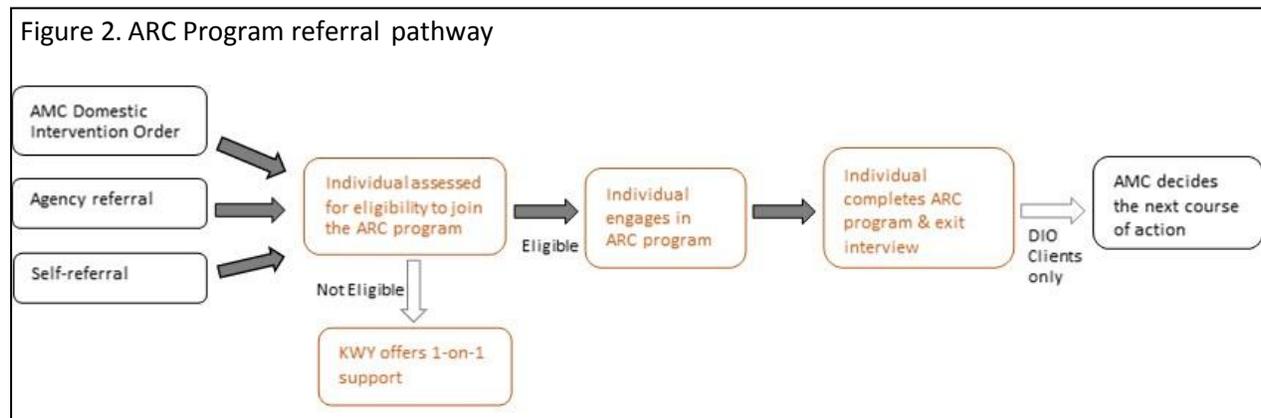
Assessment and Safety Planning: This includes undertaking regular risk assessments of men engaged in one on one group programs, providing details of (ex) partners and risk assessments information if known to the WSCO and engaging with the WSCO to facilitate ongoing risk assessments and safety planning for women and their children.

Referrals: Provide warm referrals to other internal and external services for clients of the program and those who undertake an assessment but who are not eligible. Self-referrals are supported with the same conditions as Courts Administration Authority (CAA) referred men; no preferred treatment is selected by those whom self-refer.

ARC REFERRAL PROCESS

The Adelaide Magistrates Court (AMC) may either suggest or mandate an individual to attend an IRM program with KWY to complete the ARC program. The individual is responsible to contact KWY to arrange an intake assessment appointment. If the individual is assessed to be eligible they can join the program at the next intake. On completion of the program an exit interview is conducted and the individual will return to court for the magistrate to decide the next course of action.

If the individual is ineligible for the group program, they may still be offered one on one support or referred elsewhere.



If the individual disengages with the program, three formal attempts will be made to re-engage him. The individual will be removed from the program and if they are to re-engage, will start from the beginning at the next intake with extra counselling sessions. If attempts to re-engage the individual fail and the individual was mandated to complete the course (ie. client was CAA referred), the matter is referred back to the AMC who will encourage and support the individual to re-engage or to be exited from the program. AMC will also employ the law and its penalties; therefore, if non-attendance breaches a parole condition, the individual may be at risk of incarceration. AMC will deem what disciplines are required.

KWY understands that upon completion of the program some clients may require additional support, these clients are welcome to reengage with KWY. In 2014, over 50 previous clients contacted KWY for additional support.

ARC PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Participants

From July 2014 to June 2015, a total of 164 men approached KWY to participate in the ARC group program; 85 completed an intake assessment, 59 engaged in the ARC program resulting in 31 men completing the program.

For the same period, 174 men approached KWY for one on one support through the ARC program, even though KWY is only funded to provide one on one support services for 10 individuals.

Behaviour Assessments

Several assessment methods are used to provide participants with an evaluation score. The evaluation takes into consideration observations from the KWY staff, feedback from the men (including the violent and controlling behaviour checklist for men) feedback from the women's workers, and Family SA and other relevant sources². The evaluation form requires the worker to provide a score from 1-5 for five questions using the program assessment guide. A brief rationale for each score must be provided.

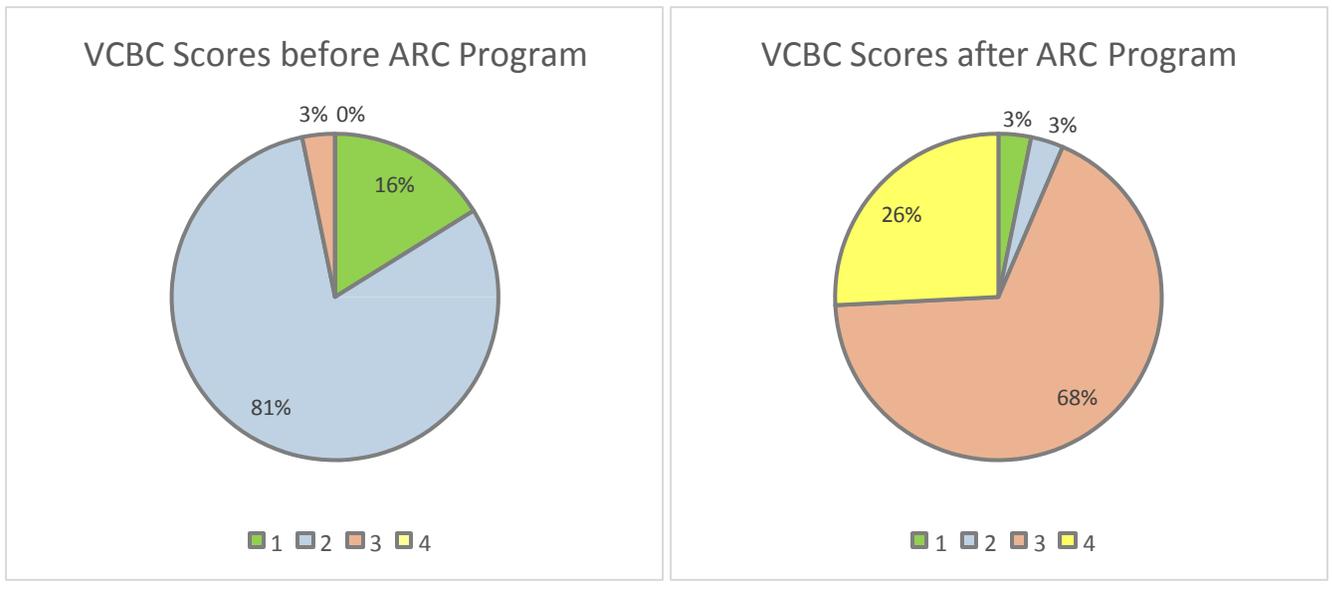
Violent and Controlling Behaviour Checklist (VCBC) Results

The VCBC is administered by KYW staff before, during and after the ARC program to assess any change in client's behavior². It includes the extent to which the man demonstrates responsibility for his violence, his commitment to not use violence in the future, his understanding and willingness to utilise respectful alternatives as well as what is still needed to change, including understanding the impact of his use of violence on women and children, as well as acknowledging dangerous thinking as well as the traps he may be exposed to.

For the 31 clients that completed the ARC program, 97% (30/31) had an improvement in their VCBC score; one client's score remained unchanged. The rate of reoffending for the 31 clients that completed the program was 3.2% (1/31).

From before the program to after the program no one had their VCBC score decrease. At baseline, five of the clients had the lowest score on the VCBC assessment of 1, compared to after the program when only 1 client had a score of 1.

Figure 3. VCBC Scores of the clients before and after the ARC Program



The one client with an unchanged score had an assessment score before the program of 1, even though his score improved to a 2 mid program, his post program score was also a 1. This client was also reported as reoffending. The tool results in a score between 1 and 4.

Violent and Controlling Behaviour Checklist (VCBC)

Score	Rationale
1	No acceptance of responsibility. No acknowledgement of having or being a problem; responsibility shifting. Denying that any abuse took place, and if so, it wasn't entirely his fault.
2	Some openness to engage in conversations with small degree of justification due to provocation or substance abuse or other external causes. The other is the man's acceptance of responsibility, nonetheless, controlling behavior is present although the violence physically and the verbal abuse has ceased.
3	The client speaks clearly regarding his responsibility and accountability of his actions. No denying or minimising of what took place, and he is able to engage in conversation on the steps that he has taken to cease his behavior of a violent nature. The man is able to acknowledge his violence as a choice and working towards ceasing the tactics of power and control and what still needs to be addressed within relationship of self.
4	Speaks clearly about the changes and why they have occurred which is consistent with the protected person along with the WSCO. The man acknowledges the effects of DV and the impact it has had on survivors of DV; the children, family, extended family, community and the state court system.

FEEDBACK FROM ARC PROGRAM CLIENTS

The following feedback was collected from clients who participated in the group sessions of the ARC program. Clients were asked to comment about the group sessions they were participating in by writing it down. All quotes have been de-identified to protect the men's confidentiality, therefore no dates or names have accompanied any quotes.

'I reckon I'm doing good coming here talking to other people, building my confidence up and learning to control my anger; I feel really good'

'It has been a great session, it was emotional but was helpful'

'Today's session was great with everyone contributing to the conversations. Sharing ideas about how others deal with situations. Talking about strategies very important'

'Had a good session, it made me think about my actions for the future'

'Helped me to be more, to identify my barriers, and got a lot off my chest. Also being in a comfortable setting, and a better understanding within myself'

'Men group was a real help'

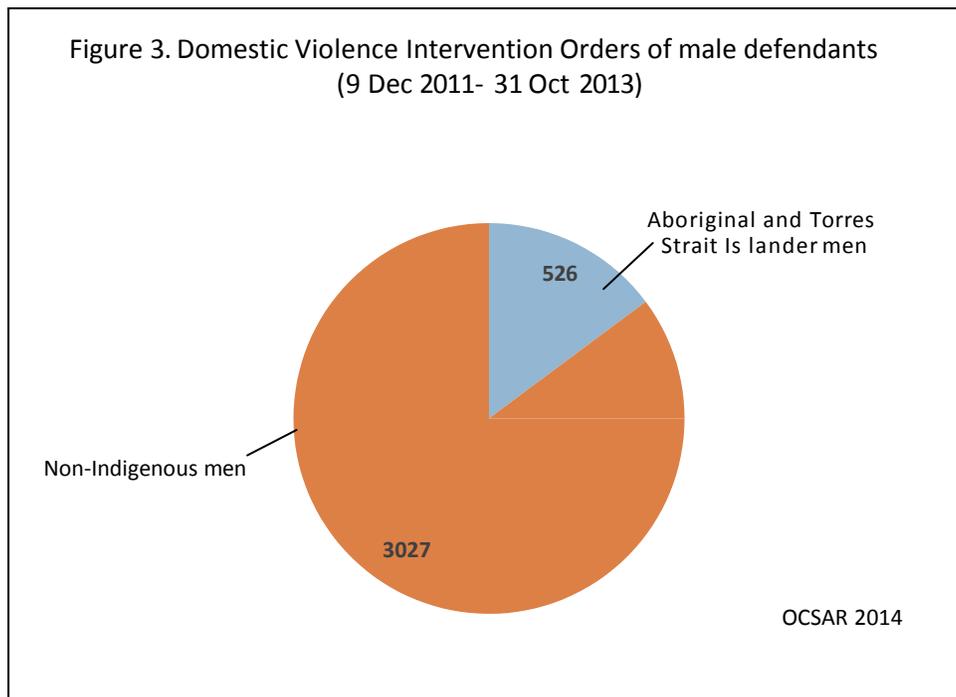
'The coping skills learnt I found are more complex than I thought. The tools I know just scratch the surface of methods with much more potential for success with our journey plans, our families and how we perceive and understand other people in general'

'These meetings have been invaluable to me and my relationship. Has helped me deal with situations and issues in a lot more constructive way, by being positive about my own behaviour'

ARC PROGRAM POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Data from the Intervention Orders and the Intervention Response Model: Evaluation Report 3, indicates that for the period between the 9th of December 2011 and 31st Oct 2013 there were a total of 3553 male domestic IO defendants of which 14.8% were identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander⁵. Identification was based on the standard Indigenous question asked by police at the time of apprehension⁵.

This data gives a conservative estimation of 526 (14.8%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men with a domestic IO over the 22 month period.



As previously mentioned, KWY is only funded to support 40 men per year through the ARC program. Hundreds of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men throughout metropolitan Adelaide with domestic IOs, service referrals or who self-refer, are falling through the gaps without an opportunity to engage in the ARC program to help them change their behaviour.

Not only are these men unable to engage in KWY's culturally appropriate ARC program, there is no other program currently available for these male perpetrators. The lack of availability of such services not only impacts on the perpetrators of domestic violence, the impacts are also felt by the victims and the communities they reside in.

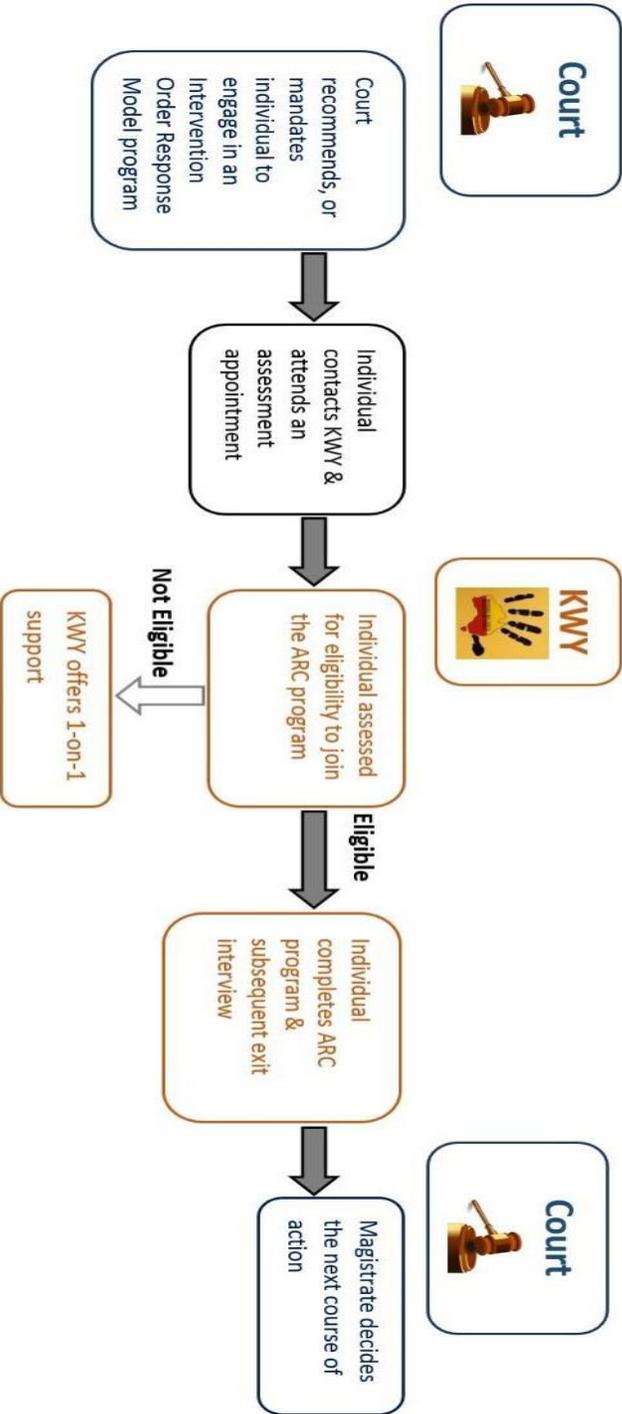
So where do these men go? How do these men change their behaviours without the necessary culturally appropriate help? How can the destructive cycle of domestic violence ever cease if appropriate support services, such as KWY, are only resourced to deliver services to a small fraction of domestic violence perpetrators?

It should be noted that not all of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men would be eligible for the ARC program delivered by KWAY. In saying this, and with additional funding, there is undoubtedly an enormous opportunity for KWAY to support many more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men, and their families, through engagement with the ARC program.

FIGURE 1. SERVICE ELEMENTS UNDER THE INTERVENTION RESPONSE MODEL



FIGURE 2. THE ARC REFERRAL PROCESS



REFERENCES

- 1 Department for Communities and Social Inclusion Minister for Social Housing. Service Agreement: Intervention Order Response Model. 2013.
- 2 Department of Health and Human Services Victoria. Men's Behaviour Change Resources for Quality Practice and Men's Behaviour Change Minimum Standards Manual. In: Department of Health and Human Services V, ed. *Resource for Quality Practice*. Victoria: Department of Health and Human Services, Victoria.
- 3 Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision PoA. Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators. 2009.
- 4 State Government of Victoria. The Health Costs of Violence, VicHealth. 2004:21.
- 5 Migliore C, Ziersch E, Marshall J, Aird E. Intervention Orders and Intervention Response Model Evaluation Report 3 (Statistical Overview and Outcome Evaluation) In: Office of Crime Statistics and Research, ed. Adelaide: South Australian Attorney-General's Department 2014.
- 6 Migliore C, Ziersch E, Marshall J, Aird E. Intervention Orders and Intervention Response Model Evaluation Report 2 (Process Evaluation) In: Research OoCSa, ed. South Australia: South Australian Attorney-General's Department 2014.
- 7 Malezer L. Challenges in evaluating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander policy. *Productivity Commission 2012 Roundtable* 2012.
- 8 James M. Designing Evaluation Strategies. Canberra: Australian Government 2012.