



Port Macquarie Hastings

domestic & family violence  
specialist service

# SPECIALIST SUPPORT FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Through registered Men's Behaviour Change Programs



Under the NSW Minimum Standards for MBCPs:

- There are currently 6 organisations registered to deliver MBCPs in NSW
- Only 1 sits with a women's specialist service
- Programs must evidence partnership with women's specialist services
- Programs must demonstrate women and children's safety is the focus

New to the space:

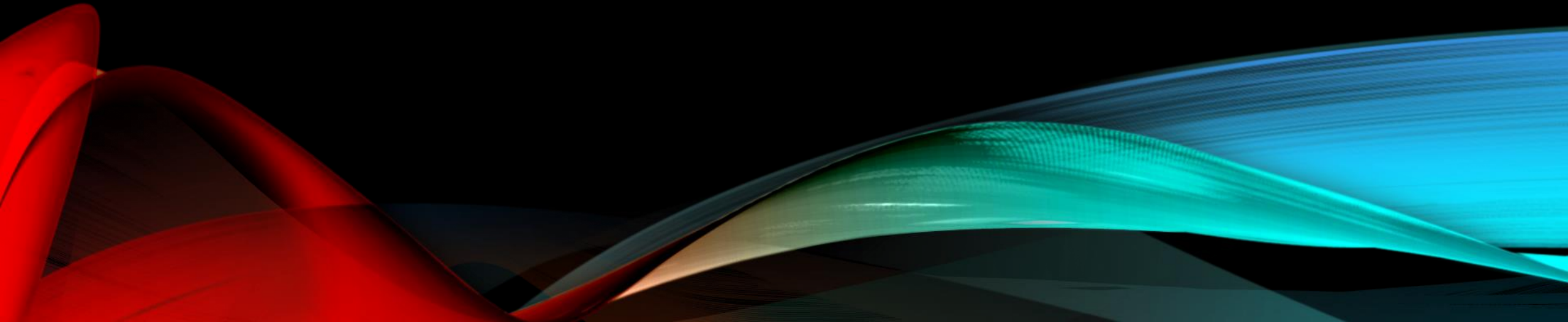
- 4 new pilot programs have recently been introduced
- 1 of these is a consortia in the Mid North Coast District comprising:
  - Warrina DFV Specialist Service
  - Port Macquarie-Hastings DFV Specialist Service
  - Kempsey Family Support Service (lead)

## Emerging practice to consider:

- According to the NTV Victoria draft costings provided to the NSW Government, facilitators of MBCPs are costed at a greater rate than specialists supporting women and children
- There are benchmarks attached to formal qualification and training to facilitate MBCP
- There are strict guidelines attached to program content for MBCP

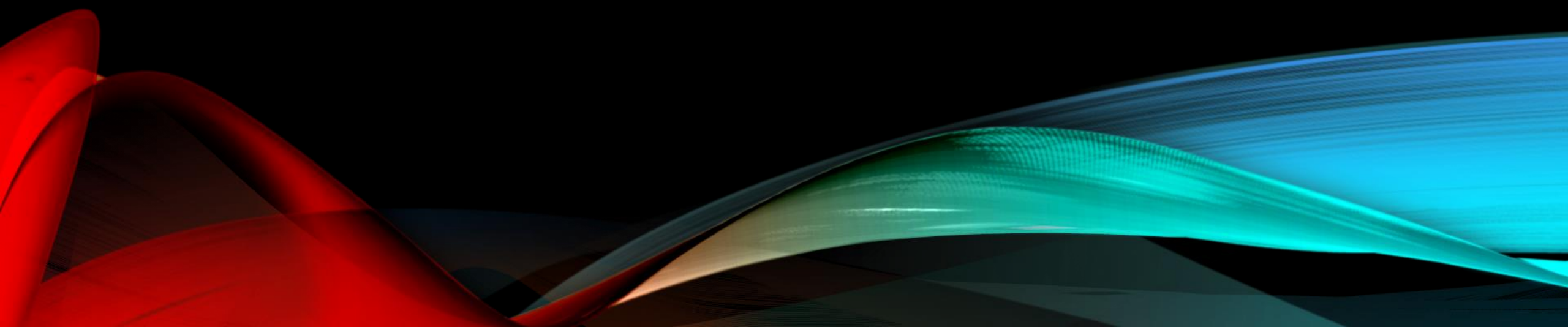


... THE SAME RULES DO NOT APPLY TO  
PROGRAMS DELIVERED TO WOMEN AND  
CHILDREN



# HOW WE'VE INTERPRETED MBCP

- Focus on women and children's safety is resourced at a greater rate than the MBCP itself
- Facilitators must be endorsed by the local DV Committee



# FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

- Should programs delivered for women and children have to meet agreed practice standards?
- Does the disparity reflect a sense of working with men being more important?
- Do we need to define “women’s specialist services” and “specialist workers”?

# WHAT IS A SPECIALIST?

'spɛʃ(ə)lɪst/

*noun*

noun: **specialist**; plural noun: **specialists**

**1.**

a person who concentrates primarily on a particular subject or activity; a person highly skilled in a specific and restricted field.



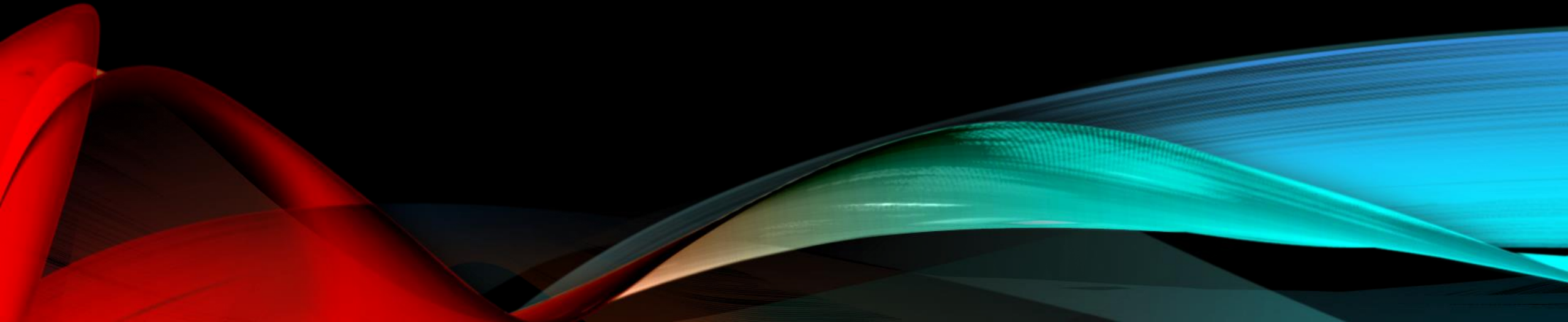


## Individual context:

- Position titles of staff contain 'support worker' until:
  - certain training elements are completed AND
  - minimum 5 years working directly with women and children impacted by DFV

## In an Organisational context:

- Focus is DFV
- Supported by Mission Statement, philosophy and policy





# COMMUNITY EDUCATION

*#stickyourneckout*

## ATTITUDINAL CHANGE

- In July 2015, a large scale campaign was delivered encouraging men and boys to challenge sexism
- We contracted our local Mayor with whom we had a long standing relationship. It helps he is a White Ribbon Ambassador and former Waratah
- Our intention was to include 100 players from 3 different sporting clubs
- We aimed to provide a language for men to speak out against other men
- We ordered 100 White Ribbon temporary tattoos for players to wear to symbolise willingness to 'Stick Your Neck Out'
- We planned ground announcements to define speaking out

Nek minnit...



Word spread and more clubs contacted us wanting to be involved:

- CRL signed up with Groups 2, 3 and Northern Division
- FMNC (Soccer) joined the ranks
- Rugby Union across Districts joined in
- AFL committed
- Oz-tag
- Not to be outdone, women's netball supported us too 😊



# 16,000 PLAYERS PARTICIPATED!

(we ordered more tattoos)

- This campaign became the largest of its kind in Australia
- It extended from Forster to the Queensland border
- We have already been contacted by QRL for participation in 2016
- We learned men were reluctant to speak up for fear of making women unsafe

THANK YOU

“It is better to light a candle...  
Than curse the darkness”

Muriel Strode

