

Men's Behaviour Change Network

[MBCN] NSW

www.mbcn-nsw.net



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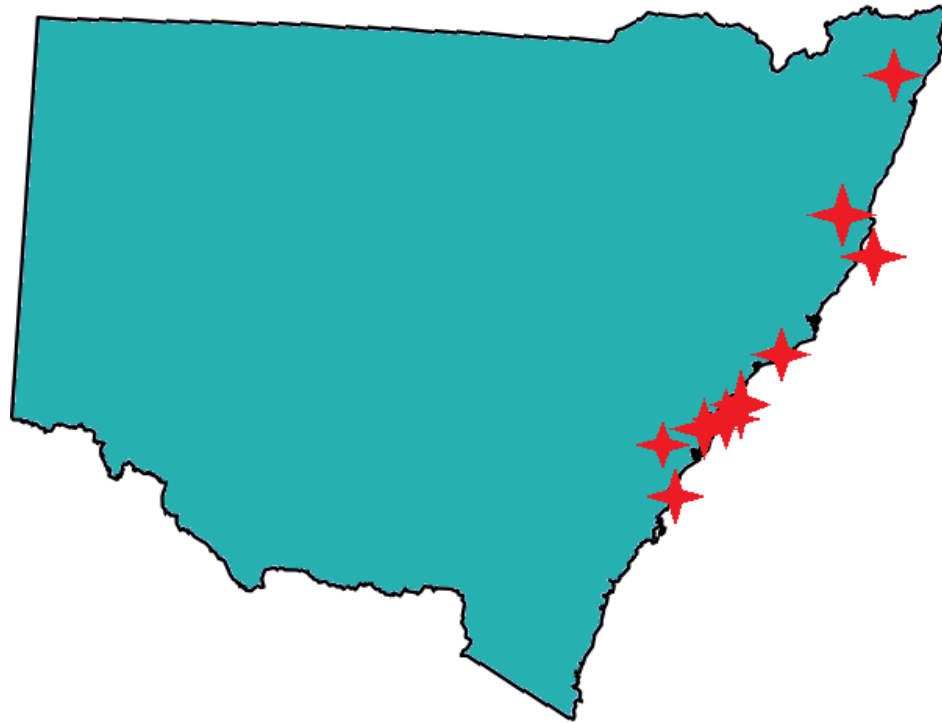
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Who are we?

BaptistCare	Bankstown	1300 130 225
Relationship Services	Campbelltown	1300 130 225
	Tuggerah	1300 130 225
CatholicCare Sydney	Fairfield	8723 2222
Port Macquarie Hastings Domestic & Family Violence Specialist Service	Port Macquarie	6583 2155
Kempsey Family Support Service	Kempsey	6563 1588
Men and Family Centre	Lismore	6622 6116
Relationships Australia-NSW	Broadmeadow / Maitland	1300 364 277
	Lane Cove	1300 364 277
	Sydney city	1300 364 277
	Wollongong	1300 364 277
	Westmead	1300 364 277
	Penrith	1300 364 277



Locations*

- Bankstown
- Campbelltown
- Tuggerah
- Fairfield
- Port Macquarie
- Kempsey
- Lismore
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Minimum Standards for Men's Domestic Violence Behaviour Change Programs in NSW

The objective of the minimum standards is to ensure that all programs in NSW reflect good practice and are safe and effective in changing the behaviour of perpetrators of domestic violence. Currently there are 6 accredited providers in NSW.



Our Aim

To collaborate with Government agencies & non-Government organisations to **respond effectively** to men who use violent & abusive behaviour toward family members to **enhance safety** for their (ex) partners & children.

Legal, practitioner and organisational co-operative practice

- **Safety of women & children** (victims DFV) must be given the highest priority in any response
- Creating a safe community is everyone's business and responsibility
- Respect for others at all times AND acknowledge that we will only know a fraction of what informs people's choices
- The **fear** that those who experience DFV is real and terrifying and is qualitatively and quantitatively different to a person's general anxiety/fear response to threat
- **MBCP work is NOT anger management**
- We must hold accountable those who use violence AND refer them to specialist MBCP programs. Behavioural and attitudinal change takes considerable time and **MBCP attendance is NOT predictive of future behaviour.**
- Individual practitioners who work with DFV offenders must adhere to MBCP guidelines especially holding their work accountable to women's DFV services locally.



The **Men's Behaviour Change Network of NSW (MBCN NSW)** recognises the **gendered nature of domestic & family violence.**

- We acknowledges than men can be victims of domestic and family violence but overwhelmingly it is men who misuse their position of power and privilege to exert control over their intimate partners & family members through abusive & controlling behaviour causing their partners and children to live in fear
- Works within a feminist framework that calls for men who are abusive and violent to take responsibility for and cease all use of violence & abuse
- The MBCN NSW calls for an integrated system which is accountable for the overall safety of women & children.

Men's Behaviour Change Programs [MBCPs]

MBCPs work with men who use violence and abusive behaviour towards their (ex)partners and their children.

MBCPs typically involved assessment, including risk assessment and then:

- **Specialist group counselling, individual counselling and case management for men.**
- **Support, information, referral, safety planning and (in some cases) counselling and case management for women and children.**

MBCPs are *not* self-help processes. MBCPs require trained workers with professional supervision and accountability. MBCPs should only exist if they meet the minimum standards.

-Towards Safe Families Practice Guide

Objectives of MBCPs

- Facilitate **greater safety for women and their children** through linking (ex) partners with a woman's advocate worker.
- Invite men to take responsibility for their behaviour and work towards being **the man they want to be**.
- **Examine the men's beliefs and behaviour** concerning how they understand their role in society and relationships and how this can lead to abusive and controlling behaviours (male privilege).
- Drawing out individual and practical strategies for each man to be **the (non-abusive) man they want to be**.
- To be integrated into a community wide response to domestic and family violence

Eligible clients?

- Men that are **willing** to engage in a serious and sustained process of examining and **taking responsibility** for all forms of violence and abusive behaviour towards their families.
- Men living with significant mental health issues and/or active drug and/or alcohol issues must have additional, external support (referral).
- Men who are '**mandated**' to attend an MBCP (e.g. FaCS; Corrective Services; Court; Police; Lawyers; NGOs) will find his referral being insufficient justification for his acceptance into a program. The man must be '**group ready**' and **willing** to engage in the process of change.
- The man must provide his **ex/partner's contact details**.

‘Women’s Support Groups’ Domestic & Family Violence

- E.g. *Living Beyond Abuse* may be the entry point for many women into DFV services
- Gain understanding of abusive versus respectful relationships.
- Meet others in similar situations.
- Explore options available for deciding their future
- Assess her and her children’s safety and (un) realistic hopes of what can be achieved through a MBCP
- Focus on specific steps she can take to increase her own and the children’s safety and well-being
- Provide additional support and referral tailored to her and the children’s needs.

Do MBCPs work?

- Westmarland et al (2010) state that success for MBCPS means more than just 'ending the violence'. Physical violence can stop and a partner and children can still live in fear and threat.
- Gondolf (under review) looked at court-mandated men across four cities/sites in the US and found that nearly 3/4 of their partners reported their overall quality of life was "*better since program intake*", but 10% indicated their life was "*worse off*". The area of their life with the most problems was financial. Two-thirds reported feeling "*very safe*" over the course of the 12-month follow-up

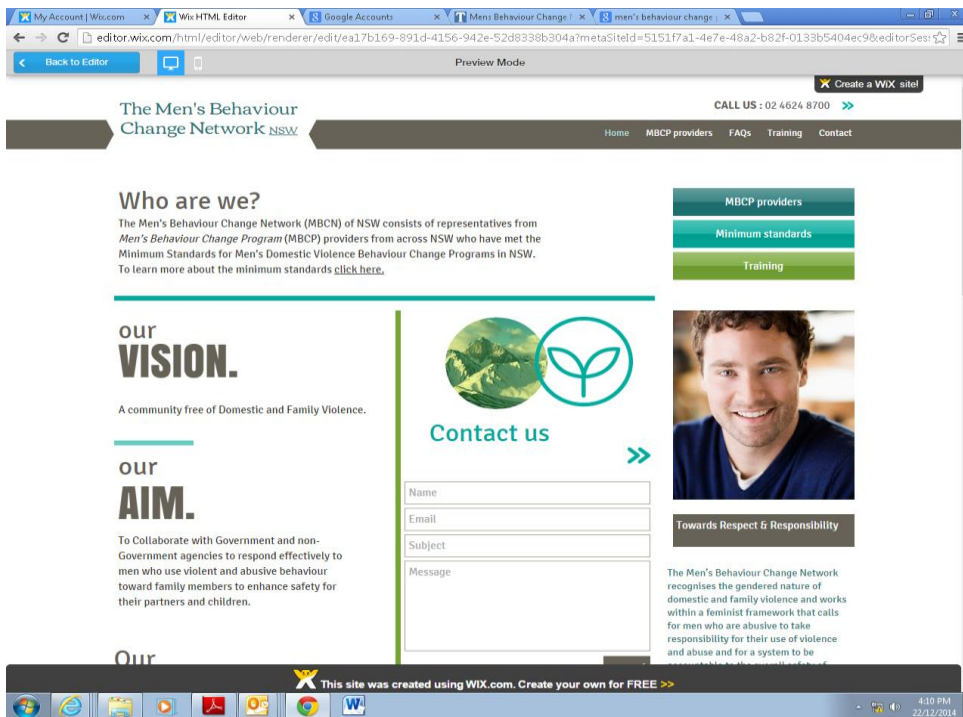
Want to know more?

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Chair: Diane Coleman
chair@mbcn-nsw.net



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the website for the Men's Behaviour Change Network NSW. The browser's address bar shows the URL: editor.wix.com/html/editor/web/rendered/edit/ea17b169-891d-4156-942e-52d8338b304a?metaSiteId=5151f7a1-4e7e-48a2-b82f-0133b5404ec9&editorSes:. The website header includes the title "The Men's Behaviour Change Network NSW" and a phone number "CALL US : 02 4624 8700". The main content area features a "Who are we?" section, a "our VISION." section with the tagline "A community free of Domestic and Family Violence.", and a "our AIM." section with the tagline "To Collaborate with Government and non-Government agencies to respond effectively to men who use violent and abusive behaviour toward family members to enhance safety for their partners and children." A "Contact us" form is visible, including fields for Name, Email, Subject, and Message. A photo of a man is shown next to the form, with the text "Towards Respect & Responsibility" below it. The footer of the website states "This site was created using WIX.com. Create your own for FREE >>".