



# Student Placement Information Kit

## Welcome

Our student placement program provides an opportunity for human services and social work students to develop their knowledge and skills. These placements are ideally suitable for students who require replacement hours as part of their qualification.

A placement at DVAC means having access to a workplace with programs designed to manage the effects of vicarious trauma.

## Philosophy Statement

The Domestic Violence Action Centre (DVAC) has a long history in providing high quality services to women, children and young people who have experienced domestic, family, and sexual violence in the Ipswich, Toowoomba, and surrounding regions. While focusing primarily on the needs of women and children, DVAC also works with males using violence in their intimate partner relationships and with males victims of domestic, family and sexual violence. DVAC works from a feminist perspective. We understand that domestic, family, and sexual violence is a result of systemic power imbalances and inequalities. We acknowledge the many barriers that exist for women and their families as they seek safety and support, and that women from diverse backgrounds can face particular and unique barriers. We are strong advocates for change on all levels. We actively stand against all forms of oppression (including racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia, and multiple other forms of oppression) and believe in the right of justice, equality, and fairness for all.

We regard women as the experts over their own life and we see our work as a partnership that is respectful, transparent, and accountable. We work from a relationship-based approach where we are committed to sharing information, validating choices, and ensuring we provide a safe space that is non-judgemental and at all times supportive. The work undertaken with men using violence is focussed on holding men to account for their abusive behaviour while supporting them to engage in a process of critical thinking regarding their current use of violence and abuse.

We aim to consistently apply the same set of values and principles to all levels of our work – with clients, with colleagues in our organisation, and in our valued relationships with other workers and organisations within the service sector. We aim for a high level of integrity in all aspects of our work and we welcome feedback and input from all those involved with our service.

Through high quality service delivery combined with education, training, awareness raising and activism against violence in all its forms, our hope is to use our passion as leaders to create a world free from gender violence





## Our Values

### Community

- We are connected in solidarity across difference
- Every person is unique, and diversity makes us stronger
- Our collective efforts are working to end gender-based violence
- We unite for social justice and systemic change
- Relationships of trust and respect are important

### Accountability

- We do what we say we will do, and we expect the same of others
- We communicate honesty and transparently
- We lead action to create positive change
- We are responsible for our actions and choices
- DVAC Strives for excellence in what we do everyday
- We expect accountability from others

### Resilience

- We value strong and supportive relationships
- We are unified
- We are determined
- We learn from our setbacks and do not give up
- We choose courage over comfort

## What we do

Our work centres around our key principles:

- Domestic, family, and sexual violence are gendered crimes caused by gender inequality.
- Domestic, family, and sexual violence are human rights abuses
- The psychological injury resulting from domestic, family, and sexual violence is based in trauma. Client self-determination and empowerment is critical to trauma recovery
- Holding men accountable for their abusive behaviour

## What you will do during your placement

As a student on placement at DVAC you may undertake a range of learning opportunities, which may include:

- Assisting at Court
- Shadowing during engagement with clients
- Participating in review meetings, staff meetings and regular professional development workshops and training events
- Developing skills in writing case notes and report writing
- Options to observe in our Mens Behaviour Change Intervention groups

## How to apply

Please complete the Student Placement Registration form found on the website