



# **The STACY project: Keeping children visible when working with parental mental health and substance misuse in the context of family violence**

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with

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# Develop new principles for action – an all of family approach

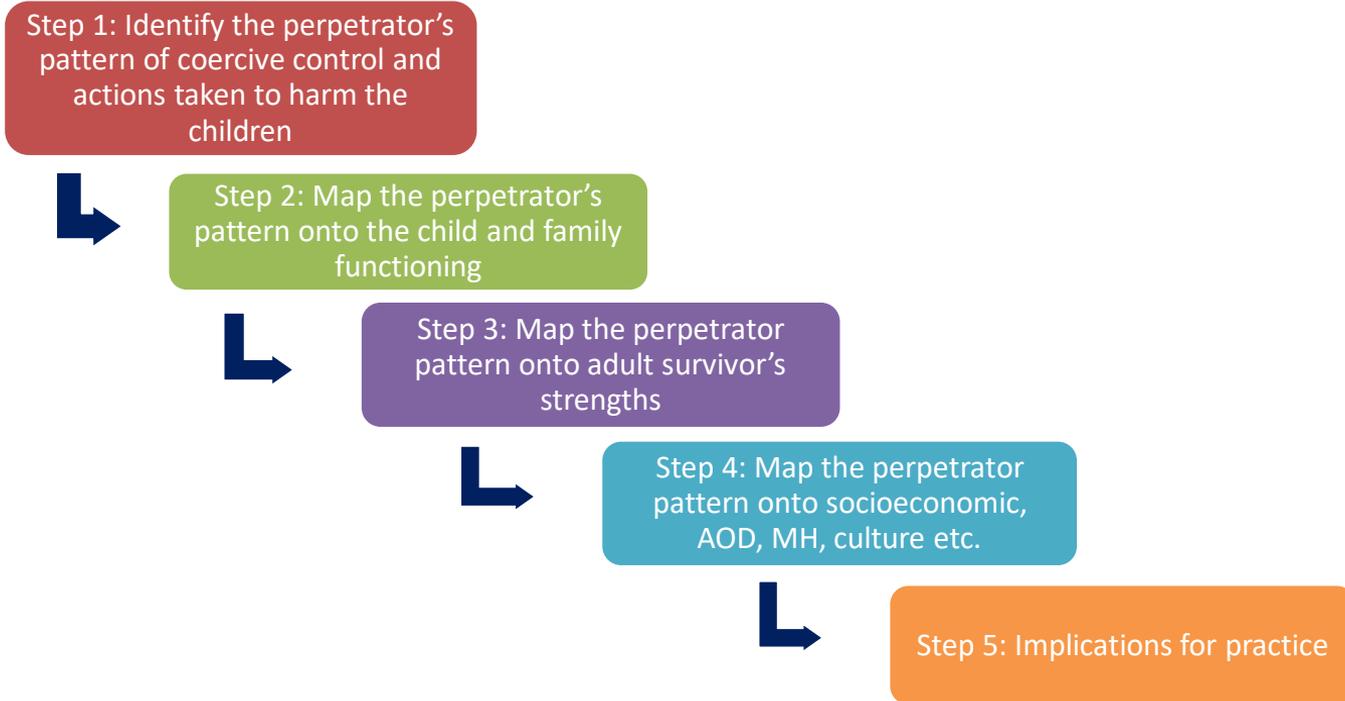
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- Keep the perpetrator of violence and control visible – DFV-informed
- Build an alliance with the mother
- Keep children ‘safe and together’ with the non-offending parent
- **Focus on each child’s safety and wellbeing within the family**
- Collaborative practice – holistic practice
- **Keep intersecting complexities in view**
- Coach and supervise - don’t ‘just train’
- Worker safety is paramount – not just physical but emotional safety



# The S&T five-step mapping Perpetrators' Patterns Practice Tool

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# CoPs facilitate learning within and across organisations

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Child Protection, specialist domestic violence services  
and family service workers training and working  
together

*'It's not helpful to be coming at it from completely different  
principles, completely different values sets,  
but when we're coming at it from a similar value set  
or similar framework...then it's easier to have  
the conversations'*



# Snapshot case: fitting 'nobody's box' – translating the system for child and adult survivors

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- Rural family – long-term marriage, 3 children (2 living at home)
- Dad has AOD and deteriorating MH issues
- Mum called agency disclosing FV by husband
- Escalating violence and associated risk to children, mother and perpetrator
- Local services – police, AOD, CATT, FV, CP – not asking the right questions, not working together
  
- What were the challenges and opportunities in keeping children visible and safe?

# Child-focused family violence research led by UoM

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- **STACY WITH CHILDREN** (2019-20)
- **STACY** - Safe and Together Addressing ComplexitY – DFV, MH, AoD (2018-19)
- **INVISIBLE PRACTICES** - working with fathers who use violence (2017-18)
- **PATRICIA** - PATHways and Research Into Collaborative Inter-Agency practice Collaborative work across the child protection and specialist domestic and family violence interface (2015-16)
- **CARING DADS evaluation** (Kids First, Anglicare, UC ReGen, IPC Health ) (2017-20)
- **KEEPING SAFE TOGETHER evaluation** (Women’s Health West, Lifeworks) (2019)
- **FATHERING CHALLENGES** (2014-16)



The PATRICIA Project:  
PATHways and Research  
In Collaborative  
Inter-Agency working



# Resources

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## **STACY for Children (2019 – 20) ANROWS**

Published on ANROWS website and in notepad publication

<https://www.anrows.org.au/project/stacy-for-children/>

<https://www.anrows.org.au/notepad/anrows-notepad-19-september-2019/>

## **Research and Evaluation by the Social Work Group at the University of Melbourne**

<https://violenceagainstwomenandchildren.com>



# An All of Family Approach

## Multiple Pathways to Harm

### Perpetrator's Pattern

- Coercive control toward adult survivor
- Actions taken to harm children

### Children's Trauma & Safety

- Victim of physical abuse
- Seeing, hearing or learning about the violence

### Effect on Partner's Parenting

- Depression, PTSD, anxiety, substance abuse
- Loss of authority
- Energy goes to addressing perpetrator instead of children
- Interference with day to day routine and basic care

### Effects on Family Ecology

- Loss of income
- Housing instability
- Loss of contact with extended family
- Educational and social disruptions

### Harm to Child

- Behavioral, Emotional, Social, Educational
- Developmental
- Physical Injury

# Safe & Together Critical Components

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