

APS Women and Psychology Interest Group

Webinar/mini-workshop

Psychologists responding to domestic violence

**Wednesday 11 September 2024
7.00–9.00pm (AEST)**

The objective of this mini-workshop is to foster psychologists' understanding of domestic violence and its aftermath from the perspective of women survivors themselves.

Experiencing domestic violence (DV) often has long lasting impacts on the mental and emotional wellbeing of survivors. In Australia, survivors who seek support for this are likely to see a psychologist via referral from a GP. However, despite the prevalence of DV and the predominance of psychologists as the avenue of support, little is known about women survivors' experiences in consulting psychologists.

In this webinar/workshop Dr Sally Marsden presents findings, learnings and recommendations from her doctoral research, which explored women's experiences and expectations when consulting psychologists in the context of DV. This was done by asking two research questions: what were the experiences of seeing psychologists for women survivors of DV, and what did women survivors of DV expect from psychologists? The findings suggest that whether or not the women survivors' experiences with psychologists met their expectations was most likely to be connected to the psychologist's general approach to practice or their worldview. To address this, the findings were synthesised to develop a trauma and violence-informed Practice Framework to represent significant aspects of practice related to worldview. Participants will have an opportunity to share their own practice experiences and their responses to Dr Marsden's findings.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this webinar/workshop, participants should be able to:

- Better understand how women survivors of domestic violence describe their experiences of consulting with psychologists
- Better understand what women survivors might expect to gain from such consultations
- Share experiences and develop strategies with colleagues in our own work context or in peer supervision
- Articulate some practical strategies to optimise our responses to survivors of intimate partner, domestic and family violence
- Access resources and readings to further our understanding of the area.

Presenter: Sally Marsden, PhD

Dr Sally Marsden is a specialist women's counsellor who worked in the community sector for many years. Sally completed her PhD in the Safer Families Centre for Research Excellence at the University of Melbourne. Her doctoral research focused on women survivors' experiences of seeing psychologists after domestic violence. She is currently working on several projects with the Safer Families team relating to family violence.

Workshop cost

APS Women and Psychology Interest Group members FREE event

APS member \$30

Students/Concession \$15

Non-APS member \$50

Register here: [APS Events: 24780 | APS \(psychology.org.au\)](https://www.psychology.org.au/Events/24780)