

Intimate Partner Violence and Reproductive Coercion and Abuse: Screening and Education

Learning Opportunities
Prospectus 2024-25



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Acknowledgements

Acknowledgement of Country

Sexual Health Quarters (SHQ) recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples resilience, strength and deep spiritual connection to land, waters, and community as Australia's First People and Traditional Custodians. We pay our respects to them and their cultures. We acknowledge the Whadjuk Noongar people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our head office is located. We recognise their positive contribution to the sexual health and relationship wellbeing of community and offer our respects to Elders past, to those guiding us today and to those shaping the leaders of the future.

Acknowledgement of Lived Experience and Lives Lost

SHQ honours and acknowledges those who have lived through experiences of violence, particularly intimate partner violence and reproductive coercion and abuse (IPV/RCA). We recognise the strength and resilience of survivors, while remembering the many lives tragically lost as a result of violence. Their stories drive our commitment to creating safer, more supportive communities.

Acknowledgement of Funding Support

SHQ extends our deepest gratitude to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, the Department of Communities, and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet for their generous funding and unwavering support. Your commitment has been instrumental in enabling the development and success of our IPV/RCA Screening and Education Program, helping us make a significant impact in the lives of individuals and communities affected by violence. We are proud to partner with you on this important work.



Note on Terminology



1 Intimate Partner Violence

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is any behaviour by someone in an intimate relationship (including current or past marriages, domestic partnerships or dating relationships) that causes physical, sexual, or psychological harm to those in the relationship. Intimate partner violence by men against women is the most common form of family violence and the most generic form of violence that women experience. The term intimate partner violence is sometimes used interchangeably with domestic violence.

Reproductive Coercion and Abuse

Reproductive coercion and abuse (RCA) refer to a range of behaviours that interfere with the autonomy of a person to make decisions about their reproductive health.

Typically, RCA is believed to encompass the following three types of behaviour:

- Contraception Sabotage (with the intention to cause pregnancy)
- Pregnancy Pressure or Coercion (pressure to become pregnant)
- Controlling the outcome of a pregnancy (pressure to terminate a wanted pregnancy or continue an unwanted pregnancy)



A Message from Our Chief Executive Officer



Debra Barnes
CEO OF SEXUAL HEALTH
QUARTERS

"People experiencing intimate partner violence are more likely to engage mental health, emergency department, hospital outpatient, primary care, pharmacy, and specialty services, meaning providers frequently, and often unknowingly, encounter people affected by violence.

SHQ is committed to addressing the social determinants negatively impacting people's health and wellbeing. We provide a safe, confidential environment where people can disclose experiences of violence and receive support. By sharing this training with the wider sector, our goal is to see healthcare providers build on already established trust with patients and ensure they are giving the best care possible.

We are proud to have developed this innovative program to address the health impacts of intimate partner violence and reproductive coercion and abuse.

As an early intervention strategy, SHQ's Intimate Partner Violence and Reproductive Coercion and Abuse Screening and Education aligns with The National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032, the National Women's Health Strategy 2020-2030 and Path to Safety: Western Australia's Strategy to Reduce Family and Domestic Violence 2020 – 2030."

SHQ is committed to addressing the social determinants negatively impacting people's health and wellbeing.

A Message from Our Medical Director

"Partner-based violence is a global public health and clinical problem of epidemic proportions.

As a GP specialising in sexual and reproductive health, I know that primary care is an ideal setting for safe disclosures of violence. After family and friends, GPs are the second largest source of support for people experiencing intimate partner violence. Many people experiencing partner-based violence want the opportunity to discuss their situation and options with their healthcare provider.

Not all providers are able to detect signs of abuse, respond appropriately, and refer clients to the right services. SHQ's Intimate Partner Violence and Reproductive Coercion and Abuse Training was created to provide professionals in primary care with a more in-depth understanding of intimate partner violence and reproductive coercion and abuse, so they are prepared to support people in their care experiencing violence and coercive abuse.

Most people go into primary care because they want to help people, but the job can be demanding. Our decision to provide the training online, in a self-paced learning format, as well as face-to-face was made in the interest of improving accessibility. We want as many health practitioners as possible to have the opportunity to build their skills and understanding of intimate partner violence and reproductive coercion and abuse and be able to practically apply those skills in their workplace."



Dr. Samantha Johnson

MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF SEXUAL HEALTH QUARTERS

We want as many health practitioners as possible to have the opportunity to build their skills and understanding of intimate partner violence and reproductive coercion and abuse and be able to practically apply those skills in their workplace

IPV/RCA Screening and Education Overview

Background and History

SHQ is a recognised leader in IPV/RCA screening and education. SHQ's offerings grew from the award-winning Safe to Tell (HESTA Award recipient) and It's Okay to Say pilot projects (2021-2024), as well as internal clinician-led research implementing screening. With government grant funding, SHQ has trained over 70 healthcare professionals from 30 clinics across the Perth metropolitan area, supported two women's health services to implement screening, and adapted resources for people living with disability, LGBTIQA+ people, sex workers, and CaLD communities. Now available nationally, SHQ's program combines eLearning, workshops, and ongoing support, reaffirming its commitment to leading IPV/RCA education across Australia.

Goals and **Priorities**

Our Goals:

- Empower healthcare professionals with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to identify and support clients experiencing intimate partner violence and reproductive coercion and abuse through clinician-led education and practical tools.
- A future where healthcare providers across Australia confidently support clients facing IPV/RCA, fostering safe environments for disclosures and effective action.

Our Priorities:

- Safety: Prioritising client safety and confidentiality in all services.
- Empowerment: Equipping providers with essential tools and knowledge to address IPV/RCA.
- Collaboration: Partnering with clinics and community organisations to offer comprehensive support.
- Innovation: Delivering research-driven, evolving programs to meet client and provider needs.



Research Impact and Evidence for Clinical Screening and Education

Research highlights the critical importance of recognising, responding and referring clients experiencing IPV/RCA in healthcare settings (especially women's, antenatal and sexual health). Screening is particularly recommended in high priority populations. Studies show that patients are significantly more likely to disclose IPV or RCA when directly asked by a healthcare professional. During a screening pilot at SHQ, 17.3% of participants screened positive for IPV/RCA, with over 60% of those previously being long-term patients who had never disclosed abuse until prompted (Galrao et al., 2022).

SHQ's screening pilot found that many clients preferred completing paper-based questionnaires privately, as this approach increased comfort for clients. Some clients opted for direct conversation with a clinician, a choice supported by the inclusive design of the screening form. Ensuring that the screening process is inclusive and safe for clients—through options like private spaces, easy-read forms and option to self-complete screening forms or discuss directly with a healthcare provider—plays an important role in the success of our screening and educational offerings.

Clinical screening not only facilitates disclosure of abuse but also helps to link survivors to vital support services. Data from SHQ's pilot research project revealed a 16-fold increase in counselling appointments for IPV after screening was implemented. Our research also showed that healthcare professionals who received training through structured programs, such as the SHQ eLearning and face-to-face workshops, demonstrated statistically significant improvements in their confidence and knowledge to recognise, respond, and refer clients impacted by IPV/RCA.

As GP, Dr Cathy Brooker, mentioned, "If we don't ask, we'll never know, and they [clients] won't get the help they need." This highlights the vital role of educating clinicians and implementing routine screening to address the pervasive health impacts of IPV/RCA.

If we don't ask, we'll never know, and they [clients] won't get the help they need.

-Dr Cathy Brooker, GP at SHQ



Benefits of IPV/RCA Screening and Education



Increased Confidence and Knowledge

Clinicians gain essential skills to confidently identify and address IPV/RCA, improving patient care outcomes and fostering safer environments for individuals and communities.

Upskilling in IPV/RCA

Training for FDV and community workers enhances the sector's understanding of IPV/RCA, equipping them to provide knowledgeable support to those affected.

Whole-of-Practice Implementation

Practice managers lead IPV/RCA screening implementation, aligning all staff to provide a safer, traumainformed environment for clients and the wider community.

Access to Appropriate and Timely Support

A well-trained workforce ensures clients have immediate access to resources, counselling, and referrals, delivering crucial support to victimsurvivors when it's needed most.

Supporting Individual Clients With Experiences of IPV/RCA

Clinical Services

SHQ is the largest non-government provider of specialised sexual and reproductive health in Western Australia. Many clinical issues seen by our clinicians are considered potential indicators of IPV/RCA and all clients attending our clinic are offered screening to assist our clinicians in recognising, responding and referring clients with experiences of IPV/RCA. Clients complete a short paper questionnaire in a private area prior to their appointment. Our clinicians review the completed questionnaire prior to consulting with the client and undergo a brief risk assessment for any patient whose response indicates IPV/RCA. If risk is identified the client is referred to relevant support services.

All frontline staff (clinical and reception) receive IPV and RCA training relevant to their roles.

Counselling Services

SHQ offers specialist counselling and psychology services in the areas of sexual health, relationships and intimacy, menopause, LGBTIQA+ and unplanned pregnancy. Access to timely and appropriate support services are critical when addressing IPV/RCA, which is why we reserve a minimum of two emergency counselling appointments daily for patients who have screened positive for IPV/RCA during their clinical appointment.

In the first twelve months following the introduction of the IPV/RCA screening tool in 2019, counselling appointments for FDV/IPV rose 17.5%.

Disability Services

SHQ is a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) registered provider of counselling and education services for people with disability, parents, carers, community groups, school students and professionals.

People with disability experience higher rates of violence, more often, in more ways and by more perpetrators than people without disability. Clients attending disability counselling and clinical appointments at our metropolitan and regional locations are offered domestic, family, and sexual violence (DFSV) screening tailored to their needs. Those identified as at-risk or experiencing violence are supported to get the help they require.

Learning Opportunities



1

Clinical, Counselling, Disability and Community Sectors

SHQ offers a wide range of education and training opportunities in sexual and reproductive health. The main focus of our work is professional training in order to build workforce, organisational and community capacity to promote sexual health and respectful relationships. Support and consultancy is available for organisations and professionals delivering sexual and reproductive health programs and community services.

SHQ also provides sexual health community education programs in partnership with community agencies working with young people and diverse populations.

SHQ is committed to combating the devastating impacts of IPV/RCA by building our capacity to affect significant change. This includes prioritising prevention and targeted early intervention strategies and programs. Our approach encompasses clinical, counselling, disability and community education, capacity building, and comprehensive support systems. SHQ provides people of all ages and backgrounds with the tools, knowledge and confidence to enjoy safe, healthy, fulfilling relationships now and into the future.

For an overview of all our education and training offerings please scan here



Did you know 4 in 10 clients have experienced violence since age 15?

Intimate Partner Violence/Reproductive Coercion & Abuse is a significant public health issue with one-third of victim-survivors saying they prefer to discuss experiences of violence with their GP.

Clients want their clinician to raise the issue of IPV/RCA, but require a safe & private environment for disclosure, respectful & compassionate listening & timely referral for counselling and services.

This online training equips individual clinicians with the knowledge and confidence to manage IPV/RCA cases with a practical face-to-face workshop to contextualise learning. RACGP & ACRRM approved, it includes six self-paced eLearning modules followed by access to an annual face-to-face workshop, ensuring continual skill development & practical application.

Learn to Recognise, Respond and Refer clients with experiences of IPV/RCA.

Duration: (Optional, but highly recommended) 6-module eLearning (6 hours) + Face-to-Face Workshop (2 hours).

Cost: \$375 inc. GST per clinical eLearning participant + \$198 inc. GST per participant for face-to-face training.

Ongoing Support: Access to tools and resources, with ongoing updates on IPV/RCA screening and education.

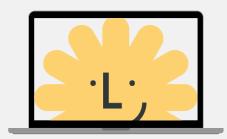
Dates: eLearning- Ongoing enrolment. Face-to-Face Workshop - Visit the SHQ website to see dates of upcoming workshops.

Scan to learn more!

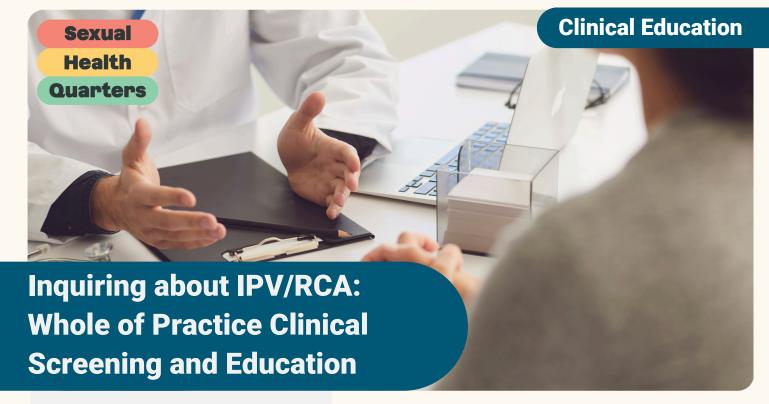


Looking for further information?

Enrol into IPV/RCA Screening and Education by using the QR code above or visit us at www.shq.org.au.



- Professional Accreditation: RACGP and ACRRM approved training ensures clinicians meet ongoing professional development requirements.
- Practical, Up-To-Date Knowledge: Keeps clinicians informed on the latest best practices for recognising and addressing IPV/RCA.
- Convenient Learning: Self-paced eLearning and face-to-face workshops offer flexibility for busy clinicians to enhance their skills.



Calling all practice managers, clinicians and support staff!

This RACGP/ACCRM-accredited comprehensive training is designed for entire healthcare practices, ensuring both clinical and non-clinical staff are equipped to recognise, respond to, and refer clients experiencing intimate partner violence/reproductive coercion & abuse.

The training includes 6-module eLearning, a face-to-face workshop, and ongoing access to resources for sustainable practice implementation. Clinical Championsdesignated leaders within the practicereceive additional 1:1 support to guide and sustain screening efforts over the long term in their clinics.

Learn to Recognise, Respond and Refer clients with experience of IPV/RCA.

Duration: (Optional, but highly recommended) 6-module eLearning (6 hours) + Face-to-Face Workshop (4 hours) + Clinical Champion Module (1 hour) + 4 sessions of 1:1 Clinical Champion support.

Cost: \$4,000 inc GST per workshop up to 15 staff. \$375 inc GST per clinical eLearning participant. \$175 inc GST per non-clinical eLearning participant. \$2640 Inc GST for 2-3 clinical champions to access clinical champion eLearning and 1:1 support sessions.

Ongoing Support: Access to tools and resources, with ongoing 1:1 Clinical Champion and practice support.

Dates: Scheduled upon request.

Scan to learn more!

Looking for further information?

Enrol your clinic or health practice into IPV/RCA Screening and Education by using the QR code above or visit us at www.shq.org.au.



- · Clinic-Wide Competency: Ensure all staff, both clinical and non-clinical, are trained to recognise, respond, and refer cases of IPV/RCA.
- Sustainable Practice Change: With 1:1 Clinical Champion support and access to ongoing resources, clinics maintain long-term improvements in patient care.
- Enhanced Patient Safety: Foster a safer and more supportive environment for clients, encouraging disclosure of violence and abuse.



Did you know up to 61% of LGBTIQA+ individuals have experienced IPV?

Research shows that LGBTIQA+ individuals experience IPV at disproportionately higher rates. RCA experiences within LGBTIQA+ relationships can also differ from those in cisgender-heterosexual relationships, underscoring the need for specialised support.

This one-hour eLearning module equips clinicians with the skills and knowledge to support LGBTIQA+ clients facing IPV/RCA. Through interactive modules and real-world scenarios, participants will learn to create safe, affirming environments that empower clients and foster healing. A two-hour follow-up practical training contextualises learnings.

Learn how to support LGBTIQA+ clients with experiences of violence, coercion and abuse.

Duration: 1-module eLearning (1 hour) + Face-to-Face Workshop (2 hours).

Cost: \$75 inc. GST per clinical eLearning participant + \$198 inc. GST per participant for face-to-face training.

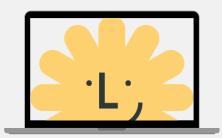
Ongoing Support: Access to tools and resources, with ongoing updates on IPV/RCA screening and education.

Dates: eLearning- Ongoing enrolment.
Face-to-Face Workshop - Visit the SHQ website to see dates of upcoming workshops.

Scan to learn more!

Looking for further information?

Enrol into the eLearning by using the QR code above or visit us at www.shq.org.au.



- Inclusive Care: Provides clinicians with the skills to offer affirming, sensitive care to LGBTIQA+ clients experiencing IPV/RCA.
- Confidence-Building: Enhances clinicians' confidence in handling the specific needs of LGBTIQA+ clients in cases of violence and abuse.
- Interactive Learning: Engages participants with real-world scenarios, helping them apply their learning in clinical practice.



Do you work with clients and unintended pregnancy?

This RACGP and ACCRM-approved two-day Unintended Pregnancy Counselling (UIP) course equips professionals with essential skills for non-directive counselling around UIP, pregnancy options and abortion access. Designed for doctors, nurses, social workers, counsellors, and healthcare workers, it combines theoretical knowledge with reflective skill-building. The course also provides an update on legislative changes to Abortion Laws in WA.

The training is trauma-informed and client-centred and supports clients reproductive autonomy. Participants will gain knowledge and skills related to unintended pregnancy counselling and post-termination support and referral pathways.

Learn to support clients with unintended pregnancy issues through non-directive counselling.

Duration: 2 days Face-to-Face or Online Workshop.

Cost: \$125 inc. GST per participant.

The UIP Counselling training is made possible by the generous support of the Department of Women and Newborn Health Service.

Dates: Visit the SHQ website to see dates of upcoming workshops.

Scan to learn more!



Looking for further information?

Enrol in our professional development training by using the QR code above. Alternatively you can call the SHQ or visit www.shq.org.au.



- Comprehensive Skill Development: Build essential non-directive counselling skills to provide empathetic, informed support for clients facing UIP.
- Enhanced Knowledge and Confidence: Develop a strong foundation in UIP, abortion access, and WA legislation, empowering effective client guidance.
- Holistic Learning Experience: Participate in group-based, reflective activities that boost confidence, deepen understanding of psychosocial factors, and strengthen referral abilities.



Calling all Disability Workers, Carers, Clinicians and Counsellors!

Research shows people with disability are significantly more likely to experience a greater range of violence and abuse from a wider range of perpetrators. Women with intellectual disability also experience higher rates of sexual violence (SV) and RCA.

This training is designed for counsellors, clinicians, carers and disability workers to enhance understanding of how violence and abuse affect people with disability.

Learn how to screen, support, and provide trauma-informed care with a specific focus on SV, RCA and other forms of FDV.

Learn to Recognise, Respond and Refer people with disability who have experiences of violence or abuse.

Duration: 6-module eLearning (6 hours) + Face-to-Face Workshop (2 hours).

Cost: \$375 inc. GST per eLearning participant + \$198 inc. GST per participant for face-to-face training.

Ongoing Support: Access to tools and resources, and ongoing updates on screening and education in the disability sector.

Dates: eLearning- Ongoing enrolment.
Face-to-Face Workshop - Visit the SHQ website to see dates of upcoming workshops.

Scan to learn more!

Looking for further information?

Enrol in our professional development training by using the QR code above. Alternatively you can call the SHQ Disability Team on 9227 6414 or visit www.shq.org.au.



- Tailored For Disability Sector: Focuses on the unique challenges faced by people with disability experiencing sexual, reproductive or carer abuse.
- Trauma-Informed Care: Equips professionals with skills to provide compassionate, specialised assessment and care to participants.
- Holistic Understanding: Covers various forms of abuse to ensure comprehensive support for people with disability.



Calling all FDV Sector Service Providers!

RCA often goes undetected without education and screening, with research showing that up to 25% of women experiencing family and domestic violence (FDV) also face RCA, significantly affecting their reproductive health and autonomy. Recognising, responding, and referring clients is essential for timely support and secondary prevention.

This online and face-to-face training is designed for FDV workers, offering advanced education on working with clients who are experiencing RCA. Learn best practices for supporting survivors and collaborating with healthcare professionals in sexual and reproductive health.

Learn to Recognise, Respond and Refer clients with experiences of RCA.

Duration: (Optional) 6-module eLearning (6 hours) + Face-to-Face Workshop (2 hours).

Cost: \$375 inc. GST per eLearning participant + \$198 inc. GST per participant for face-to-face training.

Ongoing Support: Access to tools and resources, with ongoing updates on IPV/RCA screening and education.

Dates: eLearning- Ongoing enrolment.
Face-to-Face Workshop-Visit the SHQ website to see dates of upcoming workshops.

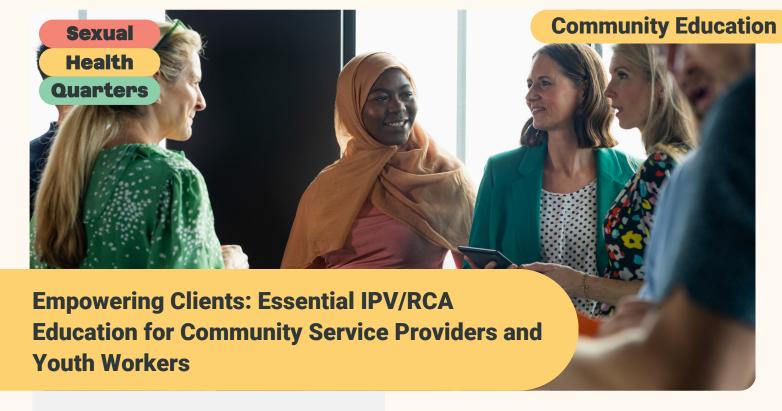
Scan to learn more!

Looking for further information?

Enrol yourself of your team into professional development training by using the QR code above or visit us at www.shq.org.au.



- Specialised Knowledge: Enhances understanding of RCA and its impact, enabling workers to provide targeted support to victim-survivors.
- Improved Intervention Skills: Provides practical tools to recognise, respond, and refer clients experiencing RCA, improving service outcomes.
- Sector Relevance: Tailored for FDV and community sector workers, ensuring training aligns with their day-to-day challenges and responsibilities.



Calling all CaLD Service Providers and Youth Workers!

IPV/RCA affect personal autonomy and wellbeing, making it essential for Community Service Providers and Youth Workers to have the skills to recognise, respond to, and support clients experiencing these forms of abuse.

This specialised workshop, led by a trained healthcare clinician, equips Community Service Providers and Youth Workers with tools to identify IPV/RCA, understand their complexities, and offer informed guidance. Participants will learn practical approaches to recognising signs of unhealthy relationships, explore the nuances of reproductive coercion, and connect clients to relevant support services.

Learn how to support your clients experiencing IPV/RCA.

Duration: 3-module eLearning (3 hours) + Face-to-Face Workshop (2 hours).

Cost: \$175 inc. GST per eLearning participant + \$2970 per workshop up to 15 staff.

Ongoing Support: Access to tools and resources, with ongoing updates on IPV/RCA screening and education.

Dates: eLearning- Ongoing enrolment.
Face-to-Face Workshop- Scheduled upon request.



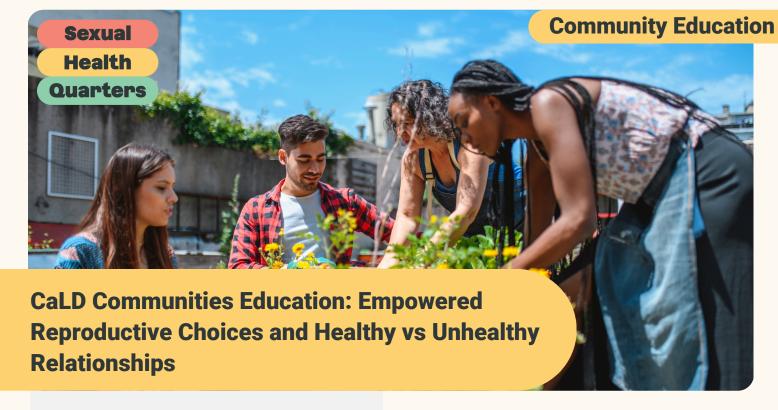
Scan to learn more!

Looking for further information?

Enrol yourself, your staff or team into professional development training by using the QR code above or visit us at www.shq.org.au



- Enhanced Recognition and Response Skills: Gain practical tools to identify signs of IPV/RCA, empowering you to provide effective, empathetic support to individuals affected by these forms of abuse.
- Strengthened Referral Knowledge: Build awareness of referral pathways and local resources, allowing you to confidently connect clients to appropriate services for further assistance.
- Community-Centric Approach: Learn culturally inclusive, trauma-informed approaches that foster safer, supportive environments for diverse clients, reinforcing trust and community wellbeing.



Engage your clients in vital reproductive and relationship education.

Recognising and addressing IPV/RCA empowers individuals to make informed decisions about their health and relationships, fostering community wellbeing.

This workshop is designed to provide CaLD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) communities members with essential knowledge about IPV/RCA in a culturally inclusive, traumainformed setting. Led by a trained clinician, the session empowers participants to recognise signs of healthy versus unhealthy relationships, understand types of violence, and know where to find local support services in a safe, accessible environment.

Clients will learn how to Recognise and Access support around IPV/RCA.

Duration: 2-hour Face-to-Face Workshop.

Cost: \$1760 inc. GST per workshop (max 15 participants). Additional cost for interpreters as needed.

Ongoing Support: Access to tools and resources, with ongoing updates on IPV/RCA screening and education.

Dates: Scheduled upon request.

Scan to learn more!

Looking for further information?

Enrol in training by using the QR code above or visit us at www.shq.org.au



- Culturally Inclusive Approach: Clinician-led training offers a traumainformed educational experience tailored to the specific needs of CaLD communities.
- Access to Support: Empowers community members to understand IPV/RCA with support from a healthcare provider as well as access relevant support service Information and referrals
- Community Engagement: Strengthens community awareness and creates safer spaces for individuals to seek help.



Contact Us

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