



**SAFE+EQUAL**

 **McAuley** | **Safe@Home**



South Australian State-Wide  
Domestic and Family Violence Alliance



**CENTRE FOR  
Women's Safety  
and Wellbeing**

# Parity

## A Call for Contributions – March 2023

*“Safe at Home”*

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**Deadline: COB Friday 10 March 2023**

**Word length: Contributions can be up to 1,600 words. Submissions to be sent to: [parity@chp.org.au](mailto:parity@chp.org.au)**

### Introduction

The genesis of “Safe at Home” principles, policies and programs came out of a recognition that it is fundamentally inequitable and an injustice for women and their children to be forced to flee and abandon their home while the perpetrator of the violence is allowed to remain.

As Kerrie Soraghan et al wrote in the March 2022 edition of Parity, “‘Safe at Home’ is a social justice response underpinned by the belief that perpetrators should be held accountable for their violence and recognises the inherent unfairness of expecting that women must leave home because of violence.”<sup>1</sup>

Substantial research points to the ongoing and severe disadvantage experienced by victim-survivors who are forced to leave their home to escape violence and rely on housing and support services. Many victim-survivors leave only to be faced with a very real threat of homelessness, housing insecurity and poverty. Safe at Home is an approach which seeks to reduce the risks of

<sup>1</sup> Keeping Family Violence Victims ‘Safe at Home’: Practitioner Perspectives, Kerrie Soraghan, Manager Advocacy and Communications, McAuley Community Services for Women, Jocelyn Bignold, CEO, McAuley Community Services for Women, Cathy Humphreys, Head, Department of Social Work, School of Health Sciences, University of Melbourne and Jessica Grgat and Madison Kan 2022, Parity, vol. 35, no.1, pp. 24-25.



homelessness, poverty and intergenerational trauma among victim-survivors by ensuring they can remain safely in their home.<sup>2</sup>

Safe at Home also represents a paradigm shift in the response to domestic and family violence. It seeks to invert and reverse previously dominant processes and practices where the victim of violence is further punished and disadvantaged, while the perpetrator remains secure in a privileged position.

Despite research clearly indicating that Safe at Home responses support better life outcomes for victim-survivors of family violence, there remains a lack of consensus within Australia and internationally about what Safe at Home means, how the concept is put into practice and who is responsible for implementing it.

In Australia, recent data suggests that a very small proportion of victim-survivors access a Safe at Home response, further raising questions about what we mean when we say, “Safe at Home”, how this is counted and why so few victim-survivors seem to access it?

This discussion of the Safe at Home response to domestic and family violence is also premised on the recognition that under the current system, and for the foreseeable future, there will be women and their children choosing or needing to relocate from the family home in order to minimise the potentially lethal risk of further perpetrator violence.

In this edition, we seek to explore these questions.

## A framework for discussion

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### **Part 1: What is Safe at Home? A Principle, Program or Policy?**

Young people leaving OoHC experience a range of poor outcomes along the whole range of social indices including health, housing, education and employment. They also experience higher levels

The common idea underpinning Safe at Home responses, is that a victim-survivor should be able to stay in their home if they want to, and the perpetrator of violence should leave. However, beyond this, there is little consensus on what is required for the successful implementation of a Safe at Home response or the best model to achieve it.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.



This chapter aims to explore the different types of Safe at Home responses that are delivered across Australia and internationally, as well as how understandings of the concept of Safe at Home have evolved over time.

- Is a Safe at Home response about just changing locks and making physical changes to a property to make it more secure, or does it require a more holistic institutional and services respond to be successful?
- Is Safe at Home a program to funded? Is Safe at Home a policy to be implemented by an organisation or government?
- Or is Safe at Home a principle that underpins a way of working?
- Is it possible for it to be all of the above?

## **Part 2: The policy framework**

This chapter is devoted to an examination of the role and place of Safe at Home in the wider policy and service response to domestic and family violence and other related social issues, such as homelessness, child poverty and wellbeing and justice issues.

- What for example were the findings of the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence with regard to the viability and options for Safe at Home responses?
- What are the legal and institutional arrangements needed to make Safe at Home a realistic option for victim-survivors seeking to escape and prevent further violence?

## **Part 3: Safe at Home in practice both locally and overseas**

The aim of this chapter is to examine and discuss existing Safe at Home programs and the lessons that have been learned from their experience in operation.

- For example, New South Wales has been delivering the Staying Home Leaving Home program since 2014. In Tasmania has the Keeping Women Safe in Their Homes Program and the Federal Government has funded the Salvation Army to provide the Safe in the Home Project.
- On the basis of existing practice, and the experience of these programs, there should be sufficient indicators of performance and outcomes and insight gained into what works/what doesn't and what needs to be changed/improved for them to achieve their basic aims and objectives.



- Safe at Home programs are also being considered by other jurisdictions and have been in operation in other countries. The experience gained from these programs would also be invaluable.

#### **Part 4: Barriers and Obstacles to the Implementation of Safe at Home**

The basic aim of this chapter is to explore and examine the question of what it takes to make Safe at Home responses work successfully to protect and support victim-survivors escaping domestic and family violence.

- What are some of the systemic obstacles and barriers that need to be overcome, including the roles and responsibilities of mainstream services? What societal norms need to shift and what government policies are enabling or constraining Safe at Home responses?
- What changes need to be made to existing legal and law enforcement frameworks in order to make the women and children in Safe at Home models to make them actually feel safe in their homes?
- Safety and security technology systems have sometimes been advanced as a solution to the real and legitimate concerns of those considering taking up Safe at Home response. There are equally legitimate concerns about the efficacy of these technological solutions to the threat of perpetrator violence and as the guarantor of personal safety. What research has been done into the effectiveness of technological safety and security measures in preventing perpetrator violence? For example, what are the results of some of the “trials” that have been proposed and implemented?

#### **Part 5: Researching findings**

What is the current state of research into Safe at Home policies and programs? What are the findings of this research? What are the recommendations of this research?

- What further research needs to be undertaken into Safe at Home and what would be the priority areas for this research?
- For example, what information do we have on what works well in the Safe at Home mode?
- Likewise, do we know the cohorts of women for whom it works well, and similarly, those cohorts for whom it does not?
- What are the results of any evaluations that have been undertaken of Safe at Home services?



- What do we know of the impact of Safe at Home policies, practice and services on the behaviours of the perpetrators of domestic and family violence?
- Is there any evidence that it has improved perpetrator behaviours?
- Is there any evidence that it has made perpetrator behaviours potentially more violent?
- How do men's violence programs like the Victorian No to Violence perceive and respond to Safe at Home?

### **Part 6: Opinion: Where to now for Safe at Home?**

The Parity Opinion Pages present an opportunity to advocate for what needs to be done to make Safe at Home a viable service response to domestic and family violence.

## Key information

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**Deadline:** The deadline for contributions: COB Friday 10 March 2022. Should additional time be required, please contact the *Parity* Editor.

**Submissions format:** All contributions should be submitted as Word attachments via email to [parity@chp.org.au](mailto:parity@chp.org.au).

**Word length:** Contributions can be up to 1,600 words. This equates to a double page spread in *Parity*. Single page articles can be up to 800 words in length. Contributions of a greater length should be discussed with the *Parity* Editor.

**Artwork:** Contributors are invited to submit the artwork they would like to accompany their article. Inclusion is dependent on the space being available. If artwork is not provided and is required, it will be selected by the *Parity* Editor.

**Embedded media:** Contributors are able to make suggestions for the placement of relevant hyperlinks, video and other multimedia within their content which can be embedded in the *Parity* online edition. Any suggestions will be reviewed by and decided upon by the *Parity* editor.

**Content:** By providing your contribution, you confirm and agree that (except where you have referenced or cited any other's work) the contribution is your original work and has not been copied from any other source.



**Use:** If your contribution is accepted, it will be published by or on CHP's behalf in an edition of the *Parity* magazine. *Parity* is available in hard copy and online.

**Assistance and questions:** Feedback, input and assistance can be provided with drafts if required. The *Parity* editor is available at all stages of the preparation of your contribution to look at drafts and provide input and feedback. The earlier drafts are received for feedback, the better.

**Contact:** The *Parity* Editor, Noel Murray, can be contacted on:

e/ [parity@chp.org.au](mailto:parity@chp.org.au)  
p/ 0466 619 582

## References

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All works that are cited or referred to in an article should be referenced. *Parity* does not encourage contributors to list a bibliography of references used in the development of an article but are *not* cited in the article. There is simply insufficient space for the inclusion of extensive bibliographies.

## In-text citations

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CHP uses numbered-citation for all in-text citations.

- Number references consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text. The first reference you cite will be numbered (1) in the text, and the second reference you cite will be numbered (2), and so on.
- A number is assigned to each reference as it is used. Even if the author is named in your text, a number must still be used.
- References are listed in numerical order at the end of the document.
- If you use a reference consecutively assign the consecutive number and use *Ibid.*
- If the same reference elsewhere in your article, assign the consecutive number and use *op. cit.* For example, Seung S 2012, *op. cit.*, p. 34.
- The number can be placed outside the text punctuation to avoid disruption to the flow of the text.



- If a single sentence uses two or more citations, simply identify the references one after the other.

For example:

International research has found that resilience in a homeless youth sample correlates with lower levels of psychological distress, suicide ideation, violent behaviour and substance abuse. (4) (5)

## *Parity* referencing style

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All references used in *Parity* articles should be listed using the following guidelines:

### **Books**

Author's surname, initial(s), year of publication, Title of book, Publisher, Place of Publication, Page number(s).

For example:

1. Seung S 2012, *Connectome: How the Brain's Wiring Makes Us Who We Are*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Boston, p.90.

### **Journal Articles**

Author's surname, initial(s), year of publication, 'Title of article', *Title of Journal*, volume number, issue number, Page number(s).

For example:

Trevithick P 2003 'Effective Relationship Based Practice', *Journal of Social Work Practice*, vol.17, no.2, pp.163-176.

### **Newspaper articles**

#### **With identified author:**

Authors Surname Initial Year of publication, 'Title of article', *Name of publication*, Date and year of publication, Page number(s) or <URL> if applicable.

For example:

Kissane K 2008, 'Brumby calls for tough sentences', *The Age*, 29 October 2017, p. 8.

#### **With no author:**

Use 'Unknown'

For example:



Unknown 2008, 'Brumby calls for tough sentences', *The Age*, 29 October 2017, p. 8.

### **Webpage/document within a website or blog post**

Author's surname (if known) Initial, 'Page/Blog/Document Title', *The person or organisation responsible for the website*, Year of Publication (if known) <URL>

For example:

Greenblatt S, 'A special letter from Stephen Greenblatt', Australian Council of Social Services, 2017 <<http://acoss.org/media/greenblatt>>

### **Audio podcast**

Speaker/Hosts surname Initial, 'Title of episode', *Title of Podcast*, Year and date of Publication, <URL> (if available).

For example:

Todd B 2018, 'What homelessness looks like for women', Stuff Mom Never Told You, 14 March 2018 <<https://www.stuffmomnevertoldyou.com/podcasts/what-homelessness-looks-like-for-women.html>>

### **Online video/film or documentary**

*Title* Date of recording, Format, Publisher.

For example:

*Indigenous homelessness* 1992, video recording, Green Cape Wildlife Films.

### **Personal communication**

Personal communication may include (but are not limited to) email, fax, interview, conversations, lectures, speeches, telephone conversations and letters. Usually personal communications do not appear, as the information is not retrievable. However, due to the numbered citations used in *Parity*, we ask that they be included as follows:

Author's surname First name, Method of communication, Date and year of Communication

For example:

Johnson George, Telephone interview, 12 August 2018.

### **Citing the same reference more than once**

When a reference is cited a number of times, use *op cit.* after the year has been given. If the page number is different from the first use, cite the new page number as well.

For example:

Asante K O and Meyer-Weitz A 2015 *op cit.* pp. 230-231.



### **Citing the same reference consecutively**

Use *ibid.* when the same reference appears consecutively. If the page number is different from the first use, cite the page number as well.

For example:

1. Florn B H 2015, 'The cost of youth homelessness', *Journal of Adolescence*, vol.17, no.2, pp.163-176.
2. *Ibid.* pp.32-33.

### **Multiple Authors**

For every reference type, give all the authors Surnames and first Initials followed by a comma in the bibliography. The last author listed should be preceded by 'and'.

For example:

Sharp J, Peters J and Howard K 2002, *The management of a student research project*, Gower, Aldershot, England.