**Collaboration is key – working together to deliver a new approach to FDV support**

**Jessica Corbyn and Donna Western**

An innovative collaboration between Ruah Community Services, a Local Government Authority and WA Police is supporting people with lived experience of family and domestic violence (FDV) in a trauma-informed, strengths-based practice. The objective of the program is to increase feelings of safety and the confidence of clients.

An evaluation completed by Ruah and the University of Western Australia has shown positive client outcomes. Assessments showed positive changes in clients’ risk of harm, confidence in planning for their safety, accessing support from the police, applying for a Family Violence Restraining Orders and reporting to Department of Communities, Child Protection and Family Support.

Qualitative evidence indicates the community workers’ attributes and approach, along with service strategies, positively impacted clients’ confidence around violence prevention strategies, altering their perception and avoidance of family and domestic violence. All participants providing qualitative feedback believed the service should be offered at other police stations.

Hear about the strategies used to enhance clients’ sense of safety – the information, support, education and counselling leading to increases in confidence and clarity and, ultimately, real change for clients. This program demonstrates a new way of working together to increase the sense of safety and confidence with people who have experienced FDV in our community.