



IT'S ABOUT SAVING LIVES

RESPONDING TO HOMICIDE FORUM

*Thursday 27 April 2017
Royal on the Park Hotel
Brisbane*





WELCOME

Welcome to *It's About Saving Lives: Responding to Homicide*, proudly co-hosted by Griffith University and the University of Guelph.

In the past decade, there has been ongoing international discussion about social and justice responses to homicide. These are not new debates, but there remains little consensus about the appropriateness of current laws, policies, and social reforms, and the impacts of those for cases processed and disposed. These challenges speak to the timeliness of a forum that brings together researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and other key stakeholders from a range of different sectors.

The over-arching goal of this collaborative forum is to be proactive in identifying solutions to overcome the absence of research and data, to inform ongoing debates about legal and social responses to homicide, and to shape a forward research agenda that responds to key policy and program objectives.

We hope today will provide you with the opportunity to exchange knowledge, explore innovative ideas, and build new networks, and we thank you for joining us.

Prof. Paul Mazerolle, Pro Vice Chancellor (Arts, Education and Law) and Director, Violence Research and Prevention Program, Griffith University

Prof. Myrna Dawson, Canada Research Chair in Public Policy in Criminal Justice and Director, Centre for the Study of Social and Legal Responses to Violence, University of Guelph

Dr Samara McPhedran, Senior Research Fellow, Violence Research and Prevention Program, Griffith University



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PROGRAM

9:00–9:20 **Welcome and opening remarks: Setting the scene**
Paul Mazerolle and Myrna Dawson (Griffith University and University of Guelph)

Session 1: Cross-National Snapshots and Perspectives

9:20–9:40 Australia
Paul Mazerolle (Griffith University)

9:40–10:00 New Zealand
Julia Tolmie (University of Auckland)

10:00–10:20 Canada
Myrna Dawson (University of Guelph)

10:20–10:45 Morning tea

Session 2: Research Snapshots: A Focus on the Criminal Justice System

10:45–11:05 Criminal justice outcomes for homicide offenders in Australia
Christine Bond (Griffith University)

11:05–11:25 Researching legal responses to homicide in Canada
Myrna Dawson (University of Guelph)

11:25–11:45 Legal responses to domestic homicides in Victoria, Australia
Danielle Tyson (Deakin University)

11:45–12:05 Homicide reduction in cities
Amy Nivette (Griffith University)

12:05-1:00 **Lunch**

1:00-1:45 Session 3: Panel discussion

Access to Justice for Homicide Victims and Offenders: Social and legal responses to homicide must often balance the rights of the offender with justice for victims and reparation for their families/survivors. However, access to justice for victims and offenders can vary depending on the context of the crime, who was involved, where it occurred, and who is responding. This panel discusses various issues that may impact access to justice for those involved in homicides in Australia.

Panellists: Elaine Henderson / Deborah Taylor (QLD Homicide Victims Support Group); Michael Cope (QLD Council for Civil Liberties); Anne Edwards (QLD Sentencing Advisory Council).

1:45-2:30 Session 4: Panel discussion

Access to Justice for Indigenous and First Nations Victims and Offenders: Building on the preceding panel, this panel narrows the focus to the experiences of indigenous and First Nations victims and offenders of homicide in Australia, Canada and New Zealand, highlighting current issues and gaps in knowledge.

Panellists: Heron Loban (Griffith University); Dawn Lavell-Harvard (Trent University/Ontario Native Women's Association/Native Women's Association of Canada); Denise Wilson (Auckland University of Technology)



2:30-3:30 **Session 5: Panel discussion**

Detecting and Assessing Risk: From Data to the Front Line

This panel focuses specifically on the role of, and interplay between, high quality data collection, risk assessment tools, death reviews, and practitioner knowledge in determining social and legal responses to violence, including current issues and gaps in knowledge.

Panellists: Fiona Boorman (QLD Family and Child Commission), Betty Taylor (Red Rose Foundation), Anna Butler (NSW Department of Justice and Attorney General), Chris Knight (Queensland Police Service).

3:30-3:55 **Afternoon tea**

3:55-4:45 **Session 6: Roundtable and Large Group Discussions**

Improving Responses to Homicide: Next Steps in Evidence Collection and Knowledge Transfer

Drawing from presentations and panel discussions, various questions will be used to facilitate individual roundtable discussions that will seek to recap progress and ongoing challenges when responding to homicide. Subsequent report back to the larger group will identify key issues and challenges, data gaps, and stakeholder concerns to high research priorities similar and distinct across the three countries.

Participants: Whole of group



4:45-5:00 **Concluding remarks**

Myrna Dawson and Paul Mazerolle (University of Guelph and Griffith University)

5:00 – 6:00 Cocktail reception and book launch
“Domestic Homicides and Death Reviews: An International Perspective”



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