



Annual Report 2010-2011



Our Purpose

To provide peer support, help, love and understanding to victims of homicide in Queensland, and to continue promoting education and reform, as well as an awareness of the needs of homicide victims. This is predominantly achieved through our volunteer program, which introduces people who have previously experienced the loss of a loved one with those who are currently experiencing a loss.

Our Vision

The organisation continues to be the leading Queensland based group in the promotion and provision of meaningful peer support to those who have lost a loved one to homicide.

Our Core Values

We are committed to treating all people with dignity, respect, and confidentiality. We recognize and value contributions from all our members towards the achievement of our objectives. QHVSG is interested in the pursuit of social justice and is focused on the empowerment of our members

Integrity – Clients, staff, volunteers and other stakeholders can expect honest and accountable actions that uphold their rights.

Diversity – Diversity recognizes the range of individuals who contribute to the organisation and our community. We are conscious of providing a culturally sensitive, responsive and accommodating service.

Respect – QHVSG values the individual contributions and perspectives of our members, volunteers and staff and recognizes the importance of treating each other with dignity and respect. Furthermore QHVSG values the development of positive working relationships between staff and volunteers.

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Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group

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AUSTRALIA

QHVSG Team

Board of Management 2010- 2011	Valued Staff
<p>President Debbie Lawler Vice President Geoff Sheldon Secretary Geoff Sheldon Peter Le Messurier (Resigned) Treasurer Marie Newell Shane Dwyer (Leave of absence)</p> <p>Committee Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marie Newell • Lynette Edwards • Helen Wallace • Dennis Crooks (Resigned) • Desley Shrimp (Resigned) 	<p>General Manager Ross Thompson</p> <p>Senior Family Support Coordinator Paula Starmer</p> <p>Family Support Coordinators Berni Palings Soraya Seklaoui Hayley Riley (resigned 18/01/2011) Michelle Dyck (resigned 16/08/2011) Kirsty Shapleski (resigned 20/08/2011)</p> <p>Finance Officer Robin Christmas</p> <p>Volunteer Coordinator/Administration Danielle Grant (made redundant 25/07/2011)</p>

Subcommittees	
<p>Reform: QHVSG participates in legislative evaluation and reform by working to improve circumstances for victims of homicide.</p> <p>Fundraising: To help expand the opportunities and services offered by QHVSG. The fundraising committee is responsible for developing programs that supplement government funding.</p> <p>Media and PR: To provide information and comments supporting the purpose and integrity of the Organization.</p>	<p>Education: To assist the victims of homicide in the education process; regarding their rights and how they may obtain or source information in support in of their rights. QHVSG is also involved in community education to promote awareness of the organization.</p> <p>Finance: The committee's task is to manage and audit the movement of funds in accordance with the budget and the service agreement obligations.</p>

Presidents Foreword

Annual Report 2010-2011



As I reflect on last year, and the many hundreds of new and vulnerable people that have come into the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group's (QHVSOG) family, I am reminded that our primary objective is to assist our newest clients in the darkest hours of their lives, helping them deal with the grief of losing a loved one in a most sudden and violent act and travelling alongside with them through their journey from day one to..... These thoughts reminded me once again that sometimes there is no end for some, or there is a travesty of injustice that is so often the end result of a trial. We remain involved in the lives of our clients for as long as they need us, and that is what we are all about. That is why I remain committed to our organisation because, although none of us chose to be a part of this group, we can be assured that we will not rest while families keep suffering in this way, need healing and perspective and that is what our group is here for.

There are many pleasing things associated with being the President and one of them is the opportunity of telling you about our achievements each year, in this, our Annual Report.

It is truly my honour to bring you some of the highlights that our organisation has experienced in the last year, as well as to tell you some of the challenges we have met along the way.

Our General Manager, Ross Thompson and his staff have worked tirelessly for our members, bringing about a 'bumper year' of achievements and initiatives that have seen our organisation go forward from strength to strength.

One of the biggest changes to our organisation in its 16 year history was the move of premises from our beloved Solace House at Albion to our new premises in Clayfield. With our decade of leasing the Albion premises coming to a close due to planned urban renovation in that area, the Board and Ross set about finding a new location from which to base our State-wide operations. In a relatively short period of time, Board member Lyn Edwards and I were inspecting a number of possible locations before making application to lease our current new premises.

It has been nothing short of a military-like operation to arrange moving the decade of memories and experiences from Albion to Clayfield, and with most things done by our organisation, it has been a tremendous group effort with many hands making light work. Robin Christmas planned the financial aspects associated with the costs of physically moving all our items, as well as arranging technical fitouts and the logistics of the move. In a masterful stroke of planning, Robin successfully applied for a 'one off' special allocation of additional funding from our funding body, Victims Assist Queensland (VAQ). This successful application completely covered the costs of moving, avoiding any financial impact upon our service delivery.

Ross, Paula, Robin, Lyn and former staff members, Danielle Grant and Kyla Sorenne soon set about filling the vacant premises with the warmth and friendliness that has been the hallmark of Solace House since this organisation commenced in 1995. Through clever use of available space, Solace House is now, not only a more comfortable and functional office setting for us to carry on our business but, most importantly, it has the room and facilities for us to 'get back to basics' and expand our family respite facilities available to our members.

For example, during a recent trial, the Solace House office was fully functioning, and we had up to eight members of one family staying with us for the duration of their trial. The ability to help our members with the burden of accommodation during court cases is, at the heart of helping, to make Solace House exactly that – a place of ‘Solace’ for our members at one of the most trying times of their lives.

From a Board of Management perspective, I have once again been shown tremendous support from my fellow Board members who have given so freely of their time, their expertise, and their efforts to help achieve the best outcomes for our members and this organisation. All members of the Board are volunteers who sacrifice their personal and family time so that they can help our members. The majority of them are also fellow victims themselves. Their assistance has been in a wide and varied way, from helping write strategic policy documents, funding applications and planning the future direction and activities of the organisation, right down to little things like helping to set up and pack up at functions, and even helping to answer telephones.

I am privileged to have such dedicated group of fellow Board members and I rely heavily upon them for not only organisational support, but also their friendship and kindness that they have shown me and my family for many years now.

The past year has demonstrated the level of support that this organisation has amongst its stakeholders. It has been pleasing to continue our close relationship with our Patron, Commissioner Bob Atkinson APM of the Queensland Police Service (QPS). Despite his onerous schedule of duties, Mr Atkinson has always given generously of his time and support to help us with our vision towards achieving greater things for our members. Similarly, Ms Nicola Doumany, VAQ Director, has provided invaluable support and guidance as we work together towards providing the best possible service for our members.

It has been pleasing to have the support of Mr Atkinson and Ms Doumany, and members of their dedicated staff, at many of our functions

and events throughout the year. For example, our Awareness Day held in King George Square on the 5th of May 2011, saw Ms Doumany and many of her staff spend the entire day with us. Likewise, in Mr Atkinson’s absence, we were honoured to have Acting Deputy Commissioner Mr Graham Rynders, himself an experienced former homicide squad member, attend and address us on the Commissioner’s behalf.

The Awareness Day was an excellent example of how our organisation is viewed by the community and our stakeholders. We were honoured to have the Acting Premier, Mr Paul Lucas, attend and address the gathering. Additionally, the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services, Mr Neil Roberts spoke, and later met with our members and staff.

Whilst Ross, myself and our Vice President, Geoff Sheldon, also spoke at Awareness Day, it was the broad cross section, and high level of support we received from stakeholders, from the government, other Non Government Organisations, the public and private sectors, that demonstrated the high regard in which QHVSG is held. The organising that was required in the lead up, during the day, and after this event, was truly a credit to Ross, Paula and staff together with Board members, Lyn Edwards and Shane Dwyer.

Another function attended by Ms Doumany was the “Posh Tosh” Race Day put on by Greg and Debbie Tosh. The proceeds of the day, approximately \$3,000, were donated to QHVSG. It was a wonderful opportunity for those of us who attended, to meet with, and get to know, Ms Doumany. All other members and staff who attended commented on what a wonderful day it was, and how refreshing to have a day out such as this, to bring awareness in this way.

A most significant day on our calendar in the past year was our Memorial Service held in September 2010. As we did not have a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at this time, it was all hands on deck with Paula Starmer and Susan Beattie at the helm with their team of staff and the Board were also heavily involved. Paula and Susan excelled themselves in the organising of this event that saw our largest gathering of members and friends (86), attend

the Baptist Church at Albion. As well as lighting a candle with my daughter and parents and speaking on behalf of my own son, I was honoured to be part of a day that is close to the hearts of so many of our members. Our Patron, Mr Atkinson spoke about the value he places on our role in the community and the services provided to our members, particularly our close working relationship with the Queensland Police Service (QPS). This was also the first time we released live butterflies at the end of the ceremony. This was an amazing experience and such a touching gesture, and one that is a particular favourite for all who attended.

Also in September, the QPS held its annual National Police Remembrance Day and Candle Light Vigil. In 2010, I attended the memorial service at St Stephens Cathedral with former Board Member, Steve Costello. It was a beautiful and moving service. It is a time to reflect on those members of the Police Service who have sworn to protect and serve us and have paid the ultimate price to keep us safe. I was very privileged to have been invited to attend this solemn service.

Once again, we have had to say good-bye to several staff members. Jannette Brown – CEO, Susan Beattie – administration, Hayley Riley - Southern/Darling Downs, and Kyla Sorenne - Family Support Co-ordinator. I take this opportunity to thank each and every one for their dedication to our members during their time with us.

Although it is sad to see them go, the doors opened with the arrival of new staff members. Ross Thompson - General Manager, who's dedication to the job and to the organisation as a whole is unsurpassed; Danielle Grant - administration and Kirsty Wood - Metro North/Sunshine Coast Family Support Co-ordinator.

In March 2011, we received notification from our Secretary, Peter LeMessurier that he was resigning from the Board. I want to thank Peter for his incredible input in the short time he was with us. Peter was incredibly diligent and was a true "stickler" for detail. He developed our new committee processes and placed them into document form, including the committee Terms of Reference documents

and drafted the changes to our Constitution to bring them into line with current legislation and business practices. Thank you so much Peter for everything that you achieved. I want to also thank Geoff Sheldon for taking on the responsibility of the Secretary's role in the interim.

At this time, I would like make special mention of our General Manager, Ross Thompson - who became General Manager towards the end of 2010. Although I had already worked with Ross on the Board the previous year, the time Ross has been at the helm of the organisation has proven, to not only be rewarding for our whole organisation, but also very rewarding for me, as President and the entire Board, as we have been able to rest in the knowledge that the organisation is in such zealous and reputable hands. I am very happy to report that Ross has continued to work tirelessly, above and beyond the call of duty to bring improvements and enhancements for our organisation to fruition. Along with Ross, I would also like to sincerely express my thanks to all Board members who came into 2010-2011 with me, including Geoff Sheldon - Vice-President, Shane Dwyer – Treasurer, Peter LeMessurier - Secretary, Marie Newell, Lyn Edwards, Helen Wallace, Desley Shrimp and Dennis Crooks. We had a very successful Strategic Planning Weekend in February 2011 and it was inspirational to meet with, and get to know, the new Board and staff members.

As this report represents my sixth year on the Board, I can say that I have made many lifelong friends amongst my peers and colleagues at QHVSG. I can also say that some of my best memories will be of the people I have met and worked with during my time as a member and on the Board of QHVSG.

Thank you and I wish each and every one of you all the best for 2011-2012.

Kind regards

Debbie Lawler
President
Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group

General Managers Report 2010/2011



As this is my first yearly report, I would like to give you a little look into my background in connection with the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group. I joined QHVSG in April 2006 after I lost my son Michael in May 2005. As a victim, and due to the support that I received, I decided to give back to the organisation to help others that have been affected by the trauma of homicide. I started as a volunteer then helped with the Toowoomba support meetings. In 2009, I became a Board Member. In October 2010, I was appointed General Manager for the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group, again to give back and to support others, in relation to what I had received earlier.

My aim for QHVSG is to be less dependent on the Government and this means that we need to be funded by the community and by corporate business houses. To do this we have to take a good look at how we are viewed by the public, and if we have to, make changes. We stepped out of the box, reexamined our organisation and came back with a program to suit. We believe that it will help our members and it will improve our public negativity reference regarding homicide.

We have achieved this by developing the 'Walk With Me' project, an art exhibition that will be in full swing early next year. The project has taken a lot of work to get off the ground, thanks to the development work of Simon Turner (23Degrees Pty. Ltd.). The art exhibition will be launched early next year so you can expect financial growth and larger community awareness.

As I have stated before, this year has been a very busy one for QHVSG. We have had to relocate Solace House from Albion to Clayfield due to the redevelopment of the Albion area. Susan Beattie, Kyla Sorenne, Hayley Riley, Kirsty Woods and Danielle Grant made contributions during this time.

We are still going to schools with the 'One Punch Can Kill' campaign which is receiving a broader recognition from schools and the communities from Mackay, Toowoomba, Gold Coast and the many places in-between. I also had the privilege of being involved in the inaugural 'Sycamore Tree Project' where victims of crime visited Woodford Prison to tell our stories directly to the inmates. The realization of the trauma suffered by victims was startling and unanticipated by the inmates.

Over the last few months, we as an organisation have achieved so much, with the support of sporting groups such as the Queensland Rugby League and the Queensland Cricket Club along with the support of Simon Turner (23Degrees Pty. Ltd.) and a host of new valuable volunteers.

During the 2010/2011 year, we have had several events from Golf Days, Posh Tosh Race Day, Memorial Day and Awareness Day. All of which were very successful due to the help of QHVSG staff and volunteers. We could not have achieved this success without their help. I would like to especially thank our Volunteer of the Year, Owen Pontin for all of his hard work over the many years with QHVSG.

I look forward to the next 12 months as we develop our new education program, and launch 'Walk With Me' art exhibition.

Established in 1995 ...

...since five families learnt of each other's anguish through a newspaper article, the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group (QHVSG) continues to be the sole provider of peer support services to families affected by homicide in Queensland.

Through ongoing partnership with the Queensland Police Service, QHVSG is referred to families within 48 hours of the homicide occurring; ensuring families have access to support, guidance and reassurance. QHVSG works with the Police to organize crime scene cleanup and other matters, allowing the families to focus on more pressing issues such as counselling, spending time with family, and organizing the funeral of their loved one.

Over the years that follow, QHVSG encourages families to keep in touch with the group through a free call number, so we can provide support, information and advice to families on a range of issues including helping families understand the legal proceedings and their right to participate in this.

Often families experience a range of setbacks after the homicide of a loved one. The pressure and strain placed on families has a significant impact on an individual's coping ability, their mental alertness, concentration and memory are all affected.

Traumatic grief also has an incredible impact on a person's physical health and can lead to ongoing minor ailments, or even more serious health complications.

The QHVSG plays a role in the minimization of this, through the provision of a 24 hour crisis line, home visits, support meetings and facilitating peer support interactions between families/individuals.

Perhaps the most unique part of bereavement by homicide is the experience of navigating the legal system during times of great stress. Families are faced with having to interpret the many occurrences

within the criminal justice system, and an incredible sense of disempowerment that comes from relinquishing control of perhaps the greatest tragedy of one's life.

Again, QHVSG advocates daily for families ensuring that our members have access to accurate and timely information regarding the prosecution of their loved one's perpetrator, and encouraging them to participate in the few areas available, such as writing of Victim Impact Statements and submissions in relation to parole applications.

Whilst QHVSG is not considered a lobby group, through continuing to raise community and stakeholder awareness regarding the systemic challenges facing victims of homicide, advancements in the area of law reform can, and do occur.

QHVSG prides itself on being one of Queensland's strongest advocates for victims of violence, through our ability to work collaboratively with stakeholders, media and the judiciary.

Our strength and capacity to achieve our goals relies directly on the level of volunteer input received, particularly from victims of homicide. We encourage active involvement from our members in shaping QHVSG's direction and operations.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Some Highlights for 2010/11

- 48 presentations made
- 281 court support attendances
- 5739 phone support calls
- 11 detective training sessions conducted
- 91 Queensland Government, Queensland Police Service, and stakeholder meetings/functions attended
- 11 News-Links posted (6000 plus copies)

Policy Development

In 2010/11, we continued the program of finalizing policies. Fortunately by the end of the year, we had completed the task of having current and acceptable policies.

The development of policies as outlined in the “recommendations” will enhance the relationship between Government and the community sector and provide the basis for practical support to ensure that all Non-Government Organizations are able to function as effectively and efficiently as possible.

All policies are incorporated in a manual for members to view.

Team Leaders

Our focus continued, as it did in 2009/10, on building local support hubs throughout the State. The development and nurturing of these hubs divined by volunteers are critical in the support of victims. These groups also help in covering QHVSG’s three areas of support, education and reform.

To support our Team Leaders in their role, QHVSG are constantly looking at ways of improving service delivery. Such strategies

include utilizing technology to reduce staff workload; thereby making communication easier, and providing external access to head office resources.

Subcommittees

There has been some very good work undertaken by the various subcommittees which has led to new initiatives in awareness, education and fundraising. Programs included a Members Survey, QHVSG Posh Tosh Day, Ride Against Violence, “Schoolies” Awareness and ‘One Punch Can Kill’ Campaign, etc. The continuing goal for 2011/12 is to strengthen the committees through the provision of operational guidelines and additional members to share the load.

Message from the Board of Management

QHVSG staff and Board of Management can not provide the support, fundraising, training and education necessary to manage the organization on their own. It is through the generous time and effort of many volunteers that QHVSG is able to ensure that our member’s needs are met. Thanks to so many for generously donating their personal time to share the load.



Those in Support

Paula Starmer



After two years in the position of Senior Family Support Coordinator, my role is continually evolving as a support person for our General Manager and family support coordinators, and a training role in the supervision for practicum students. As a counsellor and member of Australian Counselling Association, I continue to upgrade my skills with professional development in bereavement studies. I am responsible for Metro-South and South Eastern regions which encompass the Brisbane and Gold Coast support groups. I have seen the personal growth of our volunteer team leaders Monique, Gai and Fiona who are dedicated volunteers who lead and support with great compassion, those members attending the support group and other members in their area. I cannot speak more highly of our Brisbane team leader Gillian, who is a pleasure to work with in most volunteer roles of QHVSG.

I have the privilege of working along side two new Family Support Coordinators, Berni and Soraya. They are exceptional professionals who give the greatest gift, and that is to give of themselves in the most demanding role of family support.

Development of member support is of extreme importance and is an integral part of QHVSG Mission Statement. Through invited guest speakers, we ensure members are continually gaining knowledge. Through Awareness Day and Educational Programs, we ensure continued growth of stakeholder awareness of

the impact of homicide on families and the wider community.

Soraya Seklaoui



I began working for the organisation in August 2011 after being a court support volunteer for one year. I am not a victim of homicide, however my interest for working with people within the community who have become involved in the criminal justice system has grown over the years while studying. I am currently doing my Master in Forensic Mental Health. I have become very passionate about QHVSG and the support services we offer, and am very proud to be associated (via the organisation) with the 'One Punch Can Kill' anti-violence campaign.

Since joining the organisation as a Family Support Co-ordinator, I have been warmly supported by all the employees and Board members I have met and I am very pleased to extend that warmth and support to our members. I would like to share the feeling that it is not just one or two people supporting them, but the entire organisation.

I have been approached by a number of members who have an interest in volunteering in the regions and would like to do everything I can to encourage this and to facilitate as much personal support in the regions as I can, through support meetings and court support, where possible. I look forward to embracing the challenges of the year ahead.

Benedikte (Berni) Palings



Working on my postgraduate degree in counselling with the Australian College of Applied Psychology, I volunteered with QHVSG for four months during my placement. During this time, I developed a great affinity for the organization and the services it offers. Therefore, it was a privilege to join the wonderful team of QHVSG after my placement as Family Support Coordinator for the Metro North and North Coast areas. Taking over from Kirsty Wood, I have big shoes to fill, but the manner in which I was welcomed into the organization by the team, the Board members I have met, volunteers and members alike, was touching and very encouraging. Encouraging too, is the support I have been receiving from the very start, and I enjoy the positive team spirit in the office, where we work together towards our first priority, the well-being of our members. It is a very humbling experience for me to be building up supportive, trusting relationships with our members and to see those relationships developing well, as well as to build effective professional relationships with QPS and service-related agencies such as Paradise Kids. I am also extremely happy to have started up the Caboolture peer-support group. The group is a work in progress, and it is exciting to see it develop so that it becomes the kind of support group that best meets its members' needs. I am currently in the process of inviting guest speakers for future meetings, and have been thrilled by the response.

Grief and loss has been a very special area for me for a very long time.

Having experienced grief and loss myself and having previously volunteered for several years in the areas of grief, loss, death and dying, I feel it a privilege to serve in the very special area of homicide. I am looking forward to continuing this amazing journey and to continuing to walk with our members in 2012.

Robin Christmas



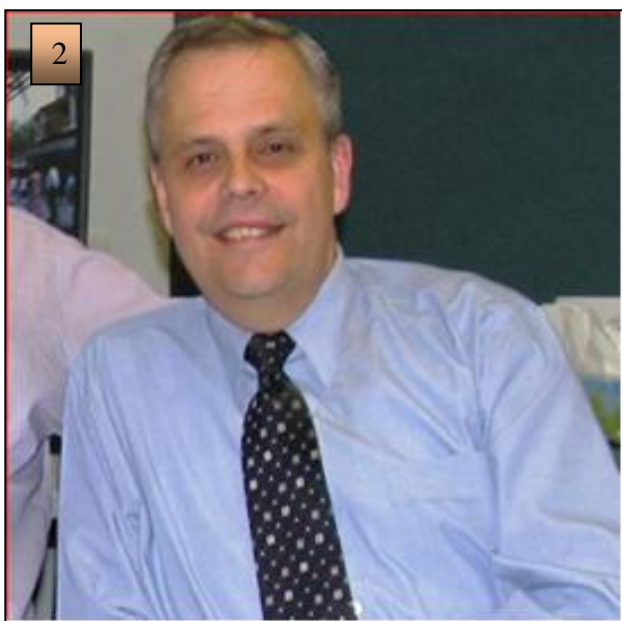
It has been a privilege to serve as the Finance Officer again this year. I am now in my seventh year with the organization. I am an accountant by profession and also a victim of homicide, and have the rare opportunity to be able to serve with QHVSG. I feel there is a sense of giving back to the group as well as providing the financial expertise needed to manage the organisation.

The role of financial reporting has changed so much in recent years with government wanting more in terms of accountability and reconciliation for funds received. There are the inevitable applications for funding and grants which take much of our time. Also there is the need to report to the members through the Board of Management and in the Annual Report.

Finally, I would personally like to express my thanks to those who support the organisation through financial membership and donations.

Current Board of Management

1. Debbie Lawler
2. Geoff Sheldon
3. Marie Newell
4. Lyn Edwards
5. Helen Wallace

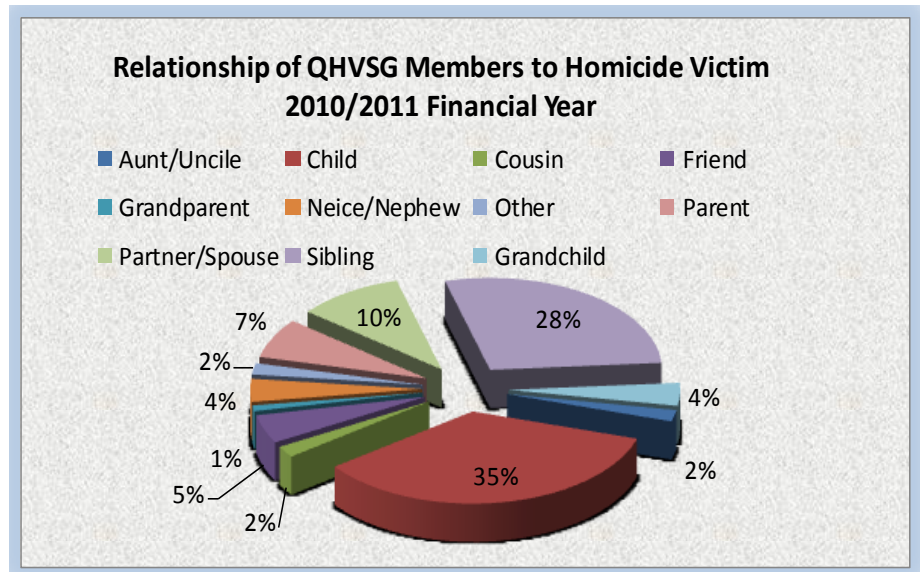


Supporting Families

The Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group's primary focus is and will always remain the support of families bereaved by homicide.

Who Are We Representing?

QHVSG recognizes that many people are affected from each new homicide, and that it's not only the immediate family who suffer.

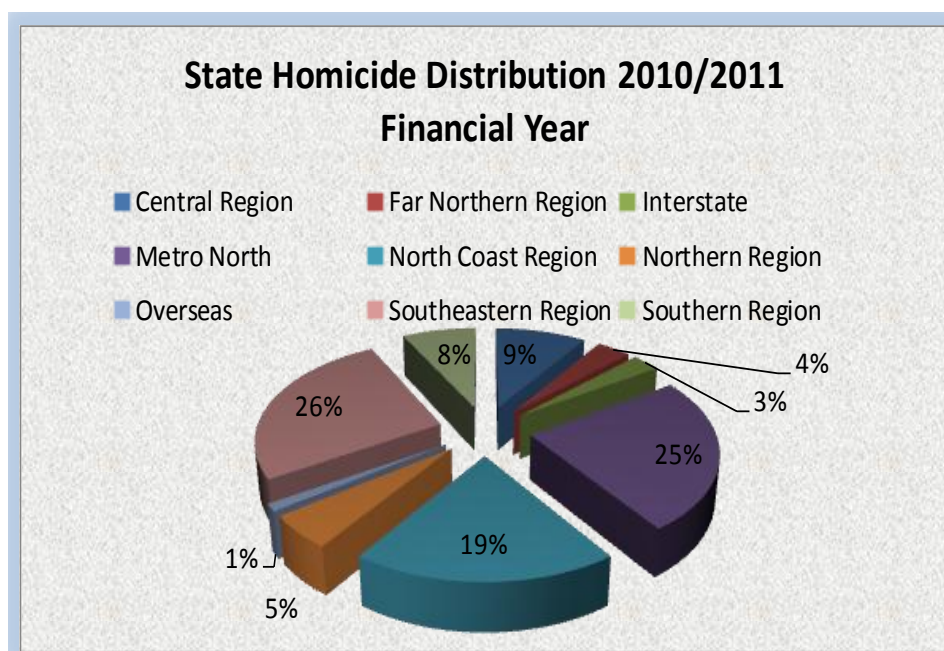


Because of this, QHVSG's Mission Statement outlines our support to anyone who identifies as having lost a loved one to homicide. This often includes extended family, friends, colleagues and/or neighbours.

In the 2010/11 financial year, QHVSG sadly welcomed 191 new family members through our doors.

Geographic Distribution

Monitoring where families reside, and the evolving patterns, helps QHVSG identify areas of service growth including location of support group meetings.



Relationships

Whilst the QHVSG's focus is on homicide-related issues, the reality is that homicide is rarely the sole issue affecting families.

Over the years as we build relationships with our families, we are often called upon to support and advocate for families within a range of contexts including, Centrelink, Housing Commission, Department of Communities for custodial and family court matters, child protection and Solicitors for Wills and estate matters.

Following a homicide we will often see families' emotional health and financial security spiral down as the full impact of the trauma and grief is realized and other daily matters are left unattended. It is at this time our relationship with the family assist with support and practical information in the many needy areas such as; employment, finance, mental and physical health, family structure and support, friendships and peer groups, housing and an individual's general stability to cope with the daily pressures of life.

Phone Support

QHVSG's Free-call twenty-four hour phone support service is by far, the most utilized by families. Families who are grieving, experiencing crisis, in need of referrals, seeking advice, or simply a shoulder to cry on, can call anytime of the day or evening, and trust they are speaking to trained staff member or volunteer of whom most have experienced the anguish of homicide themselves.

Court Support

QHVSG offers our families court support. Whilst we don't offer legal advice, we do assist family members to interpret what is going on inside the courtroom. We support families in dealing with the media, introduce them to the prosecutor, and simply be there during an extremely stressful time in their life. For victims of homicide, the trial is incredibly traumatic, overwhelming and often disempowering.

The anxiety of not knowing the legal process and understanding the justice system is incredibly overwhelming.



Support Group Meetings

The essence of 'peer support' is encapsulated in the unique experience of QHVSG's support group meetings. Enabling families to come together to meet, share views and experiences, and help guide each other through the rocky path ahead. Many of our families state that simply meeting another person who has lost a loved one, offers great comfort in knowing that they are not alone.

Outreach Visits

It is always our aim, where possible, to meet with newly bereaved family in their homes, and to provide an insight into our group, helping to personalise future telephone support calls made by our team following the initial home visit.

Following the devastation of homicide, many families are in dire need of practical information regarding what is ahead, their rights concerning the investigation and the media, and put simply, a helping hand, someone to share their pain and their grief.

Memorial Services

QHVSG's successful annual Memorial Services held in Brisbane, again offered a unique opportunity for families to come together, meet others who have experienced the anguish of homicide, and share stories, information and suggestions on their healing experience and recover.



News-Link

QHVSG's monthly newsletter, News-Link, provides a regular contact for QHVSG families, particularly those in

rural areas where the opportunities of direct contact with our group are limited. News-Link offers a chance for families to share their experiences, insights and journeys, to offer help, write personal and emotional tributes to loved ones, and to offer encouragement to other families. The electronic version of News-Link has helped with cost saving, saving the environment, and allowing families to receive our newsletter in colour format.

Informing the Community



An important component of QHVSG is community education, which involves informing and engaging the community, service providers and stakeholders on relevant issues. The individual accounts and experiences of our families bring a personal element to homicide, encouraging the community to think outside statistics and community considered norms, and consider the trauma families suffer after the impact of lethal violence on those left behind.

QHVSG continues to work in the community to dispel the myths around homicide, and help foster a greater appreciation and empathy for our families.

Detective Training

QHVSG continued to guest present at the Oxley Academy Phase III Detective Training attending 11 sessions, educating Detectives in training on the role of the group, the importance of referring families to QHVSG, and education on how to work with and relate to families in the long term.



Community Presentations

This year, QHVSG continued to attend community speaking engagements with schools, students, stakeholders and other community members. The issues surrounding violence and homicide and the service that QHVSG provides are the key notes in all presentations.

'One Punch Can Kill'

QHVSG continues to work with the Queensland Police Service in promoting stories and issues surrounding the 'One Punch Can Kill' campaign.



QHVSG continues to be asked to comment publicly on a range of issues concerning homicide, violence and justice. Whilst QHVSG is selective about which issues we as an organisation comment on publicly, during the 2010/11 year, the group commented on the following topics:

- The role of QHVSG
- Murder defences
- 'One Punch Can Kill' campaign
- Violence in general
- Youth violence



Our Team of Volunteers

An organisation such as Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group could not function without the dedicated volunteers who give freely of their time in a variety of ways. To the very talented administration volunteers who provide Ross with his figures for monthly reporting, give assistance with document preparation, anniversary letters and assist in a huge way with answering the phones to the outgoing phone support and court support volunteers and after-hours phone support, we say a huge thank you.

Our Volunteers

Best, Chad
Biggins, Carolyn
Boccabella, Nadia
Bostock, Kimberley
Boyd, Narelle
Bradley, Erin
Burtch, Ashley
Campbell, Rosina
Capell, Emma
Carr, Jo
Charles, Techa
Clark, Laura
Costello, Stephen
Coutts, Trichelle
Cowan, Evelyn
Crawford, Jamie-Lee
Croke, Gillian
Crooks, Dennis
Currie, Val
Davies, Guy
Davis, Wayne
Dawson, Brett
De Jong, Gabrielle
Dempsey, Frances
Dwyer, Shane
Edwards, Lynette
Elder, Kylie
Ennis, Sue
Ferrario, Gai
Ferrario, Monique
Flynn, Daniel
Force, Craig
Frazer, Heather
Frazer, John
Gilkinson, Tracy
Gould, Korin
Grant, Danielle
Greaves, Olga
Greer, John
Hammond, Carolyn
Heppenstall, Vicki
Hibbins, David
Jackson, Michelle
Jewell, Arienne
Kalusevicius, Margaret
Keane, Dorothy
Lawler, Debbie
Layt, David
Leary, Justine

Lee, Anna
Lee, John
Lee, Wilbur
Lincoln, Robyn
Lloyd, Dionne
Lynch, Tiana
Manteit, Lovey
Marks, Jenny
McCallum, Shannon
McInerney, Catherine
Mcnamara, Jodie
Meyer, Phoebe
Meyer, Sherrie
Mills, Betsy
Mitchell, Suzanne
Newell, Marie
O'Donnell, Catherine
O'Driscoll, Geraldine
Perkins, Lesley
Pontin, Owen
Price, Laura
Reardon, Graeme
Richardson, Beth
Richardson, Catherine
Robb, Ann
Robinsen, Fiona
Robinson, Melissa
Rodwell, Alie
Rogers, Charmaine
Rooney, Danielle
Sachs, Wayne
Sander, Joshua
Sheldon, Geoff
Shrimp, Desley
Sinclair, Lesleigh
Singh, Sharan
Smerdon, Diane
Smerdon, Ivan
Smith, Anne
Sorenne, Kyla
Stackelberg, Dianne
Sulewski, Patricia
Symonds, Michelle
Tee, Shelley
Thompson, Margaret
Thompson, Ross
Thorburn, Janice
Thorpe, Cheryl
Wood, Kirsty

QHVSG wishes to acknowledge and thank the following volunteers, who have made a significant difference to the lives of victims of homicide this year:

Our Valued Partners

The work of the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group is made possible only through the support of a small number of agencies. In 2010 / 11, we would like to extend thanks to the following:

Victim Assist Queensland

For continuing to keep our doors open.



Queensland Police Service

For continued support in referring families to QHVSF.



Gambling Community Benefit Fund

For providing funding for the technology to deliver regional support



McInnes Wilson

For supporting our families with pro-bono legal advice.



The Daniel Morcombe Foundation

For supporting child victims



Honorary Treasurer's Report, 2010/11



Robin Christmas, as part time Finance Officer, has been able to provide the Treasurer, the Board of Management, and the General Manager with up to date financial information for this financial year. The group has completed another very busy year, with an overall operating deficit of \$6354.34 after allowing for depreciation of \$18813.00 This result reflects the severe pressure to cover our funding demands.

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 30th June 2011

Total Income	\$378,531.11
Funding income	\$324,070.08
Derived from Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney-General grant, paid quarterly. The increase over last year was due to indexation paid, as well as an increase for new award wage increases. However, this does not cover the full increase in our award wages and expenses over the past two years.	
Group Income	\$54,461.03
Made up of bank interest, donations, fundraising, memberships, sale of assets, capital grants from GCBF and a wage subsidy for reception.	
Total Expense	\$384,885.45
Funding Expenses	\$338,800.61
Funding expenses increased by 4.4% on the prior year, and were higher than the grants income received. Group expenses were lower than income, due to strict budget control and the need to offset the funding deficit. Most expenses have been kept under control this year except for telephones which are a variable cost.	
Group Expenses	\$ 46,084.84
Made up of emergency payments to members, fundraising expenses, and promotions, volunteer costs and group wages for our Darling Downs Coordinator and Reception/Admin Assistant. Due to of the funding shortfall, we have endeavored to pay these positions from our own funds.	
Summary:-	
Total Income	\$378,531.11
Total Expenses	\$384,885.45
Deficit	\$ 6,354.34
<i>All figures are net of GST – All reports are based on accrual accounting.</i>	

Balance Sheet as at 30th June 2011

ASSETS	
Petty Cash on hand	\$ 443.40
Rental Bond Authority	\$ 2,738.18
BOQ General Account	\$ 1,983.41
ING Investment Account	\$33,089.39
Deposits for banking	\$ 192.00
Prepayments	\$ 8,738.81
BOQ Group Account	\$ 350.00
BOQ Web Acc	\$13,651.57
<p>Cash reserves are set aside for capital purchases, staff award increases and staff wage entitlement provisions.</p> <p>All general banking is conducted with Bank of Queensland and surplus funds are kept in the ING Investment Account and Bank of Queensland Web Account to maximize interest earned currently at 5.00% for ING and 4.40% for BOQ</p>	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$61,186.76
FIXED ASSETS	
Vehicles, Furniture, Plant & Equipment	
<p>During the year purchases of new assets amounted to \$14,666.58 including – cable and computer cabinet, phone handsets x three, four dell computers, electrical up-grades, air conditioner for North Queensland and two split system air conditioners. All major assets were funded by Gambling Community Benefit Fund grants.</p>	
NON CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 60,107.12
TOTAL ASSETS	\$121,293.88
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 75,259.05
<p>Made up of current liabilities- accounts payable \$2,066.73, petty cash \$236.00, tax payable - GST and PAYG \$9,117.33, employee entitlements \$34,656.28, group income deferred \$310.00. Total \$46,386.34</p> <p>Long term liabilities - motor vehicle loans - Esanda Ltd \$28,872.71</p>	
NET ASSETS (Members Funds)	\$ 46,034.83

Report for Operating Year 2010/11

Costs associated with the ongoing functioning of QHVSG increase annually and leave us with the continuing problem of addressing funding. It is unfortunate for us to have to acknowledge that lack of funding is a limiting factor in the services that we provide to our members and the community. This places added pressure on the organization in maintaining support services and does not allow for any expansion in this area. There is no doubt that demands for our services increases each year, and as a consequence, additional staff hours and more administration costs also increase. Therefore, we need to seriously address fundraising, and/or seek additional government funds. To this end, the input of suggestions from all concerned members, staff, and other interested people will be welcomed to ensure this deserving organization can continue the work it was set up to perform.

There can also be no doubting the organization has come a long way since 1995, when it was created by founding members in Townsville. It was self funded in the beginning, and on 27th of April 1998, QHVSG became a funded organization.

For the Hon. Treasurer



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