



PO Box 3079 Auburn 3123

ABN 87 099 746 839

Ph. 9819 3239

Fax 9819 3439

borders@borderlands.org.au

**The GLOVE Project:
Gender, Local Governance, and Violence Prevention: Making the Links between
Violence in Private and Public Space**

Proposed Evaluation Strategy

Introduction

- We first would like to congratulate the initiators – local and global - of this violence preventative and developmental program. One would wish that many more projects like these would exist and be funded and spread across the globe!
- Having studied the proposal, the evaluation brief and other relevant documents and after an initial conversation between project staff and Borderlands, we are now able to propose an evaluation process which evolved partly out of our conversations, partly out of our reading of the materials provided.
- We are grateful for this opportunity and are looking forward to a productive cooperation over the next few years.

The progress of the project up to this moment has been noted; it is our understanding that the project is at present working through *phase two (2006-2007)*, engaging with four local government/community partnerships to develop resources for integrated violence prevention. We further understand that *phase three (2008-2009)* will entail the development of a how-to manual based on the partnership experiences and four workshops (one in each participating municipality). The manual will be sent to all Victorian municipalities, with an evaluation form as to its applicability, responses to be used to further develop ways of addressing public and private violence prevention.

The present proposal relates to the required *external evaluation of the project as a whole*.

We note the previous proposal offered by consultants from Clear Horizon (28/07/06, as accepted by the project); we have also noted the report by Deb Elkington from Clear Horizon, summarising the Evaluation Workshop run with Project members on the 4th of October 2007 and in which the *People Centred Evaluation* approach – including the ‘Appreciative’ and ‘most significant change’ methodologies – have been summarily outlined. Finally, we have noted the initial ‘Thoughts on Evaluation for the

GLOVE Project' as outlined by Carolyn Whitzman on the 21/06/2007, including a re-iteration of the several 'layers' of goals and objectives formulations under girding the project and having to serve as ongoing and ultimate gauges of the outcomes and impact of the project in the field, both within the four selected municipalities and beyond.

The overall or 'ambit' goals the project will contribute to have been identified as

1. we live in a peaceful society without violence;
2. all people agree that gender violence is unacceptable
3. gender violence is a public policy priority

As identified, whilst useful as 'ambit' goals, these goals need operationalisation and further specification, especially around the (positive) notions of 'peace' (which is more than the absence of violence – however the latter is defined); 'gender' violence equally would deserve further specification – especially when different cultural identities are involved and, even more importantly, because it is with gender issues that the 'divide' between the private and the public sphere (and therefore the legitimacy of public intervention and policy) become especially salient; finally, the boundaries of the 'public' – and therefore of associated policies - when applied to governmental, non-governmental and 'community' environments (organisational and otherwise) are often seen as contested and contestable.

These definitional and conceptual issues have been partly addressed by some of the theoretical work which has evolved within the project and they are also incorporated in the overall project plan (including the work associated with the doctoral research which is part of the project).

Some of the intended and anticipated outcomes of the project are rather situated on an 'output' level, including 'products' like articles and other publications, conference presentations, a PhD, policy-related events or outputs like workshops and websites and general process measures. Their 'measurement' seems rather uncomplicated and does not require any deep involvement by the external evaluators, save taking note of the qualitative content of these 'products' and their effect on the respective processes in the municipalities and within the overall project process.

As the Maribyrnong workshop has already taken place and only initial steps seem to have been taken with the remaining municipalities, it seems imperative to have the external evaluators involved as soon as possible in the processes leading to the workshops and contribute to the elaboration of realistic local outcomes, which themselves can be translated into 'implementable' and ultimately 'evaluatable' steps and 'measurable' variables – both in a quantitative and qualitative sense.

During or after the respective workshops, it seems imperative to also work with the participating organisations and 'bodies' to evolve monitoring and evaluative processes and measures to be 'built into' the ongoing implementations processes agreed upon during the workshop. We would also propose a subsequent evaluative session with all participating organisations in each municipality to gather qualitative evidence of 'significant changes' occurred and noted in the course of the respective local implementation phases.

Taken together, the number of days of involvement with the local groupings would amount to between two and three, depending on the distance and time required to reach the area and depending on the time already spent in working with the respective municipalities and the amount and quality of relevant materials elaborated till now. Obviously, this part of the process needs to be further discussed with the project coordinators.

Whilst this phase of the evaluative process – given its formative and developmental nature – would be of a rather qualitative and participatory nature, the third phase of the project requires a more summative approach and the commensurate processes, investigate methods and measurements associated with it. Whilst ‘measuring prevention’ remains a rather complex, probably even unachievable goal in as far as ‘direct evidence’ is concerned, several *proximate* processes can be initiated already during the second phase of the project to be complemented by more quantifiable approaches during the last phase. We have been thinking of several structured interviews with major stakeholder-representatives, a survey/feedback instrument, but would rather not speculate at this moment about what may be meaningful, useful, and feasible once the project would have reached its maturity, given the different and probably hard-to-compare roads and strategies chosen by municipalities which are rather different in their composition, their physical characteristics, their present and past experiences with gender-based violence prevention and peace ‘creation’ processes and initiatives.

As to the financial arrangements, we understand that the evaluation budget is still around \$20,000 plus GST and we feel that this would allow Borderlands’ evaluative involvement to range between 20 and 25 Full-Time equivalent working days over the duration of the project, subject to further negotiation and further information as to the status of the work in the various municipalities.

In the event of Borderlands being appointed to continue the evaluation process, we will assign three evaluators to this project; the overall coordination, the running of the workshops and the overall development of the evaluative framework to be accomplished by Jacques Boulet, the other tasks to be executed by Amanda Hawkey and Robyn Helton, both experienced practitioners and researchers. We attach Jacques. Boulet’s CV and would be happy to send the CVs of the other team members upon request.

We would be very happy to further discuss this proposal, which, by necessity, is rather short on detail, given the lack of information as to the present stand of the process and the other arrangements already put into place by the previous evaluators and by others involved in the process since earlier dates.

Please feel free to call us for any further information you may need in assisting your decision-making process!

Jacques Boulet, on behalf of the Borderlands team

ABOUT BORDERLANDS COOPERATIVE

Borderlands Cooperative Ltd. is a non-profit organisation, since 1997 involved in community, social and international development, ecological sustainability, social justice and participatory approaches to research and evaluation. Building in sustainability measures and assessments has been a central feature of our social research and evaluation of projects and programmes. We have an extensive library of current journals, government policy and research literature as well as membership in the Action Research Issues Association, ALARPM and the Association of Researchers in Voluntary and Community Work (ARVAC – UK) and our consultants have individual membership in several other professional associations and other networks.

Borderlands consultants have acquired – through the more than 60 consultancies and research/evaluations conducted over the ten years of its existence, together with our previous academic and professional research - a diverse range of transferable social research, evaluation and community consultative skills. We also have an extensive network of contacts throughout Victoria in the community, voluntary and local government sectors, as a result of previous and ongoing community consultations, community development projects, and personal connections.

Borderlands Cooperative adopts a *participatory approach* with community development intentions in all our project work. As such, our approach would be one of *collaboration and consultation* with Project Managers, Reference Groups, and other people who would be involved with the project. We believe in establishing *re-iterative processes* between our research teams and the managers and Reference Groups in relation to the key deliverables for Projects; thus, as we provide the project plan, an interim report and prepare the drafts of the final report, feedback, reflections and collaborative planning associated with meetings or communications will be reflected and transformed into successive draft reports, briefings and, eventually, into the final document. In that sense, our evaluative interventions instigated and inserted into the ongoing flow of to-be-evaluated will always have formative/developmental, process- as well as summative dimensions.

We offer examples of some of the work we have done in the community and public health sectors and in the context of conducting research for policy development and planning purposes.

Domestic Violence-Specific Projects

Listening To What Matters Project (2006-2007) - Inner South Community Health Services, Melbourne. Borderlands was engaged to conduct a research evaluation of the Partner Contact Work in Inner South's Men's Responsibility Program. The aim is to gather information about women's experiences as a result of their participation in the partner contact aspect of a men's behaviour change program. We are conducting interviews with approximately 50 women and documenting issues and ideas that will inform program development relating to services for women partners and ex-partners (and their children) as part of these programs.

Problem Gambling and Domestic Violence (2005-2006) - Community West, Social Justice in Melbourne's West. Borderlands explored the connections and intersections between problematic gambling and domestic violence both on the level of their empirical occurrence (as reported by workers in both areas of social service) and on the level of the interaction and cooperation between the respective service systems and the general social services.

Evaluation of 'Chain Reaction' Research Project (2005) – A precursor to the previously mentioned project, this project was an evaluation of an initial attempt at gauging the links between Problem Gambling and Domestic Violence.

Preston Creative Living Centre Family Violence Intervention (1999-2002) – The integrated development of a practice-based evaluation system and process within the context of Family Violence Intervention programs, including men's behaviour change groups, support work with (ex-)partners and children and additional ancillary services.

City of Casey/Cardinia, Casey Community Health Service/Casey Pastors Network (2007-2009) – Part of the National Community Crime Prevention Programme, the ***Promoting Peace in Families: Family Violence Partnership Project*** intends to mobilise local religious and spiritual congregations into a concerted campaign and associated strategies to prevent family violence and to raise awareness of its occurrence via the local faith groups.

(Note that Borderlands hosted the activist men's group MASA (Men Against Sexual Assault) for over six years until it suspended its activities; we still act as a contact 'place' for people wanting to get in touch with its members and activists)

Other Projects

Cities of Whittlesea, Banyule and Nillumbik – Health Services: Research preliminary to the establishment of the Municipal Public Health Plans (the latter two have been awarded special prizes for excellence).

Community Health Workshops – Peninsula Community Health Services: (over three years) Consulting work with the three local site teams about the development of a community development approach in health promotion.

Peninsula Youth and Family Services Reconnect Project - PYFS, Salvation Army: Evaluation of the impact of the Re-connect project activities.

Frankston/Mornington Peninsula Volunteer Resource Centre Project – for the Frankston/Mornington Peninsula Volunteer Resource Group: Borderlands was engaged to ascertain the feasibility of a resource centre for volunteers and to recommend an appropriate model in these two local government areas.

Evaluation of the Geelong Food Relief Centre – Geelong Food Relief Centre Board: Borderlands was engaged to evaluate the operations of the Centre within the Greater

Geelong region, establish the ongoing need for it, and how the centre is used and viewed by all stakeholders.

Eastern Volunteer Recruitment Project – a group of Eastern Melbourne’s regional managers of volunteer agencies engaged Borderlands to take over and complete a research project already started by another body, reviewing the recruitment and retention strategies of volunteers working in the Home and Community Care Services of Eastern Melbourne.

Evaluation of the Darebin Community Building (CB) Project - Darebin City Council: Borderlands was engaged to provide ongoing formative evaluation as well as contribute to the development of further, sustainable community building processes.

Men’s Health & Housing Project: A Search Conference – City of Hume and North Central Primary Care Partnership: Borderlands was engaged to run a ‘Search Conference’ which – successfully led to the establishment of local and regional policies and programs in this service area.

Gambling Impact Studies – with the Cities of Boroondara, Kingston, Moonee Valley, Whitehorse, Knox, Yarra, Stonnington, Brimbank, Cardinia; publication (on behalf of the VLGA) of the Gambling Research Newsletter.

Italian Women’s Health Project – cooperative project with the Coordinator of the Cross-cultural Services Unit, Mercy Hospital for Women involving analysis of interviews with 100 Italian immigrant women on a range of health issues relating to access to and experiences of health services.