

Breaking the silence

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Breaking the silence on women's lived experience of violence by hearing from survivors.

Survivors have complicated journeys of recovery.

Through consultation with survivors, we can ensure their needs are being adequately met.



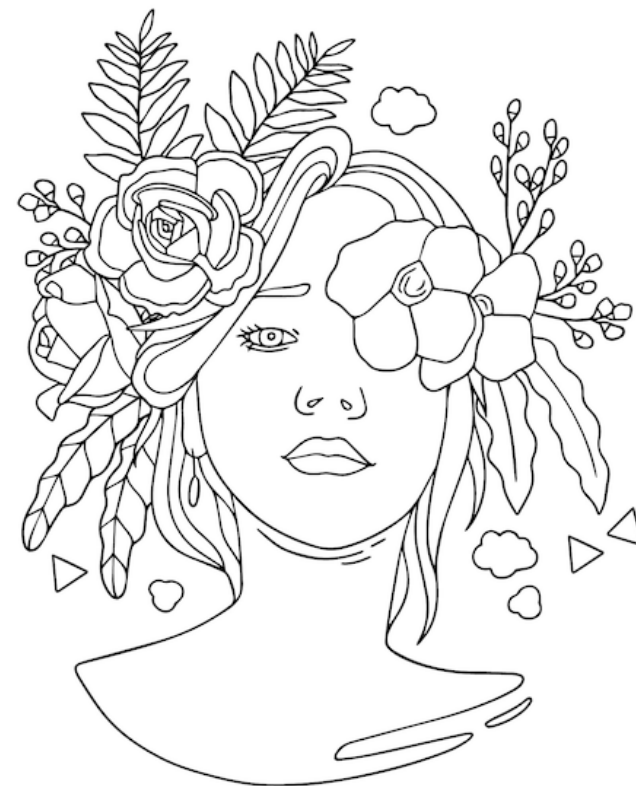
Survivor engagement in evaluations can assist with the development of more effective interventions.



Skilled evaluators were domestic violence, strangulation, and trauma informed.



Ethics, integrity, and care guided the evaluation process.



Power differentials were addressed through:

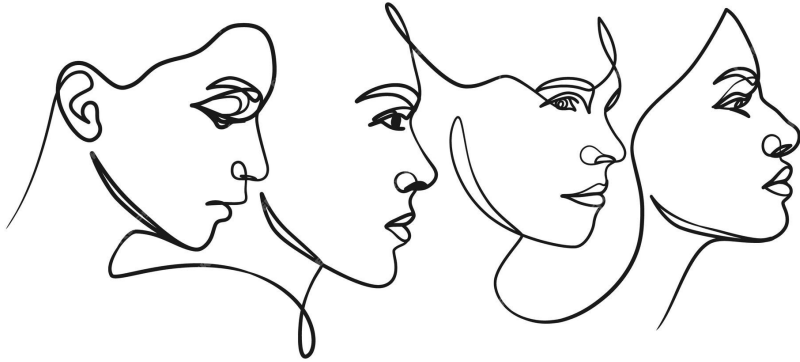
- comprehensive information sheets; and
- reflective practice to build awareness of the language, tone, and body language used by evaluators in interviews.





Survivor feedback can provide valuable insights – insights that would be difficult to gain from other sources.

In summary:



- evaluations can be strengthened by capturing the voices of program users;
- associated risks need to be acknowledged; and
- involvement in evaluations can break the silence on violence against women, enabling participants to be heard and empowered.

References

Commonwealth of Australia (Department of Social Services). (2022). *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032*. Commonwealth of Australia.

Freepick. (2023). Images. Google images.

Vella, S.A., Miller, M.M., Lambert, J.E., & Morgan, M.L. (2017). "I felt close to death": A phenomenological study of female strangulation survivors of intimate terrorism. *Journal of Feminist Family Therapy, 29*(4), 171-188.



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