

AMPLIFYING
VOICES

Advocacy Impacts

2024-2026

Three years of advocacy
for equity, safety and
meaningful changes.





Alyssa West Amplifying Voices artwork story

For Amplifying Voices.

The world around her was loud with silence — the kind that settles after years of being told to stay quiet. Behind her lived the memories she never asked for: broken trust, fear hidden behind closed doors, words that bruised deeper than hands ever could. The handprints in the background of the painting carry those moments where there was pain layered upon pain, chaos swallowing identity, the feeling of no escape.

But above her hovered something powerful.

A glowing pink meeting circle representing the group of women at amplifying voices to them it's an escape from the toxic cycle, from the control, an escape from everything going on in their head. an escape from being at home with the abuser.

Each curve surrounding the center represents a survivor: one voice trembling, another rising stronger, another finally speaking after years of silence. Alone, each voice felt small. Together, they became impossible to ignore.

The pink glow cuts through the darkness like truth through shame.

She stands with her back to us because she could be anyone.

A mother.

A daughter.

A friend.

A sister.

A survivor.

And yet she is not facing the darkness anymore — she is facing the light created by community, advocacy, and healing.

The splattered stars across the top are not destruction; they are echoes. Every story shared through Amplifying Voices becomes a spark in the sky, proving survivors are not invisible. Their stories expand outward, reaching others still trapped in silence.

This painting tells the moment when fear stops being the loudest voice in the room. It tells the story of reclaiming power.

Of survivors being heard.

Of pain transformed into purpose.

And of a community that says:

"We believe you.

We see you.

And your voice matters."

Alyssa West, 2026

Acknowledgment of Living and Lived Experience of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence and Homelessness, as created by Amplifying Voices participants

We acknowledge the individual and collective expertise of those with a living or lived experience of domestic, family and sexual violence, and homelessness. We acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children are most impacted, and we acknowledge their strength, wisdom and resilience.

We stand together as proud survivors with diverse experiences that reflect the resilience, compassion, creativity and bravery of other women and children who have experienced domestic, family and sexual violence and homelessness.

We understand the complexity of each survivor's journey and the value of exchanging the knowledge from our experiences to lead and advocate for meaningful change.

Together we can be the most powerful agents for preventing and responding to family, domestic and sexual violence, and homelessness. Because personal is political and our personal commitment is to end violence, by ending our silence.

Cover artwork:
Amplifying Voices
Alyssa West, 2026

Introduction

This document captures the impact of Amplifying Voices from 2024 to 2026, highlighting the strength, leadership and lived expertise of advocates working to influence change across the Northern Territory.

Through consultations, public speaking, co-design projects, research contributions, training, sector engagement and community events, Amplifying Voices has created meaningful opportunities for victim-survivors to shape policy, programs and service responses to domestic, family and sexual violence and homelessness.

The achievements outlined in this report demonstrate the power of lived experience advocacy when survivors are supported, respected and positioned as leaders in creating safer, more informed and more responsive systems.

She could be anyone...

A mother.

A daughter.

A friend.

A sister.

A survivor.

01

Graduation at Parliament House

The Northern Territory Government hosted the Amplifying Voices Leadership and Advocacy Program graduation at Parliament House, supported by Minister Kate Worden, MLA for Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence.

A total of 42 guests attended, including stakeholders from government and non-government organisations across the housing, homelessness, and domestic and family violence sectors.

Five graduates delivered speeches about their program experience and the changes they are advocating for in the Northern Territory.

Two graduates achieved immediate impact: one was invited to the 2024 Australian Homelessness Conference in Adelaide, and another to meet with the Executive Director of the NT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Division.

42
Guests
attended

Government and
sector stakeholders
from across the NT

5
Graduate
speakers

Shared lived
experience and
advocacy priorities

2
Immediate leadership
opportunities

Invited to national and
government leadership forums



02

Sharing and Strengthening our Practice Conference

One program graduate spoke on the Lived Experience Panel Discussion, Valuing the Victim Survivor Voice and co-presented in the project showcase at the 2024 Sharing and Strengthening our Practice Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Conference.

*Valuing the Victim
Survivor Voice"*



10/11

Graduates committed to building a survivor-led advocacy group

03

Formation of the Advocacy Group

Ten of the eleven Graduates from the Amplifying Voices Leadership and Advocacy Program have committed to meet monthly to work towards a group advocacy goal which is 'to establish a group of people with lived experience of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence and Homelessness, to have a voice in decision making in the NT'.

"

To have a voice in decision making in the NT."

04

Attending community rallies and marches

Advocates attended Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence rallies and marches with program support to build exposure to community advocacy and receive psychosocial support while hearing other survivors' stories. For many, it was their first time at such events, making the experience both empowering and a key step in developing their lived experience advocacy skills.

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For many, it was their first time attending community rallies and marches."

05

Children's and Young Person's Worker Program consultation

YWCA invited all graduates to a two-part consultation to inform a new Children's and Young People's program at the DFV Centre. Six graduates participated, facilitated by **Zoe Cetinich**. Zoe produced a summary report to guide program development, create an in-office resource centring participant perspectives, and an information sheet for schools. The report has also been shared with CDU for curriculum development.

6

Participants

Children's & Young People's consultation



06

National Research Project "*We've Been Robbed*" Young women and gender diverse people's housing experiences and solutions

YWCA led a national research project by **Dr Wendy Stone** on what a "safe home" looks like for young women. One group member contributed through an interview. The report is titled "*We've Been Robbed: Young women and gender diverse people's housing experiences and solutions.*"



07

Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC) Consumer Consultation

Three participants contributed their lived expertise to a Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC) consultation, helping improve its service model to better meet survivors' needs. This highlights the value of centring lived experience and having trained advocates ready to share their insights.

Improved the Sexual Assault Resource Centre service model.

08

YWCA Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (DFSV Centre) - Safehouse Consultation

Three participants provided feedback on security, homeliness, rules, and supports at three YWCA DFSV Safehouses through walkthroughs and guided questions. Their recommendations helped enhance safety and create more supportive, survivor-centred environments for women and families.

Recommendations enhanced survivor-centred Safehouses.

09

Charles Darwin University (CDU) Student Resource Co-Design

Four Advocacy Group participants co-designed and recorded an audio-visual resource for CDU students, sharing lived expertise on the challenges faced by CALD individuals experiencing DFSV. The resource aims to build awareness and better prepare future case managers to support CALD clients.

Building awareness and preparing future case managers.

10

Advocacy Videos

Four advocates worked with the YWCA Communications team and Skeleton Studios to create short films **sharing their advocacy goals, promoting Amplifying Voices**, and a combined highlights reel. The films were presented at a YWCA National Town Hall and shared on social media during the 2025 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

4
Advocates
Featured in
advocacy films

11

PART Case Studies

Two participants took part in the PART project, an **Australian-first initiative** using victim-survivor stories to train police, healthcare, and frontline workers. Their anonymised stories will be used as educational tools to improve responses to domestic, family, and sexual violence.



12

YWCA Youth Advocates Group

YWCA Australia led the **Safe Homes, Equal Futures campaign** to address the housing crisis through gender-responsive solutions for women and gender-diverse people. Its Youth Advocates Group, including Amplifying Voices participants, shaped campaign messaging using lived experience to drive more gender-equal housing solutions.

13

Broader Sharing of the CALD Short Films

The CALD Leadership and Design Group's resources were initially developed for CDU TAFE students studying DFSV and case management, but also gained interest from other CDU programs. The videos first informed a new Graduate Diploma on DFSV, with faculty exploring broader integration across units over the following 12 months. Course coordinators assessed their use as key learning resources, with a long-term goal of embedding them into ongoing teaching practice.

14

Meeting with Hon Robyn Cahill, Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence

The Amplifying Voices Advocacy Group met with the **Hon Robyn Cahill**, Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence, to share lived experience expertise and advocate for stronger inclusion of victim-survivor voices in domestic, family and sexual violence and homelessness policy, program design and service reform.

Seven members participated, supported by YWCA NT staff, and highlighted the importance of meaningful lived experience input, including in the co-design of a DFSV Hub that responds to the needs, safety and dignity of victim-survivors.

7
advocates

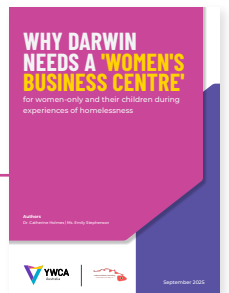
Met directly with the Minister

15

Women's Business Centre Report

YWCA worked with **Catherine Holmes Consulting** to produce a report that recommended the development of a **women's only day centre** as a part of the homelessness response in Darwin. Advocates participated in interviews that fed into the report to ensure lived experience perspectives were included.

Ensuring lived experience informed the recommendations.



16

Northern Territory Government Coercive Control Consultation

The Amplifying Voices manager participated in a consultation around the NT Government's coercive control campaign. This allowed professional and lived experience perspectives to be included.

17

Gender Equality Strategy Submission & Workshop

Advocates submitted *'Have your say'* survey responses as well as contributing to YWCA Australia's submission to the NT Government's Gender Equality strategy development. YWCA staff attended a workshop run by staff from the Office of Gender Equity and Diversity to further advocate for the experiences and advocacy priorities of Amplifying Voices.

18

PHD Student Research Feedback

Two advocates provided feedback to a PHD candidate who is doing research on women's experiences presenting at the Emergency Department for DFSV related injuries. The researcher will be interviewing women with lived experience as a part of her study, so the Amplifying Voices advocates were able to provide feedback and ensure a lived experience lens was included prior to ethics approval.

Ochre Ribbon Week Breakfast 2026



19

Ochre Ribbon Week Breakfast

YWCA staff and three Amplifying Voices advocates attended the 2026 Ochre Ribbon Week Breakfast. The event was raising awareness about the impacts of DFSV on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.



20

Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Case Management Goal Cards

Two advocates developed a set of **case management goal cards** for YWCA case workers to use with women escaping violence. The cards have been used in case meetings with clients to assist in getting up case plans and goals. The cards were then **used by the Children and Young People Case Workers** at YWCA to develop a set for use with young people and children. These new cards were shared with Amplifying Voices for review and feedback before being approved.

21

Speakers at International Women's Day event

Two advocates shared their stories in inspiring speeches at the City of Palmerston and STEPS 2026 International Women's Day event as guest speakers. The women spoke about the importance of community support imploring the audience to see that DFSV is not a private issue, it is one that everyone needs to be speaking about and doing something about. They also represented YWCA with a stall, providing information for attendees about Amplifying Voices and the other services YWCA provides.

300

Attendees

International Women's Day 2026

2

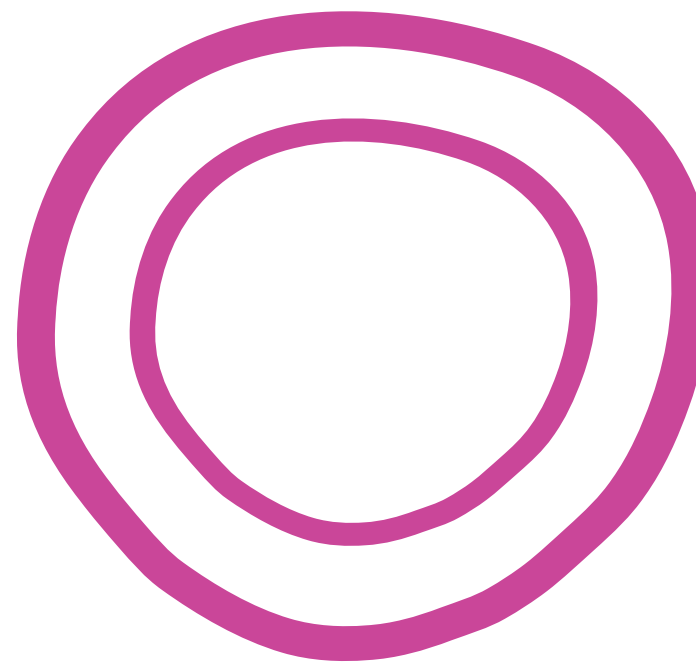
Guest Speakers

Shared lived experience and encouraged the community to recognise that DFSV is everyone's responsibility.

22

PARt Symposium

2 YWCA staff and 2 Amplifying Voices advocates travelled to Alice Springs to participate in the PARt Symposium 2026. They gained helpful insight and had the opportunity to network, strengthening the group's advocacy.



23

Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Hub Site-Visit

YWCA staff and 1 advocate attended a site-visit to the venue for the proposed NT Government DFSV Hub at Casuarina. They were able to view the space, assess the suitability from a victim-survivor's perspective, and provide helpful feedback on how the space should be used as well as safety considerations.

Viewing the proposed DFSV Hub through a survivor's lens.

24

Charles Darwin University Respect Month Launch

YWCA was invited to hold a stall at the CDU Respect Month Launch event. Amplifying Voices program staff and 1 advocate attended and spoke to CDU students about DFSV supports available and the Amplifying Voices program.

250

Attendees

CDU Respect Month Launch

25

LEAG Working Group

3
Meetings

Amplifying Voices advocates participated in a lived experience working group for establishment of the NT Homelessness Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG). The group provided advice and feedback on the LEAG member role description, remuneration options, selection criteria, selection panel members and LEAG member recruitment campaign. This ensured that lived experience has been embedded as early as possible in the project.

26

YWCA Future 2032 Strategy Consultation

2 advocates attended an online workshop with an external consultant TANK to contribute to the development of the YWCA Australia's next strategy, Future 2032.

27

HomeSafe Consultation with Gendered Violence & Family Program team at YWCA

Amplifying Voices advocates participated in a consultation workshop as part of the development of a new program being delivered at YWCA by the Gendered Violence and Family Programs team, HomeSafe. The advocates gave insightful advice based on their lived experience around visitor management in accommodation agreements, expectations and care of women while on waitlists for a program, and brokerage provided. The recommendations were collated by Amplifying Voices program staff and shared with the team developing and delivering HomeSafe.



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Shared lived experience alongside leading domestic, family and sexual violence organisations.



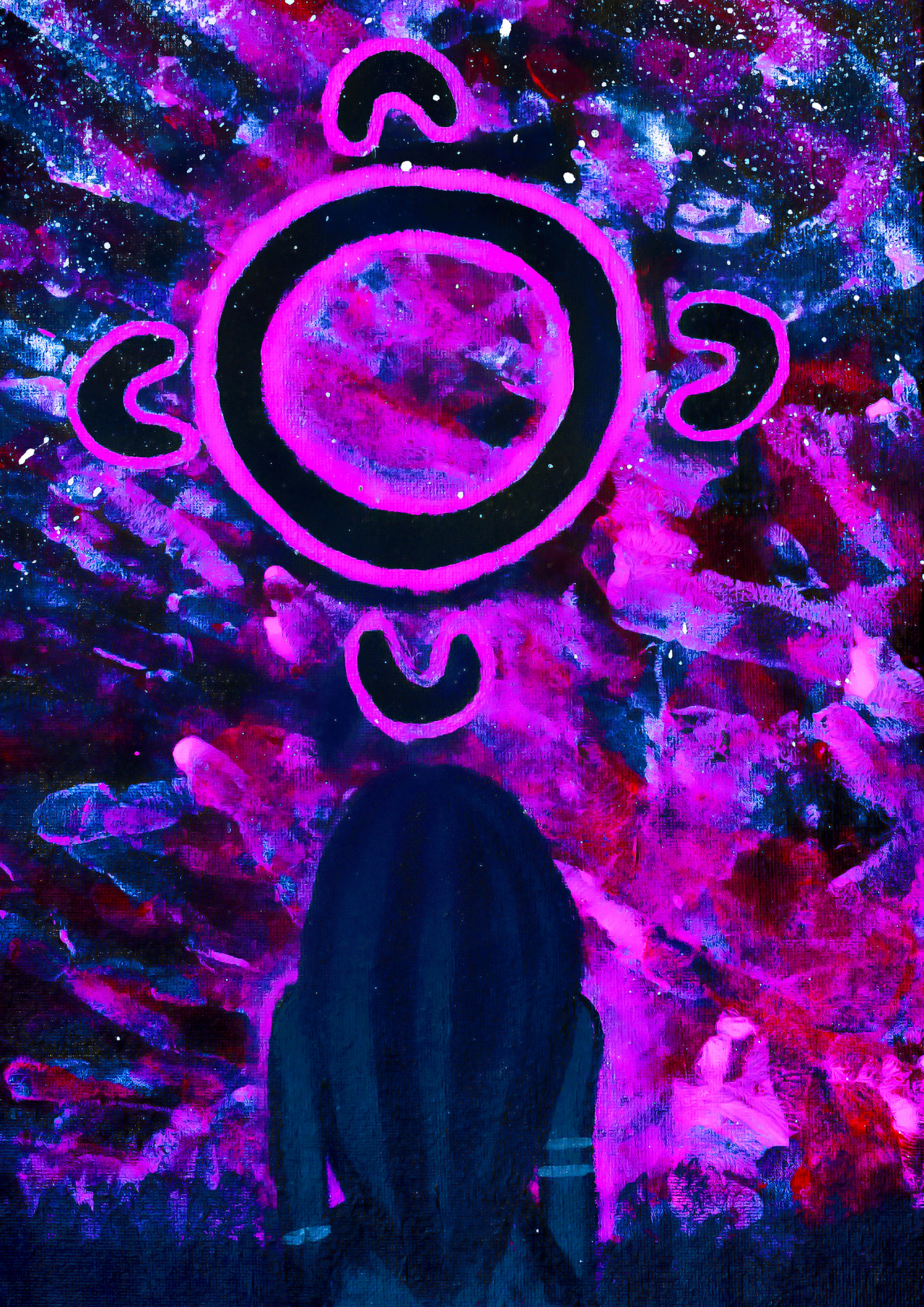
28

Festival Of Women – Voices Against Violence Panel

One Amplifying Voices advocate was invited to speak on a panel at the 2026 Festival of Women. The advocate spoke on the 'Voices Against Violence' panel, facilitated by **Seranie Gamble** (DCF), alongside representatives from Dawn House, DAIWS and Darwin Centre Against Sexual Violence (formerly Ruby Gaea). The group discussed the reality of DFSV in NT, the responses needing to occur, the challenges and barriers for survivors and services.

20
Attendees





***We believe you.
We see you.
And your voice matters.”***

29

Artwork Consultation with Alyssa West

Young Aboriginal artist Alyssa West was commissioned by YWCA to create an artwork for the Amplifying Voices program to establish a recognisable branding for the program and advocacy group. Alyssa met with the advocates, asked questions and heard about their stories and experiences participating in Amplifying Voices. Alyssa painted an artwork and wrote a story to accompany the work, inspired by the strength and deep connection of the advocates.



30

1800 Respect Feedback Survey

1800 Respect commissioned an external evaluator to do a national survey around people's experiences using the Daisy app and the 1800 Respect website and resources. 1 Amplifying Voices advocate contributed to this feedback.

31

Unity Town Hall – Sharing Amplifying Voices with YWCA Australia

YWCA Amplifying Voices facilitator and 1 advocate presented to all YWCA Australia staff, sharing the Amplifying Voices advocacy group and what work they have done. They encouraged YWCA staff to embed lived experience and set up their own groups like Amplifying Voices in their communities to empower victim-survivors to have their voices heard.

82
Attendees

Encouraging communities across
Australia to establish their own lived
experience groups.

32

Lived Experience in Governance Training – Lived Experience Collaborative

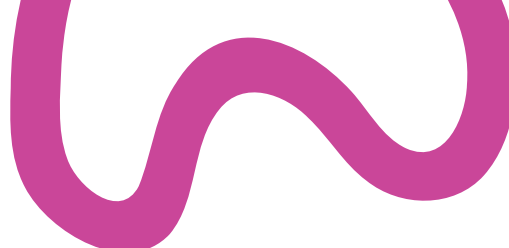
NT Lived Experience Collaborative delivered their Lived Experience in Governance 2-hour training to 3 Amplifying Voices Advocates. The group learned about what governance is, the power and importance of lived experience on Boards, how to protect yourself and hold boundaries while participating on Boards and how to seek out these opportunities.

34

Panel discussion filmed for CDU Social Work curriculum - Module 2: What is Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence and Coercive Control

Two advocates took part in a recorded panel discussion to support the development of Charles Darwin University's new Social Work unit, Understanding and Responding to Domestic and Family Violence. Interviewed by a clinical psychologist, they shared their lived experience, insights, and advice on domestic and family violence, coercive control, and how to effectively support those experiencing it.

Helping educate the next generation of social workers.



33

Darwin Community Expo – Organised by Melaleuca & STEPS

2 YWCA Amplifying Voices program staff held a stall at the Darwin Community Expo, organised by Melaleuca and STEPS. They provided information about YWCA programs, including Amplifying Voices.

67
Attendees



35

Lived Experience workshop delivered at OurWatch Community of Practice

20
Attendees

Amplifying Voices program staff delivered a workshop about Lived Experience Participation to 20 participants at the OurWatch Community of Practice, strengthening sector understanding of lived experience engagement and advocacy. Two advocates attended the Community of Practice as participants and co-facilitated the lived experience workshop.

36

Second National Plan to End Violence Against Women consultation to inform YWCA Australia's submission

Advocates contributed to consultation on the second National Plan to End Violence Against Women, ensuring lived experience perspectives informed YWCA Australia's submission.



The pink glow
**CUTS THROUGH
THE DARKNESS**
*like truth
through shame.*

Alone, each voice felt small.
Together, they became
impossible to ignore.

**Amplifying
Voices** 

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