



**NON-LETHAL
STRANGULATION
PREVENTION TRAINING
MELBOURNE**

Summary Report

28th- 29th March 2019

Report prepared by

Background

In March 2019 the Red Rose Foundation arranged the visit to Brisbane of world acclaimed specialist trainers, Gael Strack esq and Dr Bill Smock MD, from the San Diego Institute on Strangulation Prevention. Previous training held in Brisbane and Canberra was regarded as an outstanding sell-out success.

The training was designed to advance the knowledge and practice skills of stakeholders, as well as assist with successful medical interventions and prosecutions of non-lethal domestic violence strangulation.

Strangulation has been identified as one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence and sexual assault: unconsciousness may occur within seconds and death within minutes.

The training was designed to enable learners to:

- identify the signs and symptoms of near-fatal strangulation cases;
- understand and recognize the anatomy and medical aspects of surviving and non-surviving victims;
- investigate and document cases for prosecution;
- prosecute cases, including using experts in court; and, most importantly,
- enhance victim safety through trauma-informed advocacy services.

This report presents a summary of the 72 responses received from the Melbourne training.

Full responses are contained in a table (Appendix A).

If attendees supplied email addresses, these are provided in Appendix B.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT NOT ALL RESPONDENTS COMPLETED ALL FIELDS OF THE SURVEY THEREFORE THE DATA ARE INCOMPLETE.

Feedback on the trainers, content and training

Participants were asked to rate from 1 to 5 using this scale:

1 = poor

2 = fair

3 = average

4 = good

5 = excellent

Feedback was as follows:

Topic	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Trainers' knowledge of the subject matter:	97.22%	2.78%			
Quality of information provided:	82.94%	15.28%	2.78%		
The usefulness of the content:	72.22%	22.22%	5.56%		
The structure of the training:	70.83%	23.61%	5.56%		
The pace of the training:	64.79%	25.35%	8.45%	1.41%	

Satisfaction with Training

Two participants did not indicate if they were satisfied with the training. Of the remainder **all participants** were satisfied, with 91.5% indicating they were “very satisfied” and the remainder (8.5%) noting they were satisfied.

In a series of open-ended questions, participants were asked to identify:

- Three things they “learned and will apply in (their) workplace”
- What they liked most about the training
- What could be improved
- If they would recommend this training to other colleagues, and if yes, why they would do so
- If they would be interested in other training provided by the Red Rose Foundation, and if yes, invited to supply a contact email address.

Things that were learned that will be applied in the workplace

A range of topics emerged but the key themes may be summarised as follows:

- Invisible injuries but identification of other indicators
- Victims of strangulation are 750% more likely to die
- How quickly an adult becomes unconscious from strangulation
- Identification of risks/ outcomes of strangulation
- Consideration re experts in prosecution
- Warning of risks to victims
- The importance of educating the victim of internal injuries
- Medical effects of and need for ongoing (daily) medical treatment for strangulation and appropriate documentation

- The risks of strangulation
- How we can support victims and get better results
- Ask specific questions/ risk assessment on strangulation
- Practical tips on how to implement tools
- Dominant aggressor/lethal force
- Crime Scene observations
- Reporting forms will change
- How to look for Petechiae
- Strangulation chart
- To be more mindful of her memory due to trauma and again amend questioning.

What participants liked most about the training

- Incredibly interesting and engaging
- Case studies, medical information
- Highlighting the dangerous risk of strangulation.
- Strangulation last warning sign.
- Delivery of content
- Subject matter/engaging presenters
- Stories and Videos
- The enthusiasm
- Content greater understanding of the offence of strangulation
- Comprehensive covers all aspects
- Presenters & content
- The practical exercises such as the crime scene exercise and the videos
- Everything, statistics/forensics, case study, curious questions
- Presentation and content
- Continually kept entertaining and informative
- I really enjoyed all aspects of the training I liked the addition of the knife injury training
- Content relates to current employment
- I enjoyed seeing photographs to consolidate the learning
- The trainers were incredibly knowledgeable and engaging. I learnt so much.
- The strangulation material

What could be improved in the training

- Less breaks
- More relevance to Australian investigation & prosecution
- I would prefer Police only/specific
- More on strategy when implementing
- Case studies
- Child abuse & sexual abuse interconnectedness & impacts of strangulation
- 3 days!
- Nothing
- Have 2 Victorian – public prosecutor present or a judge

- A representative of Victorian Police should also be present with presenters to address issues specific to Victorian Law so all managers are educated without doubt these issues ie victim impact statement issue raised
- Maybe the structure although I'm aware there was a lot of information to fit into 2 days
- Too long. A lot of material that is not relevant. (Different Legislation)
- Some parts weren't relevant to Victorian Law
- It could be longer and possibly include relevant law to Victoria
- Possibly some hints to assist child protection and family violence occurs more
- And perhaps more relevance to Australia

Likelihood of recommending this training

Five participants did not respond to the question, with the remainder (67) indicating they would recommend this training to their colleagues. Reasons for doing so included:

- Valuable to all members of Vic Police I had no idea how much there was to learn on strangulation
- Excellent knowledge for frontline uniform and investigations to apply to FV reports
- So colleagues understand the importance of identifying strangulation incidents
- Extremely enjoyable
- It's a really important topic. A lot of new/valuable concepts with lots of info important to law enforcement and other agencies
- It's very informative
- Yes – important that we all understand more about the offending
- Yes factual, relevant & contemporary understanding
- Very important and highly relevant
- Informative and Increased skill sets
- Absolutely, it will definitely assist in our family violence investigations
- It relates to current Victorian Police issues
- Very informative
- It's incredibly relevant and scary how much we miss by not asking the right questions. We have the knowledge now to try and prevent a lot of deaths
- Because after 18 years in my job this remain as one of the best I've done

Accessing other training provided by the Red Rose Foundation

Of the respondents, 51 indicated they would be interested in other training provided by the Red Rose Foundation.