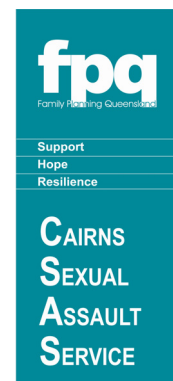


MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
21 May 2010**



Men are victims too

Boys and men are victims of sexual assault and abuse, but frequently do not report the incident due to the shame and stigma associated with it.

Family Planning Queensland's Cairns Sexual Assault Service is convening a forum this June in an effort to raise awareness about male survivors and discuss how to tailor services to meet their unique needs.

Internationally recognised men's sexual assault expert, Dr Gary Foster, will speak at the upcoming forum 'Lifting the Lid: Supporting men who have experienced sexual assault or sexual abuse'. Dr Foster will address delegates about the profound impact sexual violence can have on men's lives, and the need to work with men to build a positive sense of self.

While Cairns Sexual Assault Service is often assumed to provide services for women only, the service is happy to respond to calls and counsel men as well.

"By convening local and international experts alongside local service providers, we hope to increase awareness that men experience sexual violence too," explains Family Planning Queensland Cairns Sexual Assault Service Coordinator, Clare Oppy.

"We know that men have unique needs, and we can support these needs through our counseling services. We want to be sure men know they are not alone, and there are caring and appropriate services out there to provide needed support," Ms Oppy continued.

'Lifting the Lid' will take place at the Shangri La Hotel in Cairns, on Wednesday 9 June, from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.

Guest speakers Dr Gary Foster of Brisbane's Living Well; Nick Wymarra of Wuchopperen Health Service; and Peter Ashley of Cairns Sexual Health Service from Queensland Health, alongside Clare Oppy, Cairns Sexual Assault Service Coordinator, will be available for interview and comment.

Spaces are limited so please RSVP by 2 June to cnsadmins@fpq.com.au.

For further information about the event 'Lifting the Lid', or about the Cairns Sexual Assault counseling service, please contact Clare Oppy on 07 4031 3590 or cnssexualassault@fpq.com.au.

www.fpq.com.au

Supporting children, women, and men who have experienced sexual assault.