Torna currently provides counselling, group work and community education for SHE, a contemporary state wide domestic violence service in Tasmania.

Early in Torna’s career she worked as a teacher at primary, high school, and Tafe levels prior to qualifying as a counsellor. As a couples counsellor Torna recognised a particular pattern of dynamics and tactics that did not necessarily include physical violence, or even recognisable let alone chargeable offences, but nonetheless created a very unequal relationship for women. In these cases normal counselling methods were highly injurious. At this stage very little was known about coercive control and domestic violence was also more easily understood if it included clear incidents of physical violence. After qualifying as a social worker, Torna continued to practice as a counsellor but her concerns and observations in the counselling room propelled her to research the problem. She wrote a PhD which highlights the dynamics, tactics and legacy of coercive control. It also pointed out the problem for women and children in particular if these tactics were not recognised and responded to by the police, mediators, and human service providers. Torna has since been a lecturer, researcher and academic in social work at UTAS, and presented her work at numerous national and international conferences. Based on her research and practice experience as a social worker and counsellor, Torna has developed a helpful framework to explain how coercive control can be first detected as unfair conversational tactics, how it operates on a 24/7 basis and its connection to physical and family violence.

Torna currently teaches and counsels women how to recognise, respond and recover from coercive control and is a passionate advocate for people affected by coercive partners or ex partners given the negative effect on their life chances.

Qualifications
1983 Bachelor of Education,
2004 Bachelor of Social Work (Hons),
2011 PhD “The Legacy of Domestic Violence”, UTAS

“I aim to make training an enjoyable, productive and impactful experience, adding value and depth to participants’ current level of skill and understanding.”
Anjelina van Rooyen
Counsellor/Community Educator for SHE
North West Coast

Qualifications
1998 Bachelor of Education
2002 Bachelor of Social Work

“I am a strong advocate for human rights, social justice, equity and equality for all people.”

Anj is a strong advocate for human rights, social justice, equity and equality for all people. Her practice is guided by feminist principles and advocating for structural change. Anj incorporates education into the work she does as she is passionate about the empowering nature of the process of learning and the transformative impact this has on individuals and communities. Anj thoroughly enjoys the work she does and is grateful for the privilege of being invited into peoples’ lives.

As a social worker Anj’s experiences have primarily involved working with youth and young people, Women’s Counselling Services and Family Violence. She has had over ten years teaching experience within school environments as a teacher for grades three to grade twelve students. Anj’s social work roles have incorporated counselling, facilitating support groups and developing and delivering community education programmes, information sessions and workshops to adults and secondary students.
Jane Withers
Counsellor/Community Educator for SHE
Hobart

Qualifications
2006 Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours)
2009 Graduate Certificate in Counselling

“I believe effective training challenges both participant and facilitator making it a living resource.”

Jane has worked in the field of family violence and abuse for 12 years. Her educational background is in social sciences and counselling. She was a support worker in a women’s refuge in NSW doing crisis intervention for 5 years and have been a counsellor at SHE since 2010. Jane as facilitated family violence psycho-education groups as well as providing training for professionals around recognising and responding to family violence

Jane believes human rights should inform training in the health and human services sector. In view of this she believes training should be shaped by the lived experience of the people she works with. She is guided by the latest peer-reviewed research and her own professional development. As with all the staff at SHE, Jane works from a trauma-informed perspective.
Scott Holmes is Manager of Practice Development at Our Watch, the national foundation for the primary prevention of violence against women, where he leads a small team developing and implementing strategies to increase quality prevention practice across Australia. Scott has been working in the preventing violence against women sector for over 7 years. He has coordinated prevention programs with faith communities and in workplaces. Scott has extensive experience with the delivery of prevention training programs, including the VicHealth prevention short course, Baby Makes 3 Facilitator training, and the Change the Story Practitioner Training. Scott is an ordained Anglican Minister and on the Management Committee of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne prevention program.

Qualifications
1985 Bachelor of Social Sciences
1995 Bachelor of Divinity
1996 Diploma of Ministry

“I value the opportunity that training offers to meet with practitioners and share our mutual passion for social and personal change.”