

# **Wyndham Family Violence Sub Committee (WFVSC)**

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# Overview of presentation

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# Health and Family Violence

- *“Intimate partner violence is responsible for more ill-health and premature death in Victorian women under the age of 45 than any other of the well-known risk factors, including high blood pressure, obesity and smoking”*

(The health costs of violence: measuring the burden of disease caused by intimate partner violence- A summary of findings, 2004). DHS & VicHealth report

# Wyndham

- Family Violence is a whole of community issue.
- Issue identified in the 2001 Wyndham MPHP framework document.
- Results of document acted on by sub-group of Wyndham Community Agencies Network (WCAN), and Councils Health Planning Committee.

# WFVSC Members: Past & Present

- Wyndham City Council
- ISIS Primary Care
- Women's Health West
- Victoria Police
- School Representation
- Lifeworks
- Werribee Legal Service
- DHS
- Werribee Support and Housing Group
- Westgate Division of General Practice
- MRC (Westgate Region)
- Centrelink
- Yerambooe Community Centre
- The Werribee Mercy Hospital
- Western Women's Domestic Violence & Support Network
- Anglicare Family Services
- Community Member

# WFVSC- (History/Background)

- Committee was formed in 2001
- Innovative, collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach – with minimal funding.
- **Objectives:**
  - To provide an opportunity for local service providers to discuss collaborative approaches to address family violence.
  - To raise awareness in the community of the prevalence of FV.

# Committee achievements to 2004:

- Developed agency referral protocols with the Police, WCAN and council
- Developed referral cards for distribution by local Police
- Worked with Werribee Legal Service and Victoria Police in the development of the report “Are You Happy at Home”.
- Professional Development Forum with local agencies

# Wyndham – Family Violence Report

- *“Wyndham has the highest family violence incidence reporting in the Western Metropolitan Region in 2000”.*

(Are You Happy at Home, a Report on Family Violence in Wyndham- Dr Debbie Kirkwood & Adele McNicol)

# Report Findings:

- The majority of incidents were perpetrated by men against women
- Most common times for assaults: December and January
- Days were Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- Substantial numbers of call outs to the same houses (some up to 14 re-attendances).
- The most common perpetrator was partner or ex-partner.
- The second most common being son against parents, usually the mother

# WFVSC- Action Plan (2003-2004)

- Coaster Project
- Say No to Violence Art Project
- Fax Back Project (currently being evaluated)
- Student Research Placement
- Forum

# Coaster Project

- Idea replicated from a project within Moonee Valley.
- Distribution of coasters to nine pubs and clubs in municipality (also given referral information).



# Say No to Violence Art Project

- Grant from Women's Health West (WHW) to WFVSC, administered by Wyndham City Council.
- To be launched in late October in the week without violence @ ISIS PC
- Four schools involved:
  - Hoppers Crossing Secondary College (Patchwork quilt wall-hanging)
  - The Grange (Mosaic artwork outside counselling room)
  - Werribee Secondary (College Sculptures & Photo exhibit)
  - Galvin Park secondary College (Canvas)

# Fax Back Project

- Currently being evaluated
- Joint Project between WHW and Wyndham Police.
- Giselle (WHW- FV outreach worker, based at Werribee Support and Housing Group)
- Procedure administered by Police

# Student Research Placement

- WHW Student
  - Evaluation of Fax Back Project
- ISIS PC Student
  - Research focus is on young people who perpetrate violence within the home

# WFVSC- The Future

- Development of 2004/2005 Action Plan
- Broaden committee membership
- Sharing knowledge with other municipalities