

MORELAND CITY COUNCIL

BACKGROUND

Moreland City Council has developed a number of policies and initiatives to address family violence and violence against women within the municipality. Council hosted the 'Pathways out of Violence' summit with the Moreland Domestic Violence Network in 2005. A key outcome of the summit was the Addressing Family Violence in Moreland Strategy 2006-2009. The Strategy, based on the VicHealth framework for prevention of violence against women, expired last year and is currently under review. The Strategy has guided Council initiatives in this area.

MORELAND POLICIES

Council takes a strong stance on family violence in its own workplace, as well as the broader community. Moreland has an internal Family Violence Policy for staff members and Human Resources provides relevant training. The CEO, Mr Peter Brown is a White Ribbon Ambassador and Moreland has been an active member in the White Ribbon Day Leaders Lunches and other northern region activities.

Council aims to imbed prevention of violence against women into its strategies and policies. The Health and Wellbeing Plan 2010-2014 includes the strategy "Prevent family violence and reduce its impact on families". The Moreland Early Years Strategy 2010-2014 (DRAFT) looks at the impact of family violence on families and children and aims to provide adequately trained staff and promote an environment where children can grow up free from harm and violence.

The Active Women and Girls in Moreland Strategy (2009) aims to involve females in sport and recreation in Moreland and to make sporting clubs and recreation infrastructure more accessible and welcoming to women and girls. The new Allocation of Sporting Grounds and Pavilions Policy (2009) states that sporting clubs that do not provide sporting opportunities for women and young people will not be given priority for Council-owned sports grounds. Council is working with the sporting clubs to address how they can make their clubs more inclusive to women and girls. This follows on from the VicHealth AFL Fair Game: Respect Matters project, which aims to make local AFL clubs more inclusive to women. A number of Moreland AFL clubs are also involved in the Fair Game Project.



Moreland's Clothesline Project in Week Without Violence, 2009. Held in Victoria Mall, Coburg

CURRENT WORK

Council convenes the Moreland Family Violence Network, which meets bi-monthly and is open to all service providers who operate in the Moreland region. The Network has run a number of successful violence prevention and community awareness campaigns over the last few years. Campaigns and events include the annual Clothesline event in Week Without Violence, a business toolkit for local businesses entitled 'Family Violence is Everyone's Business' and, together with Women's Health in the North (WHIN), a Family Violence and the Media Workshop in October 2009. The Network also produces help stickers for men and women in 6 languages, which are distributed to all council owned buildings around the municipality.

We're well on the way

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