

CITY OF WHITTLESEA

Building the capacity of individuals and the community for the prevention of violence against women and children is a priority within the City of Whittlesea Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013. This will be achieved by developing local social marketing strategies to raise awareness of family violence with a focus on building the knowledge, understanding and skills of individuals in the community.

Since 2007 Council have been actively involved in White Ribbon Day activities organising annual local media conferences to raise community awareness. In 2009 Council undertook a range of internal and community awareness raising activities. This included a series of "Blokes BBQ's" for staff at three sites including the depot and distribution of WRD bookmarks through local libraries.

Strong Council representation at the Northern Region WRD Leader's Lunch demonstrates a significant level of support for prevention of VAW throughout the organisation.

Council supports local initiatives to address violence against women through its Community Grants program and works in partnership with the Whittlesea Domestic Violence Network (WDVN) on a range of community initiatives.

- In 2008 the WDVN ran a series of four leadership training workshops targeting Arabic speaking women and new and emerging communities from Africa.
- In 2009 WDVN was funded to conduct research into the links between domestic violence, housing and homelessness.

In 2010 Council have taken on the role of convening the WDVN. Council will work closely with the WDVN to:

- ensure the housing needs of women who experience violence are clearly articulated in the Whittlesea Municipal Housing Strategy currently in development.
- support advocacy and awareness raising activities to highlight the housing issues identified
- develop and implement broader advocacy and awareness raising activities across the City of Whittlesea.

Council have been actively involve in network activities across the Northern region including development and distribution of family violence Help Cards which provide service information relevant to the needs of different language and cultural groups.

A focus on further developing primary prevention activities across a range of community settings has been given priority for 2011-2013.

We're off and running...

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