

WYNDHAM CITY

WYNDHAM CITY'S PLAN FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH, WELLBEING AND SAFETY 2010-2013

This Plan fulfils Wyndham City's legislated requirement for a Municipal Public Health Plan (MPHP) and is one of its three key strategic documents. *Wyndham City's Plan for Community Health, Wellbeing and Safety 2010-2013* prioritises a reduction in the impact and incidence of family violence, highlighting the need to encourage cultures that are non-violent and gender equitable, and relationships that are non-discriminatory.

NB: Wyndham City's Plan for Community Health, Wellbeing and Safety 2010-2013 is currently in draft and out for public comment.

WYNDHAM FAMILY VIOLENCE COMMITTEE

Established in 2001, the Wyndham Family Violence Committee (WFVC) is an independent network of local service providers and community representatives that is supported and convened by Wyndham City. The main priorities of the WFVC are:

- Service coordination, provision and planning
- Community development (prevention, education and raising community awareness).

Initiatives of the WFVC have included:

- The engagement of over 400 young people from 10 local schools in the "Say NO to Violence" Schools Art Project (funded 2004-2006 by the Community Support Fund and in 2007 by VicHealth)
- Distribution of coasters with the message, "When you hurt your partner you hurt your kids too" and the contact number for the Men's Referral Service in 9 local pubs and clubs
- Annual production and distribution of Family Violence Support Services Information Cards.

WHITE RIBBON DAY

Wyndham City is committed to supporting White Ribbon Day - for the elimination of violence against women. Wyndham City Councillor, Shane Bourke, is a White Ribbon Ambassador.

In 2009 Wyndham City held a very successful White Ribbon Day Business Breakfast. The breakfast attracted over 80 local business leaders who learned about the role that local business has to play in the prevention of violence against women. Presenters included Inspector Bill Weatherley (Werribee Police), Dr Melanie Heenan (VicHealth), Clint Bizzell (AFL Respect & Responsibility, White Ribbon Ambassador) and Ricky Nixon (AFL Player Manager).

REGIONAL ACTIVITY

Wyndham City is currently working with other local governments in the western region on a social marketing initiative to promote the "prevention of violence against women" message within the Western Region Football League. One of the outcomes of this initiative has been the development of men's and women's regional help cards (information and services).

WYNDHAM CITY SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

Maternal & Child Health

- Clients asked a family violence question at 4 week visit and then again at anytime the M&CH nurse is concerned about a woman.

Youth Services

Issues relating to family violence and the prevention of violence against women are often raised within our youth programs and services (all are free and available to those aged 12-25 years):

- Young Mum's Program for young people pregnant or parenting
- Young Parent's Counselling and Generalist Counselling Services
- Self Esteem and Assertiveness (SEA) Program - 6 week program for young women
- Personal Safety and Awareness Program - 6 week program for young women dealing with issues such as violence, party safe, travel safe and some self-defence
- General drop-in referral service
- Mentor program

Heathdale Neighbourhood Renewal

- Improving Police relationships and encouraging people to report
- Heathdale and Neighbours Community Shed - opportunity for individuals to learn a trade, metal work, woodwork for both men and women and of all ages and cultures

We're off and running...

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