

## YARRA CITY COUNCIL

- Addressing Women's Health and Wellbeing - focus on Gender Equity, and Violence Prevention

### SEXUAL VIOLENCE TASKFORCE (2006 - 2008)

Yarra City Council's work around violence prevention and gender equity was prioritised with the development of the Sexual Violence Taskforce (SVT) and Implementation Plan in 2006. This initiative was developed by Council in response to a sexual assault which occurred in a Fitzroy park in 2006. Although gender equity and family violence were identified as priorities in the Council's Community Safety Plan, further focus and work was needed.

The SVT Plan provided a comprehensive strategy for Council to focus on a range of issues, both internally and externally, across all areas, including sports and recreation, public amenity and planning. This provided the framework for Council's work in the next few years. Projects have included:

- development of family friendly work policies
- The VicHealth funded 'Welcome to Yarra Sports' Program with soccer clubs
- Participation in local networks and committees around violence prevention.
- International Women's Day Activities
- White Ribbon Day Activities and events (from 2007 onwards)

### WOMEN'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING (2009 - CURRENT)

In 2009, following the successful projects and activities from the SVT Implementation Plan, the appointment of a dedicated Women's Health Planner has really consolidated work in this area.

Projects currently underway include:

- **Gender Reporting**  
In May 2010, Council supported the development of a gender reporting toolkit and training resource, to further support this work across all areas of policy, planning and service delivery across Council.
- **Gender Equity**  
A Local Government Gender Equity Working Group - including Manlywong, Darebin, Yarra, Hume and Knox, plus VicHealth and Monash University are working on an effective approach for gendered reporting that can be utilised at all Councils.
- **Yarra Family Violence Network**  
Council continues to work closely with the members of the Network, on a range of projects to raise awareness of the issues around family violence, to support women who are seeking support and develop programs that can distribute information effectively, including the 'Help Cards Talking Tour' and the 'Collingwood Living in Harmony Pilot Project'.



Leaders Lunch  
2009

- **Committee for Women**  
A Committee for Women is due to be convened in August - with women from key community, business, CALD and Indigenous organisations in Yarra coming together to discuss ways of developing effective leadership development training and seminar opportunities for ALL women in Yarra.
- **White Ribbon**  
Ambassador Team is under development within Council and each year a program of internal events and external activities, promoting the messages around elimination of violence against women.
- **International Women's Day**  
Each year an event celebrates women, whilst also highlighting concerns and issues for women, and prevention of violence against women always features prominently.

**We're well on the way**

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