

NORTHERN REGION FAMILY VIOLENCE HELP CARD TRANSLATION PROJECT

The 2006 State Government reform of the Family Violence sector resulted in each region establishing a lead family violence agency as a key component of the Integrated Family Violence Service system (IFVSS). The Northern IFVSS provides a central intake for family violence services to women from Banyule, Darebin, Hume, Moreland, Nillumbik, Whittlesea and Yarra. With these changes in mind an information tool was developed that could be used by all family violence stakeholders in the North.

These pocket-sized cards set out the Family Violence service system on an LGA basis and include state-wide services, information for women considering leaving a violent partner, and support available to her and her children. The Men's Help Card sets out the service system on a LGA basis of where men can get help and what they can do if they perpetrate violent behaviour.

At the launch of the original print in October 2007 the Minister for Women's Affairs, Children and Early Childhood Development, Maxine Morand MP announced that resources would be made available for the translation of the Help Cards into 13 community languages. The project was supported by the 7 Northern local governments and organisations from the Northern Integrated Family Violence Service system, with City of Yarra doing the design, and Darebin coordinating the Project.

After extensive consultation 12 languages other than English have been chosen which reflect existing and emerging needs in the Family Violence service system. The cards have been translated into Arabic, Chinese, Croatian, Dinka, Hindi, Macedonian, Somali, Swahili, Tagalog, Tamil, Turkish, Vietnamese and in addition an Aboriginal specific card was developed.

In 2009 a series of workshops were held to develop the content for translation. A working group was developed which included representatives from WHIN, Council, Immigrant Women's Domestic Violence Service, Spectrum MRC, Victoria Police and Foundation House.

In addition ten Aboriginal leaders formed working groups to develop and review the content for the Aboriginal Men's and Women's Help Cards to ensure that they contained accurate information on the most appropriate Indigenous services.

After translation the cards were assessed by bi-lingual workers from the family violence sector for accuracy and as to how well the translation delivered the desired message about family violence.



The cards were printed in quantities which reflected size of that language community in the North and were officially launched by Minister Morand in June 2010. The cards have been distributed widely across the North, including Family Violence Services, Police Stations, Maternal & Child Health Centres, Community Health Centres, Libraries, Courts, Community Legal Centres, Hospitals, Neighbourhood Houses, Community Hubs, Youth Services, Football and Sports Clubs, Housing Services, Family Services and Women's Services. Evaluation of the cards will assess the uptake of the cards, the accuracy of print quantities and the need for additional languages.

The Western Metro Region and Eastern Metro Region have already used the English templates in developing their own regional cards, and it is envisioned the English, Aboriginal and translated cards could be used as a template for other regions across Victoria to develop their own family violence help cards. Cards are online at www.lgpcvaw.net.au

We're off and running...

Contact: jess.fraser@darebin.vic.gov.au

