

City of Greater Dandenong

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Position Title: Social Planner

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Summary of your Councils recent engagement with PVAW: 2010

Publication of articles about family violence in the Council newsletter, including one commemorating White Ribbon Day, accompanied by a well-attended White Ribbon Day event within Council and promotion of this day and its significance across the organisation.

Preparation and distribution of a report summarising the nature, prevalence and other aspects of family violence, and outlining relevant State and Federal Policy and local initiatives.

Preparation of bumper stickers featuring the logo 'Say No to Violence Against Women' for use on council vehicles and possible public distribution.

Preparation of an article for publication in a metropolitan Vietnamese-language newspaper.

Provision of the 'Dads in Dandenong' men's parenting program, funded by Council and Communities for Children, with a focus on family violence prevention, outreach support, education and counselling.

Conduct of the 'Male Adolescents at Risk Project', facilitating behaviour change among adolescent males exhibiting aggressive behaviour; and a program for young males at risk of using violence in their adult personal relationships.

Incorporation of measures to respond to family violence in the Council Community Plan, Community Wellbeing Plan, Safety Plan and Early Years Plan; the development of a draft family violence strategy; and the establishment of a Family Violence Steering Group within Council.

Next Steps / Plans for 2011?

Consideration of the re-publication of resource cards, listing 10 key services and supports in the region, again in English and several key community languages.

Consideration of the development of human resources policies to specify processes for supporting staff who face issues of family violence.

Planning of local projects to highlight, and promote community participation in responding to, the issue of family violence.

Seeking grants for further ongoing work in responding to family violence in various community settings.

Emma Wilkinson Respect & Equity Coordinator

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Summary of your Council's recent engagement with PVAW: 9th December 2010 – 9th March 2011

- Submitted an expression of interest along with Brimbank & Wyndham City Council as a cluster for PVAW model development funding
 - White Ribbon Working Group developed an action plan for 2011
 - Updated the Maribyrnong PVAW Web-page and resources
 - Participate in the Gender Equity in Local Government working group
 - Met with the family Services Team to discuss trialling Baby Makes 3 – a Whitehorse Community Health primary prevention, healthy relationships 3 part seminar for first time parents
 - Participate in an academic research study exploring the construction and experiences of
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Women's sexual consent throughout the life stages

- Participate in the Preventing Violence Together: Western Region Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women Network
 - Contribute to the LGPro Marketplace annual conference PVAW information
 - Meet with the sports and leisure department to discuss their respect & equity initiatives
 - Provide support to the family services team to apply a gender lens to their policy and program development
 - Conduct an organisational staff survey (survey monkey) to measure a change in attitudes and behaviours in relation to PVAW
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Next Steps / Plans for 2011?

- Develop business case for a fulltime ongoing PVAW position funded through Council
 - Council Communications staff (1 day per week) and Senior Health and Social Planner are developing a public statement to recognise, reflect and promote Councils commitment to PVAW. This will involve 2 leaders lunch style community consultations and an internal focus group.
 - Support Western region Organisations in hosting 'I Am Strong, We Are Strong' International Women's Day Event 1 March at Footscray community Arts Centre – for more information contact Nicola Harte @ Women's Health West 9689 9588
 - Support the diversity team on the Local Indigenous Network steering committee to deliver a 'Respect for your mob and family' project – funded though the Victorian Indigenous Family Violence Strategy Community Initiative Fund
 - Present the Respect & Equity work across council to the new Executive Management Team
 - Support the White Ribbon Working Group to present their work to the new Executive Management Team
 - Apply for sustainability funding through Vic Health for the Respect and Equity project
 - Review the gendered site facilities audit
 - Evaluate and write the Respect & Equity project report
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*Strathbogie Shire Council
LGPVAW actions since last LEAS meeting
(Dec 10-Feb 11)*

- We have continued along awaiting the EOI PVAW pilot outcome. Attended interview panel with Director Steve Crawcour and Caroline Harlow Community Service Coordinator. As long a rural is one of the pilots that will be great for our rural communities.
- Cr Furlanetto will be participating on the VLGA women's advisory committee this year, (ran for VLGA board selection but was unsuccessful)
- Cr Furlanetto has also been invited to join the N/ East region Rural Women Leading Change Program DPCD and hoped facilitator training in support of Women Gathering (A model for empowering women)
- Cr Furlanetto as current chair of the Strathbogie Health & Community Services Alliance (supported by GVPCP and DOH funding) reports to the committee and it is hoped that PVAW "A right to Respect" will play an important role in the health committee's communication of services for the shire as we move forward.

Compiled February 2011 updates for LEAS Network

- Council was represented by Mayor and several councillors at recent Victorian Police presentation by Chief Commissioner Simon Overland at Wangaratta on the Vic Pol “The Way Ahead 2008 – 2013 Plan”. Questions and discussion from the Strathbogie Shire representatives on resources and the issues identified in the report that reporting of family violence had increased, and discussion around is it further reporting or indication of increase in domestic violence, or a combination of both. Chief Commissioner Overland discussed with Cr Furlanetto and Cr Swan and two of the Moira Councillors with whom we have put our EOI in for pilot. He even availed a photo opportunity.
- Cr Furlanetto presented at “Right to Respect Preventing Violence in Central Victoria” on Strathbogie’s Journey at a forum on the 21st February in Maryborough hosted by Central Goldfields Shire.
- The Milo program in Euroa won the Strathbogie Shire Australia Day award as best community club for their support of White Ribbon.
- Continuing on working towards the Strathbogie Shire Action Plan “A right to respect: a community responsibility”.

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1. Title: Council / Organisation name

City of Whittlesea

2. A summary of your Council / Organisation’s recent engagement with preventing violence against women.

Our most recent events were held last November for White Ribbon Day (2010). Council ran a series of awareness raising activities, including; Blokes BBQ’s featuring Phil Cleary and Victoria Police. BBQ’s were organised in collaboration with the internal White Ribbon Working Group (that consists of representatives across all directorates and levels) and held at the Civic Centre and the Depot. Both BBQ’s had strong attendance by staff and positive feedback post event has resulted in further requests for referral information and tools on how to challenge behaviour.

In addition, Council developed and distributed ‘Not Violence, Not Silent’ bumper stickers that were placed on Council vehicles and representatives attended at the White Ribbon Leaders Lunch.

Council also promoted the WRD key messages via the Councils display boards, staff newsletter, staff emails, intranet and website.

Council also convenes the Whittlesea Domestic Violence Network (WDVN), and together ran a local awareness raising campaign on WRD; promoting key messages and local services. These events were held across 3 local libraries and organisations.

Together with Moreland and Hume City Councils, City of Whittlesea also submitted an application for the *Right to Respect: Preventing Violence Against Women in our Community Pilot*.

3. Next Steps / Plans for 2011?

Preventing Violence Against Women continues to be a key priority for the City of Whittlesea in 2011. We are currently looking at developing an internal policy that recognises and address the impact of family violence, and to reiterate Councils commitment to this important social issue. We will be guided in this process by previous work completed in this area by Darebin and Moreland City Councils.

Whittlesea Community Futures (WCF) is a partnership of 40 organisations, convened by City of Whittlesea; with shared commitment and goals working together, with the community, to improve opportunities for the people of Whittlesea. Family Violence has been identified as one of the top priorities of WCF, and the main priority for the CALD and Family and Children clusters. Council will be working closely with the Community Futures partnership and Northern Integrated Family Violence Services over the coming year to develop a range of strategies to address this issue.

City of Whittlesea will continue to convene the Whittlesea Domestic Violence Network in 2011. This year, the network will focus on events to take place in Week Without Violence and a second delivery of the highly successful, *Women's Leadership Workshops*. These workshops will focus on strengthening the capacity of selected CALD communities by developing the awareness, knowledge and leadership skills of CALD women within the City of Whittlesea in regards to family violence.

Yarra Ranges Council Women's Charter Action Plan

Yarra Ranges Council has developed a Women's Charter Action Plan. Key actions underway include:

- adoption of the Women's Charter and appointment of a Councillor Charter Champion
- establishment of a Women in Local Government Working Group with a Councillor sponsor
- regular networking events to bring women leaders in the municipality together (80+ women participated at community event in November 2010 to hear the experiences and views of Naomi Simson from Red Balloon, together with a panel of local influential women on how women can make a difference in community leadership. The event was so successful a further event is being planned for June this year)
- an on-line Women in local democracy (WILD) forum was held between January 25 – February 18. There were 268 visitors to the site, 65 comments and 38 downloads of documents which included the Women's Charter. A rich discussion ensued with participants ranging from mid 20s to mid 60s age group. Themes from the forum will be shared with local stakeholders including Women's Health East and the 12 member houses of the Yarra Ranges Neighbourhood House network .
- International Women's day was celebrated with a range of wonderful activities yesterday including one held at Council celebrating women's contribution. (We had one brave man join the celebration!)

Promoting Respectful Relationships:

- A Promoting Respectful Relationships forum has been established. The draft Terms of Reference are in progress and members are working on developing the action plan
- Jan 20 attended interview for the PVAW EOI cluster position. We are waiting to hear the results.
- internal and external discussions about our approach to White Ribbon 2011 are underway
- a pilot program Baby Makes 3 supporting new parents is being launched in 3 sites across the municipality.