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If tolerance, respect and equity permeate family life, they will translate into values that shape societies, nations and the world.

- Kofi Annan

former UN
Secretary-General

”

Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2011-2015







If you can, help others;
if you cannot do that,
at least do not harm them.

– Dalai Lama



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Foreword by the Mayor



I am proud to introduce the *Moreland Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2011-2015*. This strategy is based on increasing evidence which clearly identifies

that family violence is serious, prevalent and preventable.

Family violence includes all forms of violence – not just physical. The vast majority of victims of family violence are women. In fact one in three women will experience violence during their lifetime and violence from an intimate partner is the largest contributor to death and disability in women aged under 45 in Victoria. That's more than illicit drugs, obesity, alcohol or smoking. The prevalence of violence in Moreland and its impact on the Community is not acceptable.

We all have a role to play in the prevention of family violence. Prevention in the home starts within the Community. Prevention includes clear messages about respect and equity delivered in the workplace, at local sports clubs, in schools, the media and popular culture.

Council, as a representative of the Community, can show leadership and provide support to these different sectors to play an active part in preventing family violence. Partnerships and collaboration are guiding principles of this strategy. Prevention of family violence is not possible without commitment from the Community, service providers, Community groups and other stakeholders.

We are all responsible for the prevention of family violence and it's something that is within our reach. With this strategy, Moreland takes another step towards a Community that is safe, healthy and free from violence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Oscar Yildiz', written in a cursive style.

Cr Oscar Yildiz JP
Mayor, Moreland City Council

Moreland City Council's policy position on family violence:

Family violence is a prevalent, serious and preventable health issue in Moreland. Council does not condone the use of violence in any context.

Council has an important role to play in the prevention of family violence. Working in partnership with the Moreland community, we can create a municipality that is gender equitable, respectful and inclusive. We can do this by fostering positive and respectful attitudes between men and women, creating inclusive community settings, increasing community strength, raising awareness and providing information.

1. Definitions

- **Family violence**

Family violence is any behaviour that is physically or sexually abusive, emotionally or psychologically abusive, economically abusive, threatening or coercive, or in any other way controls or dominates the family member and causes that family member to fear for his or her safety or wellbeing, or for the safety or wellbeing of another person (*Family Violence Protection Act 2008*)

The terms family violence and domestic violence are often used interchangeably. Family violence is the preferred term in the Victorian jurisdiction and is used within this Strategy.

- **Violence against women**

Violence against women is “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual and psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life” (*UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women 1993*)

- **Primary prevention**

Primary prevention strategies seek to prevent violence before it occurs.

Strategies that do not have a particular focus on family violence but address its underlying causes (such as gender inequality and poverty) are also considered primary prevention strategies (VicHealth 2007).

- **Secondary prevention**

Secondary prevention is targeted at individuals and groups who exhibit early signs of either perpetrating or being subject to violence (VicHealth 2007).

- **Tertiary prevention**

Tertiary prevention involves providing support and treatment to victims and perpetrators of violence (VicHealth 2007).

- **Disease burden**

Burden of disease methodology is an internationally accepted approach to estimating the impact of health problems, taking into account illness, disability and premature death (VicHealth 2004).

- **Elder abuse**

Elder abuse is any act that harms older people and that is carried out by someone they know and should be able to trust, such as family or friends. Such harm can be financial, physical, sexual, emotional or psychological, including mistreatment and neglect (*Rights. Respect. Trust. 2009*).

ABBREVIATIONS

- ABS** – Australian Bureau of Statistics
- CALD** – Culturally and Linguistically Diverse
- CDSPU** – Community Development & Social Policy Unit
- LGA** – Local Government Area
- MCC** – Moreland City Council
- PVAW** – Prevention of Violence against Women

2. Introduction



The *Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2011-2015* builds on Moreland City Council's previous policy and activities to prevent violence and create a more inclusive, respectful and safe community.

This Strategy has been developed in consultation with health and support service providers, neighbouring local governments and other stakeholders. The *Moreland Family Violence Network*, with representatives from local community services and Victoria Police, has been a reference group for the development of this Strategy.

This Strategy is based on the VicHealth framework *Preventing violence before it occurs* (2007) and draws on the VicHealth evidence base. It is supported by an Issues Paper developed to identify the key issues for Council over the next four years.

This document has two main parts - the *Family Violence Prevention Strategy* and the context section. The Strategy outlines Council's policy position on family violence, guiding principles and priority settings for action. The Strategy will be implemented through annual action plans, including one for the first year of implementation (2011-2012).

The context section provides the background setting for the Strategy's development. It comprehensively summarises:

- legislative and policy directions surrounding family violence prevention;
- a profile of statistics within Moreland;
- research findings on the prevalence;
- determinants and major impacts that family violence has on the local community; and
- priority populations that are targeted within this Strategy and its associated Action Plans.

Purpose

The purpose of the *Moreland Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2011-2015* is to create a framework for delivering Council's policy position on family violence in the municipality and to identify key areas for action. The strategy aims to prevent violence before it occurs by addressing its determinants, including gender inequity and violence-supportive norms across different community settings.

3. Why is Council developing a Family Violence Prevention Strategy?



Clothesline Event with members of the Moreland Family Violence Network

Family violence is a widespread issue in Moreland, as across Australia. The statistics relating to women are overwhelming:

- Violence from an intimate partner is the main contributor of death, disability and illness in Victorian women aged between 15 and 44.
- One in three women will experience violence in their lives, and one in five will experience sexual violence.
- One women is killed in Australia every week by her partner or ex-partner.

But more positively and importantly, family violence is **preventable**. Council, along with other tiers of government, have a responsibility to prevent any harm to the community where they can play a role.

4. What is family violence?


The terms 'family violence' and 'domestic violence' are often used synonymously to describe abusive behaviours in intimate relationships and families, directed for example against the spouse/partner (intimate partner violence) or against parents (inter-generational abuse).

Family violence affects women, men and children. Any violence, perpetrated by either sex, is unacceptable. However, in the vast majority of cases family violence is perpetrated by men against women. For this reason, many of the determinants and effects of family violence affect women specifically. Violence against women cannot be wholly separated from family violence.

The behaviours associated with family violence in the national plan *Time for Action* (2009) include:

- **Emotional abuse**
- **Verbal abuse**
- **Physical abuse** (includes direct assault on the body, assault of children and sleep and food deprivation)
- **Sexual abuse** (any form of unwanted or pressured sex or degradation, coercive sex without protection from pregnancy or disease or sexually degrading insults)
- **Social abuse** (systematic isolation from family and friends, alienation and controlling behaviours)
- **Financial abuse** (complete control of all money including forbidding access to bank accounts, not allowing the victim to seek employment or using all wages earned by the victim)
- **Psychological abuse** (includes threatening accusations, abuse of pets, denying an individual's reality)
- **Spiritual abuse** (misuse of spiritual beliefs or practices to force victims into subordinate roles or to justify other forms of abuse)

The terms 'victim' and 'perpetrator' are often used in reference to family violence situations. The victim is the person who is, or has been, the subject of the violence; the perpetrator is the person who commits the act/s of violence.



Family violence affects women, men and children. Any violence, perpetrated by either sex, is unacceptable.

5. Moreland Family Violence Prevention Strategy



White Ribbon Ambassadors at Council include (L-R) Colin Wookey (Home care Team Leader), Cr Oscar Yildiz (Mayor), Peter Brown (CEO) and Andrew Day (Director, Social Development)

Council has an important role to play in the prevention of family violence. Working in partnership with the Moreland community, we can create a municipality that is gender equitable, respectful and inclusive.



5.1. Council's role in the prevention of family violence

Legislation confers a particular role on local government to be representative of the people in local communities under the *Local Government Act 1989*. Local government is responsible for the development of solid, evidence based policy that reflects the needs and priorities of its local community. The Act states that the primary objective of a Council is "to endeavour to achieve the best outcomes for the local community having regard to the long term and cumulative effects of decisions".

The legislative and policy framework clearly identify that the role of local government in addressing family violence is **primary prevention**.

Other policy directions that define the role of local government include the national *Time for Action Plan* (2009) which identifies that local government "has a key leadership role" in responding to family violence. The State Government's *Right to Respect* (2010) urges local government to "play a key role in driving and co-ordinating initiatives tailored to their local communities".

5.2. Council's policy position on family violence

Moreland City Council's policy position on family violence is that:

Family violence is a prevalent, serious and preventable health issue in Moreland. Council does not condone the use of violence in any context.

Council has an important role to play in the prevention of family violence. Working in partnership with the Moreland community, we can create a municipality that is gender equitable, respectful and inclusive. We can do this by fostering positive and respectful attitudes between men and women, creating inclusive community settings, increasing community strength, raising awareness and providing information.

This policy position reflects Federal and State policy direction, current research and VicHealth's evidence based framework for prevention of violence before it occurs.

It was developed through consultation with internal staff and external stakeholders along with the following the vision, goal, guiding principles and action areas.

5.3. Vision and goal

The vision of the *Family Violence Prevention Strategy* is a Moreland community that is safe, healthy and free from violence.

The overarching goal of the Strategy is to prevent family violence and reduce its impact on the Moreland community. This goal is drawn from the *Moreland Health and Wellbeing Plan 2010-2014* (Objective 3, Strategy 3).

5.4. Guiding principles

The following principles guide the development of the *Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2011-2015* and underpin all Council activities in the area of family violence over the life of this Strategy:

- **Primary prevention:** Addressing the social and economic determinants of family violence.
- **Community safety, health and wellbeing:** Building strong, safe and healthy communities by addressing the determinants of family violence.
- **Gender equity and respect:** Preventing violence from occurring by promoting gender equity and respect within families and communities.
- **Settings-based approach:** Creating mutually reinforcing strategies across diverse community settings.

- **Evidence based actions and strategies:** Using the VicHealth evidence and frameworks, developing results based social policy, actions and realistic outcomes.
- **Engagement, partnership and advocacy:** Sustainable outcomes through engaging the local community, advocating to government and partnerships.

5.5. Priority settings for action

Most of the determinants and factors that contribute to family violence occur across a range of community settings such as workplaces, schools, sporting clubs and homes. It is therefore important to use these settings to deliver preventative messages on family violence. Settings traditionally involved in prevention of family violence, including the health sector and police, are still vitally important. However, in order to prevent violence before it occurs, an appropriate range of community settings needs to be identified.

The following priority settings for action have been selected from the VicHealth complete list as relevant to Moreland. The annual *Family Violence Prevention Action Plan* uses the following settings as a basis to implement the Strategy through a range of preventative actions. Actions need to effectively engage priority populations discussed in the context section of this Strategy.

This section identifies the priority settings for action and outlines the scope and objective of each. Preventative actions to be undertaken within these settings include research and evaluation, community awareness and social marketing, community strengthening, organisational and workforce development, advocacy and policy.

5.5.1. Local government, health and community services

Given the extensive role local government plays in creating safe public environments, developing community facilities and providing health and community services, Councils are well placed to take active roles in preventing family violence. This includes reaching people at different stages of life, of different cultural and faith groups or affiliations and marginalised or vulnerable groups.

Scope	Objective
This setting includes Council, local government service delivery (aged services and family services), community health organisations, community legal centres, faith organisations, general and ethno-specific services, local networks and community groups.	In partnership with the community, Council will build capacity within the community to prevent and respond to family violence, undertake research and advocate to government for those actions that are beyond its direct control.

5.5.2. Workplace

Workplaces are organisational contexts through which social norms are shaped and negotiated. Employers benefit from reductions in violence in terms of increased productivity in the workplace.

Scope	Objective
Within this Strategy, workplace refers to the Moreland City Council organisation.	To model, promote and facilitate equal, respectful and non-violent gender relations across the Moreland City Council organisation.

5.5.3. Sport and recreation

Sport and recreation play a clear role in building stronger communities. Participation in sports can foster positive social connections and build life skills. Experience suggests that primary prevention approaches can be effectively targeted through this setting, especially to men and boys (noting there can be features associated with some sporting environments that increase the risk of the perpetration of violence by male participants).

Scope	Objective
This setting refers to sport and recreation facilities and clubs in Moreland.	To create sport and recreation environments in Moreland that value gender equity and respectful relationships between men and women, and improve community connections.

5.5.4. Education and young people

School contexts have a significant influence when young people are at an age when they are starting to develop and understand intimate relationships. Intervention early in life can break the cycle of violence. Most supporting evidence points to the successful implementation of school-based anti-violence and respectful relationships programs for reaching young people.

Scope	Objective
This setting includes primary and secondary schools, youth services and tertiary education.	To provide education programs and accessible information to young people in Moreland which challenge violence-supportive attitudes, violent behaviour and promote respectful gender relations.

5.5.5. Media and arts

Media and the arts are important avenues for raising awareness of family violence, its consequences and factors responsible for its perpetration. The media and popular culture play an important role in transmitting social norms and beliefs.

Scope	Objective
This setting includes journalism and media, advertising, community and mainstream arts and cultures and internet technologies.	To promote positive social attitudes, challenge entrenched negative values and disseminate information about gender equity, respect and family violence prevention.

6. Context



Sydney Road Street Party

One in three women
will experience physical
violence in their lives,
and one in five will
experience sexual violence.

Moreland was the one of the first local governments in Victoria to develop a family violence prevention strategy in 2006, *Addressing Family Violence in Moreland Strategy 2006-2009*. In 2009, Council extended the Strategy to allow for a review and evaluation in 2010.

This section provides a review of guiding legislation, policy and research; statistics on the prevalence of family violence in Moreland and Australia; and identifies key determinants of family violence and priority populations.

6.1. Legislative context

Internationally, Australia is bound by the United Nations (UN) *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which states all people have the right to equality, liberty, dignity, security of person and freedom from cruel and degrading treatment.

Australia is also party to the UN *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW). CEDAW provides the basis for realising equality between women and men through ensuring women's equal access to, and equal opportunities in, political and public life, education, health and employment.

The UN *Declaration of Elimination of Violence against Women 1993* recognises that violence against women constitutes a violation of human rights and is an obstacle to the achievement of equality, development and peace.

Violence against women is recognised as a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women. Therefore, its eradication requires an analysis of not only violent acts but of the social conditions, institutions and norms which perpetuate them.

The *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities* is an important overarching piece of legislation which outlines our rights, freedoms and responsibilities. The Charter assigns local government with the duty to ensure that work towards reducing family violence is consistent with the Charter.

In Victoria, family violence is regulated by the *Family Violence Protection Act 2008*. The Victorian Government introduced the Act after a review of family violence laws in 2006, which significantly increased the legislative jurisdiction of the State Government. The Act aims to better protect the community from family violence and make those responsible more accountable for their actions, by providing a system of family violence intervention orders and safety notices and creating offences for contraventions of these systems.

The *Magistrates Court (Family Violence) Act 2004* created the specialist family violence courts within the Magistrates Courts in Victoria.

6.2. Federal and State policy context

The Federal Government does not have jurisdictional responsibility in the area of family violence; however it does fund national education and awareness programs. Their major policy document is the recently released *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022*.

In Victoria *Right to Respect* is a comprehensive 10 year plan to promote respectful, gender-equitable relationships. Launched in 2009, this is the premier policy of the State Government for the elimination of violence against women. It is a systematic, cross-sectoral policy to build skills, attitudes and cultural values that reject violence. The policy is built on evidence provided by VicHealth in their framework *Preventing violence before it occurs* (2006), which was commissioned as part of the policy-making process.

The vision of the policy is that:

Victorian communities, cultures and organisations are non-violent and gender equitable. Relationships are respectful and non-discriminatory.

Other State Government policies that direct family violence preventative actions include:

- *Rights. Respect. Trust. Victorian Government Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy 2009;*

- *Strong Culture, Strong Peoples, Strong Families: Towards a safer future for Indigenous families and communities 2008;* and
- *Women's health – everyone's business: Victorian Women's Health and Wellbeing Strategy Stage Two 2006–2010.*

6.3. Council policy context

Prevention of family violence in Moreland sits within a well developed policy context that reflects a social model of health, encompassing the *Council Plan, Health and Wellbeing Plan, Active Women and Girls in Moreland Strategy* and other policies.

As identified in the *Council Plan 2009–2013*, Moreland is committed to good governance and achieving a more socially and environmentally just and sustainable city through partnering with the community.

The *Moreland Health and Wellbeing Plan 2010–2014* is Council's Municipal Public Health Plan. It takes a holistic approach to improving health, safety and wellbeing of the people who live, work and visit Moreland. Objective three of the plan addresses issues of safety and includes a strategy to "Prevent family violence and reduce its impact on families". Actions include reviewing the Family Violence Strategy; conducting awareness campaigns on the impact of family violence on health and wellbeing, including the impact on children; and supporting service providers to identify family violence and how to refer to services.

The *Active Women and Girls in Moreland Strategy 2009* addresses gender equity within the specific setting of sport and recreation. Actions from the Strategy include reviewing the aquatic clothing policy to increase participation; a facility audit tool that assesses sports facilities for their accessibility and inclusiveness towards women; women only swimming sessions and dance classes; outreach activities to engage non-traditional participants; a communications plan and improving the information available to women on how to get active in the municipality. In addition, the *Allocation of Sporting Grounds and Pavilions Policy 2009* states that sporting clubs that do not provide sporting opportunities for women and young people will not be given priority for Council-owned sports grounds.

Other Council policies impacting on family violence prevention include the *Moreland Early Years Strategy 2011-2015 (Draft)* which examines the impact of family violence on families and children and recommends an integrated

approach to service delivery in this area; *Multicultural Policy and Action Plan 2006-2010*; *oxYgen Project: Investing in our young people 2010*, *Reconciliation Policy and Action Plan 2008-2012* and *Access and Inclusion Policy 2010-2014*.

6.4. Profile of family violence in Moreland

There are two main sources for gathering statistics about the prevalence of family violence – those reported or recorded incidents (police, hospitals and courts) and population surveys. Population surveys only provide data at a national level.

It is widely acknowledged that data from the first source largely underestimate the prevalence of family violence, which is important to remember when considering the statistics below.

Also, statistics to date only measure physical and sexual violence, which is easier to capture and measure than emotional abuse, financial abuse and other controlling behaviours that encompass family violence.

Table 1: Victoria Police Family Incidents 2009/2010 – Moreland and Victoria

	Moreland	Victoria
No. of family incidents *	858	35,720
Where charges laid *	210 (24.5 %)	9,082 (25.4 %)
Where Intervention Order applied for *	107 (12.5 %)	5,849 (16.4 %)
No. of family incidents per 100,000 population *	575.4	649.9
Magistrates Courts data ^	729 (2007/08)	36,114 (2007/08)
Hospitals - Human Intent Patients (Family Violence) ^	40 (2004-2008)	2,568 (2004-2008)

Sources: * Victoria Police Family Incidents 2009/2010 and ^ Victorian Family Violence Database, *Measuring Family Violence in Victoria: Nine Year Trend Analysis, 2008*

According to the *Victorian Family Violence Database 2008*, 79 per cent of victims in Moreland in 2007/2008 were female, and 83 per cent of perpetrators were male. The most common age group for victims was 25-34 years (30 per cent).

6.5. Family violence in Australia – key issues and prevalence

Research reviewed for the development of an Issues Paper on family violence in Moreland included an extensive range of VicHealth research, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) population surveys on the personal safety of men and women (ABS 1996 and 2005), as well as national economic studies and international reports.

The ABS (ABS 1996, 2005) identified that from the age of 15:

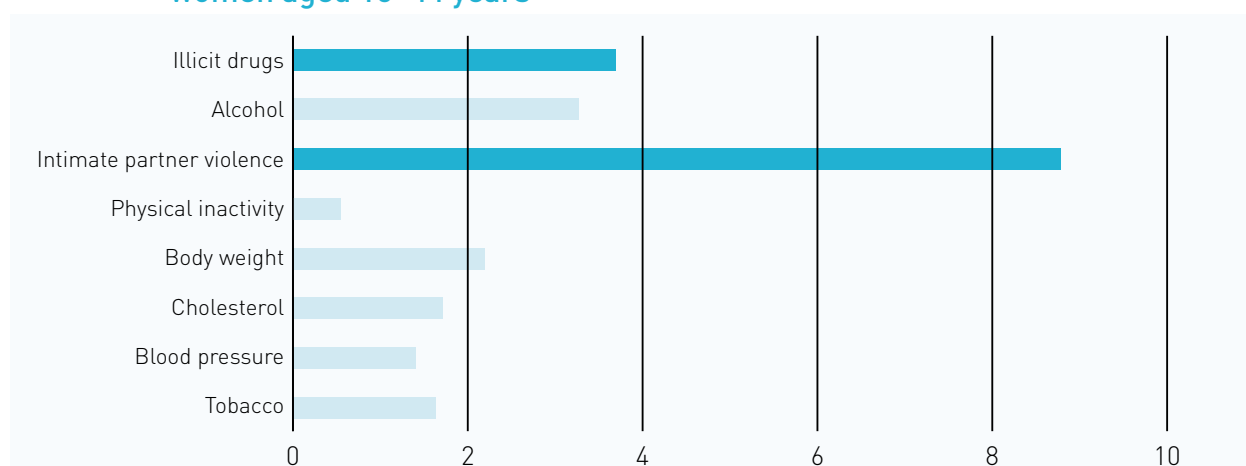
- One in three women has experienced physical violence and one in five has experienced sexual violence.
- Women and men experience violence differently.

Men are more likely to be physically assaulted by a male stranger, whereas women are more often assaulted by a current and/or previous partner.

- People are three times as likely to experience violence perpetrated by a man.
- Only 19 per cent of women who experience physical violence report the incident to the police.
- Women are more at risk of intimate partner violence when they are pregnant or in the period following the birth of a child.
- Family violence affects the children who live in the household. 61 per cent of women who experience violence by a current partner have children at the time.

A VicHealth study from 2004 found that intimate partner violence is the leading contributor of death, disability and illness in Victorian women aged 15-44, at 9 per cent of the disease burden. This is significantly higher than the better known factors of alcohol and illicit drug use, obesity and tobacco.

Figure 1: Top eight risk factors contributing to the disease burden in Victorian women aged 15-44 years



Source: VicHealth, *The health cost of violence, 2004*

6.6. Effects of family violence

Broadly, family violence can have the following effects:

- **Death** – including murder, suicide and femicide. Intimate partner homicides account for one fifth of all homicides in Australia.
- **Injury and ill health** – including bruising, lacerations and fractures. Violence can also lead to harmful tobacco, alcohol and other drug use, problem gambling, chronic pain disorders and sleep problems.
- **Mental health problems** – including depression, anxiety, loneliness, isolation, eating disorders, attempted suicide and self-harming behaviours.
- **Reproductive health problems** – including miscarriage, bleeding, infection, prematurity, haemorrhage and sexually transmitted diseases.
- **Homelessness** – around one in five women seeking supported accommodation is fleeing violence in the home.
- **Economic impacts on society** – violence against women and their children cost the Australian economy approximately \$13.6 billion in 2009/2010.

6.7. Key determinants and contributing factors to family violence

Key determinants of family violence can be identified at individual, community and societal levels. As the vast majority of family violence is violence against women, the determinants of prevention of violence against women and family violence cannot be fully separated. Key social and economic determinants of violence include unequal relationships between men and women, presence of violent supportive norms, prior exposure to violence and poor access to resources and systems of support.

Alcohol, drugs, problem gambling and poor mental health are not the determinants of family violence, but may be factors that contribute to it.

Intimate partner violence is the leading contributor of death, disability and illness in Victorian women aged 15-44.

At a **societal** level, determinants can include:

- institutional and cultural support for, or weak sanctions against, gender inequity;
- economic dependency of women and inequitable pay;
- ethos condoning violence as a means of settling disputes;
- violence-supportive norms and colonisation;
- support for the privacy of the family; and
- rigid gender roles.

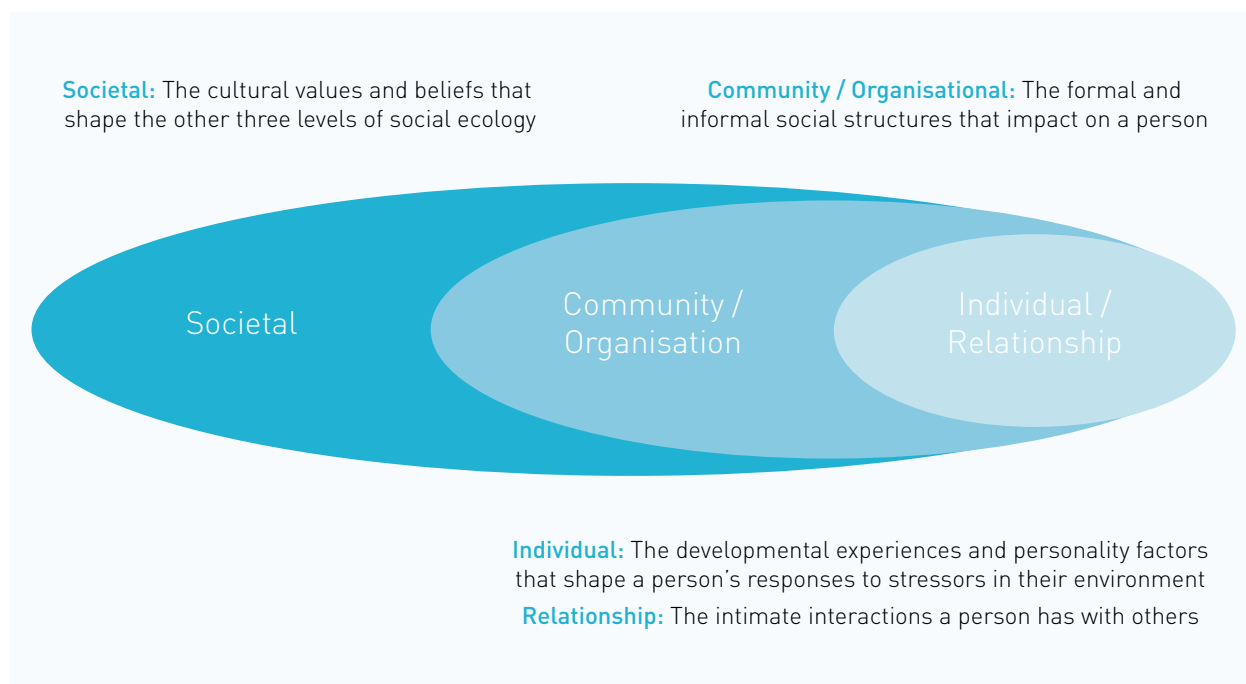
At a **community and organisational** level determinants can include:

- masculine peer and organisational cultures;
- organisational cultures that are violence-supportive or have weak sanctions against violence; and
- culturally-specific norms regarding gender and sexuality.

At an **individual** level determinants can include:

- a belief of rigid gender roles;
- masculine oriented sense of entitlement;
- male dominance;
- use of violence as an accepted means of settling disputes; and
- male control of financial matters and wealth in relationships.

Figure 2: An ecological approach to understanding violence



Source: VicHealth, *Preventing Violence Before it Occurs*, 2007

6.8. Priority populations

Family violence occurs regardless of socio-economic status, cultural or linguistic background, age, sexuality, religious belief or ability.

Research shows that pregnant women, Indigenous women and women with disabilities experience violence at a higher rate than other Australian women, and there are also a number of populations identified as vulnerable to family violence. VicHealth's framework for preventing violence against women (2007) identifies the following priority populations:

- **Women**

The vast majority of family violence is experienced by women and unequal gender relations between men and women is a key determinant of family violence. To be successful all actions undertaken by Council must address women.

- **Children**

Witnessing or experiencing violence significantly increases harm to a child's physical, emotional and social development. Infants and small children who are exposed to violence experience emotional stress that impairs cognitive and sensory growth (UNICEF 2006). The *Family Violence Protection Act 2008* recognises that exposing children to violence is a form of family violence itself. There is also a strong correlation between family violence and child abuse

- 40 per cent of child abuse victims reported domestic violence in their home (WHO 2002).

- **Young people**

One in four young people in Australia have witnessed violence against their mother or step-mother (National Crime Prevention 2001b). People who witness violence as a child are more likely to experience violence in their adult life, either as a perpetrator or victim (WHO 2002; VicHealth 2007). In addition, young people are at an age when they are starting to develop and understand intimate relationships. Intervention early in life can break the cycle of violence. Primary prevention in this area has had a high success rate.

- **Women with a disability**

Women with cognitive or physical disabilities experience violence at a significantly higher rate than other women and have greater difficulty in accessing support services. They often have less information as to what constitutes violence, experience high levels of social isolation and dependence on perpetrators, are often not believed when reporting, and may have lower self-esteem that results in 'tolerating' violence (VWDNAIS 2007).

- **Indigenous communities**

Victorian-based studies have identified that Indigenous women experience rates of family violence between 5 and 45 times higher than non-Indigenous women.

This higher prevalence of violence is not part of Indigenous culture, but is understood to be the result of social and economic marginalisation, historical impacts of colonisation and disruption to Indigenous culture and identity (VicHealth 2007). The identification of family and family culture in Indigenous communities is broader and more complex than in non-Indigenous families. The *Family Violence Act* (2008) was amended to include these differences and to be covered by law.

- **CALD communities**

There is conflicting evidence as to whether CALD communities have a higher experience of family violence, however these communities do face greater obstacles in breaking the cycle of violence (InTouch 2010). Some members of CALD communities, especially newly-arrived immigrants from non-English speaking backgrounds, have a higher risk of social isolation, uncertainty with legal rights and residency status, unemployment and dependence on family and are exposed to the stresses of recent migration (InTouch 2010). People within this group may be more dependent on their perpetrator and may have difficulty leaving violent relationships due to cultural pressures.

- **Socio-economic disadvantage**

There is a weak link between family violence and socio-economic disadvantage – including low income, low educational attainment

and unemployment. Whilst not a key contributing factor, socio-economic disadvantage makes victims more vulnerable to violence once it has occurred. They may have barriers to accessing services, may be more dependent on their perpetrator or feel it is more difficult to leave or that they are unable to seek help as a result of their situation.

- **Pregnancy**

Statistics show that women are more likely to experience violence when they are pregnant or have recently given birth. This is a critical, transitional life phase where gender roles and equality become increasingly relevant. The ABS found that 36 per cent of women who experienced partner violence were pregnant at the time, and for 17 per cent, violence began during their pregnancy (ABS 1996). WHO found that 42 per cent of women who reported they had experienced violence at some time in their lives were pregnant at the time of the violence (WHO 2000).

- **Age**

Age influences when the experience of violence is more prevalent. Whilst younger men (18-24 years) are more likely to experience violence than women, after 25, women are more likely to experience violence than men (ABS 2005). Younger women are more at risk of experiencing violence than older women (ABS 1996). However, older women are two or three times more likely to experience elder abuse and financial abuse than older men (*Rights. Respect. Trust. 2009*).

7. Evaluation Framework



Clothesline Event in Victoria Mall, Coburg

The effectiveness of this Strategy will be measured by the following performance measures. Family violence is part of the overall measure within these indicators, not the sole contributor. All of these measures must be taken as a whole, not individually for evaluation. They will then be combined with an analysis of Action Plan outcomes and interviews with stakeholders to produce an evaluation report after June 2015.

Table 2: Evaluation Framework

Performance measure	Indicator	Current (2010)
GOAL: Prevalence and impact		
Family violence is prevented and its impact within the community is reduced.	Reported family violence rates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victoria Police Family Incidents monitored* Magistrates Courts data Hospitals - Family Violence Patients Moreland Maternal and Child Health data on family violence 	858 (575.4 per 100,000 pop.) 729 (2007/08) 40 (2004-2008) July 2009 – June 2010: 20 Domestic violence referrals 24 Domestic violence counselling sessions
	Moreland Community Indicator ¹ : You can cope with the amount of stress in your family and home life.	86%
SETTING 1: Local government, health and community services		
Respect and equity messages promoted in Moreland result in more people feeling valued.	Moreland Community Indicator: You feel valued by your community	79%
SETTING 2: Workplace		
Workplace attitudes towards family violence have improved	Conduct staff survey June 2011 and June 2015.	-
More women in more senior positions at Moreland CC.	State of the workplace report: Employment by gender.	62% female employees; More band 6 and 7, less band 8 and SO/SEO
SETTING 3: Sport and recreation		
Sport and recreation facilities are inclusive of women.	Moreland Community Indicator: You can access a variety of recreation facilities and leisure activities in the local community (women)	87% (overall) 79% (women)
Women's participation in organised sports and recreation increases by 3% per year.	Sports club annual census beginning 2011.	Female club memberships: approx 20% and sports field users: 8% (Active Women and Girls in Moreland Strategy).
SETTING 4: Education		
Awareness of violence is increased amongst Moreland's young people.	Merri CHS Youth Health Survey monitors young people's concerns and perceptions of violence and safety.	-
SETTING 5: Media and Arts		
Community awareness of family violence increases	Evaluation forms and reports are part of all community, arts and media awareness events and campaigns, including Clothesline, White Ribbon Leaders Lunch and arts projects.	-

¹ Moreland City Council Community Indicators Survey, <http://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/about-moreland/demographics/research-reports.html>
* family violence statistics (reported) may increase as a result of community awareness programs

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Moreland City Council

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Language Link

有關摩爾德市政廳 電話號碼的詳情	9280 1910	Za informacije o Općinskom vijeću Općine Moreland nazovite	9280 1917
Per informazioni sul Comune di Moreland telefonare a:	9280 1911	मोरलैंड सिटी कौंसिल के बारे में जानकारी प्राप्त करने के लिए फोन करें :	9280 1918
Για πληροφορίες σχετικά με το Δήμο Moreland τηλεφωνήστε στο	9280 1912		
للحصول على معلومات عن بلدية مورلاند اتصلوا على الرقم	9280 1913		
Moreland Belediyesi hakkında bilgi almak için aranabilecek telefon	9280 1914	All other languages including 廣東話, فارسی, Kurdi, Malti, Македонски, Српски, Somali, Tetum	9280 1919
Nếu muốn biết thêm chi tiết về Hội Đồng Thành Phố Moreland, xin quý vị gọi số	9280 1915		
Para mayor información sobre la Municipalidad de Moreland llame al	9280 1916		

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