

LEADERSHIP, EVALUATION AND SUSTAINABILITY (LEAS) NETWORK UPDATE

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Name of person submitting update: Adele Barron

Department: Health Promotion

Position Title: Health Promotion Officer

Phone: 03 9217 2249 Email: adele.barron@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

1. Title: Council / Organisation name

Whittlesea Council

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

- The Whittlesea Domestic Violence Network are involved in the preparation and planning for a regional Clothesline project to be held in *Week Without Violence*.
- Council are involved in planning and resourcing the evaluation of the Help Card project
- Council are currently in the process of developing an internal Family Violence Policy and clauses to be included in the EBA negotiations.
- Whittlesea continue to support and resource the *Whittlesea Community Futures Partnership* and the development of the Family Violence Forum. Whittlesea Community Futures working groups have noted broad community concern in relation to this issue and the Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Communities and the Early Years Partnerships clusters have both identified family violence as a key priority areas within their action plans.
- The Councils Multicultural Resource Officers are actively involved with the *Northern Interfaith Respectful Relationships Project* (funded by Vic Health).
- Advocacy Fact Sheets; Council are in the process of expanding their advocacy fact sheets to include a series that focus on Violence against Women and Children
- Councils Health Promotion Officer has been involved in the development and review of the Strategy for the Prevention of Violence against Women in the Northern Region, being developed by Women's Health in the North (WHIN).

3. Next Steps / Plans for 2011?

- Support and resource Councils White Ribbon Action team
- Continue to advocate for an internal Family Violence Policy
- Collaborate with other Northern Region Councils on a White Ribbon Day activity, building on previous successful projects such as the Northern Region White Ribbon Day Leaders Lunch.