

LEADERSHIP, EVALUATION AND SUSTAINABILITY (LEAS) NETWORK UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2011

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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.

4. PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU ARE HAPPY FOR THIS TO BE UPLOADED TO www.lgpvaw.net.au

YES