

“We will not tolerate domestic violence in any shape or form”

The Primary Prevention of Domestic Violence in South Australia

Speed-Geeking Workshop Report - Adelaide – June 2017

<p>1/week</p>  <p>18+</p>  	<p>Over 12 months, on average, one woman is killed every week by a current or former partner.</p> <p><small>Chan, A. and Payne, J. (2013). Homicide in Australia: 2008-09 to 2009-10, <i>National Homicide Monitoring Program annual report</i>. Canberra, Australia: Australian Institute of Criminology. Retrieved from: http://bit.ly/1qVoTZF © White Ribbon Australia 2014</small></p> <p>One in five women over 18 have been stalked during their lifetime.</p> <p><small>Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2013). <i>Personal Safety, Australia, 2012</i>, cat. no. 4906.0. Retrieved from: http://bit.ly/1kK5e0l © White Ribbon Australia 2014</small></p> <p>One in five women experience harassment within the workplace.</p> <p><small>Australian Human Rights Commission (2008). <i>Sexual Harassment Guide</i>. Retrieved from: http://bit.ly/1upBypH © White Ribbon Australia 2014</small></p> <p>Domestic and family violence is the principal cause of homelessness for women and their children.</p> <p><small>Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2013). <i>Specialist homelessness services 2012-13</i>, cat no. HOU 273. Retrieved from: http://bit.ly/1ofyA7s © White Ribbon Australia 2014</small></p>
<p>35x</p>	<p>Indigenous women and girls are 35 times more likely than the wider female population to be hospitalised due to family violence.</p> <p><small>Council of Australian Governments. (2010). <i>National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children 2010 – 2022</i>. Retrieved from: http://bit.ly/1mowHQu © White Ribbon Australia 2014</small></p>
	<p>In Australia, one in four children are exposed to domestic violence.</p> <p><small>Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse. (2011). <i>The Impact of Domestic Violence on Children: A Literature Review</i>. Retrieved from: http://bit.ly/1oyn2E p.3-4 © White Ribbon Australia 2014</small></p>



Introduction

The prevalence of domestic and family violence in Australia is alarming. A woman dies every week at the hands of her current or former intimate partner and domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women and children. A lack of affordability in the private rental market prevents people living on low incomes from establishing or re-establishing a household after fleeing a domestic violence situation, especially when there is only one adult income earner living on a low income. Domestic violence negatively impacts individuals, families and communities and is perpetuated by gender inequality. A review of the policy, legislative and service delivery environment provides evidence that in South Australia, the great majority of services provided in the domestic violence sector are a crisis management approach, occurring after an act of physical violence. Service providers do not have the resources available to work with the lower risk families and couples to prevent domestic violence and perpetrator programs are not adequately funded to meet the level of need in the community. This report contains the key messages for Governments and communities about the primary prevention of domestic violence emanating from a Shelter SA workshop focussed on services that work with victims and perpetrators. The workshop content and a participant evaluation follow the key messages.

Key Messages

Workshop participants agreed that we must tip the scales in South Australia, to create a policy and service delivery environment with more focus on the primary prevention of domestic violence. The key messages overwhelmingly agreed upon by participants are as follows:

1. There needs to be a strong, clear and consistent message by governments, communities and individuals that “we will not tolerate domestic or family violence in any shape or form”.
2. We need more men working in the domestic violence space – that is as educators, role models, workers and advocates – a State-wide workforce development strategy is needed.
3. The National Plan for Domestic Violence must be implemented consistently in every school.
4. Education about gender equality, communication, conflict resolution and domestic violence, at an early age, is vital to change community attitudes and to prevent the first incidence of physical violence.
5. Programs for men must adequately serve all domestic violence perpetrators.
6. Adequate social housing must be provided for people escaping domestic violence.
7. Specific services are needed for people who are LGBTQIA*.
8. More culturally appropriate services are needed for Aboriginal people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.
9. We must develop a Collective Impact approach to enable collaboration across government, the workforce, educational institutions and the community to achieve social change and improve awareness about domestic violence.
10. All sports codes and clubs must commit to creating gender equality and community education about the prevention of all forms of violence, especially DV.

Definitions

White Ribbon is an Australian social movement that engages men in the primary prevention of violence against women. Primary prevention is defined as activity prior to the first occasion of physical violence. White Ribbon recognises that “violence is a learned, gendered and institutionally supported behaviour, and targets the sources of violence rather than accepting the world as it is”. This report uses the White Ribbon¹ definition of men’s violence against women found in the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women as follows:

Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.

The impact of violence on women can be physical, sexual and psychological. Violence against women can also result in death; women die from the negative health effects of violence and some are killed.

Violence against women affects women’s well-being and prevents them from fully participating in society. It also impacts on families, the community and the nation.

For the purposes of this report, the causes of domestic violence are understood as follows, also from White Ribbon:

Men’s violence is the result of gender norms and inequality. Sometimes men feel pressure to be dominant and in control. Some people believe men must be strong and powerful. These characteristics are called gender norms.

Men often have more power and a higher status than women. We see this in private and public life, in the home, workplace and community. This imbalance is known as gender inequality. Violence against women is more easily accepted in societies where men and women are not equal.

*LGBTQIA = Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual

¹ <https://www.whiteribbon.org.au/>



University of Adelaide intern student, Sorcha Walshe presenting her DV Research Project Report

The Workshop

The workshop provided an opportunity for government and non-government service providers to share information about the domestic violence strategies, initiatives and programs that they are delivering to the community that are unique and focus on primary and secondary prevention. The workshop quickly introduced a variety of concepts, building collaboration and developing connections amongst participants and presenters by sharing ideas and talking.

Stationed at a table along with a scribe, each presenter shared their work with approximately ten participants by providing a ten minute overview of their prevention topic. Five minutes for questions and small group discussion followed. After fifteen minutes, each presenter moved to another table and the process began again. In total, presenters shared information about their topic with four different groups.

The Presenters & Services



Ross Wait, PAFC

Craig Rigney, KWY

Claire Tatyzo, YWCA

Matt Morris, UC

Jake Battifuoco, PAFC

**“There are many excuses, [like] boys will be boys” - Claire Tatyzo,
Communications & Policy Manager, YWCA Adelaide**

Claire presented on YWCA primary prevention programs provided to schools and workplaces. She also spoke about the Rise Above the Pack community safety campaign aimed at shifting the conversation from victim blaming to perpetrator behaviour and encouraging positive community responses to women’s safety, attitudes and behaviours based on gender equality.

Claire explained that YWCA is a women’s leadership organisation rather than a crisis service. It provides leadership programs and advocacy to draw attention towards gender inequality, sexual attitudes and discrimination to change behaviours and influence accepted attitudes. YWCA works towards the prevention of gendered violence through its education programs delivered in schools, promotional material and high profile campaigns provided to organisations and communities.

Rise Above the Pack is designed to prevent violence before it occurs by supporting people to challenge attitudes based on gender inequality, to build knowledge and skills to develop relationships that are non-violent and respectful. The campaign involving high profile male role models encourages people to think about the consequences of their own behaviour and to acknowledge that they are responsible for their actions. The campaign is also designed to empower individuals to act when they witness unjust situations and to advocate for violence prevention in their community and within their peer groups.

**“We need a strong community message – we will not accept family violence
in any way, shape or form” - Craig Rigney, CEO, Kornar Winmil Yunti (KWY)**

Craig presented on the holistic programs and services offered by KWY in response to supporting families and communities. KWY provides culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal men and women plus cultural training and development programs for organisations. He explained how KWY provides opportunities for men to engage within a culturally safe space to discuss many of the social issues that may impact their families and communities.

KWY currently provides perpetrator change/treatment programs through statutory authority/mandated orders and it is compulsory for offenders to attend. The aim of these programs is to break the cycle of violence and empower families. Often program attendees encourage peers, family members and friends to attend so awareness of the programs is increased. KWY liaises and works with various organisations including the Department of Child Protection, Housing SA, non-government organisations and the specialist homelessness sector. KWY works hard to break cycles and empower families through their outreach program – workers visit DV victims and perpetrators in their own homes or places where they feel safe and comfortable. They are able to encourage and engage them to attend program sessions because they feel comfortable, there is no shame and the experience occurs in a non-threatening environment. Craig said that no other organisation in South Australia is offering a holistic family response to domestic violence specifically for Aboriginal people.

“We have no capacity to work with low risk people, we have to wait until someone is almost dead before we talk to them” - Gilian Cordell, Manager, Domestic Violence Crisis Line

Gilian explored how prevention is about talking about early intervention in dysfunctional relationships, patterns of behaviour and the power structures evident in relationships. She also spoke about the importance of workers honing their skills to identify anomalies or cognitive dissonance when talking with clients, enabling reframing and addressing communication blocks.

Gilian talked about some existing initiatives including a serial offender database which assists to assess women’s DV risk levels and respond appropriately. The Multi-Agency Protection Service (MAPS) brings together staff from SA Police, the Department for Education and Child Development, SA Health, Housing SA and the Department for Correctional Services to ensure a co-ordinated response to high risk cases of domestic violence. However, there is still generally a siloed approach with minimal shared communication and resources between services. Services and the community need to work together to address gaps, increase knowledge and build connections. Gilian said that there is a need for more services for men who experience DV for example dedicated men’s crisis line and accommodation services.

“We men ALL have a role to play in modelling good behaviour and develop and deliver prevention education” - Ross Wait, General Manager and Jake Battifuoco, Youth Programs Manager, Power Community Ltd (PCL), Port Adelaide Football Club

Jake and Ross presented on how PCL delivers community related programs and solutions for individuals, groups and organisations designed to provide positive outcomes in health, wellbeing, education, careers, relationships, finance and culture. Ross and Jake also presented on The Power to End Violence Against Women Program, which aims to address the prevalence of DV within our community by visiting schools and talking to students about aggression on and off the field, consent and respectful relationships. Jake and Ross are visiting schools and delivering DV programs specifically aimed at addressing the primary prevention of domestic violence, and changing attitudes and behaviours. Their partnership with Centacare Catholic Family Services and the Government of South Australia has delivered education to over 1500 SA schools to date. Year 10 boys are invited to participate in this program, designed to give young men an opportunity to discuss the issue of violence against women and learn about building respectful relationships and preventing violent behaviours. Unfortunately, no other football club and no other sports code are following this example and that is one thing Jake and Ross would like to see.

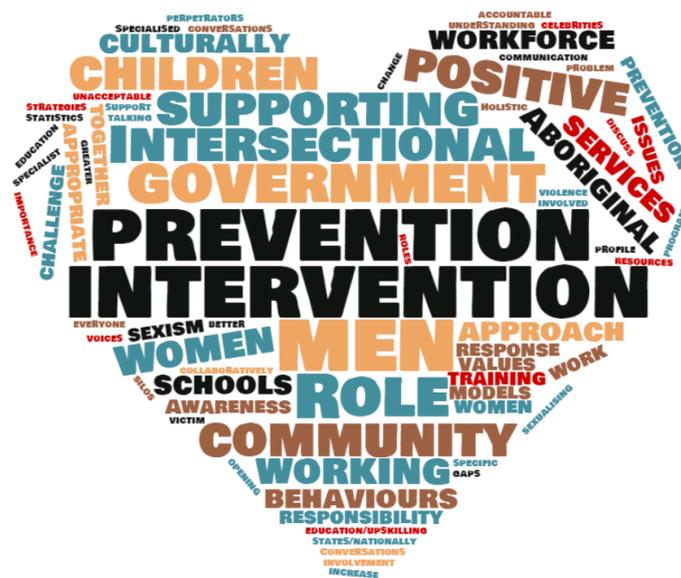
“Sadly in South Australia there is no approach to LGBTQIA and domestic violence” - Matthew Morris, Community Worker/Assessment & Liaison Support Worker, Uniting Communities

Matthew highlighted the prevalence of DV within the LGBTQIA community and the importance of education and community awareness as tools to change attitudes and raise awareness within the

LGBTQIA community. Through his work, Matt has recognised gaps in service provision for this cohort with DV standing out as an area where particular attention is required.

Matthew said that currently in South Australia, there are no DV prevention strategies in place to assist the LGBTQIA community adequately but that the Eastern States are making real progress in this area. For example, the Victorian government is providing funding for men’s behaviour change programs and the Victorian Aids Council offers LGBTQIA Family Violence Flexible Support Packages. There is a need to develop ways to work with service providers to offer preventative strategies. Currently DV services are set up to cater for specific genders but there are still barriers to the LGBTQIA community to access these services.

Matthew said that male and transgender DV victims are presenting at DV services and other service providers but the workers are not equipped with skills or resources to assist them. To refer this cohort appropriately, service providers need to establish what pathways are available. Awareness about what DV services and resources are available that specialise in assisting the LGBTQIA community is required to support the referral process.



Summary

Overall, participants felt that programs and services shared at the workshop were positive strategies and learned that primary prevention and early intervention in domestic violence is occurring in some services already. It was encouraging to hear that men are starting to take a leadership role in DV prevention through some of the programs and services shared at the workshop.

Despite the positive programs and strategies currently available, participants said that more education and support is critical, particularly in the form of funding by governments and that it is everyone’s responsibility to work on the DV issues to change behaviours and attitudes nationally, consistently throughout the State of South Australia and at the local and family level.

The Shelter SA team wishes to thank the speakers and participants. Please share this report and our [workshop video](#) with your colleagues and networks. Shelter SA intends to provide the State Government and community with the recommendations contained in this report to promote DV prevention awareness and advocate for change.

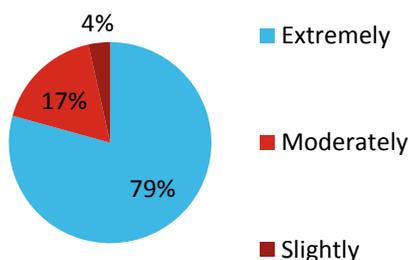
Evaluation

Evaluation results indicate that the DV Prevention Speed Geeking workshop was very successful and well received:

Participants attended from a varied group of organisations including; women’s services, youth services, Aboriginal services, church groups, DCSI, community centres, aged rights, universities, health and mental health services, prisoner and offenders services, other service providers such as Baptistcare SA, Relationships Australia SA, Mission Australia and Anglicare etc., as well as representatives from MPs offices and interested individuals.

- 97% of participants would recommend the DV workshop to others
- 79% found the workshop to be extremely valuable
- Most participants said they enjoyed hearing different perspectives and from a range of presenters
- Most participants said they enjoyed the Speed Geeking style and talking in small groups and
- A majority of participants indicated they enjoyed networking and sharing ideas

Value



Sector Development

