

"We believe that everyone has the right to be safe, to be treated equally and to have access to the same opportunities as everyone else"



WRISC News

Edition 7, June 2016

ABORIGINAL FAMILY VIOLENCE PROGRAM

WRISC strongly believes in the importance of understanding and respecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and our shared history as Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians since Europeans arrived in Australia.

Although the services provided in the Aboriginal Family Violence Program are similar to the Family Violence Outreach Program, they are delivered with cultural understanding and a holistic focus and in partnership with the Aboriginal community and Aboriginal run services.

The Aboriginal Family Violence Program at WRISC has at its heart a holistic approach which works with the whole family. The program is client centred, as well as home and community based. Building trust is an integral part of WRISC's approach, and can often mean that a much slower pace is required to allow this trust to build. As well as working with women and their children who are victims of family and domestic violence, the WRISC Aboriginal Program works with youth perpetrators up to the age of 18 years.

WRISC has recently welcomed two new workers, Tracy and Lyndel, who will be working with Team Leader, Angela, to provide Aboriginal clients with the support and services offered by this program, including:

- Establishment and implementation of a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)—click [here](#) to see our RAP
- Case management
- Court support
- Advocacy with services
- Attending and providing support at the Indigenous Family Camp
- Involvement in the Grampians Indigenous Family Violence Action Group
- Indigenous Girls Group, 10—16 years, "Yarning Circle"



Facts about Family Violence

- Violence in family and intimate relationships is mostly committed by men against women
- Violence and abuse is about power and control. The person using the violence is seeking to control their partner or family member's behaviour or choices. Using violence is always a choice made by the person using violence.
- Violence and abuse of any form is unacceptable and a breach of human rights.



WRISC FAMILY VIOLENCE SUPPORT GRANTED \$5000 TOWARDS CHILDREN'S PROGRAM BROKERAGE

Thank you to STREETSMART Action Against Homelessness for their support of children and their families experiencing family and domestic violence in the Central Highlands region of Victoria.

Research clearly shows that experiencing family violence has a significant impact on children's relationships, development, wellbeing and ability to learn. WRISC believes children should be able to be children – they should be able to say “I am free to be me”. These vital funds will assist us to make a long-term difference in the lives of many children and families.

In a family where one or more members uses physical or verbal violence and threats of violence in an ongoing way there is often a constant underlying sense of fear and tension and a need to be 'on guard' all the time. It is difficult to relax, remain calm and provide children with positive attention in such an environment.

The immediate impact can be observed in the way a child behaves at school and at home. Some will act out aggressively; some will withdraw into their own world, some will focus all their effort and attention on school work in order to block out what is going on at home. They feel unsafe at home and experience a sense of isolation, loneliness and hopelessness.

Once the child is safe, and no longer living in an atmosphere of fear, it is important for them and their family to know that there are other ways of relating within a family and there is hope for them and their family. It is important to break down the isolation and secrecy of family violence and build up a supportive community around the child and family.

Aims and Predicted Outcomes for grant money:

- By removing some of the “barriers” to accessing therapy sessions for a child (eg. lack of therapist availability, transport, distance from services etc.), children will be able to attend therapeutic appointments and begin the journey of freedom from family violence.
- Greater family connections through enabling quality “family time” and special outings - fostering, improving and repairing relationships within the home.
- More flexibility to assist children and families affected by violence in the home.



Artist: Liam, aged 6

“We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear.”

Nelson Mandela

Are you a WRISC member?

- ♦ Would you like to become more involved in the work of WRISC?
- ♦ Would you like to contribute to WRISC in a more meaningful way?
- ♦ Do you have skills and expertise which you would like to share with WRISC and support women and children in your community?

WRISC is inviting Ordinary Members to express interest in joining Board facilitated working groups. From time to time these working groups are seeking short term and/or ongoing membership. Examples of working groups include:

- BIG (Big Ideas Group)
- Finance and Risk Working Group
- Marketing and Communications Working Group
- Disability Action Plan Working Group
- Multicultural Working Group
- Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group

If you would like to express interest, please contact Sandra on 5333 3666 or email sandrag@wrisc.org.au

(For enquiries about becoming a WRISC member, please contact Sandra as above.)

Thank you to all our donors/ sponsors

Kind and generous donations from organisations, private philanthropists and various grants enable us to continue to service the increasing number of requests for help. We sincerely thank our loyal and generous supporters.



Can you help?

If you would like to make a contribution, our bank details are:

BSB: 063-507 Acct:: 10042491

Name: WRISC Family Violence Support

OR

Donate online via PayPal [here](#).

Donations of \$2 or more to WRISC Family Violence Support are tax deductible.



WRISC exists to change the lives of women and children affected by family violence. We promote safe homes, strong families and respectful relationships.

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