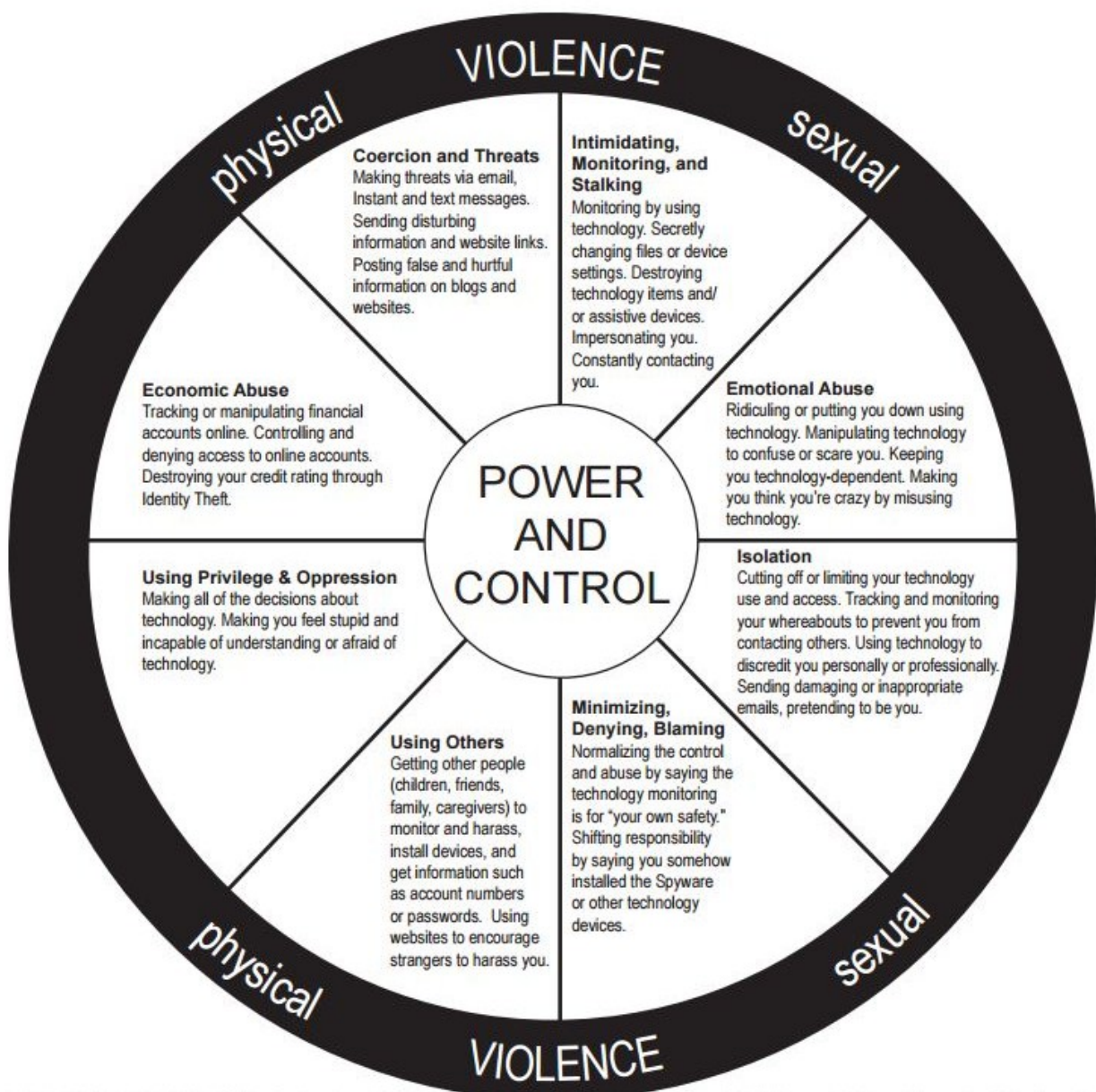


TECHNOLOGY AND ABUSE

The use of technology to perpetrate abuse in the context of stalking, domestic and sexual violence is a present and increasing problem. ***The Power and Control Wheel: On Technology & Abuse*** is based on Duluth's Domestic Abuse Intervention Project model, and WRISC would like to acknowledge the construction of this wheel by NNEDV (National Network to End Domestic Violence, Washington). Perpetrators may misuse any technology if it enables them to monitor, impersonate, control or harm their target. Examples can include phone interceptors; listening devices and bugs; caller ID and unblock; email, text and instant messages; computer and phone spyware and monitoring; location tracking devices; cameras and other recording devices; social networking and media sites and more. The wheel shows how technology can be used to perpetrate different forms of abuse and violence with the ultimate goal of exerting power and control.





TELSTRA SAFE CONNECTIONS

Helping women impacted by domestic violence
to stay safely connected

WRISC is proud to be a participating agency in the WESNET/Telstra Safe Connections Program. Telstra has provided 20,000 new smart phones to the program across Australia. The Commonwealth Government has also funded WESNET to deliver training about technology facilitated abuse to frontline agencies so they can support the women who need new phones. WRISC is already distributing phones to eligible clients, along with information about safety planning and tips.



WRISC is privileged to have the services of a dedicated group of volunteers who support us in our work with women and children experiencing family violence in the Ballarat/Central Highlands region. You may in fact have spoken to one of our volunteers working in Reception when you have contacted WRISC. Our volunteers perform a wide variety of tasks including Reception duties, administration and specific tasks within our Programs.

During National Volunteer Week, a special afternoon tea was held to officially thank the WRISC volunteers for their dedication and hard work. They are an integral part of our organisation and we are very grateful for the time, knowledge and skills they bring.

If you would like to enquire about becoming a WRISC volunteer, please see the relevant information on page 5 of this newsletter.



WRISC WELCOMES DONATIONS OF HAND-MADE QUILTS TO KEEP FAMILIES WARM DURING BALLARAT'S WINTER

WRISC has been the grateful recipient of 30 beautiful hand-made quilts made by the women of "Uniting Threads" at Ballarat Central Uniting Church. The quilts included designs for women and children. Libby, Anita and Alison from WRISC attended the Quilt Exhibition held by the group, and were honoured to receive 30 of the quilts as a donation. These quilts, apart from being works of art, will keep the WRISC clients who received them warm through the Ballarat winter. Clients have been very happy to receive such practical and beautiful items.



PERIOD POVERTY IS A THING




Buying pads and tampons to manage monthly periods can put even more strain on women and girls who are already under financial stress due to family violence. WRISC has a high demand for these products from clients who find it difficult to find the money to purchase what are essential items. We are able to do this through the generous donations of sanitary products by organisations and individuals such as "Share the Dignity" and Barbara from Lateral Plains. Currently, the cost of these items includes 10% GST as they are not regarded as "health products". This is basically a tax on being a woman. So far, little success has been achieved in trying to make sanitary products exempt from GST.

NILS Loans available at WRISC


WRISC is the contact agency for NILS (No Interest Loans Scheme) for women in the Central Highlands region who have experienced family violence. Please see the poster below for eligibility and contact details. *Please note: the upper limit for NILS Family Violence related loans has now been increased to \$2,000 (subject to assessment of client's financial capacity).*

THE
**NO
INTEREST
LOAN**




wrisc
Family Violence Support

**WANT MORE
information?**



205 Dana Street, Ballarat, VIC 3350
Ph: (03) 5333 3666
Fax: (03) 5332 7778
alisonc@wrisc.org.au
www.wrisc.org.au
PO Box 92, Ballarat, VIC 3353



NILS
No Interest Loan Scheme
Good Shepherd Microfinance

Information for women on
how to obtain a loan for essential
household goods and services.

WRISC Family Violence Support is now offering women who have experienced family violence access to NILS (No Interest Loan Scheme).

What is NILS? The No Interest Loans Scheme (NILSP) provides women on low incomes access to safe, fair and affordable loans for up to \$2,000.

Are you eligible? Any woman who has a health care or pension card, is living in the Central Highlands and has experienced domestic/family violence in the past twelve months may be eligible.

What are the loans for? Loans are generally available for the purchase of essential goods and services. These may include:

- Household items like fridges, washing machines, stoves, freezers and some furniture
- Some medical and dental services
- Educational essentials such as computers, course fees and text books
- Some other items as requested

Please ring Alison at WRISC on 5333 3666 for more information.

Have you thought about volunteering at WRISC?

- ♦ 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 currently recruiting enthusiastic and committed female* volunteers to fill the:

Reception/Administration role

- 1pm—5pm shifts available
- Knowledge of Microsoft Outlook essential
- Reception experience welcomed
- Working With Children Check (WWCC) required
- *WRISC is looking for volunteers who are able to commit on a medium to long term basis*

For further information please contact Sandra on 5333 3666 Monday—Thursday.

*Equal Opportunity Act (2010) Exemption A75/2013

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.

What do you think?

WRISC appreciates communication and feedback regarding the content of this newsletter. If you would like to make contact, please email the Communications Officer:

alisonc@wrisc.org.au



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

205 Dana St, Ballarat
www.wrisc.org.au

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Facebook: [@wriscfamilyviolencesupport](https://www.facebook.com/wriscfamilyviolencesupport)