

## Children who have experienced family violence in our own community supported in project led by Year 11 Ballarat Grammar student, Lachie

WRISC has been extremely fortunate to receive 60+ Friendship (Buddy) Bags as a result of the project led by Lachie, a Year 11 student at Ballarat Grammar School. Lachie organised for students at the school to collect items to put together to make the bags for distribution to children in their own community who have experienced family violence. Part of Lachie's project was also to raise awareness about family violence among the students and wider school community. Each bag contains "essential items" such as toothpaste, toothbrush, etc, as well as books, colouring in books/pencils, a blanket, pyjamas/clothing voucher, small toys and most importantly, a furry friend to cuddle. Children who participate in the Children's Program at Wrisc's Ballarat office as well as Van Go Moorabool in Bacchus Marsh will benefit.

***WRISC would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Lachie and the Ballarat Grammar School community for this most generous donation, and for raising awareness about family violence in our community.***



*Lachie with some of the Friendship Bags*



*Vehicle packed to the brim with bags ready to transport to WRISC from Ballarat Grammar*



*Smiling faces upon receiving a Friendship Bag*



*More smiles...*



*Close up of a furry friend*



*On behalf of WRISC, Alison says "thank you" to Lachie and the Ballarat Grammar School Community*



*Bags lined up ready for their new owners*

***Please note: For safety reasons, children in the above photos are "child actors" and are not clients of WRISC.***

# Van Go Moorabool Pilot Project is a finalist in the 2018 Victorian Early Years Awards

The Victorian Early Years Awards celebrate the exceptional contributions that individuals and organisations make to improving the learning and development of young children and their families. The awards are run by the Victorian State Government, Department of Education and Training.

WRISC is proud (and thrilled) to announce that the Van Go Moorabool Pilot Project has been nominated as a finalist in Category 4 of the awards: Promoting Children's Health and Well-being Award. This award is presented to an initiative, program or project that has demonstrated outstanding achievement promoting children's health and well-being.

The winners of the awards will be announced at a special event on the evening of Tuesday October 23 at the National Gallery of Victoria. Representatives from WRISC, Moorabool Shire, CAFS and Darley Primary School will be in attendance.

Congratulations to all who have been involved in the Van Go Moorabool Pilot Project, right back from when it was a hopeful vision, to its actual realisation today. We wish you the very best of luck.

*Right: A small child plays with a toy version of the Van Go mobile therapy van in front of the real thing. This photo was taken during filming in preparation for the Victorian Early Years Awards night on October 23. Please note that for safety reasons, this photo is modelled by a "child actor", and the child is not a client of WRISC.*



## WRISC signs MOU with City of Ballarat, Parent Place



*Above: Libby, EO WRISC and Sharelle, Executive Manager Family & Children's Services City of Ballarat, with the signed MOU*

Parent Place is the City of Ballarat's popular, free drop-in centre for change and feeding facilities in a toy-filled, friendly environment. The friendly team can provide parents and carers with general support and information about a range of City of Ballarat Family and Children's Services including Childcare, Kindergarten, Playgroups, Family Day Care, Immunisation and Maternal and Child Health Nurses.

Parent Place provides a safe, welcoming and child friendly space with change and feed facilities and is run by City of Ballarat Family and Children's Services staff and supported by an energetic and passionate team of volunteers.

WRISC and City of Ballarat have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide a Family Violence Outreach Worker to regularly visit Parent Place. WRISC will also provide training about family violence to workers and volunteers at Parent Place.



# 2018 COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT

Presented to

**WRISC FAMILY VIOLENCE SUPPORT INC**

for

**CREATIVE THERAPIES - GROUPS FOR CHILDREN**



Made possible through the generosity of Workplace  
Giving participants and Sub Funds of  
the Ballarat Foundation



## WRISC receives 2018 Community Impact Grant

WRISC is the grateful recipient of a 2018 Community Impact Grant from the Ballarat Foundation. These grants are made possible through the generosity of Workplace Giving participants and Sub Funds of the Ballarat Foundation.

The funds will be used to purchase art supplies for children's Creative Therapy groups run at WRISC.

Staff at WRISC also participate in the Ballarat Foundation Workplace Giving Program.

## WRISC attends event hosted by Hepburn Family Violence Action Group

In August WRISC EO, Libby, attended an event held in Daylesford hosted by Hepburn Family Violence Action Group. The group is focussed on innovation and collaboration in family violence prevention and response in the Hepburn Shire with the aim of preventing family violence from occurring within a generation.

To quote Mary-Anne Thomas, MP, Member for Macedon: "Lots of talk today about the terrible consequences of family violence. Did you know that Victoria Police respond to a family violence call-out every seven minutes? That's why the work of the Hepburn Family Violence Action Group is so important in responding to Victoria's leading community safety issue. Established with the encouragement of the late Fiona Richardson MP, the Action Group is focussed on innovation and collaboration in family violence prevention and response in the Hepburn Shire.

With the Andrews Government's record funding and commitment to implement every one of the Royal Commission's recommendations, I'm confident we can end family violence within a generation."

WRISC provides a family violence outreach service to Daylesford/Hepburn.




*Right: WRISC EO Libby, Mary-Anne Thomas, MP and other stakeholders attend the event hosted by Hepburn Family Violence Action Group*

# 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  
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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](mailto: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.*

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