



Edition 4, January 2016

WRISC News

Royal Commission into Family Violence WRISC Travels to Melbourne to deliver submission

In April 2015, WRISC travelled down to Melbourne to present our submission to the Royal Commission into Family Violence. Our submission was presented in a box covered in beautiful yet poignant artwork by a WRISC client, and on which was written, "Please see me".

To date the Royal Commission has:

- Received nearly 1000 written submissions
- Hosted 44 group sessions which approximately 850 people attended
- Held 25 days of hearing with 220 witnesses

The reporting date has been extended by 1 month to 29 March 2016 to allow additional time for appropriate consideration of the broad and complex issues that the Royal Commission has examined.



Chair, the Honourable Marcia Neave (right) and Deputy Commissioner, Patricia Faulkner (left) receive the WRISC submission.

WRISC SPECIAL PROJECT: DATA IT PAINTS A THOUSAND WORDS-DIGGING DEEPER INTO WOMEN & CHILDREN'S JOURNEY OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

WRISC has secured special funding for worker, Susie, to embark upon this special project which seeks to improve the understanding of the family violence journey for women and children in the Central Highlands region. A major focus will be how WRISC can work together in partnership with other service providers in the region to improve this journey and better support the women and children concerned. This project is made possible by a grant from the Con Irwin Sub-Fund, Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust. WRISC will work with other organisations in the region to implement this project.



WRISC Project Officer, Susie

NEW ROLE AT WRISC—COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER WRISC has recently created the new role of Communications Officer. If you have any queries regarding this newsletter, our website or other communications matters, please contact Alison on 5333 3666 or email alisonc@wrisc.org.au



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.

Indigenous Girls' Craft Group

During term 4 2015, a group of girls participated in a 6 week Indigenous Girls Art Group creating cool critters. The group provided the girls with a chance to chat, create and have fun in a safe space. The girls were aged between 10 and 16 years and have been impacted by family violence. The girls made 3 dimensional sculptures using yarn and hay. A delicious dinner was also enjoyed.

The group was made possible by a partnership between WRISC Family Violence Support and BADAC (Ballarat & District Aboriginal Cooperative).



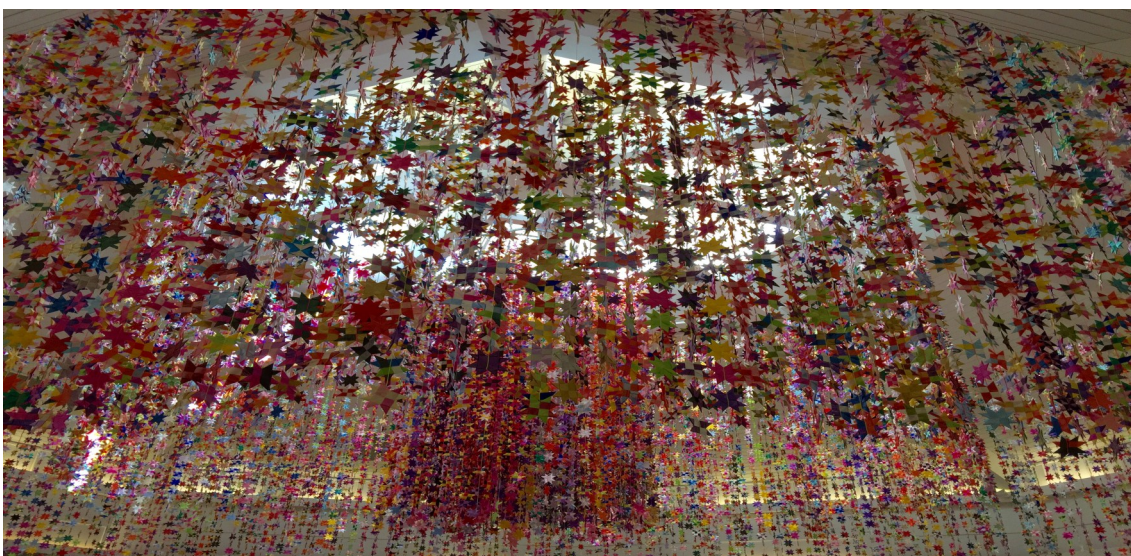
Million Stars Project

Million Stars to End Violence is a community project by artist and weaver, Maryann Talia Pau. The aim is to bring people together around the world to weave 1 million stars for a display in Queensland Australia, 2018. These beautiful stars are symbols of light, courage and solidarity to end all forms of violence, including violence against women, bullying and racism.

The Million Stars project began in Brunswick, Victoria, in 2012 as a personal response to the rape and murder of Jill Meagher. It has grown into an international weaving movement with stars being woven by communities in Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Islands, Europe and the USA. Some of these stars have been part of stunning displays at the Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne, Queen St Mall, Brisbane (G20), Myer Melbourne, the Sydney Opera House – and Stockland Wendouree, Ballarat.

The Ballarat Community has shown its commitment to the Million Stars Project by collecting over 40,000 stars so far – 4 times their original commitment. The stars are currently displayed at a stunning installation in the food court of Stockland Wendouree Shopping Centre. The display is up until the end of January, 2016. Enjoy a coffee underneath the display while you take it all in.

To make this happen, WRISC has worked in partnership with other Ballarat community groups, including The Crafty Squirrel, MADE (Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka), Victoria Police, Stockland, CAFS (Child & Family Services) and Ballarat Grammar School. Thanks also to all the individuals who wove stars.



Left: The stunning installation at Stockland Wendouree, Ballarat consisting of tens of thousands of stars woven by the Ballarat community.