



Emergency
Accommodation and
Support Enterprise

Annie North

Centre Against
Sexual Assault

Cobaw
Community Health

Women's Health
Loddon Mallee

Family Violence Support in Loddon Campaspe

Where to get help

Women and accompanying children

- Case management.
- Support accessing public and private housing.
- Counselling and emotional support.
- Individual and group programs for children.

Contact (1800) 884 038
toll free (business hours)

Women's Domestic Violence
Crisis Service (1800) 015 188
(after hours)

Men who use violence against family members

- Case management.
- Men's Behaviour Change program.
- Crisis accommodation.

Contact (1800) 884292
toll free

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Loddon Campaspe

Family Violence Newsletter

MARCH 2011

New Family Violence Services in Loddon Campaspe

"Enhanced After Hours" Service

Victoria Police members attending family violence incidents in the Loddon Campaspe region have welcomed the commencement of a new *enhanced* after hours service for victims of family violence.

The enhanced weekend service complements the existing weekday and after hours service to provide a seamless 7 days per week crisis and outreach response, providing as much face to face contact and support to women and their children as possible.

Not only does the new service provide more timely access to case management, crisis financial assistance and accommodation, counselling support and "safe at home" intervention for those women referred by police, it increases the capacity to support high risk women being supported by consortium family violence services with weekend follow up, support and intervention.

Specialist family violence workers from EASE, Annie North Women's Refuge and Domestic Violence Service and Loddon Campaspe Centre Against Sexual Assault are rostered to work Saturdays and Sundays 9.00am to 5.00pm. Workers are supported and supervised by an on call supervisor.

Police are able to access support for women 24 hours a day through two pathways:

- **Via a new 1800 phone number that will divert as needed depending on the day of the week and the time; or**
- **Via the Women's Domestic Violence Service.**

Police in the Loddon Campaspe region (police division 5) attended 365 incidents of family violence in 2007-08.

"Safe At Home" Service

Many women leave their family homes to escape family violence but too often the lack of affordable housing means these women join the already high numbers of people at risk of homelessness in Australia.

Women and their children, already traumatised by violence perpetrated against them, often face loss of employment and disconnection from friends, family, kinship networks and other community supports.

Additional funding from the Department of Human Services has increased EASE's capacity to support women and their children experiencing family violence to remain in their homes.

Given the risk of escalating violence at the point a woman leaves a violent relationship, this will be a safe option for only some women. Workers use comprehensive risk assessment and management in partnership with the woman to assist her to make informed choices about her circumstances and safety.



Family Violence Case Management for **Aboriginal Women**

Two Aboriginal Women's Family Violence Case Managers started work in June, 2010. They are the first workers employed under a new program aimed at providing a culturally competent response to assist Aboriginal women experiencing or escaping family violence in Bendigo and surrounding districts.

The new workers' roles provide support for Aboriginal women to access generalist family violence

services such as outreach and refuge; access housing services, legal advocacy and other appropriate services. In addition, the Aboriginal family violence case managers will create links with the local Aboriginal community and services; and provide community education and secondary consultation to other service providers to improve community understanding about issues relating to Aboriginal family violence.

The Aboriginal Women's Case Management workers are based within the Intake and Casework teams at EASE. They are employed by the Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative (BDAC) with day to day supervision and support provided by the EASE Team Leader and BDAC Program Manager.

Contact EASE on 5430 3000, or BDAC on 5442 4947.

Changing Cultures Changing Attitudes

...a National Survey on Community Attitudes to Violence Against Women 2009

The findings of the 2009 Community Attitudes survey was launched in Melbourne last year by the Hon Tanya Plibersek, MP, Federal Minister for the Status of Women.

The research, undertaken by VicHealth in conjunction with the Social Research Centre and the Australian Institute of Criminology, builds on a 1995 survey and establishes a benchmark against which changes in attitudes can be monitored over time. One of the commitments made by Minister Ellis recently is to fund the next survey as part of the current National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children.

The National Survey involved approximately 13,000 respondents from across Australia. It included Indigenous Australians, people from culturally diverse communities as well as a sample of sixteen and seventeen year old respondents.

The results indicate that Australians are gradually changing their attitudes about violence against women. Most believe that violence

against women should not be a private affair. The majority (98%) of people now recognise family violence is a crime.

93% of people agree that forced sex in an intimate relationship is a crime.

Less than one in twenty believe that women who are raped ask for it, compared to one in seven people who responded to this question in 1995.

However, 50% of those surveyed believe that most women could leave violent relationships if they really wanted to, with eight out of ten finding it hard to understand why women remain in these relationships.

13% of people still agree that women 'often say no when they mean yes' and approximately one in six (16%) agree that a woman 'is partly responsible if she is raped when drunk or drug-affected'.

The survey found men and boys are more likely than women and girls to hold attitudes that support violence,

and less likely to believe that 'controlling a partner by denying them money' is a form of family violence.

They are also less likely to agree that 'controlling the social life of a partner by preventing them from seeing friends or family' is family violence.

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City of Greater Bendigo Position Statement on Violence Against Women

At the City Of Greater Bendigo's Council Meeting on Wednesday, 20 October 2010, the councillors unanimously signed and adopted a position statement that sent a clear message to the community that as the leaders of Greater Bendigo they hold the position that violence against women is unacceptable and an abuse of human rights. The Council message is that communities, including local government, have a shared responsibility to recognise, challenge and prevent violent and disrespectful behavior or attitudes towards women.

The Greater Bendigo Family Violence Prevention Working Group has been very grateful for the City of Greater Bendigo's support for and engagement in White Ribbon Day

activities in Bendigo over the past three years. That support has been a practical demonstration of the City's commitment to eliminating violence against women.

The City of Greater Bendigo has included participation in violence prevention activities in its Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2009–2013. It is hoped that future strategies can involve partnerships with local organisations to collaborate on making the issue of violence against women better understood and addressed in the local community. Local government also has the opportunity to link into the strategies in the Victorian State Government's *A Right to Respect: Victoria's Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women 2010–2020*. One of the strategies local Councils have

been invited to participate in is a collaborative primary prevention program where they can form partnerships comprising clusters of three neighbouring councils to pilot a four-year (2011–2014) local program to prevent violence against women. The three clusters of local government areas that are successful in developing a pilot for prevention activities will be finalised in the near future. It is pleasing to see the implementation of *A Right to Respect* with local government.

Collaboration between state and local government in primary prevention programs has the potential for significant outcomes towards improving the safety and wellbeing of women and girls in Victoria.

New Regional Integration Coordinator

Cheryl Munzel, who has been in the Regional Integration Coordinator role since the beginning of the Integrated Family Violence Services in Loddon Campaspe, will be taking a 12 month period of leave to seek new adventures and experiences while travelling around Australia.

Cheryl has been a great advocate for women and children affected by family violence in all her work at EASE and a great ambassador for the Loddon Campaspe subregion and we wish her a safe and wonderful leave of absence. While Cheryl is on leave, her position will be filled by Robyn Trainor. We welcome her to the role; below is Robyn's introduction.

Robyn Trainor

I have recently commenced at the Centre for Non-Violence, taking over from Cheryl Munzel in the Regional Integration Coordinator position at EASE, three days per week, during her leave of absence.

I am a qualified Social Worker, with a BSW (Hons), currently undertaking a PhD (part-time) in researching

women's experiences of regional system response to Family Violence. Prior to completing my Social Work degree, I studied Welfare Studies, Psychiatric Disability Support and an Advanced Certificate in Residential Community Services (Intellectual Disability).

During the past four years, I have been employed as an Associate Lecturer and Field Placement Coordinator, in the La Trobe Rural Health School, Social Work and Social Policy, Bendigo.

Within this role, I have been involved in curriculum development and subject delivery in the areas of working with individual, family and groups, working within organisations, social work theory and practice and field education to social work and education students. I have also provided individual and group social work supervision to social work students undertaking field education and placement and worked part-time as a School Child and Family Support Worker at CentaCare.

My professional experience includes working extensively as a Counsellor/Advocate in Sexual Assault, Domestic and Family Violence After Hours response, Adult Day Placement Coordination in disability support, training and supported employment.

I have been actively involved with EASE, as a committee member for three years and have resigned to take on this new role. I am strongly committed to feminist theory, philosophy and practice as a professional social worker and personally. I wish Cheryl all the best for safe and happy travels and I look forward to the challenge of the 'big shoes' I will need to fill in her absence.

Robyn Trainor

Emergency Accommodation and Support Enterprise (EASE)

PO Box 958, Bendigo Vic 3552

Telephone: 5434 4112 (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)

Facsimile: 5434 4150

Email: robyn.trainor@ease.org.au

Loddon Campaspe Integrated Family Violence Program Small Grants Scheme

The Loddon Campaspe Integrated Family Violence Program has grants of up to \$1,000 available to be spent on activities or products promoting awareness of:

- The impact of family violence on individuals, families and communities; and
- Support and resources available to communities in Loddon Campaspe.

Funding is available for a wide range of activities including and not limited to:

- Community awareness raising

activities, resources or visual displays addressing family violence;

- Events, forums, etc concerning family violence;
- Visual performance or workshops; and
- Promotion of inter-agency collaboration.

Who can apply?

Community groups/networks are encouraged to apply although the application needs to be auspiced by a single organisation with an Australian Business Number.

Key dates:

Activities can be carried out at anytime during the year. Activities and events are encouraged during the Week Without Violence in the last week of October.

Closing dates for applications:

- 31st March
- 30th June
- 30th September

Further information:

Robyn Trainor
Regional Integrated Family Violence Program Coordinator, EASE
Telephone: 5434 4100
robyn.trainor@ease.org.au

AWAVA

Australian Women Against Violence Alliance

The Australian National Violence Against Women Alliance – AWAVA (pronounced A-Wave-r) is one of six National Women's Alliances funded by the Australian Government.

AWAVA's key area of focus is combating all forms of violence against women, to ensure that all women and their children are able to live free from all forms of violence and abuse. The Alliance recognises that gender violence is both a consequence and cause of gender inequity in all sectors of society. It must be addressed by promoting social, political, economic and cultural equity for all women, across the community

To celebrate the centenary of International Women's Day, AWAVA have created a timeline of significant events and achievements affecting Australian

women. The timeline includes major political, education, legal and social milestones, and demonstrates that despite improvements in gender equality over the past 100 years, women still experience violence at intolerable levels.

AWAVA has produced print and web-based resources for use in upper primary and secondary schools and by community organisations. National, state and local events, as well as social media, are being used to spread the message that all forms of violence against women are unacceptable and must stop.

To subscribe to AWAVA weekly e-bulletin visit www.awava.org.au.

It's time to stop violence against women.

Centenary of International Women's Day
Australian Women's Timeline
A timeline resource for teachers and students

After 100 years

IT'S TIME TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

timeline.awava.org.au

AWAVA
National Women's Alliances
1911 - 2011
Celebrating 100 years
International Women's Day

Loddon Campaspe Family Violence Advisory Committee

Strategic Plan 2009-2015

For copies of the Loddon Campaspe Family Violence Advisory Committee's Strategic Plan 2009-2015, contact Robyn Trainor, the Regional Integration Coordinator on 5434 4112, or email robyn.trainor@ease.org.au.

National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children 2010-2022

The Minister for the Status of Women, Kate Ellis, and Attorney General, Robert McClelland, announced the endorsement of Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments of the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022* on February 15 2011.

The National Plan is a single unified strategy to reduce violence against women, and the first of its kind to focus on prevention, including building respectful relationships amongst young people and working to increase gender equality to stop violence from occurring in the first place.

Key actions under the National Plan include:

- Supporting local community action to reduce violence against women.
- Commitment to support the inclusion of respectful relationships education in phase three of the Australian Curriculum.

- Provision of telephone support for frontline workers such as allied health, child care and paramedics to better assist clients who have experienced violence.
- New programs to stop perpetrators committing acts of violence and national standards for perpetrator programs.
- Establishing a national Centre of Excellence to evaluate the effectiveness of strategies to reduce violence against women.
- A Personal Safety Survey and National Community Attitudes Survey to track the impact of the new action plans every four years.

- Encouraging young people to develop healthy and respectful relationships through the continuation of 'The Line' campaign and respectful relationships program.
- The Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) inquiry into the impact of Commonwealth laws on those experiencing family violence.

Through future editions of this newsletter we will endeavour to keep readers updated on the National Plan and any projects funded through the Plan in Loddon Campaspe.



Support in Loddon Campaspe for those affected by sexual assault

...where to get help

For counselling, support and advocacy for Victim/Survivors aged from four years upwards, and for their non-offending family members and friends, please contact

Centre Against Sexual Assault Loddon Campaspe, telephone 5441 0430
Sexual Assault Crisis Line for all after hours service, telephone 1800 806 292

CASALC Counselling services are provided at

- Echuca • Maryborough • Kyneton • Kyabram • Tarrengower Women's Prison •

White Ribbon Day – Bendigo 2010



A series of events led up to a successful White Ribbon Day in Bendigo last November. There were a number of new strategies implemented which saw the issue of Violence Against Women raised in different ways. The placement of Swear Jars in locations around Bendigo where men were encouraged to "take the oath" and swore to end violence against women was a new lead up to White Ribbon Day. Regular articles in the Bendigo Advertiser, and the Bendigo Weekly and support from local radio

stations, were likewise very successful in breaking the silence around Violence Against Women.

November 25 was marked by a community walk through Bendigo followed by the induction of the White Ribbon Ambassadors for 2010. The 2010 Ambassadors are Steve Womersley, from the Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre, Neil Crouch and Mark Edwards, both Bendigo members of Victoria Police and Ken Hollis, an employee of the Men's Programs at EASE Inc.

The Bendigo Jockey club named a

race at their meet on the 25th the White Ribbon Day Showcase event. White Ribbon Day banners were once more evident on the trams as they travelled through Bendigo and the HuHa nightclub held a "White Party". A poster display at the YMCA depicting the work of several local secondary schools was another feature of the campaign.

The Greater Bendigo Family Violence Prevention Working Party would like to thank Lara and Andie, two BRIT students whose project placement was WRD 2010. Thanks also to Kalianna School for cooking the community barbecue, the local media for their support throughout November, and Cassie Ward, a very talented 14 year old Bendigo singer who donated her time to provide entertainment at the launch.

Working with Men Who Use Violence Against Family Members

The Loddon Campaspe Integrated Family Violence Services Consortium has developed a range of services for men aged over 18 years who use violence against family members. These programs aim to further enhance the safety of women and children, and to make those who use violence more accountable for their behaviour.

The services available for men are:

- Case Management for men who are excluded from the family home either because of legal or child protection exclusion which includes access to transitional supported accommodation;
- The Men's Behaviour Change program;
- Referrals from Victoria Police for enhanced intake into programs;
- Emergency accommodation for men excluded from home outside business hours.

An important part of this response is that the man's current and/or ex partners are contacted to check their safety.

The Broad principles of the programs provided to men are to:

- Be accountable and responsive to the experiences of women and children and demonstrate a commitment to their safety, understanding that women will often feel responsible for the violence, experience shame and minimise their experience of violence.
- Privilege women and children's safety with an imperative on not escalating violent behaviour which might increase the level of risk to women and children and have the primary objective of increasing safety by assisting men to stop their violent and abusive behaviours.
- Operate within a gendered based analysis of family violence including an understanding that family violence is situated in a

context of men's sense and position of privilege and entitlement. When these entitlements are questioned or denied, they may enact violence in response.

- Hold men who use violence toward family members accountable for their use of violence by sending clear messages that the use of violence is a choice, that it is unacceptable and that the responsibility for the violence rests with the person using it.
- Be provided within a coordinated response to family violence.
- Be available for men who are removed from the home as a result of their violence and for those connected through the criminal justice system or via child protection proceedings and Family Violence Intervention Orders.
- Not be used as a diversion from a criminal justice response.
- Have well supported skilled and trained practitioners with the ability to recognise, respond and challenge men's violent behaviour.
- Be guided by the principles underpinning the NTV Standards and Victorian government policy concerning working with men in ways which enhance safety of women and hold men accountable for their use of violence.
- Be available and respond to men from diverse backgrounds, ages, cultures and life experiences.
- Be developed by and in consultation with, members from culturally and linguistically diverse communities, to ensure the most appropriate and effective responses.
- Be developed by and in consultation with, Aboriginal community members to determine the most appropriate and effective responses to address violence which also recognise the effects of colonisation and the

subsequent dispossession of Aboriginal people.

- Be based on the understanding that violence against women and children is a violation of human rights, and that any response to men who use family violence must have at its forefront the safety of women and children.

Safety

Once risk factors have been identified, procedures are put in place to assist in maximising victim safety. Program procedures categorise cases into appropriate levels of response, documenting actions and with whom to share information. Procedures are created with the assumption that patterns of abuse are likely to continue and that a timely worker and systems response is essential to enhance safety.

Referral Pathways

Men may self refer into programs or be 'actively referred' by third parties such as courts, police or child protection.

Procedures are documented for internal referrals between programs. For example, group facilitator staff may refer into the case-management program.

External referrals for men, such as services dealing with housing, drug and alcohol and mental health are formalised and documented.

Referrals into and from services such as child protection are focussed on intervention with the man, rather than placing the onus on the victim to ensure safety.

All the programs provided to men by the Loddon Campaspe Integrated Family Violence Consortium meet the *No To Violence* National Standards. For further information about Men's Programs please contact the Centre for Non Violence, telephone 5434 4100 or the Men's Program direct number 1800 884 292.

Family Violence Professional Development Risk Assessment and Risk Management

What is the Common Risk Assessment Framework (CRAF)?

The Family Violence Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework is designed to help professional and practitioners working in a range of fields (community services, courts, health sector) to identify risk factors associated with family violence and respond appropriately to people experiencing family violence. The different CRAF training types are especially designed to suit a range of professionals according to their **level of engagement** with victims of family violence.

1. The Preliminary Risk Assessment

This training is designed for professionals who may be providing non specialist family violence support services to those who **may also be experiencing** family violence, including the need to undertake **initial** risk assessments with victims of family violence and/ or referring clients to specialist family violence services.

Focus of the training:

- Shared understanding of family violence (including the impact of family violence);
- Use of Preliminary assessment tool to assess for presence of evidence-based risk factors;
- Safety planning; and
- Information sharing and effective referral.

Duration: 4 hours

When: TBA

2. Comprehensive Risk Assessment

The Comprehensive Risk Assessment training is designed for specialist family violence professionals *whose roles include* undertaking ongoing risk assessment and carrying responsibility for risk management as part of an ongoing case management responsibility within the overall family violence service system. ***If your role does not include the above components, you should attend the Preliminary Risk Assessment training component.***

Focus of the training:

- Shared understanding of family violence (including the impact of family violence);
- Use of Comprehensive assessment tool to assess risk and develop risk management strategies, with a particular focus on working with children, Indigenous clients, CALD clients and clients with a disability;
- Safety planning; information sharing and partnership approaches; and
- Case management and risk management.

Duration: one whole day

When: TBA

Identifying and Responding to Family Violence

EASE Training

This training is available to professionals, community agencies and community groups coming into contact with families and individuals experiencing family violence. Uses a Train the Trainer model. Our regional training team will come to you at no cost.

Focus of the training:

- Shared understanding of family violence (including the impact of family violence);
- Use of 'trigger' questions to identify family violence;
- Safety planning; and
- Information sharing & effective referral.

Duration: Up to 2 hours. Discuss your specific needs with us.

To arrange: Contact Robyn Trainor, telephone 5434 4100, or email robyn.trainor@ease.org.au

Centre Against Sexual Assault Loddon Campaspe

Training Calendar

Semester One 2011

CASA Loddon Campaspe is running five workshops for the first semester at a new venue:

The Bendigo Club, 22 Park Street, Strathdale

**Training workshops are from 9.30am to 4.30pm
Lunch and morning and afternoon teas are provided**

Responding to Disclosures of Sexual Assault

NB This workshop, or equivalent, is a prerequisite for attendance at other workshops
Friday 1 April and 6 May 2011

Working with Male Survivors of Sexual Assault

NB "Responding to Disclosures", or equivalent is a prerequisite for this workshop
Friday 27 May 2011

Working with Adolescent Survivors of Sexual Assault

NB "Responding to Disclosures", or equivalent is a prerequisite for this workshop
Friday 3 June 2011

Working with Adult Survivors

NB "Responding to Disclosures", or equivalent is a prerequisite for this workshop
Friday 17 June 2011

**For further information about any of the workshops
please contact CASA, telephone 5441 0430**

Technology Safety Training Wesnet (The Women's Services Network)

Two expert international trainers, Cynthia Fraser and Erica Olsen from the National Network to End Domestic Violence in the USA, have been recruited for this two-day training workshop. Cynthia and Erica have more than 25 years experience in trying to end Violence against Women and are both Technology Safety Specialists.

The training will focus on how technology impacts survivors of domestic and family violence, stalking, sexual violence, dating violence and abuse. It is for people working with or supporting survivors and/or victims of violence and abuse.

Date: Thursday 17 and Friday 18 March 2011

Venue: The Foundry, 366 High Street, Bendigo

For registration and cost details, please contact WESNET on 1300 252 006.

Contact Us:

This e-newsletter has been compiled by the Loddon Campaspe Family Violence Advisory Committee Communication Working Group with assistance from Bendigo Loddon Primary Care Partnership.



Please send contributions to:

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blpcp@bchs.com.au**