



**WOMEN'S
COUNCIL**

FOR DOMESTIC & FAMILY
VIOLENCE SERVICES (WA)

Working
to ensure that
all women and
children live free
from domestic
and family violence.

ANNUAL REPORT 2004/2005

Vision Statement

The Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services (WA) seek

to ensure that all women and children live free of domestic and family violence.



Our Purpose

The Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services (WA) is a state wide peak organisation committed to improving the status of women and children in society.

The role is to provide a voice on domestic and family violence issues that facilitates and promotes policy, legislative and programmatic responses relevant to women and children who have experienced domestic and family violence.

The Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services (WA) operates from a feminist perspective. It proactively advocates for social justice in order to further empowerment, access, equity and safety for all women and children.

Statement of Principles

All women and children are people of dignity, strength and resourcefulness. Domestic and Family Violence interferes with women and children's ability to realise their full potential.

The following principles guide the actions of the Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services (WA):

- A commitment to access and equity for all women and children who are or have been experiencing domestic and family violence
- A commitment to sustaining and developing a gendered analysis of domestic and family violence
- A commitment to early intervention that focuses on the safety and protection of women and children
- A recognition of domestic and family violence in same sex relationships
- A commitment to working collaboratively and developing partnerships with key stakeholders in the wider community

Objectives

1. To strengthen our unified voice on domestic and family violence issues.
2. To maintain the Women's Council for Domestic & Family Violence Services (WA) as an independent, viable and credible organisation
3. To improve the access of women and children to Women's Refuges and services which seek to deal with the effects of domestic and family violence
4. To provide leadership in the area of domestic and family violence issues to key stakeholders and the community
5. To increase the community awareness of the incidence, effects and responses to domestic and family violence
6. To collaborate with key stakeholders in the development of policies, legislation and programs which impact on women and children experiencing domestic and family violence
7. To ensure access and equity for all members un remote/rural locations

Convenor's report

The Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services (WA) has consolidated under a new vision and expanded role as a Peak body for Refuges, Regional Domestic Violence Committees, Women's Services and Community Intervention Projects.

This year has seen the development of the Council's new Constitution, membership kits and web page. In the coming year the Council will provide quarterly forums on current and emerging issues and research in the area of Domestic and Family Violence.

This year the Women's Council has been privileged to work in partnership with Jordan Fogarty, a Scotch College pupil under taking a middle year Baccalaureate. Jordan has spent the year organising major fundraising events to raise funds for family violence education. Jordan achieved his target of \$50,000.00 in July 2005.

In the coming year the Women's Council will work with Jordan and the Family Violence Unit to develop a program to train High School students as Peer Educators on Domestic and Family Violence issues in their school.

The Body Shop, this year has run two significant campaigns about Domestic Violence raising community awareness and funds for Women's Refuges across the country. Sanchia Neate from the Body Shop presented the Women's Council with a cheque for \$20,000.00, which will be allocated to assist remote Refuges.

A particularly exciting development later this year will be the visit by Ellen Pence in December 2005 to conduct a safety audit with the Armadale Domestic Violence Intervention Project (ADVIP). Ellen will also be providing Refuge staff and Regional Domestic Violence Committee members with training on establishing community intervention projects.

It is with great pleasure the Women's Council welcomes Dianna Warnock as our Patron and looks forward to working with a woman whose feminist principles and commitment to women is rock solid.

As always, the work of the Council rests heavily on the shoulders of our Executive Officer, with out Angela's experience, talents, commitment and passion very little would be achieved.

I would also like to thank all the members of the Executive Committee this year, whose expertise, energy, time and commitment has ensured the council has achieved the move from a Refuge peak body to a strong and viable Domestic/Family Violence Peak.

May all people be safe and happy.

Kedy Kristal
Convenor

Acknowledgments

The WCDFVS would like to thank the following people and organizations who provided funding/grants, financial donations and/or in-kind support:

Amanda Yorke
Australia Post
Blake Dawson Wauldron Lawyers
City of Stirling
Department for Community Development
Family and Domestic Violence Unit
Giz Watson MLC
Jennifer Coker
Jordan Fogarty Women's Refuge Appeal
Lynne Flanagan
Maylands Meeting Place
National Australia Bank (Joondalup)
Perth Harmony Chorus

Shauna Fogarty & Family
Sikh Association
Soroptimists On The Terrace
Soroptimists of Cambridge
Stephen Hartwig
The Body Shop Adidem Group
The Hon. Sheila McHale, Minister for Community
Development
Women's Interests; Culture & the Arts
The Myola Club
Variety WA Toybank
Women's Policy Office

Executive Officer's report

The WCDFVS has experienced a year of transition with the introduction of our new model of service. The WCDFVS, formerly the Women's Refuge Group of WA Inc was established in 1977. The WRG officially changed its name in 2004. The expanded role of the WCDFVS is to enable us as a state-wide peak body to represent a diverse range of domestic and family violence services, projects and initiatives in WA.

As a peak body we have continued to work in collaboration with Government and key stakeholders to increase community awareness of the incidence, effects and responses to domestic and family violence. In the 2004/05, the WCDFVS have worked in partnership with agencies on some major campaigns which include:

- 'More Than A Bed' – A campaign for better services for homeless people
- The Jordan Fogarty Women's Refuge Appeal
- The Body Shop National DV Awareness Campaign
- 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence
- Annual Silent DV Memorial March

We have continued to provide specialist advice to Government and Non-Government agencies on policy and sector development, legislative and programmatic responses which impact on women and children experiencing domestic and family violence.

Whilst there have been some positive changes with the introduction of the new VRO Amendment (Domestic Violence) Act 2004 and the WA Family & Domestic Violence State Strategic Plan 2004-2008, the need to increase core funding to Women's Refuge Services is essential as the lack of crisis beds within SAAP funded Women's Refuge is phenomenal.

The recent findings in the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Report, *Female SAAP Clients and children escaping domestic and family violence 2003-04*, found that the average daily turn-away rate for agencies targeted at women escaping domestic violence was 48%.

The Women's Council conducted a six month data collection from 1 January to 30 June 2005 of the vacancy rates of Metropolitan Refuges that accommodate women and children which concurs with the AIHW report.

The programs and advertising campaigns run by the Federal and State Governments have significantly increased the demand for Refuge services but there has been no increase in the core funding levels.

The National Data Collection Agency statistics clearly indicate that children, particularly those between 0-5 years old are the largest group of SAAP Service users; two thirds of them were there as result of domestic and family violence; and an alarming 48% of all women with accompanying children assessing a SAAP Service in 2003-04 were experiencing domestic and family violence. (NDCA data: 2004)

In 2002-2003 there were around 263,800 children living with domestic and family violence in Australia. (Access Economics, 2004)

From January 2004 to April 2005 there have been 20 deaths as a result of domestic homicide in WA alone.

There is currently inadequate funding to provide resources to support children and young people who are affected by domestic and family violence. (Australian Institute and Welfare, 2004b)

Core funding levels need to be increased so that Women's Refuge and DV Services can work with children as clients in their own right and provide the necessary early intervention and prevention support for accompanying children in SAAP Services.

In the WA metropolitan area there has not been any new funding for a Women's Refuge Service since 1991. Women's Refuges and Safe Houses in rural and remote areas are facing the enormous task of providing crisis accommodation services in regions of WA that cover vast geographical areas and often the next DV Services in hundreds of miles away.

From January 2004 to April 2005 there have been 20 deaths as a result of domestic homicide in WA alone.

Far more funding resources and support is required to enable to assist the Refuge services in these communities provide safety and support to women and children.

The failure to adequately fund services for domestic violence victims encourages women and children to stay in violent relationships.

Despite the overwhelming challenge this brings to all of us, the Women's Council acknowledges the valuable work that is being provided by Women's Refuge and DV specialist services within our membership and wish to thank all workers for their role in providing these vital services, as we work toward our vision of ensuring that women and children live free of domestic and family violence!

I would like to thank Project and Admin Officer/s Ailaoa Aoina, Lisa Palmer and Sarah Newbold for their expertise and knowledge and the valuable contribution they have made to the future directions of the organisation.

I would like to give special thanks to the WCDFVS Executive Committee for their on-going guidance and support throughout the year. I would particularly like to acknowledge our Convenor, Kedy Kristal for her vast knowledge and expertise that she brings to the WCDFVS and her commitment to moving forward the vision of the WCDFVS.

Angela Hartwig
Executive Officer

Sector and policy development

“Promoting the safety of women and children, by representing their needs to policy and decision makers.”

The WCDFVS has directly contributed to sector and policy development in the following areas:

- Amendments (Domestic Violence) Act 2004
- Criminal Law Amendment Bill 2005
- Evaluation of the outcomes and effects of the Government’s response to the WA Homelessness Taskforce
- Family Law Submission – ‘A New Approach to the Family Law System’
- Family Violence & Animal Cruelty Forum, 27 October 04
- National SAAP IV Evaluation
- SAAP V Negotiations
- Submission to Industry Plan-Phase 2-‘Building the Organisational Capacity of Non-Government Organisations: Supporting Sector Reform and Development’
- WA Family & Domestic Violence State Strategic Plan 2004-2008, Whole of Government, *Whole of Community Response to Family and Domestic Violence*
- WACOSS Pre-Budget Submission 2005-06 to the State Government – ‘Turning the Tide: The Trickle Down Effect’
- Workshop presentation by Angela Hartwig entitled *Domestic Homicides in WA* at the ‘Home Truths’ – Stop sexual assault & domestic violence, a national challenge, Melbourne, September 2004

New website for WCDFVS



As a peak body it is essential that the WCDFVS provide up-to-date information on domestic and family violence that facilitates and promotes policy, legislative and programmatic responses relevant to women and children who have experienced domestic and family violence.

This year the WCDFVS received a grant from Lotterywest and contracted IT specialist, The Vivid Group to work with us to develop the new site. Staff members have also received Content Management Training will allow us to keep the website up-dated on a regular basis.

Please see www.womenscouncil.com.au which has the following information listed on it:

- If you or a Friend Need Help
- For Kids
- How to contact a Refuge
- About Us
- Our Services
- Policy, Research & Campaigns
- Press Releases and News
- Rural and Remote
- DV Links
- Events Calendar
- Contact Us

Strengthening the role of the WCDFVS with the introduction of a new model

In July 2004, the Minister for Community Development, The Hon. Sheila McHale supported the WCDFVS proposal to strengthen its role as a state-wide peak body and provided a grant of \$20,000 to the WCDFVS, which has contributed significantly with the implementation of our new model.

The new vision for the Women's Council has built upon the existing solid foundation of the Women's Refuge Group of WA Inc established in 1977. This year has been a transition period of the organization from the WRG to the WCDFVS and has included:

STAGE ONE: Implementation of Administrative Changes

- WCDFVS Logo and printing of letterheads, complimentary slips and business cards
- The ratification of a new Constitution by the Members of the WCDFVS. Pro-Bono Lawyers Blake Dawson and Wauldron assisted the Women's Council throughout the process of drafting this document to ensure that it complies with the Associations Incorporation Act (1987)

STAGE TWO: IT infrastructure

The WCDFVS were successful in receiving a grant of \$35,436.00 from Lotterywest for an IT upgrade. This has increased the Women's Council's capacity to support its membership base on a state wide level; and provide vital information to key stakeholders and the general public. The upgrade included-new computers, printer, fax/photocopier, digital camera, data projector and the development of a new website. The new equipment has been installed and the website is now on-line, see www.womenscouncil.com.au

STAGE THREE: Development of new Membership Kits

New Membership Kits broadening the membership base will enable WCDFVS to develop partnerships that strengthen our capacity and build collaboration across the State. The expanded role of the WCDFVS is to enable us as a state-wide peak body to represent a diverse range of domestic and family violence services, projects and initiatives in WA.

The WCDFVS have commenced consultation across the state with metropolitan and rural and remote Regional DV Co-ordinating Committees to promote WCDFVS new model and gain feedback from prospective members.

WCDFVS believes that building a solid representative base that is committed to ensuring that all women and children live free of domestic and family violence; and that perpetrators be accountability for their actions; will provide more integrated responses to domestic and family violence.

STAGE FOUR: To Enhance and Strengthen Partnerships

The Women's Council have been able to develop and strengthened a number of strong partnerships over the last year including:

- Amnesty International WA
- Edith Cowan University (Joondalup) – visit of Dr Billie Thurston from Canada
- Jordan Fogarty Women's Refuge Appeal
- Family and Domestic Violence Unit
- The Body Shop
- Women's Policy Office

The WCDFVS have developed a series of Checklists as a result of the following collaborative activities:

- Series 1 Research Project – *Caught in the Crossfire*
- Series 2 Consultation – *Increasing Costs in 24 hour Women's Refuge Services in WA*
- Series 3 Parliamentary Round Table – *Domestic Homicides in WA*
- Series 4 Annual Event – *15th Annual Silent Domestic Violence Memorial March*
- Series 5 Forum – *Examining Domestic and Family Violence within a Human Rights Framework*

The Checklists have been disseminated at WCDFVS forums and the 'Home Truths-A National Challenge' Conference for DV & Sexual Assault Services held in Melbourne, September 2004. All new members will receive copies of the complete Series inside their Membership Kit.

STAGE FIVE: Community Awareness Campaign

Body Shop National DV Awareness Campaign – August-November 2004

The WCDFVS were honoured to be the WA partners in the National DV Campaign launched by the Body Shop in August 2004. 'Help Stop Violence in the Home' posters and brochures were displayed and available from the 72 stores in WA. The two objectives of this campaign were to raise community awareness about domestic and family violence as well as to raise funds for partner organizations by the sale of silver key rings and CDs. Ms Sanchia Neate, Manager of the Murray Street Body Shop Store presented the WCDFVS with a cheque for

\$20,872.00 at the Annual Silent DV Memorial March Rally on 19 April 2004, which were funds raised in WA during the campaign. Refuge Services and Safe Houses in the remote Pilbarra and Kimberley regions of WA will be the recipients of these funds.

Jordan Fogarty Women's Refuge Appeal – 1 July-30 June 2005

Congratulations and thank you to Jordan Fogarty!



The WCDFVS have been privileged to work in partnership with Jordan and would like to highly commend Jordan for his outstanding achievement with reaching his target of raising \$50,000 from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005.

At a tender age of 15, Jordan began his community awareness campaign on domestic and family violence as part of his Personal Project for the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Project at Scotch College.

The Hon. Sheila McHale, MLA. Minister for Community Development has matched the funds Jordan has raised dollar for dollar and in the coming year, the WCDFVS will work with Jordan and the Family Violence Unit to develop a program to train High School students as Peer Educators on domestic and family violence

Jordan has inspired many members of Government and the Community with his passion, vision and commitment and has certainly demonstrated that one person's actions can make a difference in bringing about positive social change.

A series of Forums, Specialist Training and Information Sessions

'Joining the Dots-Making the Connections' with Dr Billie Thurston from Canada held at the Grand Chancellor Hotel, Perth, 19 August 2004, attended by 100 participants

'Examining Domestic and Family Violence within a Human Rights Framework' on the UN Day for Human Rights held at the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle, 10 December 2004, attended by 65 participants.

Acts Amendment (Domestic Violence) Act 2004

Thirty staff from members from DV and Refuge Services attended an Information Session organized by the WCDFVS held on 14 January 2005 at the Legal Aid Training Room. Martin Voyez, State Coordinator of the Police Child Protection & Family Violence Unit & Michael Hovane, Manager of the DV Legal Unit presented an up-date on the recent changes to the Violence Restraining Order Act and how the WA Police will respond to incidences of domestic and family violence. The session gave staff an outline of the WAPS new policies and practices to be introduced as a result of the new legislation and how they can best work with Women's' Refuge and DV Services.

Visit to Family Law Court of WA

Organised by the WCDFVS and held on 20 January 2005: Refuge and DV workers were provided with an up-date on the recent changes for applicants seeking residence/contact orders and property settlements. The option was given to participants to sit in General List to watch the court in operation and have lunch with Paul Murphy for a more in-depth discussion on the Family Court. Presenters: Paul Kerin and Paul Murphy. A second visit was organized as there was a keen interest from Refuge and DV Workers.

"Women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities can be the victims of domestic violence and can encounter many barriers to accessing information and services. These barriers include a lack of English language ... a lack of culturally appropriate services, limited childcare and access to transport."

"Research has shown that the rate of family violence victimisation for Indigenous women in some parts of rural Australia is up to 45 times the rate for non-Indigenous women."

Harding, Broadhurst, Ferrante & Loh 1995

Representation and advocacy

Family Law Reform

The WCDFVS continues to strongly advocate for the need for Family Law Reform similar to the New Zealand Guardianship Act; whereby the safety of children is the paramount consideration in determining residence and contact arrangement following separation. Where there has been domestic and family violence, the court cannot make an order for custody or unsupervised access to a violent party unless the court is satisfied that children will be safe.

Sector Viability Issues

The WCDFVS have represented urgent issues around sector viability as members of the following:

- AFHO Negotiations for SAAP V-campaign for a 25% increase in core funding for existing SAAP Services
- Industry Sector Reform and Development Working Party, Social Policy Unit, Department of Premier and Cabinet
- MTAB Campaign meetings with DCD and The Hon. Sheila McHale MLA
- SAAP State Advisory Committee
- WACOSS Pre-Budget Submission to State Government 2005/06
- WACOSS Policy Advisory Committee on Sector Viability
- WCDFVS Research Project- 'Increasing costs and 24 hour Women's Refuge Services in WA

The Sector Viability issues include:

- A campaign for better services for homeless people in WA
- Adjustment to base level funding
- Peak Membership Fees
- Sector Engagement
- Wage increases to achieve wage parity and address the workforce crisis

'More Than A Bed' A campaign for better services for homeless people in WA

12,000 people in Western Australia and 100,000 around Australia are homeless each night. Homeless people come from a broad range of backgrounds and ages, from the very young to the very old. More than one third of the homeless are children.

"57 per cent of women surveyed said they had experienced at least one incident of physical or sexual violence over their life course."

Mouzos and Makkai, 2004:19

There are many reasons for homelessness including domestic and family violence. The MTAB Coalition has been campaigning for over 18 months to highlight the insufficient funding for SAAP agencies. This has meant a lack of available crisis support services for women and children in WA. SAAP services are under huge financial pressure through increasing demands on the service; higher insurance premiums; wage indexation; and administration around the GST. The result is agencies are being forced to restructure to minimise staffing costs and skilled experienced workers are lost.

The MTAB campaign seeks a commitment from the Government to increase SAAP funding by 25% with indexation to maintain services. The campaign also acknowledges that there is a significant level of unmet need, and that this should be addressed in the new SAAP Agreement.

A Collaboration Agreement was ratified between parties, pledging their support to the purpose of the Agreement, and to working collaboratively on the campaign.

- Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services (WA)
- Community Housing Coalition of WA
- Youth Affairs Council of WA
- Australian Services Union
- WA Council of Social Services (WACOSS)

BankWest Advertising Campaign – 'Have you been slapped Today?'

'Bank slapped over 'violent' fees campaign'

(WA News: 26 Feb 2005)

BankWest has stopped its staff wearing T-shirts with the slogan – 'Have you been slapped today?' after complaints from domestic violence lobby groups. The WCDFVS and the Women's Law Service had received complaints about the bank's promotion and the inappropriateness of this message and found it intimidating and trivialising for victims of domestic and family violence.

BankWest Executive Board took immediate action to instruct all staff members in all WA branches to stop wearing the T-shirts as it sent the wrong message to the community, once the WCDFVS and the WLS brought the issue to their attention.

XBOX Fable Game – ‘Beat Your Wife for Stat Points?’

The WCDFVS had some major concerns about the XBOX game ‘Fable’ and the message that this computer game portrays, particularly to teenage males, and adults who play this game. It teaches that the use of violence will be rewarded. This is unacceptable and we urged for the Board of Directors to consider the implications seriously.

In a recent article in an XBOX Magazine-entitled ‘10 minute Masterclass – 10 cool things to do in Fable before you’re old and grey!’ it outlines:

Stage 2 of the game says:

BEAT YOUR WIFE FOR STAT POINTS

Only evil players should apply. Trap your wife in a corner and punch her in a continuous combo. You’ll earn exp points and evil points.

This doesn’t work against husbands because they can block.

We believe this game encourages, supports and promotes the use of male violence against women. It adds to promoting a culture of violence, in particular, domestic and family violence. In 2000, an estimated 520,000 people were killed in acts of interpersonal violence (*World Report on Violence and Health: World Health Organisation-2002, Geneva*); and one in four women in Australia have experienced violence during a relationship.

Peaks Fees/Membership Allowance

The WCDFVS was successful in lobbying the Minister for Community Development, The Hon. Sheila McHale, MLA to continue the payment of the Membership Allowance to DCD funded services, as there was threat that this payment would cease as of 30 June 2005.

The Membership Allowance is funding provided by DCD for services to purchase membership services from a peak body of their choice. The WCDFVS is a voice on domestic & family violence issues that facilitates and promotes policy, legislative and programmatic responses relevant to women and children who have experienced domestic & family violence.

Member services also wrote letters to the Minister outlining that such as cut would impact on their own operating budget’s ability to pay Membership Fees. The WCDFVS held major concerns as the ceasing of this payment would equate to a 20% decrease in core funding to the WCDFVS.

Translating Interpreter Service (TIS)

The Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) will cut funds as of 30 September 2005 that were previously available for SAAP Services to access free 24 hour Telephone Interpreter Services. Federally the funding for this was \$200,000 with the WA component being \$32,000. The WCDFVS hold grave concerns that these services will not be available to women and children from Culturally and Linguistic Diverse Backgrounds in Women’s Refuge and DV Services in WA.

We have lobbied both Federal and State Ministers and have recommended that this issue be given urgent consideration by the State & Federal Government with the view to ensure that funding be provided to maintain free TIS to SAAP Services in WA.

Both SAAP Services Standards and the Best Practice Model for provision of Victims of DV in WA outline the requirement for access to interpreter services as an essential component to working effectively with CALD women and children. Also, unfortunately CALD women have been over-represented in DV related homicides in WA.

The need to ensure free 24 hour access to TIS for Women’s Refuge and DV Services in WA will be vital part of maximising safety and protection for CALD women and children who are experiencing domestic and family violence and require specialist services.

WCDFVS Delegates

As a peak body, the WCDFVS are often requested to nominate a member to represent the view of the Women’s Council on a variety of Committees/ Advisory/Reference Groups which include:

- DVAS Central – Deborah Dearnley
- ECCWA (Women’s Sub-committee) – Fauziah Varusay
- FLC of WA (Children’s Issues) Reference Group – Kedy Kristal
- Industry Council for NGHSS – Kedy Kristal
- ‘More Than A Bed’ Coalition-A campaign for better services for homeless people in WA- CHCWA, YACWA, WCDFVS, WACOSS, ASU- Angela Hartwig
- SAAP State Advisory Committee -Fauziah Varusay & Kay Wilson
- SAAP Protocols Project- Lorraine Johnston
- Sector Reform and Development Working Party- Angela Hartwig & Arina Aoina
- WACOSS Policy Advisory Council-Sector Viability – Angela Hartwig
- WESNET – Kedy Kristal

Preventing domestic and family violence through public awareness and community education

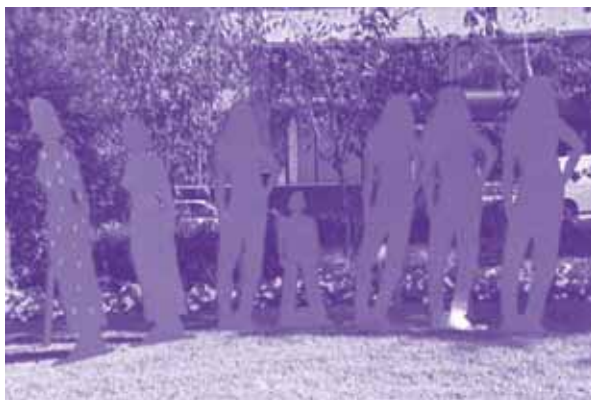


Annual Silent Domestic Violence Memorial March

This important event is held each year in the lead up to National Stop Domestic Violence Day which is 26 April each year. It is a day to acknowledge the on-going death toll and impact of domestic and family violence. It is also an opportunity to continue to raise awareness about the impact and effect of domestic and family violence.

The first Annual Silent Domestic Violence Memorial March was held in 1991 by a group of women survivors who were outraged because the criminal justice system often failed to provide legal protection for women and children who died as a result of domestic and family violence.

In 1996, 26 wooden life size cut outs were made into 'The Silent Witnesses' featured below. The figures represent the number of victims who died that year as a result of domestic homicide in WA. They continue to be ever present reminder to our community ...



This year's DV Memorial March and Rally was held on 19 April 2005 at the Stirling Gardens, Perth, Western Australia, organised by the Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services (WA) & supported by the Family and Domestic Violence Unit. The Rally commenced at 11am with a great line up of guest speakers:

- Indigenous Welcome: Marie Taylor, Traditional Nyungar Birdiya
- The Hon. Sheila McHale MLA, Minister for Community Development; Culture & The Arts; Women's Interests
- Ms Michelle Steck, Community Speaker
- Jordan Fogarty, Year 10, Scotch College, J Fogarty Women's Refuge Appeal
- Sanchia Neate, Manager, The Body Shop
- WCDFVS Convenor, Kedy Kristal, MC read out Homicide victims, followed by one minute's silence.

The Silent March through the streets of Perth commenced at 12 noon with approximately 250 women, men and children marching together in silence with banners and placards to pay respect to all who have died as a result of domestic homicide in WA. They also raise community awareness about impact of domestic and family violence with messages such as Domestic and Family Violence is a crime; 'STOP violence in the home; Domestic Violence Kills!

DV Memorial Marches were also held in Broome on 19 April and in Kalgoorlie on 28 April 2004. Victoria and NSW will also be looking at planning a Silent DV Memorial March in 2006.

From January 2004-April 2005 there had been 20 deaths as a result of domestic homicide; and Police attended 18,000 complaints of domestic and family violence, a 50% increase on the previous year. Women and children are the overwhelming majority of victims (up to 95%). One death is too many, so we must continue to work together to put an end to domestic and family violence in our communities.

- On average 125 women of all ages are murdered each year in Australia
- When a woman is killed, she is most likely to be in a private residence
- The first 2-3 months following separation is the period when women are at most risk of being killed
- Death is usually the final incident in a long history of battering for female victims of domestic homicide (Fatality Review Team, 2001)

Reclaim The Night – 29 October 2004

Reclaim the Night is an annual women's event focused on opposing and ending violence against women and is consistent with the State Government's priority focus on community safety. A group of women committed to organising a community based inclusive RTN event for 29 October 04, approached the WCDFVS to auspice and participate in the event. The Office of Women's Policy donated \$600 and Giz Watson, MLC donated \$100 towards the event.

The event included Indigenous women performers, Yowarliny, the opportunity for women to share their own stories, experiences and ideas and invited guest speakers:

- Ailaoa Aoina-MC and 16 Days of Activism
- Marie Taylor – Indigenous Welcome
- Kedy Kristal – WCDFVS Convenor/Pat Giles Centre, the local perspective
- Caroline Woods – Amnesty International, the Global Human Rights perspective

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women – 25 November 2004

Inolvidables Miraposas – 'Unforgettable Butterflies' The WCDFVS organised a launch of the project which was held on 25 November in Russell Square, Perth to raise public awareness of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and its origins. 2,000 postcards were produced and disseminated to Women's Refuge Services throughout WA to commemorate the Mirabal sisters and also raise awareness around gender based violence.

The origins of 25 November as IDEVAW go back to 1960 when the Mirabal sisters from the Dominican Republic were assassinated on 25 November for their political activism around the issue of violence against women. White ribbons were also disseminated with the postcards throughout WA. A grant of \$3,000 from the WA Women's Grant was received from the Women's Policy Office.

16 Days of Activism – 25 November to 10 December 2004

The Women's Council worked in partnership with Amnesty International and were supported by the Women's Policy Office to produce the Calendar of Events for the 16 Days of Activism whereby thirty events were held in WA. The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is an International Campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute gathering in 1991.

Participants chose the dates, November 25, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and December 10, UN Day for Human Rights, in order to symbolically link the connections between women, violence and human rights.

There are a number of ways to become involved in the 16 Days of Activism, such as this event being held today which is a demonstration of political activism, education and awareness raising and community participation.

The 16 Days of Campaign has been used as an organising strategy by individuals and groups around the world to call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women by:

- Raising awareness about gender-based violence as a human rights issues at the local, national, regional and international levels
- Strengthening local work around violence against women
- Establishing a clear link between local and international work to end violence against women
- Providing a forum in which organisers can develop and share new and effective strategies
- Demonstrating the solidarity of women around the world organising against VAW
- Creating tools to pressure government to implement promises made to eliminate VAW

Since 1991, approximately 1,700 organisations in 130 countries have participated in 16 Days of Activism.

"Elder abuse is an act occurring within a relationship where there is an implication of trust, which results in harm to an older person. Abuse can include physical, financial, sexual, psychological and social abuse and/or neglect."

Australian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse 1999

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF

WOMEN'S COUNCIL FOR DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICES (WA) INC

Scope

I have audited the attached Statements of Financial Position & Performance for the period ended 30/6/2005 being special purpose financial reports. The organisation's management is responsible for the preparation of the accounts and have determined that the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 to the financial statements which form part of the financial reports are appropriate to meet the requirements of the Corporation Law and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members and the funding body. I have performed an independent audit of these accounts in order to express an opinion on them to members of the entity. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members or any funding body.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members and the funding body for the purpose of fulfilling management's financial reporting requirements under Corporation Law. I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this audit report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members and the funding body, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards my procedures included examination, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1, so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the organisations financial position, and performance as presented by the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion the financial report of the organisation is accordance with:

- (a) The Corporation Law, including:
- (i) giving a true and fair view of the organisations financial position as at 30/6/2005 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in the note: and
 - (ii) Complying with Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the Corporations Regulations.
- (b) Other mandatory professional reporting requirements to the extent described in Note 1.

Date: 26 Sep 2005
Graeme N Cope

Graeme N Cope CPA
8 Old Belvidere Prom
EAST PERTH WA 6004
Phone & Fax (08) 9221 2115

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

for the year ended 30 June 2005

	2005 \$	2004 \$
INCOME		
Government Grants		
Department for Community Development	98,219	95,985
Dept for Community Development (One-off)	20,000	0
Family Violence Unit	2,500	5,000
Lotteries Commission	40,387	13,351
Womens Policy Office	3,600	2,000
Self Generated		
Associate Membership Fees	118	20
Bank Interest	706	890
DCD Membership	720	0
Donations	24,243	634
Fees For Service	0	966
Forum	796	0
Management Fees	2,300	8,486
Referral	1,700	0
Reimbursement of Expenses	7,049	(199)
Refuge / Peak Fee Membership	24,133	20,840
Training	0	782
Other Income		
Other Income	574	1,192
TOTAL INCOME	227,044	149,947
EXPENSES		
Operating Expenses		
Accounting Fees	5,420	4,189
Advertising	2,634	362
Audit	2,485	840
Bank Charges	93	103
Computer Technical Support	1,995	0
Consultants Fees	0	1,745
Depreciation - Computer	7,443	1,864
Depreciation - Furniture & Fitting	992	0
External Supervision	1,744	1,935
Freight	189	598
Fax	0	316
Internet & Software	592	1,219
Insurance	3,767	1,760
Management Fee	2,405	0
Membership	591	1,176
Meeting Expenses	3,387	0
Miscellaneous	1,133	518
Office Equipment	0	1,844
Other	0	667
Photocopying	526	1,337
Postage	453	1,040
Printing	830	0
Projects Other	0	0
Project SAAP CLAD	0	2,244
Rent	5,999	5,499
Resources	167	272
Seminars/Conference	1,297	1,878
Staff Amenities	315	448
Stationery	618	1,104
Telephone	3,451	4,551
Training	0	240
Other Expenses		
AGM/Annual Report	1,750	1,932
Catering	0	305
Conference DV	0	209
DV Memorial March	0	1,876
Events	3,403	0
Fundraising	0	887
IT Expenditure	9,630	0
Professional Development	0	0
Special Meeting	0	434
Strategic Plan	5,801	9,735
WRG Projects	5,394	2,624
Sundry	0	0
Personnel Costs		
Annual Leave Provision	(2,830)	0
Long Service Leave Provision	2,043	0
Motor Vehicle Allowance	1,601	1,064
Other Employer Expenses	57	0
Superannuation	6,665	9,183
Superannuation Provision	452	0
Travel Allowance	0	614
Wages	81,928	102,763
Workers Compensation	947	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	165,367	169,375
SURPLUS	\$61,677	(\$19,428)
LESS		
Committed Funds Carried Forward		35,794
Refer Committed Funds Statement		
SURPLUS	\$25,883	(\$19,428)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
as at 30 June 2005

	2005 \$	2004 \$
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bankwest Cash Management (WRG)	46,049	24,493
Bankwest Cash Management (JF)	40,877	0
Bankwest Cheque	15,445	3,573
Cash on Hand	100	100
Accounts Receivable	1,481	25,156
Pre Payments	4,826	3,214
GST Paid	0	6,081
Total Current Assets	108,778	62,617
Non Current Assets		
Computers/Phone Equipment	31,404	5,940
Less Accumuated Depreciation	(10,841)	(3,399)
Fixtures/Fittings/Furniture	11,818	11,818
Less Accumuated Depreciation	(2,761)	(1,770)
Total Non Current Assets	29,620	12,589
Total Assets	138,398	75,206
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	226	4,632
Accrued Expenses	1,106	0
Committed Funds c/f	26,872	5,144
DCD Funding in Advance	8,924	0
J Fogarty Trust A/c	40,960	0
Members Fees In Advance	118	22,423
GST Due	4,557	10,456
Superannuation Payable	4,476	5,456
Provisions		
Provision for Annual Leave	5,042	8,325
Provision for Long Service Leave	5,022	2,980
Provision for Superannuation	906	0
Provision for Audit	1,300	0
Payroll Liabilities		
Group Tax	2,790	5,098
Salary Sacrifice	(476)	
Total Liabilities	101,823	64,514
NET ASSETS	\$36,575	-\$1,897
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Balance at Beginning of Year	10,692	22,353
Capital Introduced	0	12,911
Add Surplus/(Deficit)	25,883	(24,572)
	\$36,575	\$10,692

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2005

1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

These financial statements are not general purpose financial reports. They are "special purpose financial reports" prepared for the members and the funding bodies to enable compliance with their conditions.

The Accrual method of accounting has been used in accordance with the matching concept. The Historical Cost Convention has been used.

Going Concern – The accounts of the organisation have been prepared on the going concern basis. This is dependent upon it being able to attract continuing funding support from the Government and supporting bodies.

Executive Committee Members 2004-05

Convenor, Kedy Kristal
Deputy Convenor, Gabrielle Whiteley
Secretary, Joanne Spark (resigned Jan 05)
Secretary, Lorraine Johnston
Finance Officer, Anne Moore

Assistant Secretary, Mary White
Assistant Finance Officer, Kirsti Kilbane
Rural Rep, Robin Shine
Executive Committee Member, Fauziah Varusay

Staff Members:

Executive Officer, Angela Hartwig
Project Officer, Ailaoa Aoina (resigned April 05)
Administrative Officer, Lisa Palmer (resigned July 05)
Gavan Wood, Accountant

Project Officer, Sarah Newbold
Curtin University Social Work Student, Sonia Tay
TAFE Students, Almetra Bethlehem and
Catriona Leonard

Organisational Members

Albany
Anawim
Byanda/Nunyarra
DV Advocacy & Referral Centre (2)
DV Children's Counselling Service
Esperance Crisis Accommodation
Gascoyne Women's Refuge
Gawooleng Yawoodeng
Goldfields Women's Refuge
Hedland Women's Refuge
Jardamu Safe House
Karratha Women's Refuge
Koolkuna Women's Refuge
Lucy Saw Centre
Marnin Bowa Dumbara
Marninwartikura
Marnja Jarndu
Marnja Jarndu Outreach
Mary Smith Night Shelter

Multicultural Women's Advocacy Service
Nardine Wimmin's Refuge
Narrogin Women's Refuge
Newman Safe House
Ngaringga Ngurra
Onslow Safe House
Orana House
Patricia Giles Centre
Pat Thomas House
Roebourne Safe House
Ruah
South West Refuge
Starick Services Inc
Stirling Women's Refuge
Warrawee
Waminda House
Wonthella House
Wooree Miya
Wyn Carr House

Associate Members

Anglicare Kalgoorlie Accommodation Support Services
Zonta House
Gina Galeano

Rockingham Women's Health and Information Centre
Injury Control Council of WA
John Gladstone

Glossary

AFHO	Australian Federation of Homeless Organisations	NGHSS	Non-Government Human Services Sector
ASU	Australian Services Union	SAAP	Supported Accommodation Assistance Program
CHCWA	Community Housing Coalition of WA	VRO	Violence Restraining Order
DCD	Department for Community Development	WACOSS	WA Council of Social Services
DV	Domestic Violence	WCDFVS	Women's Council for Domestic & Family Violence Services (WA)
ECCWA	Ethnic Communities Council of WA	WESNET	Women's Services Network
FLC of WA	Family Law Court of WA	WRG	Women's Refuge Group of WA Inc
NDCA	National Data Agency Collection	YACWA	Youth Affairs Council of WA



**WOMEN'S
COUNCIL**

FOR DOMESTIC & FAMILY
VIOLENCE SERVICES (WA)

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