

“True resistance begins with people
confronting pain... and wanting to do
something to change it.”

— Bell Hooks, *Yearning: Race, Gender,
and Cultural Politics*

*Response-Based Practice (RBP) Dignity Conference,
Hawkes Bay, Aotearoa, 8-11 April 2015*

‘Campaigning for Change’

*Presenter: Angela Hartwig
CEO, Women’s Council for DFV Services
Western Australia*



**WOMEN'S
COUNCIL**

FOR DOMESTIC & FAMILY
VIOLENCE SERVICES (WA)

Population of
24m



Respects to the Maori Elders of Aoteara



Greetings from our Elders in Western Australia



“Ngaala Kaaditj Noongar moort kayen kaadak nidja boodja”

“We acknowledge the Noongar people as the original custodians of the Land in Perth and South West region of Western Australia”



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

**ONE DEATH
IS TOO MANY!**



**Annual Silent
Domestic Violence
Memorial March**

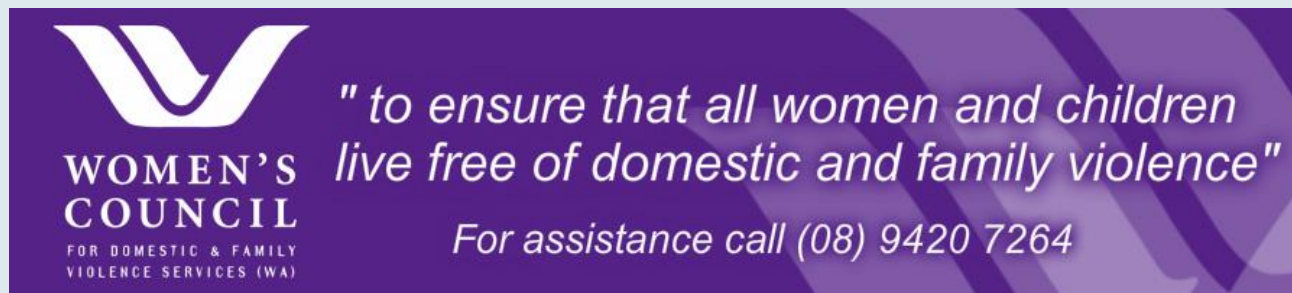
To remember and honour
all those who have lost their
lives as a result of domestic
and family violence.



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

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women

Often bear the brunt of family violence and are 45 times more likely to be a victim of DFV than non-indigenous women; three five more times to be hospitalized and nine times more likely to be a victim of domestic homicide.



- The Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services (WCDFVS) is a state-wide peak organisation committed to improving the status of women and children in society. We seek to ensure that all women and children live free of domestic and family violence.
- Our 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.

Our six priority areas for our current strategic plans are:

1. Positive social justice responses
2. Capacity building & Sector Development
3. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children
4. Children and Young People
5. Appropriate, Affordable Housing for Victims of Domestic & Family Violence
6. Primary Prevention Education

Improving
access for all
women and
children

Working
together -
integration and
coordination

Benchmarks,
baselines and
outcomes

Code of
practice



HERSTORY

- Historically, the only option available to women and children experiencing domestic violence at the hands of their partners was to flee their homes.
- The majority of these women and children continue to have difficulty in finding alternative accommodation which is affordable, appropriate and safe. It is typically of a lower standard to their previous housing and they often have insecure tenure.

Women, Violence and Homelessness

Intimate partner violence and rape are among the most pervasive forms of violence against women. Approximately, 350,000 women will experience physical violence and 125,000 will experience rape in Australia in any year (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006).

Continued....

This forced homelessness and transience has significant social and economic costs for a woman and her children which includes difficulty in maintaining employment and education and isolation from full participation in the wider community.

Having the Violence Leave

In response to this continuing injustice, advocates from the early 1990's until the present day have maintained that women should have the right to stay in their own homes following domestic and family violence and that perpetrators should be the ones to leave (Chung, Kennedy 2000; Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre 2002; McFerran, 2007)

Safe at Home, Safe at Work

The very real or impending lack of financial security does influence a woman's decision to return to a violent partner or ex-partner.

Therefore, supporting women to remain in their own homes and in employment can assist women on their pathway out of violence and homelessness.

Safe at Home

A viable option for women and children who can be safely supported to remain in their own home and have the violence leave.

Safe at Home in WA

Funded through the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH). These innovative programs are framed around early intervention and prevention aimed at breaking the cycle of homelessness for women and children escaping DFV; and connecting victims and perpetrators with services providing ongoing support, counselling, advocacy and assistance.

Development Phase

SAH Forum in November 2009 in which ninety representatives from relevant government and non-government agencies such as the Police, Department of Child Protection, Attorney General, Housing, Refuges, Crisis Care, Counselling and Sexual Assault services to discuss whether WA could have SAH responses and how this could work at an interagency level?

The forum heard from Ludo McFerran who presented examples of good practice in other states around SAH and 'lessons we could learn from.'

‘Wrap around’ support

The SAH program provides ‘wrap around’ intensive case management and support for up to twelve months, through working collaboratively with a range of agencies to assist women and children to maintain stable housing and make a fresh start free from violence.

Memorandum of Understanding

The WA Police Commissioner, Mr Karl O'Callaghan and the Director General of DCP signed off on an agreed MOU between WA Police and DCP twelve funded specialist services who delivered the SAH and DVO support.



Policy and Practice Response

Police agree to make an offer of support when attending a DFV incident to both the victim and the perpetrator if both parties are present.

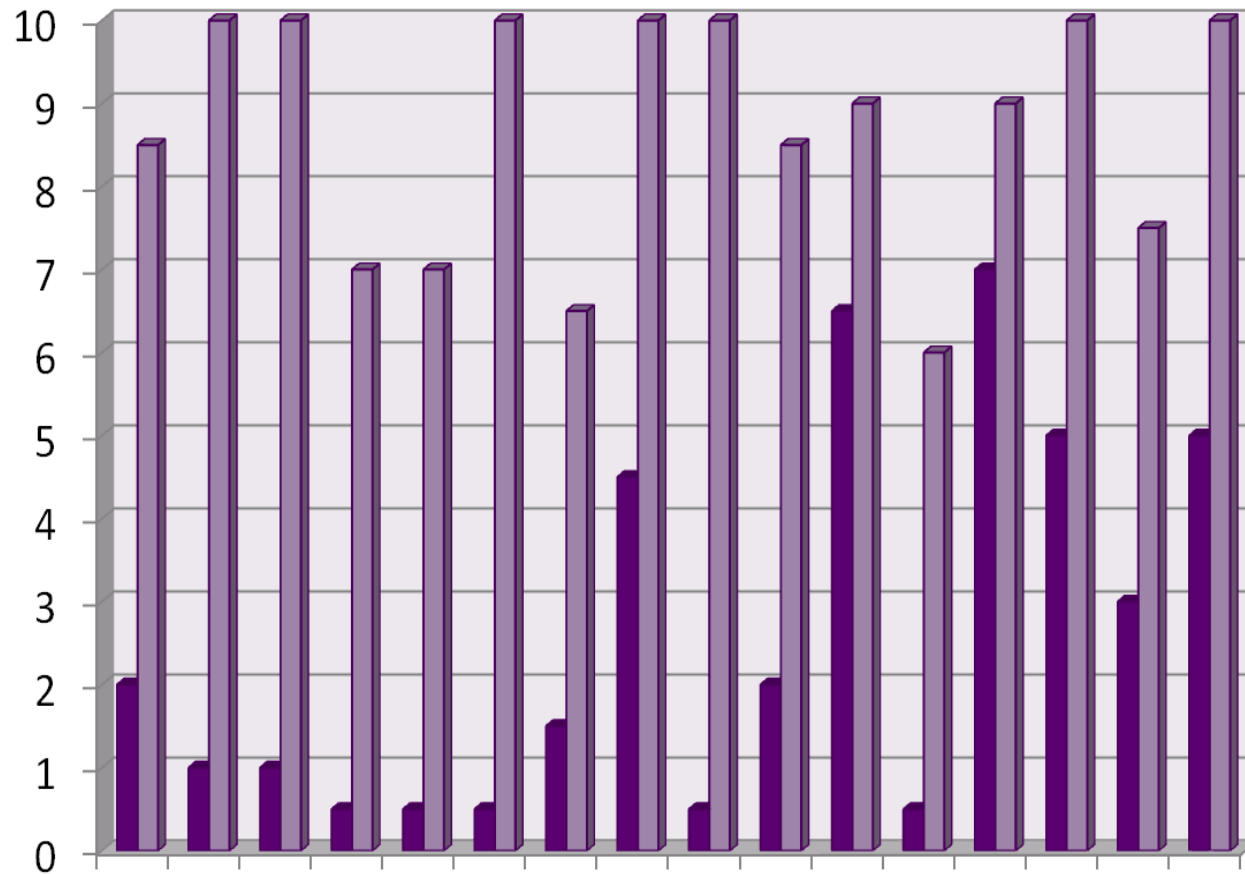
Attempt to obtain verbal consent from the victim to share information, which will be recorded on the Detected Incident Report (DIR)

Attempt to obtain verbal consent from the perpetrator to share information, which will be recorded on the DIR.

Most useful service responses

- Police referral to DV Outreach for follow up within 48 hours
- Initial contact with women in relation to Safety and Risk Assessment from SAH workers
- Court support for women for VROs and/or breaches of VROs from SAH workers
- 12mth period of case management support facilitated by SAH workers with mainstream agencies such as police, housing, legal, education and counselling

How safe did women feel?



Before
After SAH

PRE SAH	POST SAH
<p>“I wasn’t sleeping at all, I was really scared. He threatened to come around and have me killed, raped in front of my children.” (1)</p>	<p>“Oh it just feels good to be able to know you’re not going to, you know, have someone come bashing through your door or, it’s just good to not have to worry so much and to stress all the time.” (10)</p>
<p>“I didn’t feel safe in my own home, cause I constantly felt on edge and having to check out the windows all the time and stuff because I was aware he was sitting outside house in car on a night and climbing over the back fence into the garden and stuff” (0)</p>	<p>‘When we got the alarm put in that gave me a bit of reassurance, we have since moved to a new property, but always aware of the risk of somebody dropping our address and phone number as he had been charged with breaching a VRO 42 times.’ (7)</p>
<p>“He knew I was disabled and I couldn’t protect myself from the size of him. I was scared to close my eyes, I was just worried I was not going to wake up ” (0)</p>	<p>‘With SAH workers guidance and that, and since I got advice what to do, it made me stronger and know what to look for in a man.’ (6)</p>

How have women and children's lives changed by staying in their home and having the violence leave?

- 'Stability, I'm glad we maintained our own home and not had to move while all this was going on, it would have been such an extra burden. With the father in jail, me keeping the house is the reason why I got my boy back so quickly.'
- 'It is like having a big weight lifted off the shoulder you know. It was like a big cloud here when he was here, we did not invite anyone over or have any sleepovers for my girl, as you didn't know whether he was going to come out and start abusing us. Now it's calm, it's peaceful, it's happy.'
- 'My son comes home now for contact visits with the family and my daughter is now getting better grades at school.'

Total number of women and children assisted to secure and sustain their housing

	PG	SR	LS	RH	SW	SC	TOTAL
Women	67	64	63	86	114	74	468
Children	140	133	82	130	167	119	771

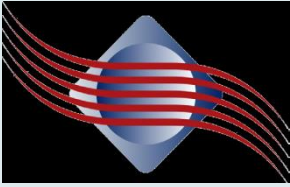
Statistics provided by SAH sites for the period 1 July 2010-30 June 2012
An additional 11 women and 23 children chose to be relocated due to safety reasons

KEY

PG=Pat Giles Centre; SR=Stirling Refuge; LS=:Lucy Saw Centre; RH=Ruah; SW=South West; SC: Northam

Specific Leave Entitlements

‘Employers Supporting Victims in the Workplace’



Domestic Violence Workplace Rights and Entitlements Project

Staying in employment is critical to reducing the impact of the violence. Collective bargaining has, since 2009 provided **Domestic Violence Clauses** for approx. 1.6 million workers in Australia, across 150 agreements and awards which entitle victims of DFV to specific leave.

By supporting women to remain in paid employment, workplaces can assist women on their pathway out of violence and homelessness

Why is paid leave is important ?

- To be able recover from injuries or having been hospitalized as a result of the violence.
- Organise security up-grades at their home and/ or apply for a Violence Restraining Order.
- Seek crisis counselling and support.

- Relocate to an other area and/or change children's schooling arrangements.
- Ensure children are safe: Inform school, crèche kindergarten if Court Orders required to be in place
- Work with Police if there are assault charges against partner or further threats to harm or kill victim/s

FAMILY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEAVE

- 1.1 [EMPLOYER] recognizes that employees sometimes face situations of violence and/or abuse in their personal life that may affect their attendance or performance at work. Therefore [EMPLOYER] is committed to providing support to staff that experience family domestic violence.
- 1.2 An employee experiencing family violence will have access to twenty (20) days per year (non-accumulative) of paid special leave for medical appointments, legal proceedings and other activities related to family domestic violence. This leave will be in addition to existing leave entitlements and may be taken as consecutive or single days or as a fraction of a day and can be taken without prior approval.
- 1.3 An employee who supports a person experiencing family violence may take Carer's Leave to accompany them to court, to hospital or to mind children.

Fair Work Act

In February 2103, the Federal Government proposed including the right for victims of domestic violence to be able to request flexible work arrangements in the Fair Work Act.

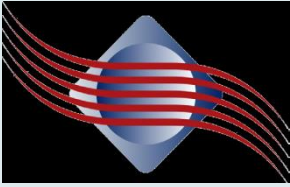
The inclusion of domestic violence in the National Employment Standards will also require employers, managers and human resources staff to be informed of how domestic violence can affect work and how to respond appropriately



More people in health and
community services choose
HESTA than any other super fund

PERTH FLYING 500 CLUB

1951-52	J.B. MATTHEW
1952-53	J.F. WOOD
1953-54	H.A. WALKER
1954-55	H.F. WILSON
1955-56	D.C. DAVES
1956-57	GERARD M. MCGINN
1957-58	REW F. JASMAN
1958-59	W. DES MAR
1959-60	FREDERICK E. GIMM
1960-61	NEVILLE JOHN NELSEN



Domestic Violence Workplace Rights and Entitlements Project

- Domestic Violence and the Workplace Employee, Employer and Union Resources are available online at:
- <http://www.dvandwork.unsw.edu.au>

for any further information please contact Inara Walden
Project Officer, *Safe at Home, Safe at Work* Australian
Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse

Phone: (02) 9385 1733 Email: i.walden@unsw.edu.au

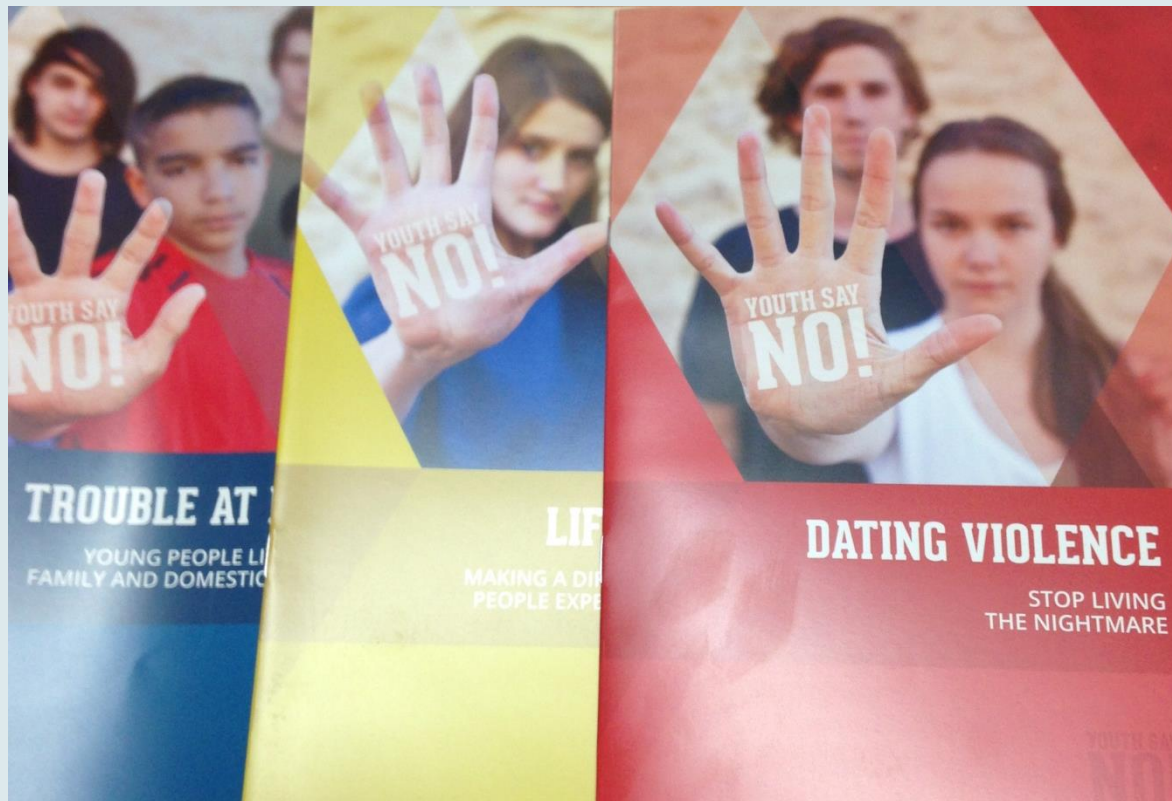
Promoting Respect Project



Violence Prevention Education within High Schools

The Research

- 1 in 4 young people grow up in homes where there is domestic and family violence
- 1 in 3 teens have experienced dating violence.
- Peer education for youth is more effective than adult led interventions.
- Positive social responses =
 - Reduced likelihood to experience or commit violence as adults



TROUBLE AT HOME
YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING WITH
FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

LIFE
MAKING A DIFFERENCE
PEOPLE EXPERIENCE

DATING VIOLENCE
STOP LIVING
THE NIGHTMARE

YOUTH SAY
NO!

Project Design

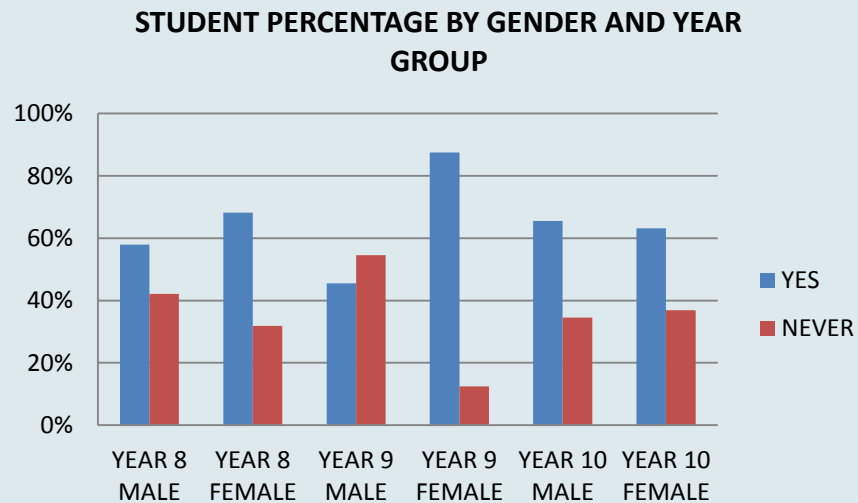
- Behaviour change is required at the level of personal and intimate relationships, as well as at the social and community level.
- Change in behaviour cannot result from increased understanding or awareness alone.
- Behaviour change requires the development and practice of skills, positive role models and a social environment that supports and rewards respectful behaviour over non-respectful behaviour (Flood et al. 2009).

What the program offered

- Professional development for staff
- Classroom based education
- Peer Educator Training
- Anti violence group
- White Ribbon day activity.

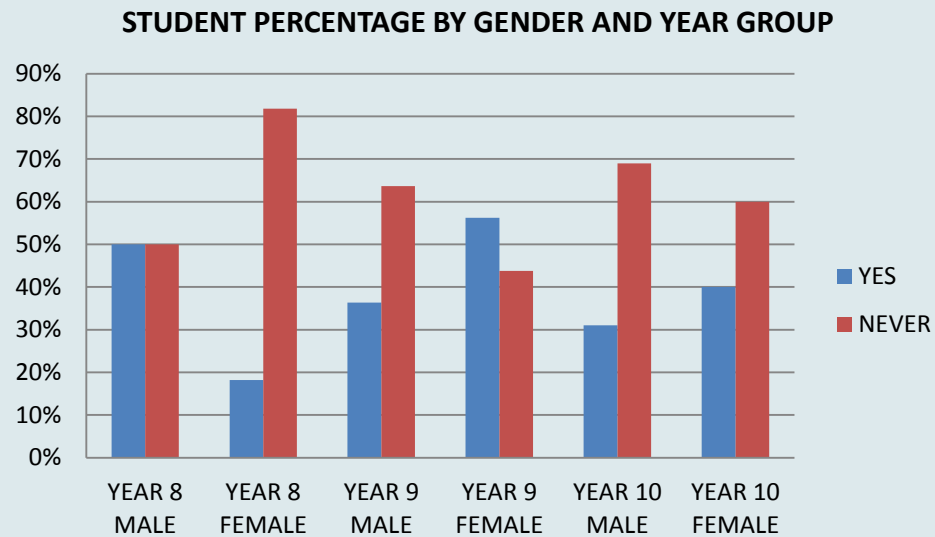
QUESTION THREE

I HAVE SEEN IN MY FAMILY SOME OF THE UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIP PATTERNS THAT WE TALKED ABOUT



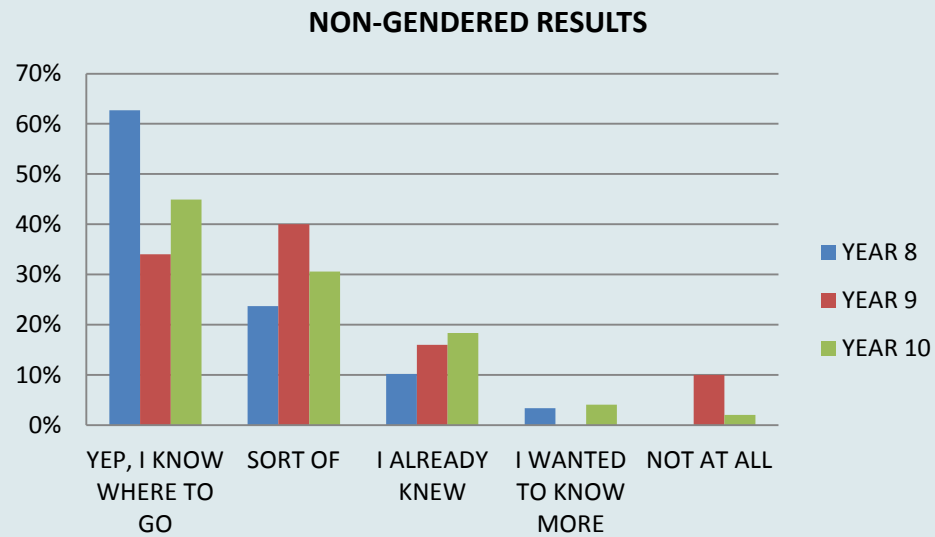
QUESTION FOUR

I HAVE EXPERIENCED IN A RELATIONSHIP SOME OF THE UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIP PATTERNS THAT WE TALKED ABOUT



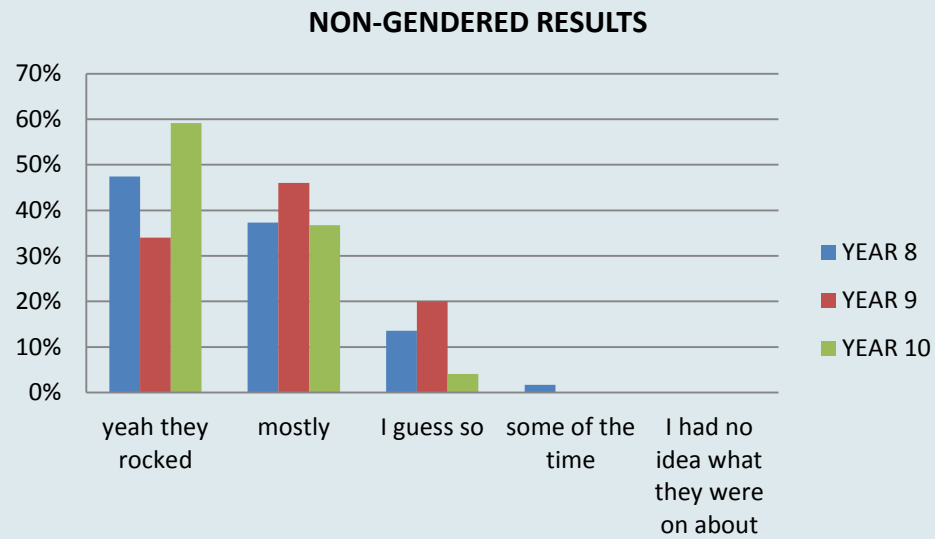
QUESTION SIX

I LEARNT A LOT ABOUT THE SERVICES AND PLACES A PERSON CAN GO FOR HELP IF THEY ARE BEING ABUSED



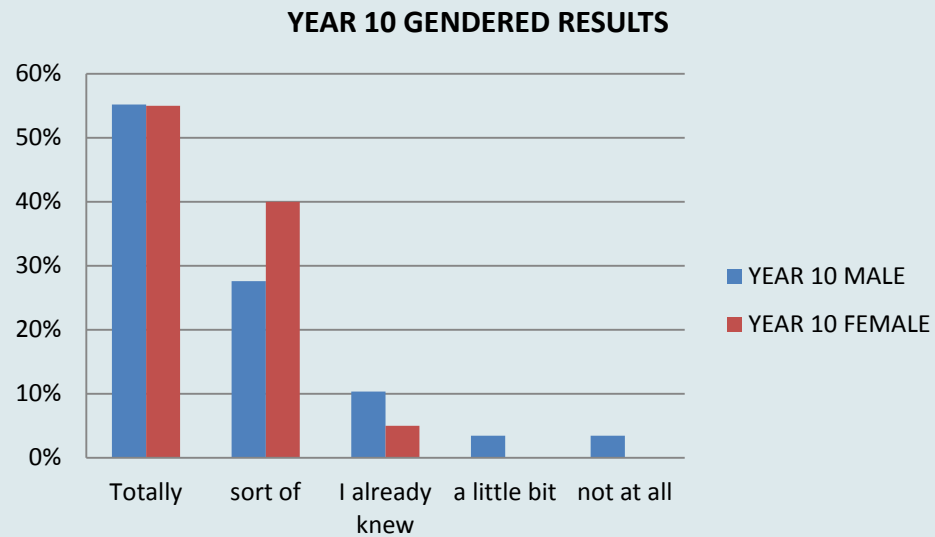
QUESTION NINE

THE FACILITATORS GAVE CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS AND
MADE IT EASY TO PARTICIPATE

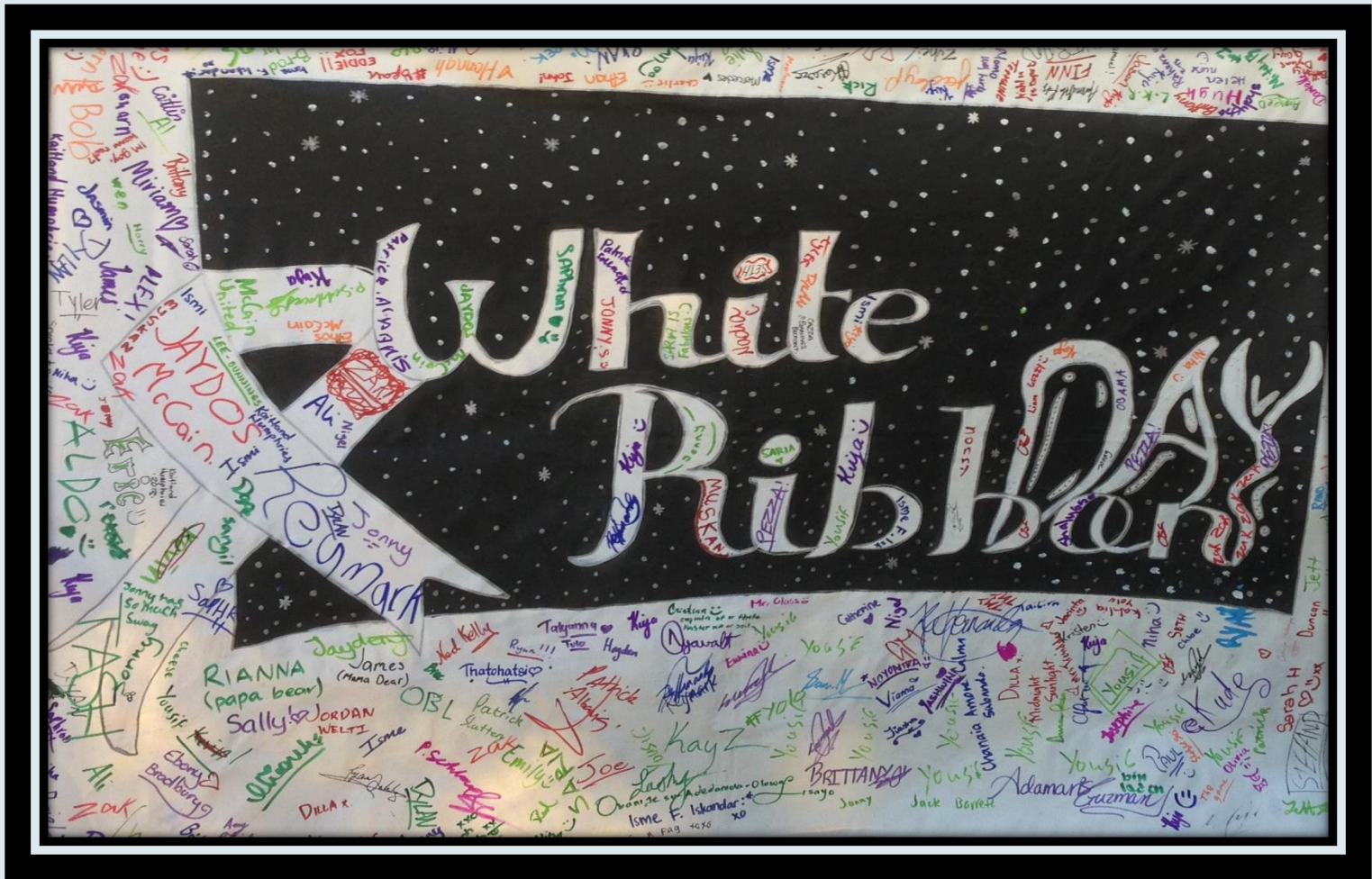


QUESTION TEN

I HAVE LEARNT MORE ABOUT WHAT TO DO IF I AM OR KNOW SOMEONE EXPERIENCING ABUSE







Advocates calling for justice

'Inquests, investigative journalism, petitions and rallies'

Coronial Inquest into the death of Andrea Pickett

The Inquest was held at the request of Andrea's family with the Coroner expressing significant concerns regarding inadequacies in responses by the Police, Department of Corrections and Crisis Care prior to Andrea's death.

A joined up systemic response

- There were also serious concerns around Police responses to a number of reported breaches of the Violence Restraining Order. In addition serious gaps were present in the monitoring of the perpetrator while on parole and the assessment of risk that allowed him to be released from prison.
- It was clear that her husband posed a serious risk to Andrea, which was raised to authorities on numerous occasions including significant high level risk factors

Death of Saori Jones

In December 2010 Saori Jones was assaulted by her husband and left to die, he did not call 000 or take her to hospital, instead he left her in the home with her children for 10 days before Police found her body.

This was not the first time her husband had assaulted his wife, there was a long history of domestic violence that led to this point.

The leniency of his sentence under a charge of 'Unlawful Assault Causing Death' sparked community outrage.

RALLY

You are invited to join us on the steps of Parliament House
on **Thursday 3 May 2012 at 12 noon**

PETITION IN RELATION TO
THE LAYING OF CHARGES
IN CASES OF DEATHS RESULTING FROM
DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE



JUSTICE
for
Saori Jones

Over 2,500 signed petitions will be
presented to Members of the Legislative Council.



IT'S
NOT
OVER!

The presenting of these petitions will call for a
review of the laws pertaining to
domestic and family violence, and in particular
s281 of the Criminal Code (WA) 1913,
to ensure there is an appropriate legislative
framework for cases involving a history of
violence and abuse.

Please **RSVP** to Minako by **30 April 2012**
at minako@womenscouncil.com.au

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

PO Box 8437, Perth Business Centre WA 6849

Ph: 9420 7264 Fax: 9486 8744

Email: info@womenscouncil.com.au

Web: www.womenscouncil.com.au



A Matter of Life and Death



Quentin McDermott's investigative report on 'A Matter of Life and Death' was screened nationally in Australia in July 2012, was a finalist in the Human Rights Media Awards 2012 and went on to win an Eliminating Violence Award (EVA) in 2013. See the following link to view the program: following link to view the program:

<http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/stories/2012/07/26/3554420.htm>



1956
Women's
March
WATHINT' ABFAZI WATHINT' IMBOKODO

You Strike
the WOMAN,
You Strike
the ROCK !!

10th
Anniversary
March against all forms of
men's oppression

Justice for Saori Jones

- Saori's Law seeks to amend section 281 of the Criminal Code to extend the maximum prison sentence for assault resulting in death in "circumstances of aggravation" (as defined in section 221 of the criminal code) to 20 years. Family and domestic violence is considered a "circumstance of aggravation" under this section.
- The Bill was narrowly defeated 22 to 18 in 2012 much to the disappointment of the WCDFVS and 3,000 community members who signed petitions



REPORT 27
STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
PETITION NUMBER 161: REVIEW OF THE LAWS
PERTAINING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

RECOMMENDATION 44

Unlawful Assault causing death

AG Calls for Review of DV Laws

That the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia:

- Investigate and consider the benefits (or otherwise) of having separate family and domestic violence legislation including the outcomes and effectiveness of separate legislation;
- Provide advice on the utility and legal consequences of separating family and domestic violence restraining orders from the *Restraining Orders Act 1997*; and
- Provide advice on the provisions which should be included in family and domestic violence legislation if it were to be developed (whether in a separate Act or otherwise).

AND REPORT on the adequacy thereof and on any desirable changes to the existing law of Western Australia and the practices in relation thereto.

The Commission is requested to deliver its report and recommendations by no later than 31 March 2014

LRCWA Discussion Paper

In December 2013, the Commission published its Discussion Paper presenting 53 specific proposals for reform and raising 29 questions for discussion. That Paper followed consultation with more than 150 individuals concerned with family and domestic violence (both outside and within government)

Responses from the community

The Discussion Paper sought submissions by the end of January 2014, and the Commission ultimately received 43 written submissions, and conducted a number of additional consultations to resolve matters arising from the submissions. The LRCWA final report resulted in a total of 73 recommendations which was submitted to the Attorney General, the Hon. Michael Mischin in June 2014.

'In Loving Memory'

The Silent Protest

Annual Silent Memorial March

In 1991 at Forrest Place, Perth, a group of women who had survived the horrors of domestic and family violence began the march as a protest to the legal system that had failed to keep them and their families safe. They dedicated the march to honour and remember all those women, men and children who had been killed as a result of domestic and family violence.

This year, the 25th Annual Silent Memorial March (ASMM) will be held in Perth at Stirling Gardens. Similar marches now take place in a number of locations including Derby, Broome, Roebourne, Geraldton, Albany, Mandurah, Kalgoorlie and Kununurra.

Domestic Homicides in WA

There have been 61 deaths in WA alone in the last three years.

- 29 deaths in 2012;
- 16 deaths in 2013;
- 16 death in 2014; and
- 5 deaths in 2015



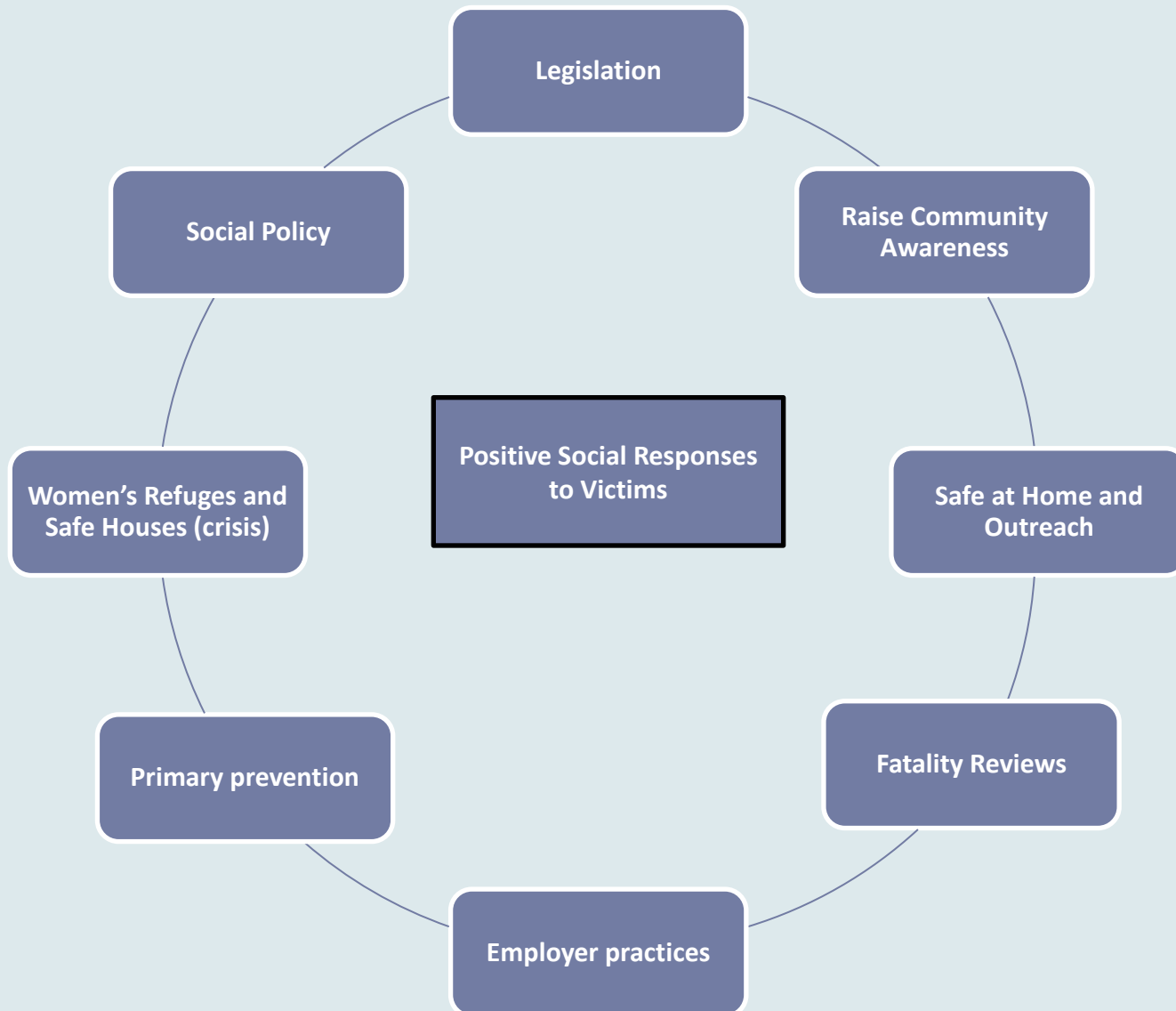








Multi-pronged approach-A.Hartwig, 2013





What hatred inspired this song?

- [1991:] I wrote this song when there was a lot of neo-nazi activity in Sydney, and their leader was on TV one night spouting his vile racist comments and saying he believed that he spoke for eighty per cent of the Australian people. And I said out loud to my TV set: Well you don't speak for me! (Intro Judy Small)

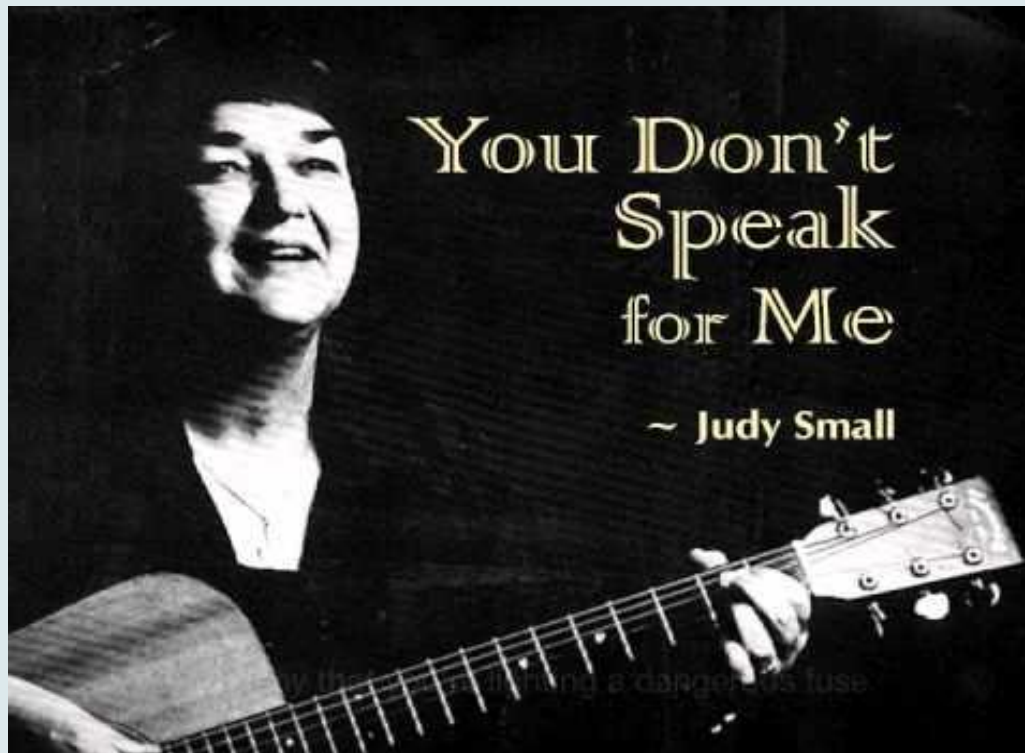


Justice for Saori Jones

Gives voice to all women and
children who do not see
justice in life or in death.

Who will speak for the silent
witnesses that suffer domestic
terrorism in their own homes
each day?

And who will speak for those
who are not here to tell their
truth?



You Don't
Speak
for Me

~ Judy Small