

Violence Prevention in Practice

Australian Institute of Criminology
Research and Public Policy Series

No. 1

The Promise of Crime Prevention: Leading crime prevention programs
edited by Peter Grabosky and Marianne James

No. 2

Money Laundering in the 21st Century: Risks and countermeasures
edited by Adam Graycar and Peter Grabosky

No. 3

Violence Prevention in Practice: Australian Award-winning Programs
compiled by Jane Mugford and Diana Nelson

Violence Prevention in Practice: Australian Award- winning Programs

*compiled by
Jane Mugford and Diana Nelson*



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF CRIMINOLOGY

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Foreword

The Australian Violence Prevention Awards scheme is a joint government initiative established in 1991 by the Prime Minister, State Premiers and Chief Ministers. The Awards are given for the most outstanding projects for the prevention and reduction of violence. The prize pool is A\$100 000 which is cost shared between the Commonwealth and the States and Territories.

The Awards are designed to encourage the public to become more involved in violence prevention and to assist governments in identifying and developing models of best practice which will reduce violence in the community.

The programs described here are examples of the outstanding success of this scheme throughout Australia. In publishing this work, the Australian Institute of Criminology hopes many other communities will be encouraged to take the initiative and work towards preventing violence in a practical way.

Adam Graycar

Director, Australian Institute of Criminology
and

Chair, Australian Violence Prevention Awards Selection Board

October 1996

Introduction

The well-known phrase used by the environmental movement—“think globally, act locally”—offers an important way to frame the practicalities of violence prevention.

“Acting locally” is important because people know their own towns or regions. They are aware of problems at the micro level—after-dark aggression by a gang of youths that has resulted in increased fear of violence especially amongst older people in the community, or bullying at the local school which means that a son or daughter has been forced to move to another school miles away. Citizens’ commitment to the local area also tends to mean that they would like to see something done about the problem and, resource issues aside, are likely to be prepared to help with this process.

“Thinking globally”, however, is equally important. While problems identified at the local level have a significance for the lives of people in that area, many problems have parallels elsewhere, both nationally and internationally. An understanding of how local problems may be similar to others elsewhere means that mechanisms developed for dealing with the problems can be shared. Perhaps school bullying prevention programs developed in Scandinavia have some relevance for dealing with bullying problems identified in Sydney, or Kalgoorlie, or Townsville. Similarly, community safety programs developed in one part of Australia can provide a model for elsewhere in Australia (this has already happened on the Gold Coast, with the Surfers Paradise Safety Action Project explicitly modelling itself on the West End Forum). However, local differences, both in the specifics of the problem as well as the makeup of the community, means that globally developed solutions will need imagination and modification for effective application.

The important issue, then, is to identify the problem and to name it for what it is. This is relatively easy for more public issues such as street bullying by a gang of youths. Such gangs are relatively visible, and can create problems for a wide range of people in the community—shopkeepers, teachers, city parks personnel, and other local citizenry who wish to tread the pathways and precincts in safety.

Many violent crimes, however, are relatively private in nature, and therefore less visible. While the bulk of violent crimes are committed by men against men, often in public settings, “domestic” violence tends to occur privately, “behind closed doors”, and is mainly committed by men, against women. A decade of public education has taught Australians that it is not merely acceptable but also essential that violence in the family be challenged, yet we are still relatively reluctant to do so. This is partly because to do so may be physically dangerous, and partly because we do not know what to do for the best if we know a neighbour is beating his wife. However, it also has a lot to do with the perceived sanctity of relationships between intimates, in the context of the home.

The police cannot take sole responsibility for dealing with such problems. Police are empowered to take action where a crime has

been committed or suspected of having been committed. They are also involved in a wide range of crime prevention and general peacekeeping activities, but they cannot be everywhere, all the time.

In short, the best interventions are those which involve the local community, those people who know the area, its problems, and which solutions are likely to work. Violence prevention models may be drawn from elsewhere, but they require a good deal of commonsense to render them locally relevant.

The best interventions also involve partnerships between groups that can bring different perspectives and different degrees of authority to a particular problem. Most of the community safety programs included in this volume work on this principle. Often, such partnerships are between community groups and the police.

Furthermore, the best interventions are also those where action is taken quickly. For example, if members of a community are known to be likely to be arrested by the police for being drunk and disorderly, it is better to organise supervised lifts home for them than to leave them to roam at large until trouble occurs and they are arrested and incarcerated.

This volume, then, offers a range of possibilities that communities might consider. In so doing, it aims to broaden the scope of their imagination and their capacity for timely and speedy response.

The violence prevention projects described in this volume are drawn from the projects included in the Australian Violence Prevention Award Program between 1992 and 1995. Each entry describes one project, including details of the violence prevention strategy that it has adopted, the effectiveness of the project, its current status, its funding and staffing resources, and a contact point for further information.

The main criteria for inclusion were that the project has won an Award and that the project is still in existence. In addition, an effort was made not to include projects which conceptually overlap, in order to be able to include as wide a range of projects as possible. In the end, however, none of these principles was perfectly applied. A few projects which are no longer in existence were included anyway, because of their demonstrated value while they were operating. A few projects overlap, to illustrate the range of possible manifestations of a particular violence prevention concept. There was even one project which did not win an Australian Violence Prevention Award, though it had been nominated for one. This particular project was included because it has since received other awards and wide recognition.

Some of the projects have been formally evaluated, and some have not. Many of the projects are run on small budgets and they began operations relatively recently. In some cases, the cost of an evaluation would outweigh running costs, which would undermine the capacity of the project to undertake its violence prevention work. Even where evaluations are possible, a longer period of time may be needed in order to estimate both long and short term effects. This is not intended as an apology for any perceived lack of evaluation with respect to these projects, but to place the role of evaluation in perspective. Indeed, evaluation is extremely important, and nominations for awards gain points for monitoring and evaluating their work. Much more investment in evaluation is needed, but not at the expense of precious operational dollars.

Nonetheless, in our opinion, all of these projects have demonstrated their violence prevention value, and some have been able to do so in quantitative terms. However, the value of many of the projects may be measured more in terms of qualitative change to the lives of people involved, than in terms of “hard fact”. For example, the lives of a group of young people may have improved to the point where their self-esteem has grown and they have taken up full-time employment. We will never know for certain whether this has prevented the further commission of acts of violence, but it is a reasonable inference that it has, for we know that those who do commit acts of violence are disproportionately low in self-esteem and unemployed. The fact that a number of the projects in this volume have been implemented elsewhere, is also testament to their success.

The entries are grouped into jurisdictions, and the index indicates the particular emphases of each project.

We hope that you find this volume informative and practical. We took great pleasure in compiling it.

Jane Mugford

Diana Nelson

Canberra, September 1996



Australian Capital Territory

Anti-bullying Project, ACT

Project Summary:

An anti-bullying program introduced into a designated disadvantaged school. The program incorporates the school's Student Management Policy, a Developmental Playground for disadvantaged children, the use of Playground Buddies and a Peer Support Program.

Target Group(s):

Children, aged 5 to 12 years.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The strategies adopted included:

- Recognition of the need to address bullying.
- Raising students' awareness of the problem.
- The use of peer support to discourage bullying.
- Involvement of students at all points of the project.
- Training of senior students in leadership, communication and mediation skills to be playground mediators and mentors ("Playground Buddies") through the Developmental Playground, and through a peer support program.
- The provision of information and advice supplied to parents through the school newsletter and parent-teacher meeting.
- An expectation that bullies will make restitution to their victims and may be excluded from the playground for a specified time or be required to spend time under supervision in the Developmental Playground. Bullies are required to make a plan to change

each specific bullying behaviour.

- Where necessary, the further involvement of the parents and counselling, and suspension from school as a last resort.

Project Description:

Richardson Primary School has 360 students and 30 staff. It was opened in 1984 in a new outer suburb. Approximately 60 per cent of the school population came from low income families and many children experienced violence, either verbal or physical, in the home.

The Principal conducted a whole-of-school lesson on bullying using the Peer Support group structure to enable children to brainstorm what they considered constituted bullying behaviours. A student management policy had been introduced to the school several years earlier, based on the work of Dr William Glasser; the basic premise is that all individuals choose behaviours which satisfy at least one of five basic needs—survival, love and belonging, power, fun and freedom.

Project Results:

All forms of bullying have been greatly reduced and children who were frequently bullying are now finding more positive ways to solve their problems, most of the time. There were 109 incidents of bullying when the project began which dropped to a low of 8 during the year. The average number of incidents were 30. Parents have reported a change in attitude in children regarding their fear of bullying.

- ▶ **Commencement Date:** 1993.
- ▶ **Current Status:** Ongoing. The reduction in bullying has continued.
- ▶ **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:** Richardson Primary School.
- ▶ **Resources:** This project has been undertaken within the school budget. It needed no extra staff or resources.
- ▶ **Contact Person:** The Principal
Richardson Primary School
May Gibbs Place
Richardson ACT 2905
Phone: (06) 205 8200

Metal for the Brain, ACT

Project Summary:

Metal for the Brain were drug and alcohol free heavy metal music concerts held in Canberra to emphasise the problems of alcohol induced violence.

Project Results:

The 1991 concert raised A\$3000. The proceeds from the concerts went to the National Brain Injury Foundation and to help buy the special equipment needed by Joel's friend.

Target Group(s):

Young people, aged 12 to 18-years-old.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

A survey conducted by the ACT Alcohol and Drug Service reported an alarmingly high use of alcohol among students in years 7 to 11. The project was an excellent example of young people working together and was unusual in that it used the medium of heavy metal music which is often associated in the minds of the general public with violence.

Project Description:

The concert was a campaign dealing with the problems of alcohol, targeting young people and highlighting alcohol-induced aggression. These concerts were organised by 21-year-old Joel Green and were developed out of a tragic incident in which a 19-year-old friend was assaulted by drunken men and rendered a quadriplegic. The concert was first held in 1991 with six bands, and again in 1992, with two shows and ten bands.

**Commencement Date:**

Concerts held in 1991 and 1992.

**Current Status:**

It was hoped that these concerts might become an annual event but without a formal management committee and with ad hoc funding they have not been able to continue.

**Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**

Joel Green.

**Resources:**

Bands performed at no cost. A grant was received from the ACT Youth Affairs Unit to cover other costs.

**| New
South Wales**

Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project, NSW

Project Summary:

A state-wide New South Wales community-based project dedicated to eliminating hate-related violence against lesbians and gays.

Target Group(s):

People who are lesbians or gays; general community.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The elimination of hate-related violence against lesbians and gays is achieved by:

- initiating and fostering an increased lesbian and gay community response to counter anti-lesbian and homophobic violence;
- facilitating an increased government response to counter this violence;
- fostering an increased awareness in the general community of the unacceptability of this violence;
- identifying the nature, causes and extent of anti-lesbian and homophobic violence and suggesting remedies to minimise such violence.

Project Description:

The project aims to reduce violence against gays and lesbians through education and awareness campaigns. A database of all lesbian and gay organisations and interested individuals in New South Wales is maintained and through this, newsletters and other relevant information is distributed. Research is undertaken into hate-related violence. Support is provided to survivors of violence, including referral to appropriate health, counselling and legal services.

In 1992, the "Be Streetsmart" education campaign, a "Whistle Education" campaign (which included the distribution of whistles) and an Anti-Violence Project promotional campaign were held. A conference on violence in gay and lesbian relationships was convened in 1994. In 1995, a project around the themes of racism and homophobia was set up; a roadshow to determine issues for different regions was taken into country areas; research was undertaken into violence and harassment against people living with HIV/AIDS and gays and lesbians in public housing estates; a campaign highlighting the issues for lesbians facing violence and harassment was conducted; and a media guide to provide national resources on issues of violence and harassment against lesbians and gays was produced. Surveys are undertaken to evaluate the effectiveness of these undertakings.

Project Results:

Despite the difficulties of comparing results from several different surveys, it is evident that attitudes within and about the gay and lesbian community have improved considerably. More survivors of incidents are inclined to report in the belief that the police will be able to help. Physical attacks between November 1991 and June 1993 more than halved. In 1995-96 the number of reports of violence against lesbians and gays in Darlinghurst and Newtown decreased by 20 per cent on the number of reports made in 1994-95.



Commencement Date:

1991.



Current Status:

Ongoing education and awareness raising programs. New projects are being planned.



Name of Organisation responsible for the project:

Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project.



Resources:

Funding is provided by the New South Wales Health Department. The project also receives funding and a rental subsidy from the South Sydney City Council, and occasional grants from other government agencies. Community fund-raising activities provide about 40 per cent of its budget. Additional staffing assistance is provided by volunteers and student placement programs.



Contact Person:

Bruce Grant
Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project
PO Box 1187, Darlinghurst NSW 2010
Ph: (02) 9360 6687

Reducing Violence, Crime and Fear in the Gay and Lesbian Communities, NSW

Project Summary:

This project deals with "hate" crimes against the gay and lesbian communities through a multi-pronged approach covering communication, community education, and liaison between the police and the community.

Target Group(s):

Gay and lesbian members of the community; the general public.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The essential strategy is community liaison and consultation to ensure better service delivery to gays and lesbians. The program aims to identify the nature, causes and extent of violence against gays and lesbians; to mobilise awareness, understanding, and commitment and action on homophobic violence; and to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate programs, policies, procedures and operations towards improved safety and feelings of safety for gays and lesbians.

The Police Service initially appointed four Police Gay/Lesbian Liaison Officers in inner city areas of Sydney. By 1994 more than half the state's police stations had liaison officers. Police Gay/Lesbian Anti-Violence Consultative Groups were also formed in critical locations. A large element of the program addresses police attitudes and police customer service to gays and lesbians. The program includes a wide-ranging information and community education campaign.

Project Description:

In 1990, the Minister for Police set up a government and community committee

to develop strategies to reduce violence against gays and lesbians. In 1992, a Senior Police Working Party was established to oversee police initiatives. Police set up a stall dealing with anti-gay/lesbian violence at World AIDS Day and at the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Fair Day. From 1992 to 1994 structural reforms and widespread community and police initiatives were carried out. Police implemented a coordinated training strategy to deal with police relations with the gay and lesbian community for use in patrols. The Department of School Education set up a working group to turn the police school homophobia project into a comprehensive package, and a major survey on anti-lesbian violence was carried out. A third phase of the project, 1994-95, involved the production of a formal strategic plan.

Project Results:

Following commencement of the program, reported levels of homophobic violence in the immediate area dropped significantly, and the reporting of incidents to police approximately doubled. Police research into the percentage of lesbians experiencing physical assault showed a drop from 18 per cent in 1990-91 to 12 per cent in 1993-94. The number of anti-gay assaults as a proportion of total street assaults declined from 60 per cent in 1990 to 46 per cent in 1991, though the total number of street assaults remained almost the same. There has been a general increase in awareness of the problem. Other government departments have also initiated and supported strategies to reduce hate-based crimes.

▶	Commencement date:	1990.
▶	Current status:	Ongoing.
▶	Name of Organisation responsible for the project:	Community Safety Development Branch, New South Wales Police Service.
▶	Resources:	Over the period, 1990-94, the project has cost A\$289 000. This includes the salary of one staff member, marketing and communication costs, research, printing and a donation of A\$5000 for video production.
▶	Contact Person:	Sue Thompson Community Safety Development Branch Police Headquarters, Avery Building Level 12, 14-24 College Street, Darlinghurst NSW 2010 Phone: (02) 9339 5511

SAFE Women—Liverpool Project, NSW

Project Summary:

The Safe Women—Liverpool Project is an anti-violence project focusing on the public safety of women.

Target Group(s):

The primary target is women, with planning authorities as a secondary target audience.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The strategy includes:

- giving women a voice to express their concerns and ideas about safety and directing this to relevant organisations and stakeholders;
- creating environments where crime opportunities are reduced through heightened community control;
- working intersectorally with government and non-government organisations to adopt urban design and planning processes that maximise safety;
- identifying unsafe places in Liverpool and ways to make them safer;
- fostering the development of education programs and campaigns, for example, women's self-defence classes, anti-violence projects;
- encouraging the development of policy which promotes the safety of women in public places.

A phone-in was conducted for women who lived or worked in Liverpool. From it emerged recommendations focusing on:

- linking local communities, government and non-government agencies to prevent the underlying causes of crime and violence by making positive changes to existing environments, particularly Liverpool Station;
- negotiating cooperative and proactive solutions to the many problems posed by excessive alcohol consumption in public places;
- launching an educational campaign that supports and extends the social development aspects of crime prevention to complement the environmental design approach currently gaining momentum;
- addressing the transport needs of women by transport planners and designers.

Project Results:

As a result of the survey, the Liverpool Railway Station was identified as an area of major concern. A safety audit was conducted and a report produced together with a set of recommendations. A video on women's safety in public places was produced.

Project Description:

The project aim is to increase women's safety when using public places and to reduce their fear of harassment and attack. It is a catalyst to ensure that women's safety in the public arena is given some priority.

- ▶ **Commencement Date:** 1993.
- ▶ **Current Status:** Additional funding has been provided for this project. The video has been widely distributed across New South Wales and other states. The project has had a strong impact on the redevelopment of Liverpool Railway Station with a substantial number of safety features being included.
- ▶ **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:** SAFE Women—Liverpool Project.
- ▶ **Resources:** Work support and financial support has largely been in kind. Production of a 25-minute video, funded by the NSW Department for Women, cost A\$50 000.
- ▶ **Contact Person:** Liz Reedy
Safe Women Liverpool Project Committee
23 Sheriff Street, Ashcroft NSW 2168
Phone: (02) 9827 2222

The Sound of Violence— The Voice of Arabic Women, NSW

Project Summary:

This project is a radio segment to raise awareness of the problems for young women in an Arabic society, through workshops, script writing and training in broadcasting and production.

Target Group(s):

Arabic women in Australia, other NESB groups, the community.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The strategy is to raise awareness of problems that exist for women in the Arabic community in Australia. Women are given information and support through radio programs, videos and workshops which empower them to deal with issues and crises, such as family violence, which affect their lives. Through distribution of a video to other community groups, other people may be encouraged to produce their own stories and reflect on similar problems in their lives in a creative way. The project may through the influence of siblings encourage male perpetrators of violence to examine their own violent/abusive behaviour and seek to change it.

Project Description:

The Voice of Arabic women conduct a program on Macarthur Community Radio. Its listeners are aged between nine and 70-years-old. The program focuses on issues of importance to the community: marriages of convenience; problems related to alcoholism and gambling; and problems related to the immediate family. Programs are offered in Arabic and English which assists

women to improve their knowledge of English. Other activities of the Voice of Arabic women include:

- production of a video, "Sewing and Accounting Don't Match" which is a story of a mother and her two daughters who survived domestic violence;
- a family day: an original kites competition at the Sydney Children's Museum;
- production of a play based on issues facing women migrants;
- a seminar on female genital mutilation education.

Project Results:

The self-esteem of women from the Macquarie Fields area involved in the production of the radio segments and videos, and their ability to cope with difficulties, has improved through the development of their writing, communicating and broadcasting skills. "These gentle creatures have emerged from 'hell breaking loose' with a positive attitude to life and a sense of compassion". A seventeen-minute radio segment was produced which portrays a real story of a young woman, disillusioned, and her emergence into a new dimension of being and existing in the world of aggression and isolation. The video, "Sewing and Accounting Don't Match" has received the award for the best Ethnic Television Program from Community Broadcasting Association of Australia.

▶	Commencement Date:	1993.
▶	Current Status:	The radio segment is used on days of special significance to women, for example, International Women's Day. The video is presently being assessed by SBS for screening.
▶	Name of Organisation responsible for the project:	The Voice of Arabic Speaking Women Collective.
▶	Resources:	Funding and support has been received from Campbelltown City Council and the Macquarie Fields College of TAFE.
▶	Contact Person:	Chadia Gedeon Hajjar Voice of Arabic Speaking Women Collective PO Box 585 Ingleburn NSW 2565

The Family Safety Program, NSW

Project Summary:

The Family Safety Program promotes the safety of all family members, intervenes to prevent inter-generational violence; and offers services to all members of each family group regardless of who initially seeks help.

Target Group(s):

Family members who are either perpetrators, victims or witnesses of violence.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

Recognising the learned nature of violent behaviour, this project has, as a key principle, the aim of protecting children from experiencing or witnessing violence through developing effective parenting strategies and adult modelling. These strategies include:

- educational programs for parents who are at risk of child abuse;
- groups and therapeutic approaches to families where adolescents use physical abuse against their parents and siblings;
- support programs for adult victims of domestic violence and education programs for male perpetrators of violence.

Project Description:

The project integrates and coordinates the activities of three separate service sectors, ensuring cross-referral between services and providing a range of intervention options. The three service sectors are:

- The Family Skills Program's range of parenting groups, in particular the "Growing Together" program. These aim to provide parents with positive

models of parenting. The "Growing Together" project is specifically designed for parents and children whose relationship has broken down because of domestic violence and/or child abuse.

- The RAPS Adolescent and Family Therapy and Mediation Service to violent adolescents and their families. The focus of this service is on creating family safety and reducing the incidence of youth homelessness and family breakdown.
- The men's education program and women's support groups run through the Relationship Education program and the couple/family therapy service which is available for men and women in the group program.

Project Results:

Women have reported increased levels of safety and decreased violence from their male partners; women have increased their use of legal sanctions; parents have been able to develop alternatives to spanking children and have been able to manage their children's behaviour without losing control. Women have been able to leave violent relationships. Men have not only reduced or eliminated their violence but have developed alternatives to the power and control tactics they had relied upon previously. Adolescents have ceased using violence or abusive behaviour in the home.

-
- ▶ **Commencement Date:**
Women's groups—1988; Men's groups—1990; RAPS—1991; Family Skills—1992.
 - ▶ **Current Status:**
Ongoing.
 - ▶ **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**
Relationships Australia (NSW).
 - ▶ **Resources:**
Relationships Australia receives approximately 60 per cent of its funding from the Federal Attorney-General's Department of Legal and Family Services; the remainder being provided through self-funding.
 - ▶ **Contact Person:** Kerrie James
Relationships Australia
5 Sera Street
Lane Cove NSW 2066
Phone: (02) 9418 8800

Special Care Correctional Centre, NSW

Project Summary:

A correctional centre which operates as a therapeutic community to assist prison inmates modify their attitude and behaviour. It is a maximum security centre. One of its unique features is the involvement of custodial staff in program delivery.

Target Group(s):

Inmates within the New South Wales Correctional System.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

Inmates with behavioural problems participate in programs away from normal correctional centre discipline. They are assisted in developing goals for personal change before returning to the general inmate population. Goals set include improving or modifying a negative self-image, relieving a high level of anxiety and depression engendered by perceived difficult experiences, modifying aggressive behaviour and overcoming chronic difficulties experienced in communicating with those in authority.

Project Description:

The centre comprises four units:

- the Special Care Unit which provides inmates with behavioural problems the opportunity to actively examine their self-defeating behaviour, as well as affording them an opportunity to implement changes and to accept responsibility for their actions;
- the Crisis Support Unit which caters for inmates who are potentially suicidal or at risk of self-harm aims to develop the potential of inmates

through the means of a therapeutic environment program focusing on social skills and developmental and behavioural self-management strategies;

- the Lifestyles Unit which provides a supportive environment for inmates who are HIV positive to allow them to participate in programs which enable them to develop their own personal strategies for living with HIV/AIDS;
- the Alexander Maconochie Unit is the venue for the violence prevention program which caters for inmates with a history of violence within the system—issues such as anger, stress management, mediation and conflict resolution are addressed in this program.

The Centre also trains correctional officers in new management techniques which assist them in the management of inmates with behavioural problems.

Project Results:

The success of the Centre's programs is the acquisition of skills by inmates to manage their behaviour and their continued use of these skills. The inmates' increased self-confidence enables some of them to act as advocates for other prisoners without being labelled as trouble-makers. Evidence gathered from interviewing inmates who have attended the Centre indicates that their relationship with correctional officers improved. The Lifestyles Program not only contributes to the reduction of transmission of the HIV/AIDS virus but also to the future impact of the problem in the correctional system through the support given to HIV positive inmates.

- ▶ **Commencement Date:**
1981 Special Care Correctional Centre, 1992 Crisis Support Unit and Lifestyles Unit, 1996 Alexander Maconochie Unit.
- ▶ **Current Status:**
Ongoing.
- ▶ **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**
Department of Corrective Services.
- ▶ **Contact Person:** Governor Janine McGlenn
Special Care Centre
Locked Bag No 23
Matraville NSW 2036
Phone: (02) 9289 2352

Magpie Centre, NSW

Project Summary:

The provision of support and resources to residents in a housing estate which has large numbers of single parent families and Aboriginal families who are financially disadvantaged. The theme of the Magpie, black and white working together, is a basic tenet of the Centre; its activities involve both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal residents.

Target Group(s):

Youth; young mothers; residents of the public housing estate.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The primary focus is on the well-being of youth. The project addresses concerns about sexual assault, street violence, problems with racial harmony and difficult relationships between neighbours. It provides practical support and activities, based on local research. The Centre has organised for some people to undertake managerial training, thus adding expertise and knowledge to the community that the Centre serves.

Project Description:

The centre operates in the Goonellabah Housing Commission area. It presently offers the following activities:

- weekly soup kitchen; the meal is prepared on the premises and caters for 45-105 participants;
- medical clinic/healthy breakfast held fortnightly at which between 5-15 patients attend;
- school holiday activities which are attended by more than 60 young people per day;
- Time-Out Project, for periodic school attendees to develop numeracy and

literacy skills, held two days a week with up to six students;

- weekly visits by a Department of Health worker, drugs and alcohol counsellor, family counsellor, mental health counsellor;
- broad-based advocacy work which includes activities such as negotiations with the Department of Health re rental arrears, tribunal, and so on; assistance with general health issues, street wise counselling support, court support, support to juveniles regarding police matters, liaison with St Vincent de Paul, Smith Family, and other community matters;
- Magpie Sports: 70 locals in Magpie Touch Football teams, sponsorship of Koori Dubais netball, and soon to commence, three local kids basketball teams;
- Streetbeat which operates three nights a week on the estate and in the CBD, making contact and providing assistance to youth in need;
- an outreach Baby Health Centre and a Mothers' Club.

Project Results:

Evidence indicates that the level of violence in the neighbourhood has reduced since the Centre opened. Children have been provided with opportunities, such as outings to the beach, which many had not experienced before. The Centre has provided a focus for the neighbourhood and people have begun to feel pride in its activities, bringing a change in atmosphere within the neighbourhood which has resulted in people being attracted and welcomed into the community.



Commencement Date:
1991.



Current Status:
Ongoing.



Name of Organisation responsible for the project:
Management Committee of the Magpie Centre.



Resources:
The primary funding body is the Department of Community Services (DOCS) which provides recurrent funding of A\$41 000. This funds a part-time administration worker, administrative costs and program monies. DTEC has funded the Time-Out Project up to September 1996. The Streetbeat Project employing two TAP trainees is funded through DEETYA. Further funding of A\$36 000 has been received from DOCS to commence a Family Options Project to provide support to families in need.



Contact Person: Kerry Mundine, President
Magpie Centre Inc Goonellabah NSW 2480
Phone: (066) 25 2363

What's Your A-Gender? NSW

Project Summary:

What's Your A-Gender? is a peer education package for preventing sexual violence. It was developed by the New South Wales University of Western Sydney to address sexual violence on and off campus.

Target Group(s):

Young women at risk of sexual violence and young men prone to committing sexual violence.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The project was designed in consultation with staff and students from the University. Both groups took the view that attitudinal and behavioural change occur most effectively among young people when the agents of change are the young people themselves. Initial consultations also revealed that the students prepared to be involved in a program to change attitudes towards sexual assault were marginalised from the main body of students and unlikely to have a significant impact on the dominant culture. The project was therefore built around the training of peer educators. Incentive schemes were introduced to stimulate interest in the project.

Project Description:

The project was advertised in the student newspaper and through leaflet drops across campus, calling for participants in weekend training sessions which were to be followed by an eight-hour session of further training. For applicants to become peer educators attendance at all sessions was compulsory.

Peer educators were trained to raise awareness on campus that sexual assault is a crime of violence, by challenging beliefs and attitudes that perpetuate sexual assault. Community activities were developed such as a stall selling T-shirts carrying anti-violence messages on University Open Day, the preparation of an article in the student newspaper and the inclusion of information on the subject in the orientation week of the next academic year. Students also agitated for the development of a university policy on sexual violence.

Project Results:

The project resulted in a dramatic increase in sensitivity to sexual violence and in action being taken in a community of young people. The Residential Mentor at Hawkesbury reported that, prior to the commencement of the project women students endured unacceptable social behaviours from male students - more serious offences were kept hidden. After the project started the topic was discussed more openly and women started to come forward with complaints. From zero reports in the previous year (despite widespread knowledge that violence had occurred), six complaints were laid in the first year of the project. The new climate has allowed more women to take action at the university against men who harassed them.

- ▶ **Commencement Date:**
1993.
- ▶ **Current Status:**
Ongoing.
- ▶ **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**
Wentworth Sexual Assault Service.
- ▶ **Resources:**
Funded by the Wentworth Sexual Assault Service.
- ▶ **Contact Person:** Kim Nixon
Area Coordinator
Wentworth Sexual Assault Service
PO Box 94, Penrith NSW 2751
Phone: (047) 24 2512

Youth Leadership Project, NSW

Project Summary:

Young people who have attended Youth Insearch camps and have demonstrated leadership qualities are trained as Youth Leaders. Camps and other training sessions are held to divert youth away from anti-social behaviour and towards positive alternatives of violence.

Target Group(s):

Young people aged 14-20 years.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

Young people, the majority of whom have been involved in some form of anti-social behaviour, are empowered to take responsibility for their lives through being given the opportunity and skills to develop self-esteem and play a positive role in society. Through providing an opportunity to share matters which are of concern in a group environment which is safe, positive, supportive and conducive to open communication these young people are assisted to come to terms with personal trauma and to find positive solutions.

Project Description:

The program objectives are to reduce the incidence of crime, drug and alcohol abuse and suicide in young people, and to give young people some of the skills essential to being a loving and successful parent.

A group of Youth Leaders, aged 14 to 20 years, regularly attend Youth Insearch camps in the role of facilitators and administrators. These young people draw from their life experiences to encourage participants in the program

to seek positive alternatives within themselves, thus breaking the cycle of violence. The program emphasises the ability to come to terms with emotional issues such as family breakdown, drug and alcohol abuse, sexual assault, and grief, through sharing and discussion within the program.

The Youth Leaders are selected and trained within the Youth Insearch organisation. The Leaders Training Camp is conducted over a number of weekends of intensive training and assessment. The young people involved must have attended a minimum of three Youth Insearch camps. They must have dealt with their own problems so that they are able to counsel and assist others effectively. Those that successfully complete the course agree to formally accept the Leaders Code of Ethics, and are awarded a leadership badge and certificate. The project demands a strong commitment from the young people involved; it takes over twelve months for the participants to earn the leadership award.

Project Results:

Young people who have been involved in the Youth Leadership Project have moved away from drugs, crime, alcohol abuse, suicide, violence and other non-productive forms of behaviour into furthering their education or gaining employment.

- **Commencement Date:** 1986.
- **Current Status:** Ongoing.
- **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:** Youth Insearch Foundation (Aust) Inc.
- **Resources:** Youth Insearch is managed nationally by a Board consisting of five adults and six young people under the age of twenty-five. It has an Advisory Committee of successful business people to assist with advice on such matters as training and development programs, financial administration and fund-raising. Funds are derived wholly from donations from corporations and the public.
- **Contact Person:** Ron Barr
Director, Youth Insearch Foundation (Aust) Inc.
PO Box 260 Riverstone NSW 2765
Phone: (02) 9627 4104

Juvenile Alternative School Program Eastlakes Region (JASPER), NSW

Project Summary:

JASPER is a full-time alternative school program for truants from school.

support given by the Police Citizens Youth Club Movement in both real and moral terms.

Target Group(s):

Truants from school, aged 12-15 years.

Project Results:

The program has provided a positive alternative for youth who were at risk of moving onto the streets and becoming involved in criminal activity. Up to August 1995, thirty-three students had been involved in the JASPER program, with fifteen students at any one time. In 1995, four of the fifteen students were seeking to obtain a Year 10 Certificate. The remaining students were in Years 7, 8 and 9. The program has produced a dramatic change in attendance rates for the students involved with an average attendance rate of 77 per cent. Some students returned to the mainstream or gained entry into Skillshare/TAFE programs. Students have improved their basic skills and there is a subsequent growth in their self-esteem. Parents also have reported much lower levels of conflict and violence in the home.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

JASPER overcomes the lack of educational opportunity for students unable to cope with mainstream education and who have faced multiple suspensions for physical and verbal violence. It provides:

- an alternative school program for students at risk of becoming street kids;
- positive role models among teaching, policy and community personnel;
- the means of re-entry to mainstream or post-compulsory education;
- support for parents and students alienated from mainstream education.

Project Description:

JASPER began as a trial in 1993 at the Lake Macquarie Police Citizens Youth Club/Windale with a total of 15 students targeted by the Home/School Liaison Officer for chronic truancy. In nearly all cases, their truancy was compounded by a history of suspension from mainstream schools and many had appeared before the Juvenile Court for offences such as break and enter, shop-lifting and drug abuse. Since 1995 students have been attending five days a week. The program concentrates on developing basic literacy, numeracy and self-esteem. It relies heavily on the

▶	Commencement Date:	1993.
▶	Current Status:	The program continues to work well. Enquiries about it are being received from all over Australia.
▶	Name of Organisation responsible for the project:	Gateshead High School.
▶	Resources:	The program is financed by the Department of Employment, Education and Youth Affairs and community donations. The budget is approximately A\$45 000 per year.
▶	Contact Person:	Rob Mooney, Head Teacher/Welfare Richelle Collins; Home/School Liaison Office—Hunter Region Gateshead High School, PO Box 2085 Gateshead Delivery Centre NSW 2290 Phone: (049) 435755

James Busby High School— Peacemakers Program, NSW

Project Summary:

The James Busby High School Peacemaker Program is school-based. It seeks to eliminate all forms of harassment from school life so that the students can learn in a caring, safe and non-threatening environment. The school is culturally diverse with 60 per cent of students of non-English-speaking background. The local population is from a low socio-economic background and there is high unemployment; the school is on the Disadvantaged Schools Program.

Target Group(s):

All students of the school and their families; staff and welfare personnel who access the program; the community.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The aim is to modify behaviour by teaching non-violent responses to difficult situations. All staff and students at the school and many parents have been trained in conflict resolution and mediation. Support is given to families to help them find solutions to problematic behaviour. The school has implemented an anti-harassment policy which is embedded in the school's culture. School discipline is being restructured to include restitution as a means of managing disruptive and sometimes violent behaviour. Through this the wrongdoer is taught to accept responsibility for and consequences of the behaviour; the behaviour is remedied, not merely punished. Suspension from the school is used as the ultimate sanction.

Project Description:

There are three components to the Peacemaker Program:

- the conflict resolution and peer mediation program taught to all staff and students;
- the "Spreading the Word" program to disseminate information about the school's successful initiatives to other schools;
- the production of "The Peacemaker" video to reinforce the skills of conflict resolution and mediation already taught to students.

Project Results:

All staff have been trained in conflict resolution. All students from Years 7 to 12 received a two-day course in conflict resolution during 1993 to 1995. Students willingly seek mediation in difficult conflicts. From 1991 to 1994, suspensions for violence have been reduced by a net 33 per cent.

► **Commencement Date:**
1991.

► **Current Status:**
The project is ongoing and the school continues to serve as a model of "best practice" for behaviour management of violent students in a secondary setting.

► **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**
James Busby High School.

► **Resources:**
Workshops conducted by Conflict Resolution Network at a cost of A\$2400. Training day for Peer Mediators cost A\$300. Video production funded through the Disadvantaged School's Component. All other resources have been met through normal school funding.

► **Contact Person:** Elizabeth Donnan, Principal
James Busby High School, Rundle Road, Busby NSW 2168
Phone: (02) 9607 7766

Student Support Service, NSW

Project Summary:

The Wauchope Student Support Service teaches conflict resolution skills at the Wauchope High School in country New South Wales. It provides adult support for at-risk teenagers, aged between 12 and 18 years, on a volunteer “mentor” basis.

Target Group(s):

At risk youth, aged 12 to 18 years.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

Mentors offer alternative role models for teenagers who may only know violence as a means of conflict resolution, and who are at risk of dropping out of the school system. The project coordinator provides “time out” when students come to school with unresolved feelings of anger, frustration and low self-esteem and are at breaking point. The teenagers learn to “walk and talk” rather than to fight with family members. When a student faces a major crisis at home, a safe and nurturing environment can be provided until other supports are available to the student and the family.

Project Description:

This is a program of adult support, “mentors”, for teenagers at risk who are facing difficulties in their lives such as domestic violence, homelessness, abuse (physical, sexual, emotional), low self-esteem, and drug and alcohol problems. The simplicity of this project—one worker and a pool of volunteers in a school setting—is one of its strengths. Teenagers are teamed with a volunteer

mentor or tutor who has a guiding influence and is a caring, empathetic support person. A coordinator oversees thirty-one adults, which enables the project to cope with the demands of about 900 students. An integral part of the project is the involvement and support of the local community. Community volunteers are trained and supervised by the coordinator of the project in such skills as conflict resolution, effective listening and communications skills. They are also taught to provide referrals to specialist support agencies where required. Through the project, families are available who will provide emergency fostering and support to students at little or no notice.

Project Results:

Over 120 students have accessed the program each year. The results have been seen in less violence in the playground and the classroom. More students are practising alternative means of conflict resolution and of dealing with their feelings. In addition, community members are able to do something about the difficulties facing their young people so that they do not feel powerless. The service is in constant demand with most tutors and students wishing to continue to participate in the program once becoming involved.

▶ **Commencement Date:**
1992.

▶ **Current Status:**
Ongoing.

▶ **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**
Wauchope High School.

▶ **Resources:**
The project is supervised by a management committee of community representatives and is administered through the school finance committee. A coordinator is employed. The training of mentors costs approximately A\$500 each month.

▶ **Contact Person:** Dawn Nelson
Wauchope High School
Nelson Street, Wauchope NSW 2446
Phone: (065) 85 1440

Let's Lift the Lid, NSW

Project Summary:

This project aims to change community attitudes to violence so that it is recognised as an unacceptable way of dealing with conflict. The project addresses knowledge, attitudes and skills at personal and community levels, using a range of strategies.

Target Group(s):

All members of the community.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

This project challenges attitudes towards domestic violence. It has components that address specific target groups. The strategies are:

- a general media campaign which addresses knowledge about, and attitudes to violence;
- provision of community information and education for victims about their rights, support systems available and emergency numbers to ring and so on;
- targeting of perpetrators of violence as part of the media campaign;
- production of an information package for general practitioners to assist them in identifying and handling victims of violence;
- provision of training to health and welfare agency workers;
- assessment of the roles of the Police and the Court Support program leading to changes being made.

Project Description:

As well as undertaking a media campaign to increase public awareness of domestic violence issues and to improve victims' access to information and support services, this project seeks to ensure that any increase in awareness of domestic violence resulting in increased demand on services is met by trained workers in all local agencies, and that the police and court systems are ready to support women accessing the legal system. The project has also included the production of a kit which has been distributed throughout Australia. A feature of this project is that it addresses cross-border issues: people often having to deal with two police forces, two court systems and cross-border anomalies.

Project Results:

In 1993, 99 women used the service and in 1994 the number increased to 151. The professional education strategies have been very successful in reaching a wide variety of agencies with almost 200 service providers from 35 different agencies undergoing the professional training programs available. There has been a large increase in the use of the court support service and an increase in police-initiated Apprehended Violence Orders from 24 per cent to 33 per cent during 1994.

► **Commencement Date:**
1994.

► **Current Status:**
Because of the cessation of funding there is no longer a paid project officer but education programs for workers are still being conducted, the kit and resources continue to be updated and distributed. The steering committee continues to meet on a monthly basis.

► **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**
"Let's Lift the Lid" steering committee.

► **Resources:**
The project was funded by a one-off grant of A\$70 000 as a prize from the New South Wales Healthy Country Communities. A steering committee made up of members of the community, including community health, police, and other service providers supervised the project.

► **Contact Person:** Janet Chapman
c/- Albury Community Health Service
PO Box 326 Albury NSW 2640
Phone: (060) 581 800

 **Northern
Territory**

Julalikari Night Patrol, NT

Project Summary:

Voluntary community-based patrols to break the cycle of violence associated with alcohol consumption in Aboriginal communities.

Target Group(s):

The Aboriginal community of Tennant Creek.

Project Results:

After the project had been in operation for three years the police in Tennant Creek reported that there had been no marked increase in the number of reports from the night patrol. Alcohol-related crime had decreased significantly. Protective custody figures were reduced by half within two years.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The Julalikiri Night Patrol assists in the resolution of behavioural problems such as fighting, paybacks, bashings, anger and guilt. The program is unique in that it addresses major Aboriginal concerns in a culturally acceptable way, yet is able to operate in tandem with the contemporary government's law enforcement system.

Project Description:

The patrols are staffed largely by volunteer community elders, usually women, who work in conjunction with local police. Night patrol vehicles pick up people who are intoxicated and causing a disturbance, those involved in disputes or incapacitated by drink, and others who request a lift to the "sobering up" shelter. At the shelter they are looked after without the need for police intervention. The vehicles are fitted with radio telephones to enable communication with the police where necessary. A community meeting is called the next morning to mediate the dispute and admonish the offender.

- ▶ **Commencement Date:**
1989.
- ▶ **Current Status:**
Ongoing.
- ▶ **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**
Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation.
- ▶ **Resources:**
All patrol work is voluntary, organised by the Julalikari Council.
- ▶ **Contact Person:** David Curtis
Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation
Tennant Creek NT 0861
Phone: (089) 622 699

Tangentyere Night Patrol, NT

Project Summary:

The nightly patrol of Aboriginal Town Special Leases (Town Camps), Itinerant (illegal) Camping Areas and the Central Business District of Alice Springs.

Target Group(s):

Any person(s) identified by the Tangentyere Night Patrol as being in need of assistance through either alcohol or other drug related situations.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

Violence is prevented in several ways:

- direct non-violent intervention;
- accessing available services more quickly such as the Police or the Drug and Alcohol Service Agencies, through discreet and culturally appropriate links and via radio/telephone/personal networks;
- empowering community members to prevent violence using the support of the Tangentyere Night Patrol;
- creating an atmosphere of social and behavioural acceptance which disinclines drinkers to revert to violence.

Project Description:

The Tangentyere Night Patrol was originally a volunteer group of Aboriginal people who had succumbed to alcohol and other drugs as their way of life but who changed their behaviour, and undertook courses in counselling for alcoholics and first aid. The original aim of the Tangentyere Night Patrol was to minimise the acts of inappropriate behaviour by people who, under the influence of alcohol, petrol and other drugs, created an atmosphere not ac-

ceptable in any community including their own.

The Night Patrol service runs radio-controlled patrols around the Alice Springs Town Camps (Town Special Leases) and other areas, providing assistance in accordance with Tangentyere Council's general service philosophy. There are 12 full-time patrollers using two or three vehicles almost every night.

Recently, a new Procedures Manual has been drafted, which will form the basis of a Patroller Training Program. Other training needs are also being addressed.

Project Results:

During 1995, Night Patrol vehicles operated on over 300 nights from approximately 5.00 p.m to 1.30 a.m. travelling around 150 000 kilometres. In addition to normal visits to Town Camps (Town Special Leases), patrols were involved in an average of 240 incidents per month assisting clients in various ways. Incident Report Sheets reveal that numbers of those assisted are disproportionately Aboriginal people.

Close networking has continued between Night Patrol and the Alice Springs Police, Drug and Alcohol Service Agency (DASA), Central Australian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (CAACCA), the hospital and other agencies.

The project has been extended and in 1995, the Remote Area Night Patrol was formed. There are now 12 outlying communities with their own Night Patrols and they are funded by the Territory Health Services and Living with Alcohol Program.

► **Commencement Date:**
1990.

► **Current Status:**
Ongoing.

► **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**
Tangentyere Council continues to closely manage this project.

► **Resources:**
Funding is provided by the Department of Health and Family Services and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission. The patrols won sufficient support from the local community to enable them to enter into formal agreement with the Northern Territory Police Department and receive funding to operate on a permanent basis with those working voluntarily being permanently employed.

► **Contact Person:** Michael Bowden, Manager
Community Development Division, Tangentyere Council
PO Box 8070 Alice Springs NT 0871
Phone: (08) 952 5855 Facsimile: (08) 952 8521

Atunypa Wiru Minyma Uwankaraku: Good Protection for All Women, NT

Project Summary:

This domestic violence project aims to develop strategies and service models to assist Aboriginal women living in remote communities across the Northern Territory, South Australian and Western Australian borders.

Target Group(s):

Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara women and children.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The project reduces or prevents violence through:

- assisting and supporting Aboriginal women who experience violence to access services and to understand the options available to them, including financial assistance if necessary;
- supporting existing women's initiatives to combat domestic violence at a community level;
- acting as an advocate for legislation that reflects the particular situation of Aboriginal women in the remote cross-border region;
- networking and liaising with women's services and other agencies;
- providing information on Northern Territory, South Australian and Western Australian domestic violence and sexual assault laws and support services for women wanting to report domestic violence;
- the development of a set of protocols to facilitate police response to calls for assistance from women who have been assaulted.

Project Description:

A cross-border project developed by the Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara Women's Council from concern over a lack of response to violence against women in remote communities. Police did not always respond to calls for intervention from women who had been assaulted because of the time and travel required and the lack of assistance when they did respond. A meeting of police officials of the three cross-border states, Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia, was set up and protocols were agreed. The protocols involve a two-way commitment to procedures concerning police intervention. The project has developed a guide for reporting domestic violence incidents to the police, emphasising the basic information that the police will need. The focus is on relations with the police and judicial services but it also supports the adaptation and use of traditional methods of resolving conflict between men and women. Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women assist each other in understanding the different cultural ways of approaching and solving problems.

Project Results:

The project has opened a dialogue between Aboriginal women and men about violence against women, heightened community awareness of the extent of violence in the community and initiated family and community responses to individual cases. There has been an increase in the number of reports to police and evidence that domestic violence legislation is appropriate and of value to women in this region.

➤	Commencement Date:	March 1994.
➤	Current Status:	Ongoing.
➤	Name of Organisation responsible for the project:	Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council.
➤	Resources:	Originally funded with A\$271 600 for two years by the Commonwealth Department of Housing and Regional Development, funding of A\$140 000 per year for 1996-97 and 1997-98 has now been provided by the Department of Health and Family Services.
➤	Contact Person:	Jane Lloyd, Kunbry Peipei Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara Women's Council PO Box 2189 Alice Springs NT 0870 Phone: (089) 505 420; (089) 562 624

 **Queensland**

Surfers Paradise Safety Action Project, Qld

Project Summary:

Reduction of alcohol-related violence in and around licensed premises through a combination of informal self-regulation by licensees and formal regulation of liquor laws.

Target Group(s):

Patrons of licensed venues, licensees, business and local community.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The intersectoral collaborative problem-solving approach included:

- the establishment of a community forum and community-based task groups;
- the implementation of a safety audit to identify environmental risk factors;
- the conduct of risk assessments in licensed premises and the introduction of a Code of Practice by nightclub managers;
- improvements in the external regulation of licensed premises by police and liquor licensing inspectors, with emphasis on preventive measures, including prevention of assaults by bouncers and compliance with provisions of the Liquor Act prohibiting the serving of intoxicated persons;
- the establishment of the Surfers Paradise Licensed Venues Association as a mechanism for self-regulation;
- the development of a "Crowd Control and Security Training" program for security providers (including "bouncers");
- the development of a "Liquor Inspectors" training course for Police;
- the development of community partnerships for the prevention and detection of offending behaviour.

Project Description:

The project was a community initiative to address the impact of alcohol-related violence in and around licensed premises in Surfers Paradise, Queensland. Specific task groups were established to allow the community to have input into changes in key areas which impact on the supply and consumption of alcohol. The Code of Practice for the management of licensed premises prohibited promotional activities which encouraged binge drinking and high levels of intoxication. Police and liquor licensing inspectors monitored the activities of nightclubs to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Liquor Act which prohibited the serving of alcohol to intoxicated and underage persons. Crowd controllers (bouncers) undertook training in the law and appropriate crowd control techniques. Major improvements were made to public services, facilities and amenities.

Project Results:

An evaluation of the first nine months of the project found significant reductions in alcohol-related violence both within licensed venues and in the Surfers Paradise Central Business District. Street violence which had increased by 167 per cent in the three months prior to the introduction of the project showed a decrease of 34 per cent during the three-month post-test period. Significant reductions were also found in verbal abuse, arguments and physical assaults. Improved cooperation between key community stakeholder groups, including police, local council, business associations and the community was an important and long-term result of this project.

- ▶ **Commencement Date:**
March 1993.
- ▶ **Current Status:**
Project officially closed on 30 June 1995 but many of the strategies put in place have been maintained within the local community.
- ▶ **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**
Gold Coast City Council from March to December 1993; Queensland Police Service from April 1994 to June 1995.
- ▶ **Resources:**
One-off funding from a National Education Grant under the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse, and follow-up funding from the national Drug Strategy (Law Enforcement Funding Committee).
- ▶ **Contact Person:** Gordana Blazevic, Research Officer
Queensland Police Service
GPO Box 7515, GCMC Bundall Qld 4217
Phone: (07) 55 707978

The Positive Parenting of Preschoolers Program, Qld

Project Summary:

This program helps families of young children. It aims to reduce aggression in children and to teach parents alternatives to harsh, inconsistent and coercive discipline styles.

Target Group(s):

Children at risk of developing disruptive behaviour disorders and their families.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The basis of the strategy is the recognition that dysfunctional family interactions contribute to the development of children's antisocial behaviour. The project seeks to identify young, "at risk" children and their parents, and to improve family relationships through empowering families with more effective parenting and family problem-solving skills. The development of antisocial behaviour may be arrested by identifying risk factors and altering the child's developmental trajectory away from delinquency through the provision of early intervention. The program intervenes at preschool age where many of the early signs of conduct problems are apparent, and thus may have greater potential for preventing the development of aggressive, disruptive and oppositional behaviour in children.

demanding, defiant, throw tantrums or are generally disruptive, and gives special emphasis to rural and isolated families. The program can be received as an intensive therapist-directed program, as a self-help program with therapist assistance by telephone or as a self-help program without therapist contact. It teaches parents how to manage child behaviour more effectively. Parents learn to provide support and backup for one another, coping strategies for dealing with moods and stress, and problem-solving skills to assist them with conflict resolution.

Project Results:

There were significant reductions in aggressive behaviour in children and dysfunctional parenting as measured before and after receiving the program. When the parent and child were assessed by a direct observational measure, decreased negative child behaviours and increased positive parent behaviours were indicated. Results also showed significant decreases in parents' report of the frequency and intensity of children's problem behaviours, an increase in parenting sense of competence and a decrease in dysfunctional parenting practices.

Project Description:

The program was initially developed as a university research project. It offers parents who have concerns about their children practical suggestions on what they can do to manage their child's behaviour. The program is oriented towards children who are aggressive,

- ▶ **Commencement Date:**
1993.
- ▶ **Current Status:**
It is now an established program at the Parenting and Family Support Centre.
- ▶ **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**
Originally established at the Behaviour Research and Therapy Centre, Department of Psychiatry, The University of Queensland, it is now run at the Parenting and Family Support Centre.
- ▶ **Project Resources:**
Project funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council and Queensland Health Department. An evaluation of the project was funded by National Health and Medical Research Council and the Criminology Research Council.
- ▶ **Contact Person:** Associate Professor Matthew Sanders, Parenting and Family Support Centre
Department of Psychology, The University of Queensland
Brisbane Qld 4072
Phone: (07) 3365 7290

Joint Churches Domestic Violence Prevention Project, Qld

Project Summary:

This project addresses the issue of domestic violence at parish level through a train the trainers program which includes a training and resource manual.

Target Group(s):

People affected by family violence, leaders in the church.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

Training is provided to key people who have some understanding of family violence and the Church, and who are comfortable with teaching small groups, to continue awareness-raising and skilling in the Church and community. The focus is on concepts and frameworks in the church and society that lead to abuse of power in relationships, as well as on support and referral skills.

The project is designed to:

- raise awareness and inform the church community about the causes, extent, nature and consequences of domestic violence perpetrated mainly against women and children in our society and within the church community;
- urge church communities to speak out against domestic violence;
- increase the Church's responsibility for working towards the elimination of domestic violence;
- train key leaders to understand the frameworks in which violence is set in society and church;
- support those leaders as they train others.

Project Description:

Seven churches have united to produce a program addressing domestic violence in the Christian community. In 1992, research was undertaken to establish the incidence of abuse in church families. In 1994, the brochure "Family Violence: the misuse of power" was distributed to all member congregations in Queensland. The booklet, *Questions Women Ask About Domestic Violence and Christian Beliefs*, was also published. In 1994-95, the Train the Trainer Program, including a manual, was developed to help church leaders understand domestic violence, and to teach appropriate referral and support.

Project Results:

There has been a greater recognition by church authorities that domestic violence is an area where the church has often failed to take responsibility but now needs to speak out. The project has contributed to a change of attitudes within the church communities as well as Church agencies, improved the understanding of both clergy and lay people of the issues underlying domestic violence and assisted them in developing an appropriate Christian response by integrating social concern and theological understanding. Ninety-five key church personnel, including 18 clergy, have undertaken the training program and about 1000 people have been reached through their activities.

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- ▶ **Commencement Date:** 1992.
 - ▶ **Current Status:** Ongoing. It is hoped that it will be possible to take the course into the country. A renewal of funding is presently being sought from the State Government.
 - ▶ **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:** Joint Churches Domestic Violence Prevention Project Management Committee.
 - ▶ **Resources:** Funding has been provided in three one-off grants from the State Government, with additional funding from the Federal Government and the churches involved. A part-time coordinator is employed. The management committee is made up of fifteen representatives from the seven churches involved.
 - ▶ **Contact Person:** Adele Dingle, Coordinator
Joint Churches Domestic Violence Prevention Project
PO Box 1167 Toombul Qld 4012
Phone: (07) 3266 1311

Youth and Community Combined Action (YACCA), Qld

Project Summary:

This is a state-funded community-based social development program with the goal of reducing juvenile offending.

Target Group(s):

Young people at risk, aged 10-18 years, with a priority on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

YACCA enlists the support of various interested community networks, such as youth clubs, church groups, government agencies, teachers, parents, community organisations and local businesses, to respond to the needs of local young people and to increase the choices that are available to them, in an effort to reduce their involvement in offending and anti-social behaviour.

Project Description:

The goal of YACCA is to enhance the capacity of communities to engage young people in planning and implementing activities which are meaningful to them. These have included fishing, canoeing and horse riding. Camps which focus on learning, fun, adventure and self-discovery are offered. YACCA coordinates activities for youth which assist in building trust and encourage a sense of ownership of projects. One successful activity was a racing car program which targets young people "at risk" of offending, particularly those involved in illegal activities relating to motor vehicles.

YACCA also provides support within the family environment, particularly to

socioeconomically disadvantaged families. It plays an active role in the Alternative Learning Program which was developed in conjunction with the Department of Education and works with the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care in the completion of Immediate Release Orders by juvenile offenders.

There is also a LEAP program in which 11 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth are engaged. This program focuses on cultural awareness and personal development issues as well as developing vocational skills.

A brightly coloured van has been donated which is used to transport youth to activities and to provide an outreach service. It is also effective at raising community awareness about the endeavours of YACCA.

Project Results:

Results have been seen in terms of youth returning to school and family and acting in a more socially acceptable manner. Interests in new activities away from crime and violence have been established. Working with youth on a one-to-one basis has reduced reoffending.

- ▶ **Commencement Date:**
1993.
- ▶ **Current Status:**
Ongoing. Projects and activities vary, depending on the needs of youth and what can be implemented.
- ▶ **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**
Bundaberg YMCA Inc.
- ▶ **Resources:**
The program receives approximately A\$50 000 in funding from the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care. There is one paid worker, plus a worker provided through the Jobskills program. The program is under the auspices of the YMCA and is guided by a management committee made up of five members from the local community.
- ▶ **Contact Person:** Laurie May
Bundaberg YMCA Inc
7 Quinn Street Bundaberg Qld 4670
Phone: (071) 537 150

Enough's Enough, Qld

Project Summary:

After a scan of existing resources in primary schools to support the Department of Education's Sexual Harassment Policy and Grievance Procedures it emerged that there were very few resources dealing with gendered violence and sexual harassment. This project was set up to examine the nature and incidence of gendered violence in schools and culminated in the publication of the "Enough's Enough" kit.

Target Group(s):

Primary school communities (students, teachers, parents).

Violence Prevention Strategy:

As a result of the project, materials to support professional development, action research and curriculum development were designed and published in the "Enough's Enough" kit. The kit was distributed free of charge to all state schools and special schools in Queensland and is aimed at teachers, educators and parents. It stresses the urgency of addressing issues of gender and violence through the curriculum by making explicit the nature of gendered violence. The involvement of parents and teachers in the project from the outset ensured their support, and the professional development offered to them ensured their understanding of the philosophy behind the project.

Project Description:

The aim of the "Enough's Enough" project was to develop primary school resources which would address issues of gendered violence and sexual harassment

in a diversity of school communities. Seven schools became involved in the project and engaged in a critical action research process which involved the whole school community. The schools were chosen to ensure that the diverse student populations of Queensland schools were represented. The kit includes:

- a Project Report which outlines the critical action research process used and details the major findings and outcomes;
- a Guide to Research in Schools which outlines processes that schools can use to begin an exploration of gendered violence in their communities.

It also contains Teaching Strategies and Resources which includes school profiles so that readers know the specific contexts in which teachers were working. It includes a set of posters to be used as a teaching aid, and a video which has a section on professional development for parents and teachers and a section for use with students in upper primary school.

Project Results:

As a result of this project, many schools are developing a more proactive and informed approach to behaviour management. The release of the kit has produced many requests from teachers for professional development in the area of construction of gender. School communities are becoming more aware that violence is not solely an individual pathology, but rather is a socially constructed phenomenon associated with certain versions of masculinity and femininity.

► **Commencement Date:**
1993.

► **Current Status:**
The kit continues to be widely used by schools and sought after across states and systems.

► **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**
Gender Equity Unit, Studies Directorate, Department of Education, Queensland

► **Resources:**
Funding of A\$120 000 from the Queensland Department of Education.

► **Contact Person:** Kay Boulden
Gender Equity Unit, Studies Directorate
Department of Education
PO Box 33 Brisbane Qld 4002
Phone: (07) 323 70793

Nicklin Program, Qld

Project Summary:

The Nicklin Program is a joint initiative of the Uniting Church of Australia and the Queensland Department of Education and provides a wide range of support services catering to all school-age students experiencing behaviour problems within the school community and the family.

Target Group(s):

Students, aged from 6 to 18 years, and their families with "at risk", bullying, violent and anti-social behaviours.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

By intervening in all systems relevant to the identified client, the project reduces the likelihood of violence by skilling people in other ways of resolving conflict. Nicklin is proactive in teaching constructive interpersonal skills to all client groups. Nicklin works with schools, children and families to encourage new ways of operating that focus on empowerment, enhancement of strengths and a focus on possibilities and solutions. As a class group students are assisted in developing strategies themselves to address unacceptable behaviour, such as bullying, conflict and harassment.

Project Description:

The aim of the Nicklin Program is to support students in their current school placement, and to offer individualised education programs developed for each student with the cooperation of teachers and school administrative personnel, and with families. The support services offered include provision of individual education programs, individual and group counselling, parenting courses, effective teaching strategies, behavioural consultancy to teachers and caregivers, problem-solving and goal-setting camps and courses, support to students in classrooms, individual work at Nicklin, life-skills training, family therapy, play therapy, provision of relevant resources and the facility to provide partial off-campus withdrawal programs for students when needed.

Project Results:

Nicklin has worked well to make the larger educational system accountable for its areas of responsibilities and not blame the "victim" (the child/family) for its failure to provide appropriate and relevant curriculum options and educational supports within school communities.

- ▶ **Commencement Date:**
1990.
- ▶ **Current Status:**
Ongoing, with plans for a re-entry program for students alienated from school, family and the community.
- ▶ **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**
The Uniting Church of Australia (Division of Child and Family Care) and the Queensland Education Department (Metropolitan East Region).
- ▶ **Resources:**
The State Coordinating Committee Commonwealth Special Education Program provides 15% of funding with the rest coming from the Education Department and the Uniting Church. There is currently one full-time Officer-in-Charge, one part-time Coordinator, two full-time teachers and a teacher's aide, two part-time youth workers and a part-time family worker.
- ▶ **Contact Person:** Suzanne Kidman
Nicklin Program
730 Robinson Road Aspley Qld 4034
Phone: (07) 3263 1222

Community Justice Groups— Remote Aboriginal and Islander Communities, Qld

Project Summary:

The Community Justice Groups are a mechanism for enabling Aboriginal people to respond to issues of law and order within their communities. Through the individual and collective authority of the Groups, anti-social behaviour is regulated through the culturally and community appropriate use of traditional practices for sanction, discipline and, most importantly, conflict mediation.

Target Group(s):

The communities of Palm Island, Kowanyama and Pormpuraaw

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The use of culturally appropriate ways for moderating and, in many cases, preventing anti-social and often violent behaviour. The Justice Groups' assistance in relation to minor disputes can prevent escalation into verbal and physical altercations which require police intervention and often result in physical injury and even death. The Justice Groups are seen as a means of reinforcing and educating people in the norms and rules for what are acceptable and unacceptable forms of conduct to people in the community today.

Project Description

The three main elements are:

- the development of a Community Justice Group comprising Aboriginal people nominated by community members. Independent, experienced and skilled community development facilitators assist community members to develop the Justice Group;
- a community development officer based in the community to provide ongoing facilitation and support to the justice group;
- the justice group members, together with members of the Aboriginal community and with the involvement of relevant institutions (Community Council, police, school, corrective services, community organisations) who develop responses to community problems of law and order.

-
- ▶ **Commencement Date:**
Pormpuraaw January 1995; Kowanyama September 1993; Palm Island August 1993.
 - ▶ **Current Status:**
The justice groups are ongoing and developing. A residence has been established at Kowanyama for the Community Development Officer and another is presently being established on Palm Island. The Department of Families, Youth and Community Care has expressed its commitment to this program and is to become involved with its development.
 - ▶ **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**
This is a joint initiative of the Queensland Corrective Services Commission—Community Corrections, the Yalga-Binbi Institute for Community Development, and the communities of Palm Island, Kowanyama and Pormpuraaw.
 - ▶ **Resources:**
Members of the community participate in the justice group on a voluntary basis. A community development officer employed by the Corrective Services Commission is associated with each justice group. Approximately A\$5000 is provided to each group annually from the budget of the Corrective Services Commission.
 - ▶ **Contact Person:** Norm Wilson
Northern Region Community Corrections
PO Box 615, Townsville Qld 4810
Phone: (077) 221 646

| South Australia

Elder Protection Program, SA

Project Summary:

A project designed to promote older people's dignity and well-being. It aims to increase community awareness and to enhance the capacity of both community and professional groups to respond effectively when issues of violence arise. It links families and aged-care expertise to protect older people and prevent harm or exploitation.

Target Group(s):

Older people, their carers and service providers.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The program takes a client centred approach to its operation, seeking wherever possible, to respect and be guided by the wishes of the older person. The emphasis of the program is on assisting agencies and complementing the work of government and non-government services already in the field. Through the placement of key workers in Domiciliary Care Services, the program seeks to heighten community and professional awareness of issues relating to the protection of older people, to resource both community and professional audiences about the most effective ways of ensuring older people are protected and to take action in particular cases where no other individual or agency is prepared to act to ensure that older people who have been abused or exploited are protected.

Project Description:

The Elder Protection Program stresses the importance of developing the knowledge and expertise of workers

involved with elderly people and these workers' needs for support, practical advice and assistance. It offers specialist staff to talk about elder abuse and provide direct assistance in some cases. The program provides a link to practical help from health, aged-care and other agencies. It provides information and advice for professional associations, community groups and programs, and training to health and aged-care personnel and volunteers. Links are developed with people from a non-English speaking background and their service providers so that educational programs and elder protection services can be developed to meet their specific needs. It supports clients who want to connect with special schemes in existence for Aboriginal Australians and a toll free phone number is provided for rural people to access the program. Gaps in services are recorded and reported to the Elder Protection Management Committee for future policy development. It educates the wider community about strategies to prevent abuse by developing a leaflet with practical steps to prevent being abused and by placing articles in various newspapers, magazines and newsletters, and via the radio and public speaking.

Project Results:

The project has provided direct intervention and advice in 344 cases in 1994-95, as well as developing and conducting training programs for aged-care workers. Through addressing aspects of violence such as threats, emotional abuse and intimidation, this program makes a significant contribution to the prevention of violence.

► **Commencement Date:**
1994.

► **Current Status:**
This project is continuing but is shortly to be reviewed as it was initially funded for three years.

► **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**
Office of the Commissioner for the Ageing.

► **Resources:**
The program has been funded for three years at A\$140 000 annually. It has a management committee comprising representatives from the core agencies involved in the program, other organisations and community members. The program provides four Elder Protection Coordinators to work in regions corresponding with the Domiciliary Care Services.

► **Contact Person:** Cathy Lock, Eastern Domiciliary Care Service
Hampstead Centre
Hampstead Road, Northfield SA 5085
Phone: (08) 8260 0894

Parks Area Safety Network, SA

Project Summary:

The Parks Area Safety Network is a crime prevention project. It is an umbrella organisation which coordinates projects that have been set up by groups from the community which focus on a particular aspect of safety or crime and violence prevention.

Target Group(s):

Community in the Enfield B local government area.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The projects which are under the auspices of the Network are developed by the residents of the community using their local knowledge about what causes the violence and how it can be overcome. The entire project is based on what the local residents perceive as issues of safety, crime and violence.

Project Description:

The Network was an initiative of local members of the community and service providers. The aim of the Network is to reduce violence in the community by building on the strengths already existing in the community and by providing greater opportunity for local people to work together and be involved in local decision making. This in turn enhances the capacity of local residents to develop projects which address violence at the community level. It is a community based project run by members of a management committee who manage and develop projects dealing with crime/safety/violence in their community.

The area covered by the Network, known as the Parks Area, is in the Enfield B local government area. Many of the residents in this area are unemployed, of low socioeconomic status and frequently of non-English speaking background. The Enfield B area is characterised by a much higher level of reported violent assaults and property offences than the average for South Australia.

Project Results:

Local group actions to improve child care facilities, bring better lighting and safety to a local park, the recent formation of the Community Committee, and the work of Parks Residents Environmental Action Group are examples of projects in which residents and service providers have cooperated to increase safety and reduce crime and violence.

➤	Commencement Date:	1992.
➤	Current Status:	The project is continuing although government funding has ceased.
➤	Name of Organisation responsible for the project:	Parks Area Safety Network.
➤	Resources:	The project has been funded by the South Australian Attorney-General's Department Crime Prevention Unit but this ceased in July 1996. All workers are voluntary and with alternative sources of funding being found, the project has been able to continue.
➤	Contact Person:	Debbie Martin PO Box 2340 Regency Park SA 5010 Phone: (08) 8243 5611 ext 511

WOWSafe: Women of the West for Safe Families, SA

Project Summary:

WOWSafe is a group of survivors of domestic violence and one worker. The group raises community awareness about family violence issues, consults with and lobbies the police to improve their service to women and children in danger, and provides a "Sister System" which supports women experiencing and leaving domestic violence relationships.

Target Group(s):

Survivors of family violence and their families. Workers who provide services to survivors and perpetrators of violence. The general community are secondary targets.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

WOWSafe assists women and children to achieve safety and get the resources they need to re-establish their lives. It increases police ability to act in a more responsive manner to women when restraining orders are taken out or breached. It raises awareness in the community that violence is not okay. The "Sister System" project reduces and prevents violence by:

- providing support to victims of domestic violence both in emergency and ongoing situations;
- helping victims to understand and minimise the danger they face from domestic violence;
- developing effective and innovative strategies to deal with police and judicial limitations which prevent people at risk receiving the protection they should be afforded;

- educating the community about the various forms of domestic violence.

Project Description:

WOWSafe priorities are:

- running a "Sister System" responsive to women in crisis, to provide moral support, awareness raising and practical assistance helping women and children achieve safety;
- participating in the training of professionals so that their dealing with family violence cases is more effective;
- lobbying government agencies and politicians towards improving the legislation and policy regarding violence;
- contributing to community development and media strategies to reduce violence in the community;
- providing an accountability service to men's groups and workers who work with perpetrators of violence;
- raising funds to pay for out of pocket expenses and to providing training to develop the skills of those women helping others.

Project Results:

The "Sister System" has provided a service to hundreds of women and their families and has helped to improve service delivery for people in crisis. WOWSafe has also been used as a model for other community development projects and has made a major contribution to the training video on family violence, "The Wages of Power". It was active in having clauses included which safeguard the rights of abused children in the Child Protection Act.

▶	Commencement Date:	1992.
▶	Current Status:	WOWSafe remains very active and is expanding in membership and in the demands made on its services by communities and agencies.
▶	Name of Organisation responsible for the project:	Parks Community Health Service, Trafford Street, Angle Park, SA 5010.
▶	Resources:	The women work on call, at all hours, at least 20 hours per week voluntarily. The Parks Community Health Service funds the worker who works part-time with WOWSafe.
▶	Contact People:	Alison, Phone: (08) 8243 5611 Nettie, Phone: (08) 8242 2379 Carl, Phone: (08) 8341 2073 Maria, Phone: (08) 8263 6464

Boys-Talk: A Program for Young Men about Masculinity, Non-Violence and Relationships, SA

Project Summary:

Boys-Talk invites young men to examine their induction into existing and pre-dominant practices of masculinity. The program recognises that many such practices result in violent and abusive behaviour in direct contravention of democratic and social justice principles.

Target Group(s):

Young men, aged 13 to 26 years.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The project, through using professional development and peer education frameworks, encourages young men to resist aspects of gender identity that hurt them and disrespect the rights of others. It encourages young men to take responsibility for ending their participation in violence to women, children and other men.

Conversation is the prime tool by which young men are encouraged to participate in the program. This involves the development of personal interaction through the respectful sharing of ideas and experiences both of their participation in and resistance to dominant gender identities.

Project Description:

The program advances the view that masculinity is a social construction rather than the product of any natural or biological law. The aims of the project are:

- to enhance the health and well-being of young men;
- to develop young men's awareness of the construction and effects of gender;

- to encourage young men to have pro-social goals, skills and motivation;
- to encourage young men to choose non-violent behaviour.

Boys-Talk training and development activities are designed to support youth services and school systems. A ten-week program, including a program manual, has been designed for conducting young men's groups, and train-the-trainer workshops have been developed.

The Boys-Talk program is one strategy among many in a whole school/agency system's approach to gender equity. To ensure the greatest chance for sustainable change, this holistic approach needs to involve all young people, their families, school staff, youth service providers and related workers.

Project Results:

The project's strategies have been trialed, developed and implemented by a range of schools, youth custodial institutions and youth health and welfare agencies. The feedback consistently is that the project is an efficient and appropriate resource for exploration and support. Participants of Boys-Talk activities generally give feedback of high levels of satisfaction about their involvement. Over two thousand people have participated in young men's and train-the-trainer workshops and there continue to be many requests for Boys-Talk training and development activities.



Commencement Date:

1987.



Current Status:

Ongoing. The manual was launched in July 1996 and is now on sale.



Name of Organisation responsible for the project:

Men Against Sexual Assault.



Resources:

Developed by men and women from Men Against Sexual Assault in a volunteer capacity. Costs are absorbed by MASA with some revenue raised through professional development and peer education consultancies. The program manual has been developed under the auspices of Men Against Sexual Assault and with the support of Child and Youth Health Services.



Contact Person:

Brook Friedman
Men Against Sexual Assault
PO Box 8036 Hindley Street, Adelaide SA 5000
Phone: (08) 8223 1110

Media Violence Awareness and Advocacy Project, SA

Project Summary:

Raises and maintains government, community and parental awareness of the impact of media violence on children through information dissemination, advocacy activities and the promotion of public debate.

Target Group(s):

Children and their care givers.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The strategies employed include the collection, critical analysis and dissemination of research studies and government reports in the field; the preparation and presentation of submissions to regulatory agencies; the carrying out of surveys to obtain Australian evidence; publishing of reports and pamphlets; and the promotion of public debate via media interview.

Project Description:

The program derived from the awareness of evidence from child development theory and from social research studies that violent media entertainment, and in particular violent television, video and film, may be a contributor to violence in society. The long-term effects on children may include the learning of a script for later life that violence works and violence wins.

The organisation supporting this project, Young Media Australia (YMA), is a national children's media information, advice, research and advocacy agency which draws on the experience and expertise of members of the Australian

Council for Children's Films and Television.

Project Results:

YMA has instigated or been party to a wide range of awareness and advocacy activities. These include hundreds of interviews with, and background briefings to, media outlets throughout Australia on the links between media violence and violence in society, particularly the impact of violent media on young children. Numerous keynote addresses and special presentations on violence in the media have been given at international and national forums. A comprehensive bibliography of research articles and other dissertations on violence in the media has been produced and is continuously updated. It has acted as an advocate on behalf of parents and other concerned members of the community to the Australian Broadcasting Authority about violent programs. Submissions have been provided to various reviews of industry codes of practice, classifications and other regulatory inquiries. A kit, OFF'n'ON healthy use of TV, was produced for professionals working with children and parents to provide support and strategies for coping with the impact of violent TV on young children. YMA has been active in increasing community awareness of the impact of violent media.



Commencement Date:

1980.



Current Status:

Ongoing.



Name of Organisation responsible for the project:

Australian Council for Children's Films and Television, now named Young Media Australia.



Resources:

Funded by Australian Council for Children's Films and Television, YMA is an independent, community-based, non-profit organisation. The project costs approximately A\$10 000 per year in part-time salary and overheads, plus voluntary work.



Contact Person:

Toni Jupe, Project Officer
Young Media Australia, Eileen Sharman Studios
69 Hindmarsh Square Adelaide SA 5000
Phone: (08) 8232 1577

Hampstead School Bushband Project, SA

Project Summary:

The "Bushband" is a group of 60-80 students, parents/caregivers/community volunteers who sing, accompanied by a band of adult musicians from the Community Service Scheme.

Target Group(s):

The school and its local community, specifically those deemed to be "at risk", including unemployed adult offenders allocated to the school through the Community Service Scheme of the Department for Correctional Services.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The bushband has successfully reduced violence, and is starting to prevent it within the school/local community by providing participants with a satisfying group experience that promotes personal development. The project

- raises awareness of the destructiveness of violent behaviour, emphasises the benefits of constructive behaviour;
- teaches and develops new skills, such as, problem solving, conflict resolution, team work, communication;
- helps participants give and receive feedback about their behaviour, and helps them modify their behaviour to meet group needs/expectations;
- develops a sense of group cohesion and personal responsibility;
- generates exciting and interesting opportunities to engage participants in learning;
- helps participants identify and develop their talents, and use them constructively;
- diverts the focus from self onto helping others.

Project Description:

This project is a joint initiative between the school and the Department for Correctional Services. It involves a suburban school of 200 students, school staff, and a group of local unemployed Community Service clients. A high quality performing arts program has been developed. The project was initiated in response to issues of violence, conflict and low morale within the school and violence directed towards it by members of the local community.

Project Results:

Apart from raising the self-esteem of the participants, the band has developed positive relationships within the school and between the school and the community. It also provides Community Service clients with the opportunity to undertake worthwhile community service. All participants have reported a positive change in their lives and many who have completed their community service hours have continued to be associated with the project. Before the Bushband project, the school had been harassed and property destroyed by teenagers in the area. Since the establishment of the Bushband, this group has been made to feel welcome at the school, even taking on a protective role towards school personnel and property. Evaluation has shown that in the twelve months since the band was formed (compared to the twelve months before its formation) there has been a significant drop in student violence, violence by other community members towards school personnel and fewer incidents of vandalism, graffiti, break-ins and police call-outs.

▶	Commencement Date:	1994.
▶	Current Status:	The Bushband has grown in number and is continuing to raise funds for charity organisations through performances.
▶	Name of Organisation Responsible for the Project:	Hampstead Primary School.
▶	Resources:	A representative management committee manages the project. A grant of A\$1000 was received from Foundation SA with other finance provided through sponsorship, fundraising activities and performances.
▶	Contact Person:	Christine Kerslake Hampstead Primary School Muller Road Greenacres SA 5086 Phone: (08) 8261 2248

| **Tasmania**

Glenorchy City Crime Prevention Strategy, Tas.

Project Summary:

Crime prevention strategies adopted in response to growing concern in the Glenorchy community about crime. These strategies included safety audits, the establishment of a Youth Task Force, the introduction of Train the Trainer Self-Defence Workshops and a survey of youth needs.

Target Group(s):

The general community with a focus on older people, households that have suffered repeated victimisation and young people.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

Violence is reduced or prevented by addressing both short and longer term factors that contribute to crime and fear of crime. The project seeks to decrease opportunities for such violent crimes as assaults, sexual assaults, intimidation and property crime, and at increasing the opportunities to engage in legitimate activities. It aims to develop collective rather than individual responsibilities. Strategies adopted include:

- identification and response to key crime prevention issues for the people of Glenorchy;
- strategies to ensure that future developments in the city meet crime prevention standards;
- strategies to ensure that existing public facilities and amenities make a positive contribution to crime prevention;
- development of a greater sense of public ownership and belonging in relation to parks, reserves and public amenities.

Project Description:

Safety audits of the city have been conducted with the involvement of local residents, police, council, service providers and community groups. A street youth worker has been employed to work with young people on the street. A Youth Resource Centre has been established. There is a Breakfast Club for young homeless people. School holiday activities and dances for young people are organised on a regular basis. The Access Committee, Youth Task Force and other community groups have been actively involved in the redesign of the local bus interchange and toilet facilities. A sponsored sensor light scheme has been developed to assist people who are fearful for their safety at home.

Project Results:

Approximately 550 people have benefited from the strategy. This includes those who have attended youth centre activities, the urban design seminar, self-defence workshops; and those who have been involved in safety audits or supplied with sensor lights. There is an increased sense of belonging and being seen as an important part of the community by young people through the recognition of their efforts in conducting audits, conferences and other Task Force activities. Residents are more willing to report incidents of vandalism and to suggest ways of improving the use or care of their local facilities. There is an increased sense of safety of community members, particularly older people and women who live alone.



Commencement Date:
1993.



Current Status:
Ongoing. Additional funding from the Tasmanian Government is being sought for new projects.



Name of Organisation responsible for the project:
The Task Force on Crime Prevention, Glenorchy City.



Resources:
The project has been self-funding, with approximately A\$20 000 being allocated each year. This does not include salaries or the establishment of the Youth Resource Centre. The project is guided by the Task Force which has ten members drawn from industry, education, police, Neighbourhood Watch and other members of the community. A youth street worker and a manager of the Resource Centre are employed.



Contact Person: Rod Ellston
Glenorchy City Council, Glenorchy Tas. 7010
Phone: (03) 6274 0773

Support Help and Empowerment Inc. (SHE), Tas.

Project Summary:

SHE offers support, information and resources, advocacy, referral and education to women subjected to domestic violence. SHE also participates in community education and service provider training.

Target Group(s):

Women who are or have been subjected to domestic violence, and the general community of southern Tasmania.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

This project prevents violence through:

- supporting women who wish to leave or who have left abusive relationships and providing them with resources and information to help them stay free from abuse;
- conducting educational support groups to help women make choices that will keep them and their children safe and free from violence;
- raising awareness and educating individuals, families and the community that domestic violence is a crime;
- working with other domestic violence services to lobby government for policy development and implementation;
- educating women that they have safe options, therefore breaking the cycle of violence for themselves and children;
- referring male partners to perpetrator programs so they may change their violent behaviour.

Project Description:

SHE is the largest specialist domestic violence resource centre in Tasmania providing a range of service options to clients, aimed at developing the client's skills and empowering them to take responsibility for their future. It provides support, information and resources, advocacy, referral and education to women who have been subjected to domestic violence, through telephone counselling, one to one counselling, structured educational support groups; information about legal options and gaining protection, information and referral regarding services and education regarding the nature of domestic violence. Community education targets a wide range of service providers, educational institutions, lawyers, doctors, police, nurses and community health personnel, Social Security and CES staff and neighbourhood houses.

Project Results:

Since the service was established in 1989 there has been a steady increase in the number of women accessing SHE. Feedback from clients or users has indicated that SHE provides a valuable service. During 1995 a total of 392 new clients contacted SHE for support and information. The number of community groups requesting SHE education and training services is also increasing.

**Commencement Date:**

1989.

**Current Status:**

Ongoing, with increasing use of, and interest in, the services provided.

**Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**

Support Help and Empowerment Inc.

**Resources:**

Funds are provided through the Tasmanian Department of Community and Health Services, with approximately A\$80 000 received during 1994-95. Some additional income is derived from other sources. SHE is a collective of nine people, comprising the community support workers and invited members of the community; and has a policy sub-committee involving the same representative mix.

**Contact Person:**

Support Help Empowerment Inc
PO Box 119, North Hobart Tas. 7002
Phone: (03) 6278 9090

Rural Domestic Violence Project, Tas.

Project Summary:

A combination of workshops, theatre and seminars was used to assist young women who had experienced domestic violence, to raise community awareness of this problem, and to encourage a change in the behaviour of offenders.

Target Group(s):

Rural and remote people, single parents and young mothers, people living with domestic violence, long term unemployed, young offenders and Aboriginal.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

This project recognised the skills and potential of young people living in disadvantaged circumstances in geographically remote areas. It sought to empower participants by producing theatrical performances which encouraged the community to reflect on issues within society, and encouraging inter-agency cooperation when working with young people. One of the primary aims of the project was to provide a forum for young people to work together in a group setting which developed trust, enhanced self-esteem and highlighted issues of social significance (in this case domestic violence), by using the experience and stories of the members of the group. The play enabled young mothers to express their feelings and emotions regarding domestic violence and allowed the community to witness and be part of a very creative play dealing with the subject.

Project Description:

One of the features of the Domestic Violence Project was the theatre produc-

tion, *Three Men Walk Into a Bar*: a real life play, written by playwright, Scott Rankin, and performed by the young women with a professional actor. A series of workshops were held to develop the script for the play from the participants' oral histories. Twelve months were spent preparing the play.

A two-day seminar setting up an integrated professional response to violence in the home was run to complement the play on the two days prior to its performance.

The space in which the show was performed added to the impact of the performance: an old warehouse with shipping crates for a stage, and the audience seated on old beds and sofas or just standing against the walls.

Project Results:

Through the project participants have made long term friendships which provide help, assistance and support. Participants have gained appropriate knowledge and have been empowered to undertake further employment, education and training. There is increased awareness of violence in the community and acceptance that violence in the street is no different to violence in the home. Since the conclusion of the project, three young offenders who were participants have not reoffended. The project has played a coordinating role between agencies.

- ▶ **Commencement Date:**
April 1994.
- ▶ **Current Status:**
The project has now been launched on a national scale.
- ▶ **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**
Australasian Arts Management, sponsored by Burnie City Council.
- ▶ **Resources:**
The project has received grants totalling A\$63 000.
- ▶ **Contact Person:** John Bakes, Phone: (004) 30 5805
Scott Rankin, Phone: (02) 9523 7709
Burnie City Council
PO Box 973 Burnie Tas. 7320

Your Place Inc., Tas.

Project Summary:

Counselling, support and referral is offered to young people, with a focus on those in the prison system, who are adversely affected by drugs or are at risk of becoming so.

Target Group(s):

Prisoners in all Tasmanian prisons and young people in the community aged 15 to 25.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The Prison Drug and Alcohol Program enables counsellors to meet every prisoner. From this contact the counsellors are frequently called upon by prisoners when they have difficulties in a variety of areas, including drug and alcohol abuse. Counsellors act as mediators and advocates while prisoners are within the system and offer support and assistance with practical issues as well as ongoing counselling after release. Counsellors also work in the community to provide confidential support to young people. The project operates a needle exchange program to reduce the incidence of HIV, Hepatitis C and Hepatitis B transmission.

Project Description:

Your Place Inc seeks to minimise harm from drug consumption to young people in Southern Tasmania. It undertakes three programs:

- counselling, crisis intervention, referral, support, a needle exchange service and education at Your Place Inc. in Hobart;

- prison Drug and Alcohol Service, including HIV/AIDS education, at Risdon Prison, Hayes and Launceston Prisons;
- outreach Work in Bridgewater and Gagebrook, where difficulty of access to services is often a problem for young people.

Project Results:

There is wide respect for the service from both government and non-government agencies. At present 30 per cent of prisoners seek counselling while in prison and 5 per cent access services after release.

▶ **Commencement Date:**

1988.

▶ **Current Status:**

Ongoing. The percentage of people seeking counselling and accessing services while in prison and on release is increasing.

▶ **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**

Your Place Inc.

▶ **Resources:**

Government funded through the Department of Community Services and Health. Two full-time and three part-time workers are employed. There is a Community Board of Management made up of clients, academics, parents, community workers, police, and representatives from government departments.

▶ **Contact Person:**

Glynis Warren, Director
Your Place Inc.
440 Elizabeth Street, North Hobart Tas. 7000
Phone: (03) 6224 0416

Rip and Tear Theatre, Tas.

Project Summary:

Rip and Tear works with young people to write, stage and tour a production to enhance their self-esteem and give them the skills and opportunity to make positive choices about their lives.

Target Group(s):

Young people at risk, young offenders, families or care givers of young people at risk.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The strategies adopted are as follows:

- producing experimental arts based work, of excellent quality, to challenge and provoke the public and the arts community;
- raising the self-esteem and improving the communication skills of disenfranchised young people through empowering them to tell their stories in national forums;
- performing for policy makers and parliamentarians to show the results of a violence prevention program in action to encourage other similar projects;
- working consistently and long term with a group of recidivistic young people;
- challenging the arts community to work more directly in the community to address issues such as violence.

Project Description:

The first play, *Girl*, dealt with issues relating to rape, male rage, the violence of inappropriate education, violent aspects of home life, pyromania and community violence. The script was developed from the lives of group

members. The second play, *Pandora Slams the Lid*, focused on HIV and safe sex practices. These themes enable the participants to dramatise and critically assess aspects of daily life which arise for the particular group concerned, and enable the audience to have a better understanding of the lifestyles and dilemmas which confront some groups of youth in Tasmania. Throughout the project, the participants were given the opportunity to experience the many vocations and skills necessary for getting a production together.

Project Results:

For many group members who have experienced different levels of violence it has been a cathartic experience to disclose or partially disclose painful areas of their lives. The target group has generally come from backgrounds involving some level of violence and often see violence as the first option in resolving frustration and conflict. Many participants have had difficulty breaking out of this culture of violence and Rip and Tear's group dynamic and norms have been effective in this area. The target group experienced a marked drop in involvement in crime and very low recidivism. Some members of the group have gone on to play leading roles in the local theatre group, others minor roles, some returned to school and some continued with the group to assist other new members in their own development. The project was evaluated very favourably by La Trobe University. The public display of the transformation of the young people involved has altered the community's conventional perception of "at risk" youth.

**Commencement Date:**

1992.

**Current Status:**

A video and manual have been produced by BIG hART and this has been distributed on a national scale.

**Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**

Burnie City Council.

**Resources:**

Funded by the City of Burnie, Department of Employment, Education and Training under the Australian Youth Initiatives Grant Program. Sponsorship was also received from the Office of Corrections, the *Advocate* newspaper, APPM. Income was also received from ticket sales.

**Contact Person:**

John Bakes
BIG hART
PO Box 423 Burnie Tas. 7320
Phone: (018) 142802

Sullivans Cove Rotary/Hobart City Council Joint Youth Project, Tas.

Project Summary:

The project provides ongoing support at street level to street youth. It networks with other youth services to provide for the needs of these youth. Programs have been developed to prevent street violence, crime and drug abuse.

Target Group(s):

Street youth and youth "at risk".

Violence Prevention Strategy:

Encouragement to adopt more positive lifestyles is given to youth on the street through support and assistance from a youth worker. Access to existing support services for these youth is facilitated by the youth worker. Greater understanding between young people and the police is fostered through networks being developed with the police and police clubs. The focus of the strategy is on the youth setting their own goals and developing their own means of achieving these goals.

Project Description:

This was set up as a pilot project to address the needs of young people on the streets. Rather than waiting for these young people to seek help a youth worker made contact with them on the streets. The project adopted a holistic approach to working with the group,

not singling out individuals. This alienated no-one from their friends and allowed the group to look after each others' interests. Mutual trust developed between the youth worker and the youth. Having established this trust the worker was then able to encourage the youth to utilise resources and agencies already set up and running, such as welfare, health and housing services.

Project Results:

The project achieved a marked change in a very short time among a group of high profile young people who were among the most marginalised and disadvantaged in the central Hobart area. Businesses reported reduced damage to property and reduced harassment and assault of local people and police. Violence, crime and drug abuse decreased significantly and police figures indicated a much reduced arrest rate. Some of the young people developed proposals to set up a business. Interest has been shown in participating in other constructive activity, such as the organisation of training courses, being involved with community activities, jobs, sport and other group recreational activities. Positive peer pressure has been exerted on others to break away from old bad habits.



Commencement Date:

1994.



Current Status:

This was a pilot project and it has changed considerably since it began. The focus has now moved to younger children, in the 10 to 15 age range, who are usually wards of the state. A need was seen to provide assistance to this group because they were at risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour.



Name of Organisation responsible for the project:

Originally Hobart City Council and Sullivans Cove Rotary Club. It is now a direct service of the Hobart City Council.



Resources:

The project was made possible by a A\$10 000 grant from Sullivans Cove Rotary. Hobart City Council provided management and administrative support. Two workers, one male and one female, are currently employed 30 hours per week, by the Hobart City Council on this project.



Contact Person:

Susan Parr
Community and Recreation Services
GPO Box 503E
Hobart Tas. 7001
Phone: (03) 6238 2727

| **Victoria**

Combating Racist Violence and Vilification, Vic.

Project Summary:

This project seeks to combat racist violence and vilification by exploring the sources, preconditions and causes through workshops and so heightening awareness of the connection between racist stereotyping in the media and racist attacks in the community. Racist attacks include verbal abuse, threats of violence, and physical assaults.

Target Group(s):

Groups within diverse Arabic-speaking communities (from over twenty different countries) with a special focus on new arrivals, refugees, women and young people.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The project addresses the feeling of vulnerability which often prevails among victim groups whenever there is a climate of hysteria or vilification against them. For example, anti-Arab/Jewish/Muslim feelings during the Gulf war; anti-African feelings during debates about female genital mutilation; anti-French sentiment during the nuclear testing dispute. It is recognised that one of the preconditions of racist attacks is the vulnerability and silence of a potential victim group. It emphasises the need for these groups to redress the ignorance about their cultures. Workshops are tailored to cater for specific needs of groups from different geographic, demographic and ethnic backgrounds.

Project Description:

The workshops empower participants through a series of specific and practical actions. They include advice on how to

defuse the climate which immediately precedes the onset of racist violence, how to sharpen one's "antenna" to detect the early warning signals for the onset of racist attacks, how to disarm a perpetrator without violence, how to prevent racism through dialogue, how to engage with the media, and how to address racism through education. The workshops focus on basic skills in identifying perpetrators by recording number plates, time and place of events, and securing witnesses in order to maximise the chances of follow up action through the formal channels and institutions, that is the police, equal opportunity commissions, courts. The train-the-trainer module is adopted which ensures that the project has a ripple effect on the wider community.

Project Results:

The development of supportive links has enabled groups to transcend their ethno-centric networks and to enjoy greater mutual support from other communities. It has improved the self-confidence of the people involved and some have given presentations about their culture at their places of work, school or to clubs they attend in order to dispel many myths, and to create meaningful dialogue to increase knowledge about different cultures, communities and religions. Workshops have been conducted at RMIT journalist courses, and the Australian Arabic Council has been invited to continue these regularly. These are significant because of the influential role journalists can play in perpetuating or reversing racist stereotypes.



Commencement Date:
1993.



Current Status:
Ongoing. The demand for workshops and seminars continues to grow and the audience is widening.



Name of Organisation responsible for the project:
Australian Arabic Council.



Resources:
All workshop facilitators and presenters have been members of the Australian Arabic Council and work in a voluntary capacity. Venue hire, stationery and refreshments have been the main items of expenditure.



Contact Person: Joseph Wakim, Secretary
Australian Arabic Council
PO Box 52 Moreland Vic. 3058
Phone: (03) 9416 8555

West End Forum, Vic.

Project Summary:

The West End Forum was established to address issues of violence in and around licensed premises in the King Street area of Melbourne. This project was one of the first to develop inter-agency cooperation to combat violence.

Target Group(s):

The community using the licensed premises in the King Street area of Melbourne.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The aim was to make the West End become a safe recreational area for a wider cross-section of the people of Melbourne, by increasing public awareness of the nature and causes of criminal behaviour; by nominating priority preventative strategies; and by improving inter-agency cooperation and coordination in implementing strategies developed.

Project Description:

A safety audit of the West End region was conducted as a first step to map areas of high risk, and also to highlight changes to perceived risk at different times of day. Issues and problems were grouped together under five areas: town planning and urban design; traffic and by-laws; venue management and cultural attitudes; policing; and transport. Each of these concerns was allocated a task group which developed specific goals and pursued discussions, activities and strategies to achieve these goals within the context of available resources. Three independent committees were set up:

- The West End Association which represented the local community to which all matters affecting the safety of the community were referred.
- The West End Community Police Liaison Committee which comprised police, owners and managers of local venues. This committee resolved any issues relating to violence and crime in the area.
- The Code of Practice Monitoring Committee which was made up of venue owners and managers and community representatives to oversee the Code of Practice developed by the Forum.

Project Results:

Police statistics showed dramatic reductions in violent incidents in the area. Significant achievements of the project included: the availability of more secure car parking facilities; the implementation of the Responsible Serving of Alcohol Training Program in the area; improved training and standards of behaviour for crowd controllers; an increase in the number of police foot patrols; and the development of a code of practice which spells out what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour and outlines procedures for dealing with harassment, aggression and violence. A valuable long-term contribution to violence prevention has been the demonstrated effectiveness of community mobilisation.

- ▶ **Commencement Date:** 1990.
- ▶ **Current Status:** This project was funded for sixteen months and ceased following a safety audit and establishment of a code of practice. The Safe City Executive Committee of the City of Melbourne is now developing an accord covering the Central Business District of Melbourne.
- ▶ **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:** Melbourne City Council.
- ▶ **Resources:** Membership of the Forum included representatives from the West End community, the Centre Against Sexual Assault, the Nightclub Industry, the Australian Hotels Association, the Victoria Police, the Liquor Trades and Allied Industries Union and the Victorian Community Council Against Violence. A full-time project officer was employed.
- ▶ **Contact Person:** George Frantzeskos, c/- Metro Nightclub
20 Bourke Street, Melbourne Vic. 3000
Phone: (03) 9663 4288

New Year's Eve Operation—Phillip Island, Vic.

Project Summary:

The implementation of strategies to reduce violence and anti-social behaviour of young people attending Cowes, Phillip Island, on New Year's Eve.

Target Group(s):

Community of Phillip Island.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

Preventing the consumption of alcohol in public places, limiting trading hours of liquor outlets so that trading ceased at 6 p.m. on New Year's Eve, and prohibiting the sale of beer in glass containers in the municipality of Phillip Island and adjoining municipalities.

Project Description:

New Years Eve on Phillip Island had previously involved large numbers of police deployed to control the behaviour of mainly young people affected by alcohol. Following a public meeting, community leaders, local government officials, police and other agencies formed a committee which saw the introduction of strategies by the police, in cooperation with the Vic Roads Corporation, Environment Protection Authority and volunteer State Emergency Services, to prevent violence and public disorder. These included:

- road blocks on the main access road to Phillip Island, each day for one week preceding New Years Eve;
- traffic and crowd control at Cowes on 31 December, commencing at 7 a.m., including a parking ban for all motor vehicles within 500 metres of the hotel;

- police personnel on foot patrols from early morning, interacting with the community, particularly young people;
- advertising local laws and police operations through the media.

A welfare plan which included Salvation Army personnel assisted by other volunteers from local churches and community groups operated from the municipal community house to provide a refuge for young persons affected by intoxicating liquor. Medical assistance with a first aid post close to the main activities was provided.

Project Results:

The success of the New Years Eve Operation at Cowes has been the complete elimination of violence in the public streets, no reported injuries and reduced cost to the community because of the reduction of litter and damage to commercial premises. The strategies have now stood the test of time for five successive New Year periods. New Year on Phillip Island is now a peaceful celebration.

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- ▶ **Commencement date:** 1990-91.
 - ▶ **Current Status:** The strategies are working well and continue to be implemented.
 - ▶ **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:** Cowes New Year's Eve Committee
 - ▶ **Resources:** Cost to the community is estimated to be A\$25 000; the funding is derived from Bass Coast Council and fund-raising. Victoria Police are highly supportive of this project.
 - ▶ **Contact Person:** Phil Dixon, Chairperson
New Year's Eve Operation, Cowes, Phillip Island
44 Ventnor Road
RMB 1105 Phillip Island Vic. 3922
Phone: (059) 56 8427

City of Greater Dandenong Safer Communities Project, Vic.

Project Summary:

The project addresses community safety at the local government level and involves police, council and the community in all aspects of strategy development and implementation. Four broad areas were addressed within the project: safety for women; urban design and its effect on safety; media and its effect on perceptions of safety; public education.

Target Group(s):

The local community, that is residents, workers, shoppers, retailers, businesses, students and visitors.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

This project was set up to build partnerships between police, council and the community in order to make the city a safer place. The project works with the community to identify safety issues and devise strategies to address these issues. The project addresses fear of crime and perceptions of safety as well as developing crime prevention initiatives. A safety audit of the area was conducted and its recommendations implemented.

Project Description:

Through urban design initiatives, the project addressed the prevention of situational violence. Safety audits were conducted, especially in the Dandenong CBD. Numerous local projects were initiated such as: Handbrake Turn, a crime prevention and vocational training program; Safer Communities Week, an activities based community awareness and participation initiative; "Designing Safer Cities" Forum, aimed at local government authority planners

and architects in the metropolitan region.

Safety for women was addressed by

- the presentation of defensive and confident living programs;
- ensuring domestic violence services were adequately provided in the area through membership of the planning committee of the Westernport Family Violence Network;
- ensuring that schools in the area conduct sexual harassment, conflict resolution and bullying programs.

Project Results:

The project has raised community awareness through a positive media campaign, community education programs, and a positive perception of safety in Dandenong through such programs and urban redevelopments. The reconstruction of a public transport terminal, improved lighting, streetscaping and urban redevelopment have removed the opportunity for crime and violence, and the potential threat to safety. The new Dandenong Railway Station has led to a reduction of violence in the immediate vicinity and improved perception of the safety of the station has resulted in increased patronage.



Commencement Date:

1992.



Current Status:

The project is ongoing and with an amalgamation of councils, now includes two cities. The steering committee has been enlarged and state funding is presently being sought to develop the project.



Resources:

Funding has been from the Victorian Department of Justice and the City of Greater Dandenong. The steering committee is made up of representatives from police, council, business, government and non-government agencies and the local community. One project officer is employed.



Name of Organisation responsible for the project:

City of Greater Dandenong Safer Communities Project Steering Committee.



Contact Person:

Jan Ryan
City of Greater Dandenong Safer Communities Project
PO Box 200 Springvale Vic. 3171
Phone: (03) 9239 5100

Geelong Local Industry Accord, Vic.

Project Summary:

The Geelong Local Industry Accord in Victoria links people and groups, and promotes alcohol harm minimisation strategies through meetings, seminars and publications.

Target Group(s):

The community, particularly 18-30 year-olds, in the central business district of Geelong.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

A code of practice was introduced which adopted a range of positive, effective and community based harm minimisation strategies to reduce crime and violence involving intoxicated people in and around the CBD. Legislation was introduced requiring training and licensing of crowd controllers. Training of staff of licensed premises was promoted through a "Responsible serving of alcohol" course. Underage drinking was targeted.

Project Description:

The Geelong Local Industry Accord began as an agreed Code of Practice involving the police, local licensed premises operators, the Liquor Licensing Commission representative, local government and other relevant agencies and individuals. At the time of its introduction, Geelong was considered one of the most violent cities in Victoria. The objectives were designed to eliminate the side effects of excessive drinking, predominantly crime and violence in the streets and licensed premises. These were to:

- minimise or stop practices that led to rapid and excessive abuse of alcohol, such as extended "happy hours", discounted drinks or "all inclusive" events with large amounts of alcohol;
- stop illegal underage patronage of licensed premises through police offering all licensed premises a mechanism of referral for dealing with young people who present false or altered identification to gain entry into licensed premises;
- minimise the movement of intoxicated groups between licensed venues late at night, which was encouraged by such offers as free drinks on entry to a venue, free drinks with meals;
- maintain a free and competitive market between venues while eliminating as far as possible promotions and practices that encouraged the irresponsible serving or consumption of alcohol.

A best practices committee meets regularly to ensure implementation of the Accord.

Project Results:

Serious assaults are now negligible and damage has been reduced significantly. A strong bond has developed between licensees and the police based on trust, goodwill and open communication. The safety of patrons in clubs and pubs has improved, and there has been an increase in the profitability of licensed venues open after 1 a.m. Requests for details on the establishment of the Accord have been received from widespread sources. It has been copied in other policing regions of Victoria, in Fremantle and Perth in Western Australia, and in New Zealand and Canada.

▶	Commencement Date:	1991.
▶	Current Status:	Ongoing.
▶	Name of Organisation responsible for the project:	Victoria Police.
▶	Resources:	Supported and funded by the Police, Council, licensees and the Liquor Licensing Commission.
▶	Contact Person:	Superintendent W.M. (Bill) Kelly Geelong Police Headquarters 110 Mercer Street Geelong Vic. 3220 Phone: (052) 25 3231

Richmond Community Safety Forum, Vic.

Project Summary:

This project is part of a general Safer Communities movement towards community-based prevention initiatives. It is proactive, seeking to intervene before the crime has been committed.

Target Group(s):

The Richmond community.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The major strategy employed was to work with local organisations (local government, health and welfare agencies, police and community groups) to implement policies and practices that would create a sustainable safer environment. Consultation with the community was undertaken to determine areas of concern through the holding of a public meeting, a survey of the young people in Richmond, and a series of individual meetings.

Project Description:

The project is located in an ethnically and socially diverse municipality of inner city Melbourne. The aim of the project is to address community safety issues which have been identified by members of the community. Because the project is hosted by a community organisation insight into community issues is provided through daily contact with case workers.

The main areas of concern addressed by the forum were the prevention of violence in and around licensed premises, racism and young people, council safety procedures, violence in the home and safety in the streets.

The Richmond Community Safety Forum comprises representatives from

the Police, community health centres, community groups, business, youth groups, council and the local Member of Parliament. It was established with the following objectives:

- to work towards Richmond becoming a safer recreational area for its residents;
- to increase public awareness of the nature, extent, causes and locations of violence and to nominate priority preventative strategies;
- to reduce violence in the local community;
- to improve community cooperation and coordination in providing services in this area.

Project Results:

A major outcome of the project was the establishment of ongoing community networks especially between those organisations that can impact on improving community safety. New networks of particular significance were between health and welfare agencies, local government, young people, publicans and the police. A forum for the licensees was established. Staff from the primary and high schools in the area were encouraged to develop cultural awareness programs in their schools. A family violence support group has been established. Programs were established, such as the setting up of a cafe and a "Seats On Streets" campaign to provide outdoor chairs and tables in the area, to bring activity to isolated areas.

▶ **Commencement Date:**

1992.

▶ **Current Status:**

Ongoing. The project has also auspiced the Local Licensees Forum.

▶ **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**

Richmond Community Safety Forum which is made up of representatives from Council, the Police, the Electorate office, Neighbourhood Watch, and other community members.

▶ **Resources:**

Funded by the North Richmond Community Health Centre.

▶ **Contact Person:**

Marilyn Dawson
Richmond Electorate Office
196 Church Street
Richmond Vic. 3121
Phone: (03) 9429 1813

Westernport Family Violence Network Inc., Vic.

Project Summary:

This project provides education and support to service providers, and through them educates the general community about the incidence of domestic violence and how violence against women and children can be prevented.

Target Group(s):

Women and children who are the main victims of family violence, and those who perpetrate or may perpetrate family violence.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The project aims to prevent or reduce family violence by:

- enabling better understanding and identification of the problem by service providers;
- improving service delivery through police, courts and community agencies working together;
- raising community awareness of the nature and existence of family violence and the fact that it is a crime;
- investigating the need for and advocating the establishment of services for survivors of family violence.

Project Description:

Key elements of the project are:

- the updating and production of a Family Violence Resource and Referral Kit which is sold at a nominal price to agency workers throughout Victoria;
- the involvement of volunteer solicitors and welfare workers in

establishing an Intervention Order Court Support Project;

- raising community awareness of family violence through organising Family Violence Awareness Week and a regional celebration for International Women's Day.

The Network has bi-monthly general meetings at which there is information sharing, sub-committee reports, general business and guest speakers. In 1995 six sub-committees were functioning: Family Violence Awareness Week, Family Violence Resource and Referral Kit, Intervention Order Support Project, International Women's Day, publicity and steering committees. A bi-monthly newsletter is produced.

Project Results:

The Network has assisted professionals (including general practitioners and police officers) and service providers in the health, family support and education sectors to identify and respond to victims of family violence in an informed and positive way. The Family Violence Resource and Referral Kit has become a very useful resource for a large number of workers and community members who support victims of family violence. It has attracted considerable interest from outside the area as a model resource kit on domestic violence issues. The activities of the Network have led to the expansion of the Intervention Order Court Support Program in Dandenong.

- ▶ **Current Status:**
Ongoing, with sub-committees undertaking workshops, and community awareness raising activities.
- ▶ **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**
Westernport Family Violence Network Inc.
- ▶ **Resources:**
The Network is an incorporated body which has a membership made up of individuals and agencies in the Westernport region. It has a steering committee which handles administrative functions, and operates within a sub-committee structure. The Network operates on a budget of less than A\$3000 a year, relying on voluntary workers' time, very small community grants and members' subscriptions.
- ▶ **Contact Person:** Jan Ryan
Westernport Family Violence Network Inc
PO Box 35 Doveton Vic. 3177
Phone: (03) 9791 5700

Intervention Order Support Project, Vic.

Project Summary:

The project aims to facilitate strategies and initiatives which will assist and support women and children who are victims of domestic violence to secure and maintain intervention orders under the *Crime (Family Violence) Act 1987*.

Target Group(s):

Women and children who are victims/survivors of domestic violence and those who have a role in assisting them to secure intervention orders.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The provision of adequate and appropriate support (both legal and non-legal) to victims/survivors of domestic violence during their interface with the legal system in order that the intervention order process is completed and legal protection from a violent partner or parent is achieved. The familiarisation of women, seeking access to protection from violent partners, with legal processes and court procedures will assist women in dealing with the often intimidating and alienating process of obtaining an intervention order. Further, such support goes some way in validating women's experience of domestic violence and that legal intervention is one step in eliminating violence from their lives.

Project Description:

Experience in community legal centres together with research undertaken have highlighted the common difficulties facing domestic violence victims in their attempts to seek protection in the legal arena. In response to the growing

number of community based court support schemes Women's Legal Resource Group initiated this project which aims to address fundamental issues such as guidelines and principles for court support, minimum standards of training and access to resources and funding. The project recognises that while legal representation in intervention orders is essential, so too is the emotional and practical support which can be provided by trained professionals. The project monitors and evaluates procedures and practices followed in securing and maintaining intervention orders. It investigates the level of satisfaction of applicants, court officials, police and other relevant participants with this process.

Project Results:

To date the project has provided information and resourcing to a wide range of organisations around the evolution of intervention order court support schemes in Victoria. It also has developed a statewide resource and clearinghouse function. The project was consulted in regard to recommendations for changes in Magistrate's Courts' processes around intervention orders. An outcome of the initiation of this project is that the project worker has been permanently employed with a wider domestic violence brief but a continuing focus on court support and intervention order research, monitoring and law reform.

- ▶ **Commencement Date:**
1994.
- ▶ **Current Status:**
The major task now is to complete a training/resource guide for intervention order court support schemes by the end of 1996 with a view to implementing training. In conjunction with this the "Getting Started" manual will be revised and released as a "sister companion" to the guide. The project continues to be involved in community education, law reform and monitoring of issues around intervention orders.
- ▶ **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**
Women's Legal Resource Group Inc (Vic).
- ▶ **Resources:**
Initial grant of A\$25 000; now has recurrent funding from Women's Legal Resource Group (Inc.) Victoria.
- ▶ **Contact Person:** Donna Stuart, Domestic Violence Worker
Women's Legal Resource Group Inc (Vic)
Level 3, 43 Hardware Street Melbourne Vic. 3000
Phone: (03) 9642 0877

V-NET Standards of Practice Project for Men's Behaviour Change Programs, Vic.

Project Summary:

The development of minimum standards of practice for running voluntary behaviour change programs for men who are violent towards their partners and families.

Target Group(s):

Workers running behaviour change programs for men who use violence against family members.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

By promoting an effective and appropriate way of working with violent men through the development of minimum standards of practice the project aims to prevent or reduce violence used by men against their women partners and children. The standards of practice provide a basic framework which helps prevent the use of inappropriate strategies which could put women and children at further risk of violence. This framework includes creating awareness of the gender, power and control issues central to family violence, and utilises the motivation men have to change and learn new modes of behaviour and ways of relating to others. The standards of practice also form a basis for accountability by providing benchmarks for service provision.

Project Description:

V-NET has around 80 members most of whom are involved in running behaviour change groups for men. Task group members, together with the project worker, developed minimum standards of practice and produced them as a manual. The project provides a mecha-

nism for evaluation, monitoring and quality control, so that the effectiveness of programs can be better measured. This statewide program aims to improve practice in the field, to accredit competency based training for running groups, and to develop data collection and evaluation methods.

Project Results:

The manual, which can be updated on an as-needed basis, provides a benchmark by which the effectiveness and appropriateness of programs may be assessed. The manual recognises the importance of innovation in this area but creates safeguards so that the safety of women and children is given paramount consideration in any new developments. The manual contains detailed processes and protocols, minimum standards acceptable, and best practice goals in areas which have previously been a source of direct concern to victim support workers. Standards addressing the need to network and to maintain links with victim service providers are helping ensure that people working in this area do not work in isolation from women's support services.

- ▶ **Commencement Date:**
1994.
- ▶ **Current Status:**
Manual is available for distribution. Training workshops using the manual are ongoing.
- ▶ **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**
Victorian Network for the Prevention of Male Family Violence (V-NET) Inc.
- ▶ **Resources:**
Funded by a one-off grant of approximately A\$59 000 from the Department of Health and Community Services. It has a Project Management group consisting of V-NET members; a project worker, Barbara Younger; and a representative from the Victorian Community Council Against Violence.
- ▶ **Contact Person:** Donna Zander
V-NET Inc
PO Box 417 Richmond Vic 3121
Phone: (03) 9428 3536

Men's Referral Service, Vic.

Project Summary:

An anonymous and confidential telephone counselling, information and referral service for men who have concerns about their violent or abusive behaviour in the home.

Target Group(s):

Men who are concerned about their abusive/violent behaviour in the home.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

By establishing an anonymous and confidential telephone service, Men's Referral Service provides a central point of contact for men who wish to change their violent behaviour. Through contacting the service, men are affirmed in their decision to take responsibility for their violence, challenged regarding their commitment to make lasting change and motivated to take the next step of seeking further help.

Project Description:

The service was established as a response to men seeking help as a result of recent community awareness campaigns which called upon men to take responsibility for their violent or abusive behaviour in the home. As a result of men's responses to these campaigns, it was recognised that many men did wish to change their behaviour and learn new non-abusive ways of operating but did not know how or where to go about seeking help. The service also assists men to understand that learning new ways of operating is a lengthy process and they will need to have the benefit of professional help in order to make lasting change. The service is provided

by trained male volunteers, some of whom have been violent/abusive in the past and who have made major changes in their lives. It is available from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Friday and has links with the police, community health centres, courts and other relevant agencies.

Project Results:

In the past twelve months the service received 916 calls, with 81 per cent from male callers. In 1994-95, 65 per cent of the male callers were concerned about their own violence and abuse. During this time the service referred 87 per cent of these men to behavioural change groups, support groups and/or individual counselling, of which about two-thirds followed through this referral. In 1994, the service was responsible for referring about one-third of the total population of men attending behavioural change groups.

- ▶ **Commencement Date:**
1993.
- ▶ **Current Status:**
Ongoing.
- ▶ **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**
Originally set up by Australia Red Cross Victoria, it is now under the auspices of V-NET Inc.
- ▶ **Resources:**
The service costs about A\$100 000 per year. This includes the salary of a full-time coordinator, administrative staff and a team of part-time psychologists/social workers providing clinical supervision.
- ▶ **Contact Person:** Mick Boyle
Men's Referral Service, V-NET Inc
PO Box 417 Richmond Vic. 3121
Phone: (03) 9428 7264

Men's SHED (Self-Help Ending Domestic) Project, Vic.

Project Summary:

The Project focuses on the safety and well-being of women and children in their homes through preventing men from perpetrating family violence. Men who are abusive and violent are challenged and assisted to change their attitudes and behaviour.

Target Group(s):

Men who are abusive or violent at home, and their victimised partners and children in Central Gippsland, Victoria.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

Men's responsibility for their violent behaviour and attitudes is emphasised. Violence is treated as learned behaviour which can be unlearned. Men are challenged and encouraged to change. The SHED symbolises a place men can feel at home; it provides a non-threatening environment in which men can learn non-violent alternatives to their behaviour. Practical strategies for remaining non-violent are taught.

Project Description:

The project addresses men's violence by providing a structural educational program that gives no excuses for men being violent in the home or to family members. It raises the consciousness within the male culture and encourages men to take responsibility for their violence through education. It consists of:

- a weekly support group for men;
- a structured, educational men's responsibility program;

- community education, focusing on attitudinal change to abusive and violent behaviour;
- a collaborative family violence intervention network;
- individual assessment of men who are violent.

Project Results:

By June 1996 the project had already reached 120 men directly and motivated them to reduce or cease their violent behaviour. Anecdotal evidence from case workers in corrections, spouses and other allied professionals continue to reflect successful attitude and behavioural changes.

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- ▶ **Commencement Date:** 1994.
 - ▶ **Current Status:** Ongoing, with secure funding for 1996-97.
 - ▶ **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:** La Trobe Community Health Service.
 - ▶ **Resources:** Funded by the Victorian Departments of Human Services and Justice, Central Gippsland Alcohol and Drug Service, and Local Government.
 - ▶ **Contact Person:** Chris Laming
La Trobe Community Health Service
PO Box 63 Moe Vic. 3825
Phone: (051) 27 5555

South Carlton Youth Project, Vic.

Project Summary:

A youth club which provides positive alternatives for teenagers who are bored and involved with drugs, alcoholism and other anti-social behaviour.

Target Group(s):

Unemployed, low income, homeless youth, young offenders.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

Violence is reduced and prevented through the provision of positive activities for "at risk" youth in an environment which does not alienate them and provides a network of potential support. Time is given to young people to talk about their problems. Patrols are undertaken at night looking for homeless youth. Assistance is given in finding employment and housing. Young people with community based correction orders are given work with the centre.

Project Description:

When the project began twelve years ago South Carlton had a significant youth problem. The project began by finding productive activities for young people to occupy their time. A club was formed giving them a place to come to. Activities included table tennis, pool tables, trampolines, exercise equipment and refreshments. Sport teams were formed in basketball, football, cricket and athletics. School holiday programs are held three times a year. A "drop-in" centre was established in the Carlton Housing Commission flats. It provides counselling, a respite area, food, educational sessions and emergency short-term housing. The activities are open to

everyone from all walks of life; there are no nationality, gender or religion issues.

Other tasks include locating lost children and youths, assisting and helping offenders in court, and helping children and adults, as well as the youths, in any way that is needed.

Project Results:

The South Carlton Youth Project has for many years assisted youth from Carlton and surrounding areas in a number of diverse ways. The drop-in centre has proved very popular and necessary for a large number of youths over the years. In the Carlton area youth violence, crime, drugs and vandalism have been reduced significantly. Offenders on various court dispositions, including high risk clients, have successfully completed numerous hours of unpaid community work. There has been an improvement in relations between the police and young people. Organisation of time, ability to interact with the police, potential employers and each other are skills that develop through involvement with this project, and lead to an improvement in the self-esteem of the young people.

► **Commencement Date:**
1984.

► **Current Status:**
Ongoing.

► **Name of Person responsible for the project:**
Mr Ernie Sims.

► **Resources:**
Mr Ernie Sims who started as a volunteer is now employed as a youth worker by the City of Melbourne. The Carlton Church of all Nations provides a room free of charge to house the youth club. The Ministry of Housing provided a flat for use as a "drop-in centre" on the Carlton Housing Commission estate.

► **Contact Person:** Ernie Sims
South Carlton Youth Project
Unit 1/521 Rathdowne St
Carlton Vic 3052
Phone: (03) 9348 1368

The Venue, Vic.

Project Summary:

A program for local youth with an emphasis on self-management, community involvement, personal development and pathways to careers, job training and further education.

Target Group(s):

Young people aged between 12-25 years.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The provision of structured activities for young people who would not normally become involved, and for those that would be deemed "at risk". A representative group of these young people make up the management committee and are responsible for the smooth operation of The Venue. Young people who may have been potential offenders, now work with their community to provide positive events and activities for their peers. Music is used as a medium for interaction and the development of young people, in a positive and stimulating environment, and to provide an informal training ground for young people to develop both personal and specialised skills.

Project Description:

The Venue was established in 1991 to develop a service that encouraged young people aged between 12-25 years and the community to work together in providing a positive outlet for young people's energies. It offers a range of leisure-related activities for the area's young people, including regular live music nights, school holiday activities, training workshops, and operates as a band rehearsal studio. All activities are

overseen by a young management group in conjunction with the Youth Programs Officer.

The formation of the Muso Network, which provides opportunities for young contemporary bands to develop, is a highlight of this program. By being involved in the planning and development of the project, the local musicians take more responsibility for live entertainment nights. There are now approximately 500 young people officially on the Muso Network register.

Project Results:

The location of The Venue was once known as a spot for drug takers and criminal behaviour but with the number of people now using The Venue, this activity has almost ceased. Many of the young people involved have now gained employment or have developed greater personal skills to help them in their day-to-day lives. The positive profile of young people has also been raised in the community. Many local businesses and various community groups have supported and/or sponsored The Venue's activities. There has been an obvious reduction in crime in the immediate area. As a result of the success of the initial music workshops, a fully accredited six-month music course which was offered to long-term unemployed young persons was funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Training. The local community is now using the Muso Network to assist in their various functions, thereby increasing the profile of the Muso Network and decreasing the negative image of young people in the community.

**Commencement Date:**

1991.

**Current Status:**

Ongoing.

**Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**

City of Greater Dandenong.

**Resources:**

The City of Greater Dandenong provides funds for the running costs. The Youth Program Coordinator oversees the project with part-time assistance from a Muso Network support worker. Other funds are provided by business sponsorship and profits from music activities.

**Contact Person:**

Judy Green

The Venue

397 Springvale Road Springvale Vic. 3171

Phone: (03) 9547 0511

Entertainment, Vic.

Project Summary:

A community based initiative which uses bands and other entertainment to reduce the opportunity for violence and the fear of crime on public transport.

Target Group(s):

Public transport users; young people “at risk”.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The opportunity for violence is significantly reduced through:

- the provision of entertainment on a public train at the cost to participants of a regular train ticket;
- providing an opportunity for young people to develop their skills and creativity, and to be involved in community activities;
- addressing the issue of finding worthwhile activities in which youth and others can participate freely and interact with others in a social and caring atmosphere;
- providing an opportunity for positive relationships to develop between the community and police;
- changing perceptions about the safety of public transport—an environment which is perceived as much more dangerous than the statistics bear out—thereby increasing the numbers who travel on public transport.

provide entertainment on a train which travels between Epping and Melbourne in Victoria. Costs of the project are restricted to professional technical support, equipment costs, promotion costs and hiring bands, but it has a great deal of volunteer support.

Project Results:

The number of people riding on the trains has increased. Evaluation based on feedback from volunteers, band members, users of the train and other sources indicate that age groups of travellers were more diverse following the project, and families and older travellers were in evidence far more than in the past. There has been an improved relationship between police and young people which has carried over into other community projects involving local police and young people. The young bands have gained performance experience and confidence and some have gone on to compete successfully in the local Battle of the Bands.

Project Description:

This project combines entertainment and public transport travel. Council, community volunteers, young people and local police are involved in the project and in decision making about the project. Young bands are hired to

▶	Commencement Date:	1992.
▶	Current Status:	Ongoing but with reduced funding which has limited the number of sessions which are offered. Additional funding is presently being sought.
▶	Name of Organisation responsible for the project:	City of Darebin, Safer Communities Project.
▶	Resources:	Initially funded at A\$6000 per year as part of the City of Darebin, Safer Communities Project, by the Victorian Department of Justice, it is now supported by the City of Darebin Council.
▶	Contact Person:	Andrea Cook, Safer Communities Project Officer City of Darebin 2-4 Elm Street East Preston Vic. 3072 Phone: (03) 9470 2222

**| Western
| Australia**

Aboriginal Alternative Dispute Resolution Service, WA

Project Summary:

A mediation/conciliation program to assist Aboriginal families to resolve disputes. It was initially set up in response to a need to provide a dispute resolution and mediation service for the Nyungar community which had serious problems with chronic inter-family feuding; it now serves all Aboriginal people in Western Australia.

Target Group(s):

Aboriginal individuals/families/organisations who may be affected by intra/inter-family and community disputes.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The emphasis is on empowering families to adopt and maintain responsibility for the quality and nature of their mediated agreements, rather than attempting to impose solutions which may generate further animosity and frustration in an already volatile situation.

Project Description:

The service targets people before they enter the criminal justice system and aims to use Aboriginal resources to deal with problems. It was felt that other mediation services did not cater for Aboriginal people, or did not operate in relation to the types of problem that beset Aboriginal people. When the Aboriginal Alternative Dispute Resolution Project was established, it set six objectives:

- to develop a suitable process and procedures of mediation and conciliation based on successful

models of alternative dispute resolution;

- to undertake the selection and training of a network of local, key Aboriginal people who could be called upon to mediate in specific conflict situations;
- to develop appropriate training programs and aids;
- to manage the dispute resolution service and identify and respond to conflicts;
- to maintain records, document and analyse working experiences;
- to develop appropriate liaison mechanisms between involved groups and agencies to ensure a coordinated approach to identified conflicts.

Intensive community consultation through workshops and meetings was undertaken to include the Aboriginal communities at every stage of the project's development.

Project Results:

The success of the project can be seen by its establishment as a service. It has developed a culturally appropriate mediation model and has promoted Alternative Dispute Resolution throughout the Aboriginal community. The demand for the services provided also attest to its success; the conflict resolution officer is currently working on about fifteen cases and the education program officer has twelve or thirteen cases.



Commencement Date:

1991.



Current Status:

This service is active and now includes educational programs and workshops for police aides to assist them in managing conflict situations. Additional funding is presently being sought to cover staffing costs.



Name of Organisation responsible for the project:

The Special Government Committee on Aboriginal/Police and Community Relations was responsible for setting up the project; it has now been taken over by the Western Australian Ministry for Justice.



Resources:

Last year funding of A\$210 000 was received from the WA Ministry for Justice. The service employs a manager, a conflict management officer, an education program officer and an administrative officer.



Contact Person:

Robin Thorne, Manager
Aboriginal Alternative Dispute Resolution Service
LGF 170 Wellington Street East Perth WA 6004
Phone: (09) 221 5499

Wunngagutu Patrol, WA

Project Summary:

The Wunngagutu Patrol was formed to tackle the drunkenness and violence of homeless Aboriginals, and to help juveniles who inhale harmful substances, such as paint and glue. It has expanded to assisting police deal with domestic arguments and street disturbances.

Target Group(s):

Aboriginals and juvenile substance abusers

Violence Prevention Strategy:

It was hoped that by taking people home or to their settlements before they became excited by liquor that instances of assault would decrease. Two vehicles, uniforms and radios were purchased. The patrols were structured to prevent interference from rival family or community groups, and the committee is dedicated to creating full-time employment for people to look after their community for as many hours as possible.

Project Description:

The patrol was formed because of the disorderly behaviour and acts of violence taking place on a regular basis due to drunkenness amongst homeless Aboriginal people. Juvenile substance abuse was rampant, with children as young as 8 years abusing and assaulting store staff to get substances to inhale. The police and medical services were not able to cope with the demands placed upon them. It was evident that something needed to be done to stop the self-abuse and acts of violence against each

other and community members. The Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital was frequently the scene of fighting as rival groups would congregate to settle scores after the admission of an assault victim. The task of the patrol was made more difficult because of the hostility and rivalry that existed between different groups and families. The project started with only six weeks preparation, assisted by the police. Vehicles were borrowed from Aboriginal organisations each evening, a base was set up in a central Aboriginal hostel and volunteers were recruited. The patrol takes people to their homes or settlements where they are in smaller, more friendly groups.

Project Results:

Police figures show that since the Patrol commenced operation the number of disturbances and reported complaints has fallen by 11 per cent in less than twelve months, the number of arrests was down 28 per cent, while the number of detainees lodged in the lockup fell 64 per cent. Those that are arrested no longer carry injuries inflicted in fighting. There has been a marked reduction in people presenting themselves for treatment at the hospital emergency department, and security instances at the hospital have also declined.

- ▶ **Commencement Date:** 1993.
- ▶ **Current Status:** Ongoing. With funding provided by ATSIC a patrol office is being established and a part-time coordinator is shortly to be appointed.
- ▶ **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:** Eastern Goldfields Aboriginal Corporation Resource Agency.
- ▶ **Resources:** ATSIC provided funding of A\$50 000. The Patrol is managed by a steering committee comprising eight or nine members made up from the police, Aboriginal community, business community and Aboriginal departments. Donations assist with ongoing costs.
- ▶ **Contact Person:** Senior Constable Kyran O'Donnell
Kalgoorlie Police Station
Brookman Street Kalgoorlie WA 6430
Phone: (090) 219 777

Elder Abuse Prevention Program, WA

Project Summary:

This program aims to deal with the major aspects of elder abuse. It was developed when it was recognised that elder abuse is a problem occurring in our community for which there were no guidelines for community workers and little recognition by the community itself that the problem existed.

Target Group(s):

The aged population of Western Australia.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The program was established to reduce the incidence of elder abuse through:

- community empowerment to assist seniors reduce their vulnerability to abuse;
- early recognition of risk factors and action to defuse potential abuse situations;
- provision of community support/education to relieve the burden of the caring role;
- self-help carer groups, which confront and address the issues surrounding abuse;
- identification of cases and appropriate intervention to permanently stop elder abuse;
- reeducation and support for abusers to terminate their abusive behaviour;
- increased community awareness of the issues related to abuse.

Project Description:

The program consists of four modules:

- A State conference for over 120 community service providers which raised their awareness of abuse;
- the development of a set of guidelines/protocols for community service providers to use when cases of elder abuse were recognised;
- the development of a perpetrator program which dealt specifically with the abuser and helped them to recognise the consequences of their behaviour;
- community forums that were held in four metropolitan local government areas, attended by seniors and carers.

The program also offers distance education through a video to assist service providers.

Project Results:

Through the evaluations that have been conducted the program appears to have had a marked impact on the community by raising the awareness of service providers to the problem of elder abuse and providing a set of protocols to deal with the problem when it arises. Five thousand copies of the protocol have been published and distributed. The program has empowered seniors with strategies to protect their well-being. After one year of the perpetrator program there was a follow up which revealed that there were no further episodes of abuse by two-thirds of the perpetrators.

► **Commencement Date:**
1992.

► **Current Status:**
This program is continuing, with many requests for the holding of community forums. Because of funding shortages the perpetrator program has been cut but it is hoped that it will be possible to re-activate this.

► **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**
Council on the Ageing (WA) Inc.

► **Resources:**
A grant of A\$8800 was received from Healthways to conduct four community forums. A home and community care grant of A\$5000 was received to produce the manual "Responding to Elder Abuse". All time has been donated with the exception of paid actors at community forums.

► **Contact Person:** Beth Kingsley, COTA (WA)
93 William Street Perth WA 6000
Phone: (09) 351 2088

Yarranma Magazine, WA

Project Summary:

A quarterly magazine in which the editorial content is overseen by an Aboriginal committee. It presents a positive image of Aboriginal people who are working towards solving problems through their own communities.

Target Group(s):

Aboriginal people.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

Most issues of this magazine address alcohol induced violence which it seeks to prevent through:

- encouraging people to speak out against violence;
- encouraging people to help themselves and their community;
- informing people about where and how they can get help;
- encouraging elders to take action to curb the violence in the community by raising their awareness of existing violence;
- explaining how the sale and use of alcohol can be legally controlled;
- highlighting successful community-based examples of violence reduction;
- informing people of citizens' rights in communities.

Project Description:

The magazine is produced by Wordstars Pty Ltd. An Aboriginal committee vets the content before it is published.

Yarranma is distributed throughout Western Australia and the Northern Territory. Through the magazine Aboriginal people speak out about violence and many other social issues. Alcohol-

ism and drug abuse are problems which are highlighted in the magazine.

Yarranma enables Aboriginal people to reach out to each other through pictorial and written materials in a language that can be easily read and understood. It contains people's stories on violence, illustrating its effect on individuals and community members.

The magazine is distributed free to all Aboriginal communities, groups, individuals and anyone working with Aboriginal people.

Project Results:

The wide distribution and the lasting quality of the magazine attest to its success. Articles published help people to look at themselves, to acknowledge that they have a problem and provide information on what they can do about it and to whom to turn for help.

Wordstars has won two Human Rights Commission awards and two Equal Opportunity (WA) awards and an MBA Health Award for its work, specifically for *Yarranma*.

► **Commencement Date:**

1988.

► **Current Status:**

Ongoing.

► **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**

Western Australia Drug and Alcohol Authority and Wordstars Pty Ltd.

► **Resources:**

It is funded by the Western Australia Alcohol and Drug Authority and through advertising and grants for specific projects.

► **Contact People:**

Vi Bacon
WA Drug and Alcohol
Authority
7 Field Street
Mt Lawley WA 6050
Phone: (09) 370 0333

Ann Graham
Director
Wordstars Pty Ltd
14 Sayer Street
Midland WA 6056
Phone: (09) 250 2380

Kidlink Early Intervention Project, WA

Project Summary:

In response to a perceived need, this program offers support, information, referral and advocacy for parents of young children. It provides a home and centre based service.

Target Group(s):

Families with children aged up to 8 years.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The project provides a violence prevention program for families in their own home, addressing issues that they or the referring agency have identified. It was found that families which were most in need of the services provided by agencies in the area were least likely to access them, and that motivation to develop a positive relationship with their children was also a difficulty with some families where the caregivers had multiple problems to contend with (for example, lack of finances, long-term unemployment and domestic violence).

By increasing the self-esteem of the caregiver, confidence in their parenting role increases. Parents are supported to change their inappropriately harsh parenting practices (for example, hitting and shouting) to a more democratic approach. Through educating parents about alternatives to violence and encouraging them to seek counselling and support for their own abusive behaviour the abuse filtering through to the next generation may be prevented.

Project Description:

The program offers caregivers the opportunity to undertake a training program that enables them to become

support workers with new Kidlink families. It includes a Father's Support Group which aims to raise the self-esteem of men in their role as fathers and provides them with tools to continue supporting each other after the group has finished.

Families joining the program are pre- and post-tested for self-esteem and use of community facilities, and goals are set with corresponding performance indicators.

Project Results:

Over 70 per cent of caregivers commence their involvement with clinically significant problems with self-esteem. The majority exit with scores below the point considered to indicate a serious problem.

In 80 per cent of families, set goals are successfully achieved. These include an increase in the amount of quality time the caregiver spends with the child, improvement in nutrition, safety and hygiene in the home, increased access to community resources, improvements in the child's speech and pre-school skills, improvements in the child's behaviour and the caregiver's handling of it, and increased understanding of the child's needs and abilities. Additional outcomes include caregivers seeking further education or training, improvements in the relationships between partners, caregivers changing or leaving abusive relationships or those where addictive behaviours are a problem.

Men who have taken part in the Fathers Support Group have reported not only an improvement in their relationship with their children but with their partners as well.

- ▶ **Commencement Date:** 1993.
- ▶ **Current Status:** Ongoing.
- ▶ **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:** Kidlink Early Intervention Project Inc.

- ▶ **Resources:** Kidlink is a government funded, non-government agency. One full-time, plus four part-time workers are employed. Eleven volunteers give their time to work with families. The project is managed by a committee made up of members of the community.

- ▶ **Contact Person:** Rosanne Allen
Kidlink Early Intervention Programme
PO Box 522 Kwinana WA 6167
Phone: (09) 439 1838

Geraldton Streetwork Aboriginal Corporation, WA

Project Summary:

The Geraldton Streetwork Aboriginal Corporation was created in 1988 to deal with the perceived problem of the numbers of youth, mainly of Aboriginal descent, on the streets of Geraldton and their connection with disturbances and/or street crime. The project provides counselling and emotional support. It has programs to assist social development and promote desirable skills and values.

Target Group(s):

Twelve to eighteen-year-old offending or at risk youth—predominantly Aboriginal.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The violence prevention strategy of the Geraldton Streetwork Aboriginal Corporation is to offer activities and programs to youth 'at risk' to improve their self-esteem and feelings of self-worth through training, recreational and self-development courses. The streetworkers remove youth from violent or potentially violent situations. Through the supervision of Community Service Orders on a farm at which horticultural and other training is provided, desirable skills and values are acquired.

Project Description:

A Youth Centre has been established for recreation and socialising at which many activities are organised. These include the development of numeracy and literacy skills, pre-employment and employment skills such as mechanics and welding. It provides structured counselling programs, programs de-

signed to foster feelings of self-esteem and self-worth. It offers personal advice and support, and girls only programs. There is an artist in residence, and art and craft activities are organised.

The street workers are part of an outreach program in which they patrol the streets at night, taking youth home or moving them out of problem areas.

A recycling project is a major activity of the Geraldton Streetwork Aboriginal Corporation on which long-term unemployed people work for six months. Many youth are employed or undertake work experience there who would not be considered for employment elsewhere.

The agency has gained the long lease of three hundred acres of land at Walkaway on which has been established the "Gunnadoo Farm". Youth on Community Service Orders work at the farm, undertaking various horticultural activities.

Project Results:

The training programs have a high success rate at which anything up to 150 young people attend. Of the eight originally employed on the recycling project for six months, five have found full-time employment. At present there are ten and it is expected that when the six months of their employment have been completed they will find full-time employment, possibly with the GSAC.

- ▶ **Commencement Date:** 1988.
- ▶ **Current Status:** Ongoing. The Ministry of Justice supports this project which they see as vitally important.
- ▶ **Name of Organisation responsible for the project:** Geraldton Streetwork Aboriginal Committee.
- ▶ **Resources:** The Geraldton Streetwork Aboriginal Corporation is funded by the Ministry of Justice and costs approximately A\$126 000 per year. The Corporation is managed by a volunteer management committee of a chairperson and 14 members. There are two ex-officio members, representing the Ministry of Justice and the Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Commission; a paid coordinator; a secretary; two street workers; a farm supervisor, and a women's interests officer. The recycling project is fully self-funding.
- ▶ **Contact Person:** Merrilyn Green, Coordinator
Geraldton Streetwork Aboriginal Corporation
PO Box 1320 Geraldton WA 6531
Phone: (099) 212 890

The Aboriginal Driver Training Program Inc., WA

Project Summary:

The program was a response to the high numbers of Aboriginal people in Western Australian prisons. Many Aboriginal people have first entered the prison system with sentences for driving without a licence.

Target Group(s):

Young Aboriginal people.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The aim of the program is to provide driver instruction to young Aboriginal people so that they can confidently undertake the necessary tests to qualify for a driver's licence. Aboriginal young people find it difficult to obtain a driver's licence because of literacy problems, troubled relationships with police and a shortage of cars, and/or licensed drivers within families.

Project Description:

Learners' permit classes have been held at Longmore Rangeview and Riverbank Juvenile Detention Centres and young people are able to join the practical part of the driving course on release. Classes for Theory tests are also held in the office about once a month for the general public. Because a driver's licence can be of great help in obtaining work, most participants in the scheme are not willing to jeopardise this by such illegal conduct as car theft and drink driving.

This reduces the risk of involvement in high speed car chases, violent behaviour and clashes with police.

Project Results:

In the eight years the program has been operating approximately 800 young people have been assisted in obtaining their licences. The project has also seen an improvement in relations between Aboriginal people and the police. Young Aboriginal people are able to meet police officers in a positive environment and both parties have seen each other performing tasks competently.

**Commencement Date:**

1987.

**Current Status:**

Ongoing (however, closure is likely due to ATSIC funding cuts).

**Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**

Christian Justice Association.

**Resources:**

When the project was given an award in 1992 it had been operating for two years on very limited resources, including only two cars. This has not changed.

**Contact Person:**

Tracy Briggs (Co-ordinator)
190 Treasure Road
Queens Park WA 6107
Phone: (09) 358 1995

School Volunteer Program, WA

Project Summary:

The School Volunteer Program is an inter-generational initiative, where senior members of the community help children on a one-to-one basis in high schools.

Target Group(s):

Vulnerable young people.

Violence Prevention Strategy:

The program prevents and reduces violence by alleviating and reducing frustrations through 'grandparent' friendships. It is believed that the introduction of caring, non-threatening senior citizens into these students' lives could assist them in establishing a more stable attitude towards their peers and the general community. The program helps to break down the barriers between generations, by helping seniors to be less judgmental and assisting young people to appreciate the depth of knowledge, experience and wisdom that many older people possess. Through this program there is a transmission of values from one generation to another.

Project Description:

The students selected are non-achievers, who are at risk of becoming law-breakers because they are frustrated and unable to cope with the complexities of secondary education. The time the student and the senior citizen spend

together is mainly used in concentrating on literacy skills and raising the self-esteem of each other. The senior volunteer demonstrates through life experience the folly of violent reactions to frustrating circumstances, providing alternative solutions to problems that the student may have. The seniors are people who wish to help young people at risk in a practical way.

Project Results:

Within the last two years, the SVP has developed from a trial program in three schools, with 16 volunteers, to having a volunteer workforce of nearly 450 people. SVP is replacing potentially aggressive and violent behaviour with a tolerance towards other members of our community, and is replacing aggression with a more caring attitude. Because the program is so positive, the young people being assisted become ambassadors of non-violent activities in their homes and their community life. Every school associated with the SVP is able to provide stories of the changes in attitude, the reduction in anger and frustration, and the improvement in self-esteem of students who have a volunteer friend. The SVP also helps raise the confidence and self-worth of the senior volunteers who find that they have more purpose in their lives.

**Commencement Date:**

April 1994, after a 12-month pilot scheme.

**Current Status:**

The project is continuing to expand. The program has been duplicated in Darwin and discussions are taking place with a Rotary Club in Adelaide.

**Name of Organisation responsible for the project:**

Rotary International and Council on the Ageing (WA) Inc as joint venturers.

**Resources:**

Grant funds totalling A\$83 000 up to April 1996 have been provided by the Gordon Reid Foundation for Youth. The Western Australian Education Department has recently agreed to provide a grant of A\$30 000 per year for the next three years. The Council on the Ageing (WA) Inc. administers these funds.

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