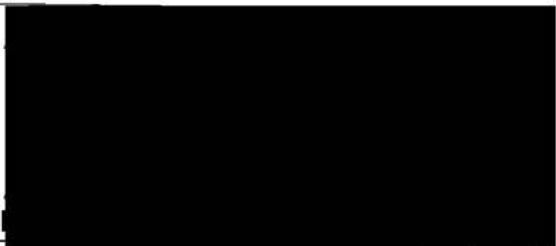


**IN THE MATTER OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION
INTO FAMILY VIOLENCE**

ATTACHMENT AS-8 TO STATEMENT OF ANGELA MAREE SINGH

Date of document: 16 July 2015
Filed on behalf of: State of Victoria
Prepared by:
Victorian Government Solicitor's Office
Level 33
80 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000



This is the attachment marked '**AS-8**' produced and shown to **ANGELA MAREE SINGH** at the time of signing her Statement on 16 July 2015.

Before me:



**An Australian Legal Practitioner within
the meaning of the Legal Profession Uniform Law (Victoria)**

Attachment AS-8

North & West Metropolitan Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Plan 2012 - 2015



**“Hands are for Hugging and Holding
NOT for Hitting and Hurting”**

Our thanks and appreciation to the Artists

Di Ford
Bucanditj

Matthew Stewart
Wamba Wamba

Prepared with financial assistance and support of the Department of Human
Services, as part of the Victorian Indigenous Family Violence Strategy,
November 2008

CONTENTS

Traditional Acknowledgement	2
Foreword	3
DHS Statement of support	5
N&WMR IFV Regional Action Group Members	6
North and West Metropolitan Region Demographic	8
Indigenous Population	10
Terms of Reference	11
Role	
Key Tasks	
North and West Regional Direction	12
Vision	
Aims	
Principles	
<u>North and West Regional Focus Areas</u>	
Focus Area One: Community Education and Awareness	14
Focus Area Two: Program Development	16
Focus Area Three: Service Response	18
Focus Area Four: Service Delivery	20
Focus Area Five: Partnerships	22
Focus Area Six: Evaluation/Monitoring	24
Focus Area Seven: Funding	25

* In identifying and listing our target groups throughout this document being Children, Elders, Gay and Lesbian community members, Men, People with Disabilities, Women and Youth the N&WM Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Group wish to acknowledge that we have chosen to list these groups alphabetically as we feel that is important to note that no one group is identified as being more important than any other.



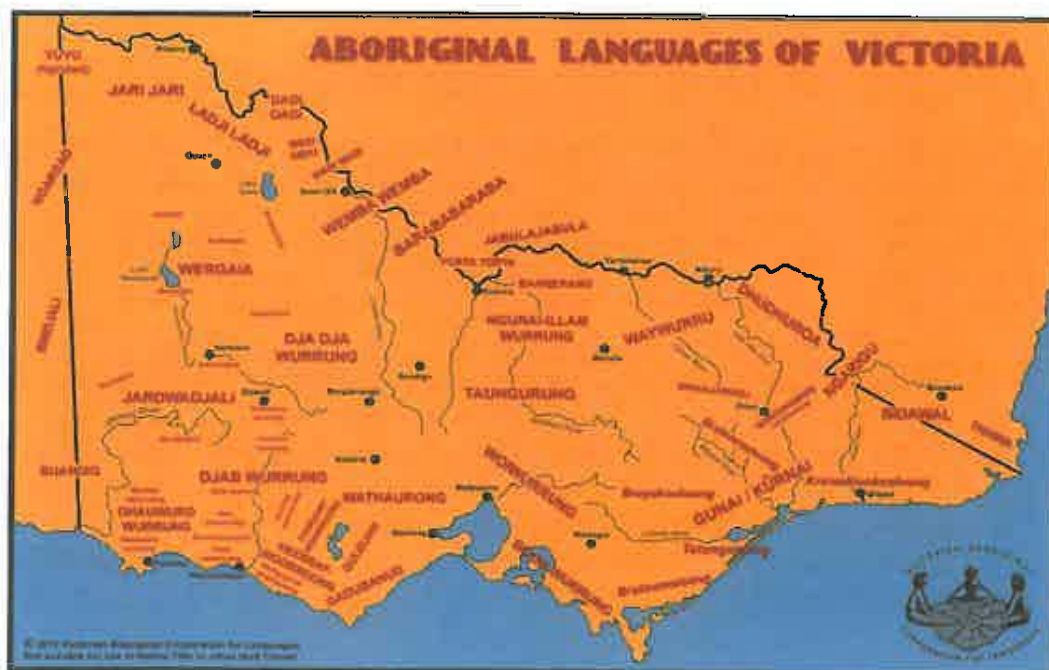
Traditional Acknowledgement

This paper aims to be expressive in a respectful and culturally sensitive manner, with an emphasis on ensuring that the traditional custodians are recognized and respected, along with ensuring that Indigenous people from other parts of the country are respected.

The North and West Regional Action Group wishes to acknowledge that within the North and West Metropolitan region there are a number of historical and contemporary places of significance to Indigenous Australians. These places need to be acknowledged and respected for their cultural relevance and historical significance for all Indigenous Australians.

When Europeans first settled in the area five Indigenous language groups occupied the region. These groups spoke a related language and were part of the Kulin Nation.

The North and West Action Group in partnership with the Department of Human Services (DHS) wish to respectfully acknowledge the KULIN Nation as the traditional custodians of this land, which falls within the DHS North and West region.





Foreword

Indigenous Australian communities in Victoria have been struggling with the issue, and associated issues, of Family Violence since the time of colonisation. Family violence has become so ingrained for many of our families that it is perceived as a normal part of life. The prevalence of Family Violence within our communities can be directly related to the loss of land, culture, identity, self-respect, self-worth and the break down of traditional roles within communities. Systemic racism has been a significant factor in ensuring Indigenous Australian communities remain fragmented and disjointed and has supported the dependant relationships many Indigenous Australian communities face with government organisations.

For too long Indigenous Australians have been treated with contempt and prevented from participating in decision-making processes about issues that affect us. This has hindered the healing process, which our families and communities so badly need in order to address our social, emotional, physical, spiritual, and cultural needs.

In the past strategies and programs were implemented by various government departments with little, if any, community involvement or consultation. This stemmed from a generic approach by governments to addressing social problems within society. Consequently many strategies and programs have been tokenistic, culturally inappropriate, and not relevant to our communities and have failed to meet the needs of Indigenous Australians.

Many Indigenous Australians are sceptical and apprehensive about engaging mainstream services because of negative historical relationships. The North and West Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Group are working with mainstream services to create a culturally sensitive/respectful service delivery.

Today there is some recognition that for communities to access services, communities must have ownership of the service. This is achieved when communities have a say, and control, in the development, design and implementation of services that impact on their communities. Communities in the Northern part of the region have a long history of independently developing community-based responses to community needs. Many of these responses have been developed in direct conflict with mainstream ideals and government departments of the time.

It is through strategies such as the Indigenous Family Violence Strategy that Indigenous Australian communities have the opportunity to gain some control of our destiny, through collaborative partnerships with Government Departments and Mainstream Organisations. We can now move forward to address the social issues facing our people through community-based strategies and the development of services that are locally owned, culturally sensitive/respectful and adequately resourced.

The future for Indigenous Australian communities will depend on our children and young people. We therefore need to ensure that our children and young people have every opportunity to develop in a positive, caring, nurturing and culturally sensitive/respectful environment, which is free from Family Violence. It is envisaged that this Regional Action Plan will set a strong foundation for the implementation of strategies and programs to address Family Violence in our communities.

Mr Phil Cooper
Co-Chairperson
North and West Regional Indigenous
Family Violence Action Group

INSERT PHOTO
Phil Cooper
Co-Chairperson
IFV RAG

Leading Senior Constable Melissa Peters
Co-Chairperson
North and West Regional Indigenous
Family Violence Action Group

INSERT PHOTO
Melissa Peters
Co-Chairperson
IFV RAG

REGIONAL DIRECTORS STATEMENT

I wish to acknowledge the work of the North and West Metropolitan Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Group, in particular Leading Senior Constable Melissa Peters and Mr Phil Cooper as co-chairs of the Action Group. Without the participation, dedication, commitment, perseverance and hard work of Action Group members this Action Plan would not have been possible.

The Action Group is made up of a diverse range of Aboriginal community members who each bring an essential perspective ensuring that all aspects of the community are taken into consideration and all sections of the community are catered for.

Proactive working partnerships between the Aboriginal community and the Department of Human Services are essential to address the issue of Family Violence within these communities in the North and West Metropolitan Region. Over the years, these partnerships and relationships have been forged to support a common goal – keeping our most vulnerable families safe and ending family violence.

The strength of our partnerships will support the necessary work and enable us to continue in our efforts to reduce the incidence of family violence. As the Department of Human Services embarks on a significant restructure that will support improved approaches to working with vulnerable people our associated commitment to continue to address issues for Aboriginal children and families will occur without interruption.

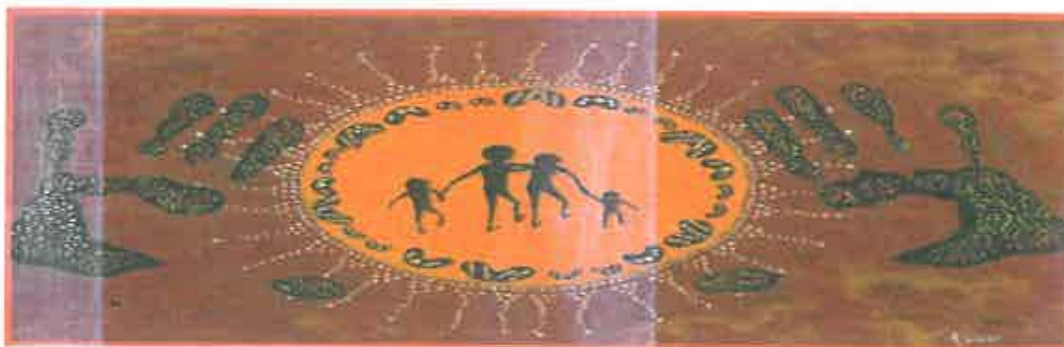
This Action Plan, which is community owned and supported by strong partnerships with government and mainstream services, provides a framework for the next three years and sets a clear agenda for planning and shaping responses to family violence in the region.

The Action Plan encompasses the vision, values and objectives of the *Strong Culture, Strong Peoples, Strong Families – Towards a safer future for Indigenous families and communities, 10 year plan (October 2008)* and sits alongside other regional plans to inform state wide directions to addressing Indigenous Family Violence in Victoria.

I would like to acknowledge the work of Robbie Lynch, North and West Indigenous Family Violence Regional Coordinator, who has lent his support to the Action Group in the development and finalisation of the Action Plan.

On behalf of the North and West Metropolitan Region I strongly support the direction of this Action Plan and remain committed to continuing to build effective working partnerships, based on trust and respect, necessary for realising the vision articulated in this plan.

Jan Snell
Regional Director
Department of Human Services North and West Metropolitan Region



North and West Metropolitan Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Group Members

The North and West Regional Indigenous Family Violence Action Group (**N&WM IFVRAG**) has been a constantly evolving group of committed community representatives, who represent specific groups within the North and West metropolitan region.

This paper would like to give thanks to those past and present members, who have participated and contributed to the development of this document. Current members include:

Phil Cooper, IFV RAG Co-Chair
Project Officer, Victorian Aboriginal
Community Services Association Limited

Melissa Peters, IFV RAG Co-Chair
Leading Senior Constable
Victoria Police

Alf Bamblett
CEO, Victorian Aboriginal Community
Services Association Limited

Muriel Bamblett
CEO,
Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency

Esme Bamblett
CEO,
Aborigines Advancement League

Deidre King
CEO,
Aboriginal Community Elders Service

Alf Bamblett Jr
IMRAS
Victorian Aboriginal Community
Services Association Limited

Linda Bamblett
Community Development Officer,
Victorian Aboriginal Community
Services Association Limited

Rodney Monohan
Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer
Victoria Police

Mark Williams
Authentic Community Training

Les Bamblett
Close the Health Gap
Victorian Aboriginal Community
Services Association Limited

Ross Morgan
Case Worker
Link Up Victoria

Robbie Lynch
Indigenous Family Violence Co-ordinator
Department of Human Services

Ron Briggs
Koorie Counsellor & Liaison Office
Children's and Protection Society

The North and West Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Group would also like to thank Reg Blow and Frank Guivarra for their contributions towards the North and West Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Plan.



This paper would like to give thanks to the Associate members who have participated and contributed to the development of this document. Current members include:

Associate Members

Tracey O'Donnell, Regional Integrated Coordinator
Womens Health in the North

Maureen Smith, Regional Integrated Coordinator
Western Integrated Family Violence Committee

Jo Chambers, Unit Manager Family Services Partnerships
Department of Human Services

Kelly-Ann Andy, Service Delivery Manager
Elizabeth Hoffman House, Aboriginal Women's Services

Imogen Westfield, Project Officer
Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, Indigenous Family Violence Secretariat

Helen Riseborough, CEO
Womens Health in the North

Deborah Murray, Indigenous Community Development Broker
Local Indigenous Network

Sandy Brien, Manager Support Services
SDP Service Delivery and Performance
Department of Human Services

Helena Gonebale, Senior PS Consultant
Aboriginal Employment Programs
Department of Human Services

Andrea Hilton, Port Phillip Prison



North and West Metropolitan Region Demographic

The North and West Metropolitan Region have the highest proportion of Indigenous Australian people in the Melbourne metropolitan area. The region is made up of fourteen municipalities; Banyule, Brimbank, Darebin, Hobsons Bay, Hume, Maribyrnong, Melbourne, Melton, Moreland, Moonee Valley, Nillumbik, Whittlesea, Wyndham and Yarra. Municipalities with higher numbers of Indigenous residents include Darebin, Whittlesea, Hume and Wyndham.

Census data indicates that the Indigenous Australian population in this region represents just under 24% of Victoria's Indigenous population and approximately 50% of metropolitan Melbourne's Indigenous population. Because of this high concentration within the region issues within the Indigenous Australian communities have been highlighted. Furthermore there are different and distinct communities within the Region with differing issues and at times different approaches to addressing the many issues associated with Family Violence.

Historically, and currently, Indigenous Australian people experience a greater socioeconomic disadvantage than non-Indigenous people. This is evident by the social issues facing our people today. As a consequence of these disadvantages Indigenous children, young people and their families are over represented in Child Protection, Juvenile Justice System and Family Violence services. However, Indigenous Australian people are significantly under represented in preventative services.

The Indigenous Australian population in general is getting younger, 63% of our population is aged less than thirty years. This young population could have a direct correlation to the over representation of Indigenous Australian children, young people and their families who come into contact with Child Protection, the Juvenile Justice System and Family Violence services.

The average life expectancy of Indigenous people is significantly lower than for non-Indigenous people. Only 6% of the Indigenous Australian population are aged sixty years and over. An Indigenous man can expect to live 21 years less than a non-Indigenous man and an Indigenous woman can expect to live 18 years less than a non-Indigenous woman. This life expectancy and loss of Elders under the age of sixty reflects the poor health suffered by our people today.

Indigenous communities within the North and West Metropolitan Region have had a long history of independently developing proactive community based organisations. The location of key Aboriginal community controlled organisations is evidence of the community's ability to develop initiatives to address community needs. Even with the significant and tireless efforts of community based organisations our people throughout the North and West region continue to experience significant socio-economic disadvantage, which impacts on the health and wellbeing of the communities.

Because there are established Indigenous communities, community controlled organisations and services located in the North and West Metropolitan Region, Indigenous people throughout Victoria and interstate have been, and still are, attracted to this region. This has facilitated a very diverse and unique community in the region.



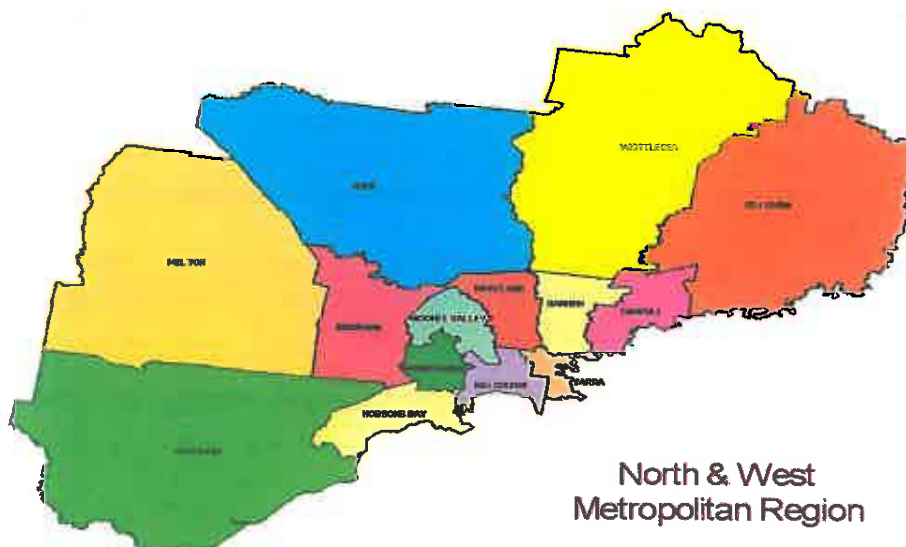
Indigenous Population

The NWMR has the highest proportion of the Victorian Indigenous population. The Indigenous population in the region in 2011 was 10,996. This represents 23.92% of Victoria's Indigenous population, just over 50% of metropolitan Melbourne's Indigenous population and 0.54% of the total regional population. The total State-wide Indigenous population constitutes 0.7% of the Victorian population.

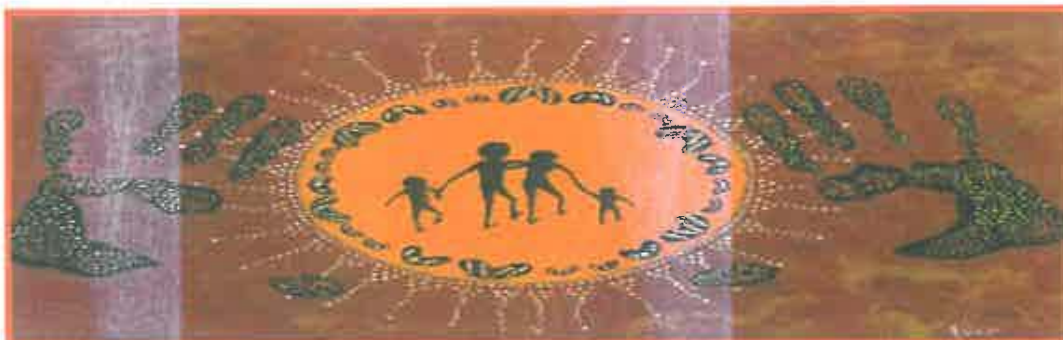
The distribution of the Indigenous population by Local Government Area (LGA) is listed in the table below.

Municipality	Indigenous Population
Banyule	619
Brimbank	701
Darebin	1,154
Hobsons Bay	393
Hume	1,951
Maribyrnong	322
Melbourne	261
Melton	793
Moonee Valley	317
Moreland	703
Nilumbik	195
Whittlesea	1,124
Wyndham	1,145
Yarra	318
Total	10,996

Since the 2006 Census there has been an increase in people who have identified as Indigenous. The NWMR had the largest increase out of all the regions (34.22%). NWMR increase is 24.71%. The increase across Victoria was 26.04% and Melbourne Metro was 27.57%.



Source: ABS Census 2011. ABS statistics do not truly reflect the Indigenous population in this region. Because of historical and other related issues, many community members are sceptical and cautious about government research and choose not to participate. This has translated into a conservative estimation of figures.



North West Metropolitan Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Group Terms of reference

Role

To reduce the incidence of Family Violence and work towards strengthening community by:

- Raising community awareness of the impact of Family Violence and to improve understanding of Family Violence issues in our region.
- Addressing the social, emotional, spiritual and cultural wellbeing of Families and Communities and reflect the important roles of Children, Elders, Gay and Lesbian Community, Men, people with a disability Women and Youth.
- Ensuring appropriate support and representation for people with disabilities.
- Assessing local community needs and map service provision and utilisation, in order to improve current services and ensure the development of future proactive services.
- Engaging in active problem solving and the development of local community based responses, initiatives and strategies for addressing Family Violence issues. Work with the agencies delivering Family Violence services and support them in program development or funding applications.
- Developing sustainable cross-agency linkages, which promote information sharing at a local level and includes culturally competent service provision for Indigenous Australian communities.
- Providing support to the Regional Indigenous Family Violence Coordinator through regular meetings and contact.
- Considering applications received under the Victorian Indigenous Family Violence Strategy Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) for the North and West Metropolitan Region.

- Ensuring that the Regional Action Group engages key stakeholders to ensure that they are committed to promoting the North and West Indigenous Family Violence Action Group, through:

Maintaining communication

Strengthening current networks

Continuing to develop linkages

Representation on a state level

Remaining community focused

Restoring culturally competent practices

- Developing, implementing and reviewing the Regional Indigenous Family Violence Action Plan every three years or as the need arises.

Strategic Action Areas

The Regional Action Plan aims to:

- Address locally identified community needs to strengthen community towards freedom from Family Violence;
- Map existing services and programs and identify service gaps;
- Increase opportunities for service improvements and prioritise service delivery;
- Increase opportunities for developing partnerships and linkages with local Family Violence Specific networks.
- Build on and increase existing services providers



North West Metropolitan Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Group Direction

VISION

Work together on holistic responses to build culturally strong communities that teach strong family values and are free from Family Violence.

AIMS

To work together holistically to reduce the incidence and impact of Family Violence and strengthen communities by ensuring that all members have access to culturally sensitive/respectful programs specific to the needs of our community.

PRINCIPLES

Respect of cultural beliefs and communities is an integral part of Indigenous Australian society and includes respect for our land, heritage, ceremonies, customs, language, dance and our interaction with family. We have special relationships, obligations and responsibilities within our Kinship system, which includes a philosophical way of life.

Our NWM IFVRAG principles include:

- Family Violence and abuse needs to be addressed through “whole of community” action.
- We believe that individuals and the Community must collectively take responsibility to eradicate Family Violence.
- Violence, abuse or neglect, in any form will not be tolerated
- Elders, Men, Women, Youth, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex (GLBTI) Community members and people with disabilities should be comforted in the knowledge that strong advocacy and leadership is addressing their safety and wellbeing.

- We believe that in order to provide long term sustainable programs and services we require a strong commitment from government.



**North West Metropolitan Indigenous Family Violence
Regional Action Group**

Focus Areas

Focus Area One: Community Education & Awareness

Focus Area Two: Program Development

Focus Area Three: Service Response

Focus Area Four: Service Delivery

Focus Area Five: Partnerships

Focus Area Six: Evaluation/ Monitoring

Focus Area Seven: Funding

FOCUS AREA ONE:

COMMUNITY EDUCATION & AWARENESS

Background

Family and Community is the cornerstone of Indigenous people's way of life. Community education is the key to raising awareness of Family Violence and the impact it has on our families and community.

We believe it is imperative to build a positive vision in Indigenous communities, based on strong family values and cultural practices and to use holistic approaches to address Family Violence.

Key objective

To educate and increase community awareness about the risk factors of Family Violence on our people and of the need for community to be collectively involved in preventing Family Violence.

Key Strategies

Develop cultural resources to address the issue of Family Violence within our Indigenous Australian communities.

Deliver culturally sensitive/respectful community education activities in consultation with community.

Priority Actions and Tasks

1.1 In consultation with Community, develop statements against Family Violence.

1.2 Develop strategies for targeted messages aimed within our regional communities.

1.3 Initiate locally developed community education programs and materials.

1.4 Develop regional communication strategy which will include:

Newsletter

Website

Multimedia – Radio/Print

Video

Community events

1.5 Develop tailored material aimed at reducing the incidence of Family Violence:

1.6 Seek Community involvement to address Family Violence.

1.7 Recognise the communities' need for information and discussion to share our knowledge which will allow informed decision-making.

1.8 Develop education resource kits to meet the needs of victims and perpetrators of Family Violence.

1.9 Partner with Aboriginal and non Aboriginal organisations to campaign and contribute to partnership activities.

Expected Key Results

Increased community awareness and a reduction in the tolerance and incidence of Family Violence.

Sustain culturally respect/sensitive resources for community awareness and education.

Family Violence information distributed throughout the community and multi media outlets.

FOCUS AREA TWO:

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Background

Historically Family Violence initiatives and service responses have been developed in isolation from Aboriginal people. They have failed to address the complex issues families experienced.

Key Objective

To work together holistically to provide culturally sensitive/respectful programs which address Family Violence in Indigenous communities.

Key Strategies

To assist and support agencies to develop culturally sensitive/respectful programs in partnership with key stakeholders to address the issue of Family Violence in Indigenous Victorian communities.

Priority Actions and Tasks

2.1 Negotiate for support programs to address the specific issues experienced by:

Children

Elders

GLBTI

Men

People with a disability

Women

Youth

2.2 Advocate for programs to strengthen identity and build resilience such as:

Cultural identity and maintenance training

Cross-cultural training

2.3 Negotiate for programs aimed at Men's behavioural change:

Cultural Healing

Therapeutic approaches aimed at healing trauma and its relation to addictions

Focused on Health and Wellbeing

2.4 Support for shelter/protection programs:
Men's Safe Houses
Women's Safe Houses

Support appropriate mediation programs for:

Children
Elders
GLBTI Community Members
Men
People with a disability
Women
Youth

Negotiate for the development and implementation of education programs:

Culturally sensitive/respectful behaviour change programs
Specific Family Violence programs
Interagency training and professional development

Expected Key Results

Enhanced preventative measures and community responses to Family Violence
An increase in the development and support of community activities in relation to Family Violence.
Reduce incidence of Family Violence
Increased effective responses across the NW Region

FOCUS AREA THREE:

SERVICE RESPONSE

Background

Historically mainstream services have failed to meet the needs of Indigenous Australian people by not delivering services in a culturally sensitive/respectful way.. It is important that Aboriginal and non Aboriginal services work in partnership to facilitate better access to services for Indigenous communities.

Key Objective

To work together holistically to deliver culturally sensitive/respectful services that meet the need of specific target groups within the community.

Key strategies

Develop a fully resourced and sustainable culturally sensitive/respectful quality Family Violence service response.

Priority Actions and Tasks

- 3.1 Assist in the development of a culturally sensitive/respectful service response to sexual abuse.
- 3.2 Support and sustain the Minajalku Healing Centre to work with all target groups.
- 3.3 Pursue funding for camp activities to address the range of issues of Family Violence.
- 3.4 Negotiate for family mediation services to address risks of Family Violence.
- 3.5 Assist and support counselling responses to meet the specific cultural needs of individual target groups.
- 3.6 Participate in working groups and steering committees to support the development of policies and protocols for workers dealing with cases of Family Violence where children are involved.
- 3.7 Assist and support VACSAL in securing funding for "Hear Me Now" training.
- 3.8 Assist in the development of appropriate crisis responses to Family Violence including strategies to keep children safe.
- 3.9 Partner with services provided by police, judiciary, prisons, ambulances and hospitals to improve their responsiveness to Indigenous Australian people.

3.10 Support and strengthen existing Indigenous programs and organisations.

Expected Key Results

Aboriginal Services working together in partnership to address specific issues related to Family Violence.

Improved service responses to Aboriginal people by developing strong partnerships, based on equality, with mainstream and government agencies.

To support and assist an enhanced service response, that will address Family Violence to meet the specific needs of target groups.

FOCUS AREA FOUR:

SERVICE DELIVERY

Background

Culturally sensitive/respectful service delivery is one of the most important prerequisites to providing an effective and efficient service to Indigenous Australian people and is a major challenge for mainstream service providers. Agencies who are working with Indigenous people need to understand how and why violence occurs within Indigenous communities, and have a basic understanding of Indigenous approaches to dealing with Family Violence

It is critical that all organisations understand that their services must be client driven and promote self determination and enhancement of self-management within our communities, to address the various issues associated with Family Violence.

Key Objective

To ensure that services provided to Indigenous Australian communities are culturally competent and focused on making positive changes for all relevant stakeholders associated with Family Violence.

Key strategy

Facilitate the development of culturally sensitive/respectful service delivery that has a focus on making positive changes for victims and perpetrators of Family Violence.

Priority Actions and Tasks

- 4.1 Establish partnerships with all service providers to support culturally sensitive/respectful practices for victims and perpetrators of Family Violence.
- 4.2 Work with and implement practice guidelines for all services about engaging Aboriginal people.
- 4.3 To increase the community's awareness of Indigenous and Mainstream resources and programs that are available in the Region.
- 4.4 Assist and support the enhancement of cross sector practitioner's knowledge of Family Violence and its implications for child protection practice.
- 4.5 Support practitioners to follow best practice.
- 4.6 Work with all agencies to develop policies, procedures and practices for worker and community members' safety.

4.7 Assist and support workers risk assessment and safety planning skills for families and children.

Expected Key Results

Culturally sensitive/respectful practice guidelines for practitioners working with Aboriginal families.

Family Violence services are available and circulated to Aboriginal and non Aboriginal workers and the Community.

Aboriginal and non Aboriginal services work in positive and proactive partnerships.

FOCUS AREA FIVE:

PARTNERSHIPS

Background

Indigenous Australian communities are suspicious of mainstream and government attempts to develop collaboration. Indigenous Services entering into such partnerships often had their role minimised with the mainstream service provider taking the lead. For partnerships to work they need to be equitable. Where this is an Indigenous project the Indigenous Service should be the lead agency.

Mainstream services have greater access to information and resources yet still struggle to engage Indigenous families. Government departments are looking for solutions to the increasing incidence of Family Violence. The current political climate encourages the development of equitable partnerships between mainstream, government services and Indigenous organisations.

Key Objective

To enhance existing partnerships and strengthen collaboration between Aboriginal and non Aboriginal organisations, in order to improve service provision in response to Indigenous Family Violence.

Key strategies

Build collaborative approaches to address Family Violence utilising existing partnerships that include non Aboriginal service providers, government departments, Indigenous community and organisations.

Facilitate the engagement of agencies to develop new partnerships and strengthen existing collaborations between Indigenous organisations, mainstream agencies and government departments.

Priority Actions and Tasks

5.1 Establish a working group comprised of Indigenous community members, government and mainstream service providers to strengthen existing links and identify opportunities for working together.

5.2 Develop a network with other Indigenous services in order to develop agreements about the specific roles and responsibilities of services.

5.3 Work with key stakeholders to develop protocols to enhance service delivery to the Community.

5.4 Develop specific partnerships that encompass various governance groups.

5.5 Incorporate parts of the North and West Family Violence Action Plan into other key policy documents.

5.6 Strengthen partnerships between police, judiciary, prisons, ambulances and hospitals in the NWM Region.

5.7 Assist and support the ability of the criminal justice, housing, education and health systems to respond effectively to Family Violence.

Expected Key Results

Indigenous services engaged in positive and proactive partnerships with other Indigenous agencies, mainstream organisations and government departments.

For agreements to be developed with key stakeholders within the community.

FOCUS AREA SIX:

EVALUATION/MONITORING

Background

Historically funding has not been provided for monitoring and evaluation by Indigenous organisations.

Programs and service responses need to be monitored for their effectiveness and evaluated for their long-term viability. Previous attempts to evaluate and monitor outcomes of programs have been restricted because of under resourcing.

The Regional Action Group in partnership with Government will monitor the effectiveness and efficiency responses to Indigenous Family Violence.

Key Objective

To improve and enhance the ability of Indigenous organisations to be more effective in the implementation of evaluation and monitoring processes.

Key strategies

Build on the current knowledge base through data collection and research. This would enable programs and services to be monitored for their effectiveness and evaluate their long-term viability.

Attendance and participation of Regional Action Group on the Indigenous Family Violence Partnership Forum.

Priority Actions and Tasks

6.1 Monitor and review the current local Family Violence strategies in NWM Region.

6.2 Collate and analyse data and statistics to support sustainable funding.

6.3 Develop an evaluation and monitoring training package.

6.4 Establish and maintain relationships relevant to Indigenous Family Violence

Expected Key Results

Action research models in practice.

Secure long term funding.

Develop an evidence base to enhance funding submissions

To develop training packages which focus on the importance of evaluation and monitoring projects and activities.

FOCUS AREA SEVEN:

FUNDING

Background

Historically the commonwealth and state-governments have provided minimal funding to programs to address Family Violence. Both governments have funded numerous Family Violence strategies and previously the majority of funding was for 'one off' or 'pilot' funding.

It has become evident that approaches taken by various governments to address Indigenous disadvantage has been to match funding with supply, instead of demand. Demand is constantly outweighing supply as a consequence of the Indigenous population growth.

It is important that funding opportunities are developed and the evidence base is developed to secure long-term funding for programs and service responses to address the risks that Family Violence pose within our communities.

In 2008 the Indigenous Community and the Victorian Government signed a 10 year plan that committed to the provision of adequate funding and resources to achieve, sustainable improvements in the Indigenous Communities and Victorian Government practice.

Key Objective

To ensure sustainable and adequate funding for Indigenous Family Violence services/programs.

Key strategy

Secure sustainable and adequate funding for Family Violence services and programs for the Indigenous community.

Priority Actions and Tasks

- 7.1 To identify funding priorities within the community.
- 7.2 Develop funding submissions to address identified priorities
- 7.3 Develop partnerships with funding bodies to facilitate the funding process.
- 7.4 Explore funding options – philanthropic and government

Expected Key Result

Funding priorities identified

The development of partnerships with funding bodies

A realistic and workable evidence base

Ongoing funding for sustainable programs

Activities have helped to educate, prevent, reduce and respond to family violence for the North and West Aboriginal Communities.



North & West Metropolitan Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Group