

Submission to the Royal Commission into Family Violence

Current program	What is working well	Suggested improvements
<p>Men's Behaviour Change program – funded for 2 days per week to cover the Southwest region of Victoria. Target is 21 men</p>	<p>Groups operate 2.5 times a year and the retention rate is on average around 70%</p> <p>We have 2 very experienced facilitators</p> <p>Strong working relationship with Corrections Victoria</p> <p>Continually meet targets</p>	<p>Increased funding to the MBC program or other models of perpetrator programs to enable greater reach across the region –currently only able to operate out of Warrnambool</p> <p>Increased funding would enable more groups to be delivered across the region</p> <p>Increased funding to enable the program to be more sustainable – qualifying as a MBCP facilitator is costly and time consuming. Current funding of 2 days per week does not cover the costs of training</p> <p>Increased funding would allow for ongoing evaluation to measure the long term impact of MBCP on participants' behaviour and ability to maintain healthy relationships.</p> <p>Specialist Family Violence Court to increase the number of mandated clients</p>
<p>Counselling for Women & Children who have experienced or are experiencing family violence</p> <p>Funded for half a day a week – 8 targets</p>	<p>Focus on improved access to specialist family violence counselling for young women (under 25) as this program sits alongside a raft of specialist children & youth services.</p>	<p>Increase funding to expand the program funding and build the capacity to work with children & young people to address the impact of family violence.</p> <p>Increase capacity to work with young women in their first intimate relationship.</p>

		Fund family violence workers to sit in Child First & integrated family violence services to provide specialist counselling, support and secondary consultation. These workers could work with both women and children.
Who's In Charge program – current self-funding 2 group programs	Both group programs are at capacity and yet to be completed. Retention rates are at 95% so far Participants are from across the social and economic spectrum. It appears to have a broad appeal High community demand and local schools are requesting groups to be delivered through their schools.	Funding to expand the program into primary and secondary schools as an early intervention approach Expand the program across the region
Gaps/Needs		
Adolescent behaviour change program for young men.		Young men under 18 require a different approach to adult males. Develop a program and deliver in schools and to young men referred in the community.
Roll out the specialist Family Violence Courts across the state.		Combine this with increased criminalisation of family violence and ensure magistrates are trained in relation to the impact of family violence.
Primary prevention programs in schools.		Primary prevention programs are needed that educate staff and students on gender equality and respectful relationships. Specialist facilitators from community agencies could assist schools with planning, delivery and implementation of gender equity initiatives in schools. Many school staffs do not have the expertise or confidence to deliver this type of education.

