

# Whittlesea Community Futures Partnership Submission to the Victorian Government Royal Commission into Family Violence

## Introduction

The Whittlesea Community Futures (WCF) Partnership welcomes the opportunity to highlight the high-level factors affecting the City of Whittlesea communities and Family Violence service sector and recommend solutions to the issues.

Family Violence is a significant health and safety issue that requires a multi-faceted response and significant resourcing from all levels of government and commitment from community organisations and the community itself. It also requires a strong partnership approach, at all levels from community to Government, to sustain the quest to eliminate Family Violence and address the significant damages it has caused to the community and in particular to women and children.

In this submission, WCF Partnership seeks to analyse the high-level factors which have lent themselves to making the City of Whittlesea prone to Family Violence and recommend solutions to address them. Further, we have explored the opportunities and resources we already have to address the incidence and impacts of Family Violence in City of Whittlesea.

The below listed issues have been considered in this submission:

- City of Whittlesea being a **Growth Area** and the impact on Family Violence.
- Achieving an equitable and evidence based '**Funding Model**' for the allocation of funding for an Integrated Family Violence Support Services System by State and Federal Government.
- Family Violence and **Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities**.
- The widening gap between the 'need' and 'availability' of programs involving and targeting men such as **Men's Behavioural Change** (MBC) and counselling Programs.
- Emphasis on **Prevention and Crisis Response**, at the same time.
- The role of '**Partnerships**' in eliminating Family Violence.

## Whittlesea Community Futures Partnership

The Whittlesea Community Futures Partnership (WCF) is a partnership of 45 multidisciplinary agencies including the City of Whittlesea, State and Federal Government Departments, Human Service Organisations, and Community Based Organisations. The WCF Partnership is a united cross sector planning and advocacy body working to improve the well-being of local communities. The WCF Partnership focuses on issues impacting on families, children, young people, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, and disabled and ageing residents. Clusters comprising specialist organisations have been formed to work across these communities.

WCF Partnership has identified 'Family Violence' as a key priority for the City of Whittlesea communities across most of the clusters. It has become one of the most pressing social issues of the City of Whittlesea communities. For the last five years, Family Violence has been high on WCF Partnerships' agenda and has featured prominently in the work of the partnership. The WCF Partnership has a long history of working to address Family Violence.

Some examples are shown below:

- Conducted 'Working together to Prevent Family Violence' forum on December 2011.
- A WCF Partnership initiative funded by the Scanlon Foundation 'Scoping Exercise on Family Violence among culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities in City of Whittlesea' was conducted in 2012.
- As a result of the above initiative, a place based, integrated, prevention and intervention oriented, Family Violence response model 'Whittlesea CALD Communities Family Violence Project' was launched by WCF Partnership with initial funding from the Scanlon Foundation.
- The project, now led by a steering committee supported by Whittlesea Community Connections has secured further funding from number of philanthropies and has grown into a local best practise model.
- "Families on the Edge" advocacy campaign launched by the WCF Partnership in 2014, had 'Family Violence' as one of its key priority and had developed 'Fact Sheets' which provided local, partnership based solutions to the problems. The campaign also published several media articles on local newspapers.

## The City of Whittlesea

The City of Whittlesea is located on Melbourne's metropolitan fringe, 20km north of the CBD. It is a large municipality of 490 square kilometres with established urban, growth and rural areas. The City includes the rural centre of Whittlesea, the rural localities of Beveridge, Donnybrook, Eden Park, Humevale, Kinglake West, Wollert, Woodstock and Yan Yean as well as the established and growing urban suburbs of Bundoora, Doreen, Epping, Lalor, Mernda, Mill Park, South Morang (including Quarry Hills) and Thomastown.

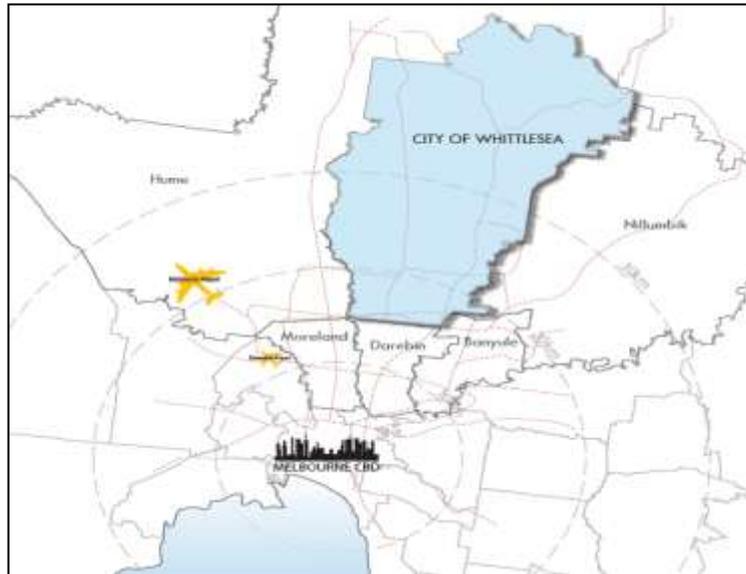


Figure 1 City of Whittlesea

The City of Whittlesea is the one of the fastest growing Councils of Australia situated in Melbourne Northern growth corridor. It is the Sixth largest growing LGA in raw number of new residents and ninth fastest growing LGA in Australia.<sup>i</sup> It is the third largest and third fastest growing LGA in Victoria behind Melbourne City and Wyndham<sup>ii</sup>. The estimated residential population of 2015 is **194,498**<sup>iii</sup>. Between 2014 and 2015, the estimated residential population grew by 8,130 people or 156 people per week<sup>iv</sup>. Further, it is **projected** to grow to over 269,133 by 2025<sup>v</sup>.

The City of Whittlesea is the third most multicultural municipality in Victoria with one third of its population being born overseas and 43% speaking a language other than English<sup>vi</sup>. The general population remains younger than the Melbourne average and has a higher proportion of households with children, making 56% of the total population. The Wurundjeri Willum Clan are the traditional owners of this land<sup>vii</sup>. Today the City of Whittlesea has the fourth highest Aboriginal population in metropolitan Melbourne.

The rapid transformation of Whittlesea in to a growth corridor of metropolitan significance has stretched its services and infrastructure to its limits. The gap between demand and supply of human service delivery and infrastructure needs has widened ever since. A more concerted effort and a partnership approach are needed from Federal, State and Local Government as well as from range of Community Service organisations to cater to the ever-growing demand.

As a Council at the interface of urban and rural areas, Whittlesea is characterised by demographic and geographic challenges. The table below gives you a snapshot of where City of Whittlesea communities stand in comparison to Greater Melbourne.

	City of Whittlesea	Greater Melbourne
Median age	34 years	36 years
Aged below 15 years old	21%	19%
Aged 50 years old and above	27%	30%
Born in Non-English speaking country	32%	26%
Speak languages other than English	43%	29%
Couples with children	43%	34%
Median weekly household income	\$1,275	\$1,333
Housing structure - separate house	92%	79%

**Table 1. Relative Comparison of Socio-economic factors between City of Whittlesea and Greater Melbourne**  
Source: ABS 2011 Census data, published by Profile.id (2013)

## Family Violence in City of Whittlesea - What is happening?

The rate of Family Violence in the City of Whittlesea is at a critical new high.

Incidences of Family Violence in the City of Whittlesea increased in 2013-2014 to 2,359 incidents, a rate of 1,316 per 100,000 people<sup>viii</sup>. The number of incidents of Family Violence is one of the highest in the Northern Metropolitan Region of Melbourne and is the fifth highest in the state of Victoria. There was an increase of 35% in reported incidents of Family Violence in the last two financial years (2012-2013 and 2013-2014) two years<sup>ix</sup>.

One of the most worrying aspects of Family Violence in the City of Whittlesea is the increasing rate of children being present at the scene of Family Violence, which may lead to lifelong trauma for the children present or may negatively influence their behaviour and propagate Family Violence in the future.

The rate of children present in a Family Violence situation increased 15% on the previous year to 897; a rate of 500.4 per 100, 000; compared to a rate of 387 for Victoria and is one of the highest in the Northern Metropolitan Region (NMR)<sup>x</sup>.

## Key facts about Family Violence in the City of Whittlesea<sup>xi, xii</sup>

- Family Violence incidents continue to increase year upon year.
- Over the past 14 years there has been an increase of 268% for the rate of Family Violence per 100,000 people in the City of Whittlesea compared to 172% for Victoria.
- 60% of all assaults recorded by police arose from Family Violence.
- 85% of perpetrators of Intimate Partner Violence were male and 85% of victims were female.
- Family Violence was the context for 31% of all rapes, and 34% of all other sex offences; men accounted for 100% of the alleged offenders.
- Charges were laid in 1,160 cases, giving a rate of 647 per 100,000 (compared to 507 in Victoria). A combined total of 782 Family Violence Intervention Orders (IVOs) and Family Violence Safety Notices (FVSNs) were issued, giving a rate of 436 per 100,000 (compared to 295.3 in Victoria).
- The current level of specialist Family Violence services available to residents is not sufficient to meet the current demand.
- The majority of agencies (Family Violence related and other community services) which provide services for residents are struggling to keep up with demand and some are going without access to the services they need.<sup>xiii</sup>

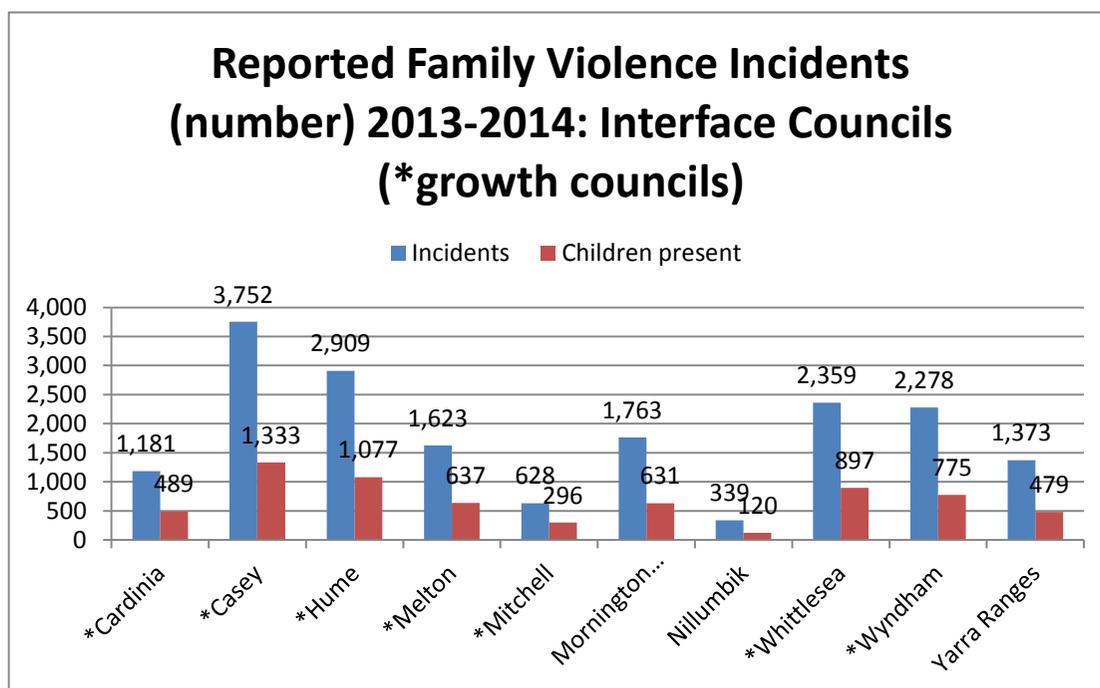


Figure 2 Reported Family Violence Incidents 2013-2014, Interface & Growth Councils

Over the past 18 months the number of incidents referred to Berry Street Northern Family and Domestic Violence Service has risen dramatically to the highest in the Northern Metropolitan Region (Figure 3)<sup>xiv</sup>.

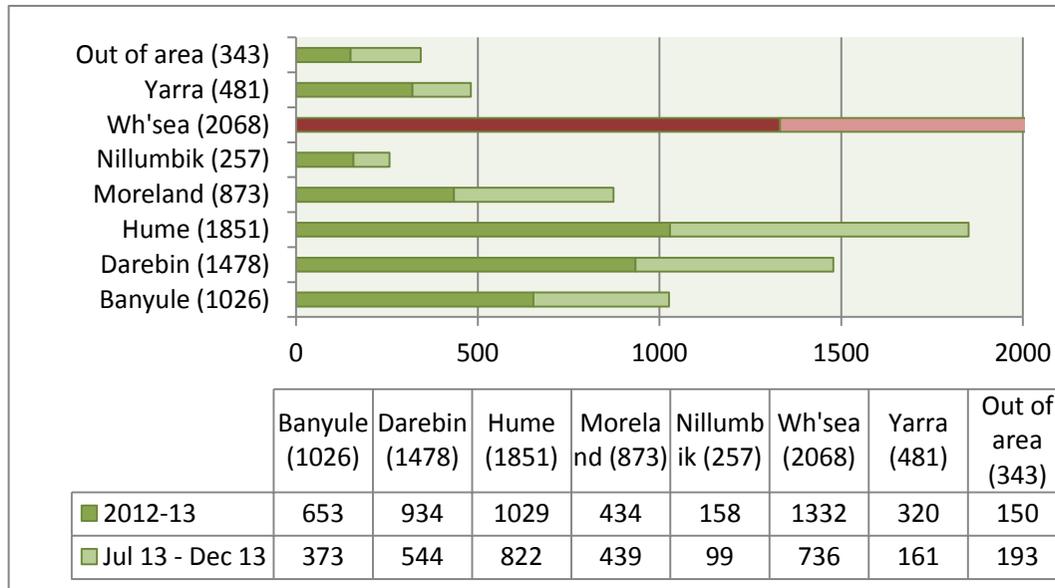


Figure 3. Berry Street Northern Family & Domestic Violence Service Victoria Police Family Violence Incident Referrals Past 18 Months

## Growth Area Issues

The City of Whittlesea is a growth and an Interface Council. It is one of the fastest growing Councils in Australia. The sustained and rapid population growth and resultant development has made City of Whittlesea a 'City in Transition' with a metropolitan significance. Further being an interface Council adds to the complexities of growth. Interface Councils of Melbourne are comprised of the ten municipalities that form an arc around metropolitan Melbourne and incorporate both green wedge and urban growth boundary. They bridge the gap between metropolitan Melbourne and rural Victoria, sharing characteristics of both urban and rural communities<sup>xv</sup>.

The Victoria Police reported incidents of Family Violence in 2013-14 highlights that growth area Councils have higher number incidents compared to the other Metropolitan Melbourne LGAs (Figure 4).

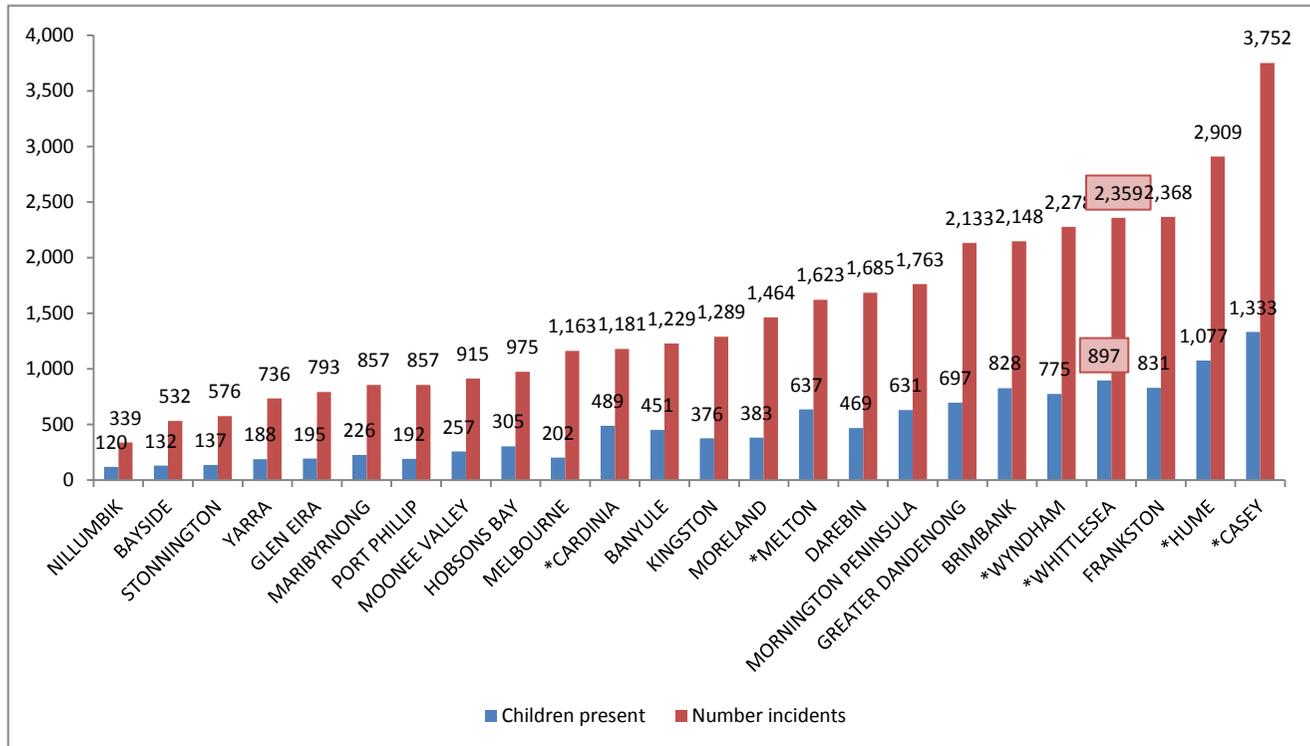


Figure 4. Number of Family Violence Incidents Reported to Victoria Police, including with Children Present: Metropolitan Melbourne 2013-14 (\*Growth Areas LGAs)

The statistics<sup>xvi</sup> below from Victoria Police reported incidents of Family Violence in 2013-14, clearly illustrates the prevalence of Family Violence in growth areas in comparison to other areas of Melbourne.

- Growth area Local Government Authorities (LGAs) make up almost 45% of the total number of reported Family Violence incidents for the North West Metropolitan Region of Melbourne; despite only being four LGAs out of 14.
- Four growth area LGAs, Casey (3,752), Hume (2,909), Whittlesea (2,359), Wyndham (2,278), are included in the top five LGAs for the highest Family Violence incidents in Metropolitan Melbourne.
- Three growth area LGAs, Hume (2,909), Whittlesea (2,359), Wyndham (2,278), are included in the top five LGAs for the highest Family Violence incidents in the North West Metropolitan Melbourne (growth Council Melton comes in at 6<sup>th</sup>).
- Growth area LGAs make up 44.03% of the total Family Violence incidents with children present reported to police for the Melbourne Metropolitan Region; despite being only six out of 24.

- Growth area LGAs of Casey (1,333), Hume (1,077) and Whittlesea (897) have the highest number of incidents of Family Violence with children present in Metropolitan Melbourne.
- Growth area LGAs make up nearly 50% of the total number of reported Family Violence incidents with children present for the North West Metropolitan Region; despite being four out of the 14. Further, the growth Council LGAs Hume (1,077), Whittlesea (897), Wyndham (775) and Melton (637) make up four out of the top five for the North West Metropolitan Region.

The National Growth Area Alliance reports that growth areas are characterised by levels of disadvantage and unemployment higher than those of metropolitan Australia. Lower levels of education, higher incidences of risk behaviours such as drug and alcohol misuse, weak social connections and social cohesion, higher levels of problem gambling, limited access to systems of support, and financial stress, are more prevalent in growth areas like City of Whittlesea than in the remainder of metropolitan Melbourne.

Further, it is also observed that other critical social issues such as youth homelessness, youth mental health, alcohol and drug addiction, and youth disengagement are prevalent in growth areas like City of Whittlesea, for which Family Violence could be an underlying reason.

The combination of these risk factors with the lack of appropriate and accessible services means that families and children in growth areas are more likely to experience problems. Outer metropolitan growth areas have significantly less community services than the metropolitan average, examples include:

- \$9.8 billion lag in infrastructure provision
- \$10 billion required to complete proposed rail and road works
- 40% of health care services are located in inner Melbourne where only 20% of Melbourne's population lives
- \$36 billion will be needed over the next 30 years to provide all of the infrastructure needs of Greenfield sites.<sup>xvii</sup>

## Achieving an Equitable and Evidence Based Funding Model for an Integrated Family Violence Support Service System

The services available for victims of Family Violence in the City of Whittlesea are highly inadequate, despite having one of the highest rates of Family Violence in the Metropolitan Melbourne Region. Organisations such as Berry Street, Plenty Valley Community Health, Kildonan, Salvation Army Crossroads Network, Whittlesea Community Connections, Women's Health in the North, Northern Centre Against Sexual Assault, Hume Whittlesea Primary Care Partnership, Victoria Police and the City of Whittlesea Council are quite actively involved in the quest to eliminate Family Violence in the City of Whittlesea.

Specialist services such as Berry Street, Plenty Valley Community Health, Salvation Army Crossroads Network, Kildonan and many others provide services to women, children and men in the City of Whittlesea; some through their offices that are locally based and others through their limited outreach programs. Despite their limited resources, these services are under significant pressure to provide to the large geographical area of northern Melbourne and an area that has significantly different cultural and contextual factors in the various Local Government Areas (LGAs). Considering the scale of Family Violence in the City of Whittlesea, the investment made by State and Federal Governments over the years in providing services to the City of Whittlesea communities is highly inadequate.

Despite an extremely high prevalence of Family Violence, huge funding shortfalls in existing response-end services and limited capacity for prevention work the City of Whittlesea has been overlooked on State Government funding<sup>xviii</sup>. The municipality missed out in several recent funding initiatives including the Department of Human Services '*Preventing Violence against Women in Our Community*' cluster-councils initiative, Department of Justice '*Reducing Violence Against Women and their Children*' Grants and VicHealth '*Preventing Violence Against Women Demonstration Site*' project .

This clearly illustrates the need for State and Federal Government bodies to have an equitable, evidence based, independent, transparent 'funding model' to make decisions on funding allocation so that the most deserving geographical areas with high prevalence of Family Violence are not left out. This will ensure that places like the City of Whittlesea, would get a 'fair go' in funding allocation.

## Family Violence and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities

Women in the inner metropolitan LGAs have very different service access experience and factors intersecting with their experience of violence than women in the outer-northern metropolitan areas of Whittlesea and Hume. One of the factors contributing to this variation is cultural and language barriers. Though, Family Violence occurs in all communities, migrant women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds are considered more vulnerable. Their lack of social networks in a new country, language barriers, increased financial dependency on the perpetrator and community attitudes contributes to this increased vulnerability.

Existing service responses in the municipality are working hard to meet the complex needs of culturally and linguistically diverse communities including women and children experiencing Family Violence and the perpetrators requiring Counselling and mental health support. However, the local evidence reveals that the services are increasingly struggling to manage the growing demand for such culturally tailored services. Thirty-four per cent of residents in the municipality are born overseas and over forty per cent speak a language other than English at home. The local settlement service reports that in 2013 there were 277 cases reported to staff, an average of 23 per month<sup>xix</sup>. For most of these clients this was the first time they had ever reported the violence.

The diverse community and the projected population growth as well as the geographic isolation of some areas due to the urban/rural interface makes it critical to provide specialist family violence services with a focus on culturally and linguistically diverse communities in the City of Whittlesea. Specialist services such as Plenty Valley Community Health, Salvation Army Crossroads network, Kildonan, Berry Street, Whittlesea Community Connections and many others provide services and support to women, children and men from culturally and linguistically diverse communities. These agencies have developed locally tailored culturally appropriate programs, produced Family Violence prevention materials and service information packages in many local languages and have employed staff from diverse communities to support victims of Family Violence from CALD communities.

The experience of family violence within CALD communities is complex and requires an appropriate mix of tailored prevention and early intervention strategies be adopted. Therefore it is important that State and Federal Government further invest in strengthening above mentioned agencies and their services.

## Men's Behavioural Change Programs

Despite the increasing demand there has not been a proportionate increase to the workforce, program funding or additional resources in the Family Violence sector<sup>xx</sup>. Services supporting men to come out of violent behaviour and services to change men's behaviour and attitudes towards women are under severe pressure and stretched to their limits. Men are the perpetrators in the vast majority of Family Violence cases. It is important that any solution put in place should take them into consideration.

Whittlesea Community Futures welcomes the recent announcement<sup>xxi</sup> of an increase in funding for Men's Behavioural Change Programs. However, this is not sufficient to meet the current demand for programs in the Whittlesea community. Plenty Valley Community Health Service (PVCH) based in City of Whittlesea provides comprehensive, integrated services for men and women impacted by Family Violence. PVCH provides preventative and health promoting programs aimed at promoting respectful relationships and prevention of violence against women. PVCH emphasizes the need to further strengthening such programs in the City of Whittlesea.

Kildonan, an agency based in City of Whittlesea has clearly observed the increase in number of referrals for their Men's Behaviour Change Program since 2007. The demand exceeded the funded targets in the 2014 calendar year. This steady increase in demand has continued into 2015. By end of March 2015, 252 men had been referred to the program, already exceeding the funded capacity for the financial year 2014/15 by 20%.

**Table 2. Number of Men Referred to Kildonan's Men's Behavioural Change Program, 2007-2014**

Calendar Year	Number of Men Referred	% Change
2014	271	Up 21%
2013	223	Up 21%
2012	184	Down 21%
2011	233	Up 9%
2010	213	Up 12%
2009	191	Up 15%
2008	165	Up 17%
2007	141	

Further, the consistent increase in demand well over funded capacity led Kildonan to close its waiting lists temporarily in March-April 2015 to enable program staff to deal with the backlog. This ensured that Kildonan was able to prioritise providing support to the women and children of men referred to our program. The waiting list for its service is currently 6-8 months.

The information below from year 2012-2013, clearly illustrates the gap between the demand and the resources available on the ground.

- The Department of Human Services funds nearly 2,000<sup>xxii</sup> places annually in Victoria's Men's Behaviour Change Programs;
- Department of Justice funds 250 places<sup>xxiii</sup>;
- Corrections Victoria funds approximately 100 places;<sup>xxiv</sup>
- The Northern Metropolitan Region of Melbourne receives Department of Human Services funding for 127 places in Men's Behaviour Change Programs;<sup>xxv</sup>,
- In 2012-13 in this region there were 9861 incidents of Family Violence reported to police; in the Whittlesea LGA alone there were 2110 incidents<sup>xxvi</sup>;
- Funding made available during 2013/13 has increased the capacity of the program for year 2013-2014.
- However, the demand for Men's Behaviour Change Programs far exceeds the current resources provided to deliver the programs.

Unfortunately, the numbers will only grow further with the projected population growth. Therefore, State Government should urgently invest in Men's Behaviour Change Program in City of Whittlesea to avert the looming crisis.

## The Role of Prevention in Eliminating Family Violence

Violence against women is preventable. Evidence is clear that the drivers of men's violence against women include:

- Unequal distribution of power and resources
- An adherence to rigidly defined gender roles and stereotypes
- Gender inequality and masculine sense of entitlement

The WCF Partnership believes that prevention is a key 'upstream' part of an integrated Family Violence support system and is paramount to the long-term success in eliminating Family Violence in the City of Whittlesea.

Any Family Violence elimination programs should have a very strong prevention component with adequate funding. WCF members are essential places to invest in an Integrated Family Violence Support system because their knowledge of local communities means they can:

- Respond locally along the anti-violence continuum from Prevention (*Upstream*) through to Intervention services (*Down Stream*).
- Develop violence prevention strategies & initiatives at the local level to meet specific local needs and contexts.
- Address determinants – promote gender equity & equal and respectful relationships.
- influence contributing factors: for example employment, neighbourhood characteristics, social connections & cohesion - we know that addressing contributory factors is most likely to be successful in reducing violence against women when underlying gender issues are also taken into account.
- Influence relationship in vital local settings – for example sport, schools, media, workplaces.
- Work collaboratively with schools and the wider education sector through existing relationship built by Whittlesea Youth Commitment (WYC).
- Reach and influence relationships with vulnerable groups (those vulnerable to experiencing Family Violence and its impacts) – Aboriginal, CALD, young women, pregnant/new parents, women with disabilities, women in rural/remote areas, GLBTI.
- Enact a multidisciplinary approach, bringing together professionals, organisations, individuals and communities from very different backgrounds and with many different skills and experiences.
- If resourced & supported, they can drive whole of organisation / whole of community programs

Most importantly, while an emphasis on a real investment in prevention is needed to eliminate Family Violence in the long term - there should be a commitment to funding crisis response services in parallel, until the need for such services no longer exist. By doing so, a truly Integrated Family Violence Support system will be achieved for the City of Whittlesea.

## **The Role of Partnerships in Eliminating Family Violence**

Local partnerships are critical in tackling Family Violence as they provide a platform for early intervention, working collectively to understand the role each partner plays in the delivery of services and/or programs to the local community.

The City of Whittlesea is home to a range of partnerships; Whittlesea Community Futures Partnership, Whittlesea Early Years Partnership, Hume Whittlesea Primary Care Partnerships and Whittlesea Youth Commitment to name a few. The Whittlesea Community Futures Partnership (WCF), which is the main and the largest partnership, is made up of 45 not for profit agencies and government department representatives.

In the City of Whittlesea there has been a real absence in local funding for Family Violence. The WCF Partnership has relied on limited number of locally based organisations and other member organisations bases in the inner metropolitan areas to extend their service to our municipality. This has stretched their resources.

The existence of such an established strong partnership with a long history of working together against Family Violence provides a very good foundation to build the quest to eliminate Family Violence. A complex and multi-faceted local issue such as Family Violence requires a tailored place-based approach. Existing partnerships in the City of Whittlesea are well placed to provide governance arrangements for place-based and integrated service delivery that enables a responsive, accessible and holistic service system for children, young people and families. The State and Federal Governments should consider the WCF Partnership as a strong ally in their quest to eliminate Family Violence.

The following are few examples of existing initiatives of the partnership and/or member organisations:

- ‘Whittlesea CALD Communities Family Violence Project’ an initiative of the WCF Partnership, facilitated by ‘Whittlesea Community Connections’ in partnership with Salvation Army Crossroads Network, Berry Street, PVCH, Kildonan, City of Whittlesea, In Touch, and Victoria Police.

- Plenty Valley Community Health offers a range of programs including but not limited to Men's Active Referral Service, Men's Behavioural Change Program, Women's Family Violence Support Groups (in partnership with Crossroads – Salvation Army), 'Transitional Housing Support' for women who are escaping family violence, and Healthy Mother Healthy Babies program.
- Salvation Army Crossroads Network offers a range of programs including but not limited to 'Families@Home' which is a place based early intervention program supporting women, children and men, and Family Violence Specialist outreach Services.
- Kildonan offers a range of programs including but not limited to Men's Behavioural Change Program, The Sanctuary, Stepping Out and South Asian Men's Behavioural Change Program.
- Services such as Berry Street, Women's Health in the North, Hume Whittlesea Primary Care Partnership and many other organisations provide a wide range of Family Violence services to the communities of City of Whittlesea.

These organisations and initiatives require substantial funding to cater adequately to the current service requirements and future demand and strengthen primary prevention.

## Recommendations of the WCF Partnership

Based on the key factors analysed in the report, the WCF Partnership would like to make the following recommendations.

### Recommendation 1

WCF recommends that community service and associated physical infrastructure provision in the growth areas be made a priority by all levels of Government and be provided at the early stages of the development.

### Recommendation 2

WCF recommends that special consideration to be given to growth areas such as the City of Whittlesea in funding Family Violence services and other community services such as drug and alcohol prevention programs, and financial literacy programs, which address the contributory factors of Family Violence.

### Recommendation 3

WCF recommends that the State and Federal Government make urgent and adequate investment in the City of Whittlesea, which has been overlooked for several years in funding for Family Violence services and to bring the 'service levels' on par with inner metropolitan Melbourne.

### Recommendation 4

WCF recommends that mechanisms be put in place by the State Government to ensure Family Violence services operating in the growth areas do have strong local presence to facilitate easy and equitable access to the services.

### Recommendation 5

WCF recommends that the State Government introduce an equitable, independent, and transparent and evidence based Family Violence funding allocation mechanism to be put in place to ensure that the most affected areas receive the funding and support they deserve.

### **Recommendation 6**

WCF recommends that the State and Federal Governments seek bipartisan support to invest sufficiently in all spectrums of Family Violence services, from prevention to crisis response, simultaneously, for an adequate period to achieve drastic reduction in the Family Violence rates. This is to include a strong 'prevention regime' to sustain the quest to eliminate Family Violence in the long term.

### **Recommendation 7**

WCF recommends that the State and Federal Government work closely with the existing partnerships in the growth areas and fund their member agencies on the ground to ensure that their local knowledge is tapped into and to build upon what has already been achieved through locally tailored best practise models.

### **Recommendation 8**

WCF Partnership recommends that the State and Federal Government provide funding to strengthen local partnerships such as Whittlesea Community Futures to further enhance its ability to support the collaborative work of organisations and integrated service delivery in the community services sector in the City of Whittlesea.

### **Recommendation 9**

WCF recommends that investment be made in the introduction of 'Respectful Behaviours Framework' and its implementation across all settings.

Reference:

- <sup>i</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2013-14* (cat. no. 3218.0), <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/3218.02013-14?OpenDocument>
- <sup>ii</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2013-14* (cat. no. 3218.0), <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/3218.02013-14?OpenDocument>
- <sup>iii</sup> Growth Statistics Bulletin, April 2015, City of Whittlesea
- <sup>iv</sup> Growth Statistics Bulletin, April 2015, City of Whittlesea
- <sup>v</sup> Growth Statistics Bulletin, April 2015, City of Whittlesea
- <sup>vi</sup> Profile.id, *City of Whittlesea Community Profile*, <http://profile.id.com.au/whittlesea/speaks-english>, accessed Mar 2014.
- <sup>vii</sup> Growth Statistics Bulletin, April 2015, City of Whittlesea
- <sup>viii</sup> Victoria Police Family Violence Incidents 2009-2014, [http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?a=internetBridgingPage&Media\\_ID=72311](http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?a=internetBridgingPage&Media_ID=72311)
- <sup>ix</sup> Victoria Police Family Violence Incidents 2009-2014, [http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?a=internetBridgingPage&Media\\_ID=72311](http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?a=internetBridgingPage&Media_ID=72311)
- <sup>x</sup> Victoria Police Family Violence Incidents 2009-2014, [http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?a=internetBridgingPage&Media\\_ID=72311](http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?a=internetBridgingPage&Media_ID=72311)
- <sup>xi</sup> Women's Health In the North, *Violence against women in Whittlesea: Information and Facts, 2013-2014*, <http://www.whin.org.au/resources/preventing-violence-against-women.html>
- <sup>xii</sup> Victoria Police, *Family Incident Reports 2009-10 –to 2013-14*, [http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?a=internetBridgingPage&Media\\_ID=72311](http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?a=internetBridgingPage&Media_ID=72311) accessed 08.04.2015
- <sup>xiii</sup> City of Whittlesea, *Human Services Needs Analysis, 2013*, <https://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/your-council/advocacy#human>
- <sup>xiv</sup> Police referrals received by NFDVS by LGA Financial Year Comparison July 2009 - December 2013
- <sup>xv</sup> Interface Councils: *Creating Liveable Communities in the Interface 2013*
- <sup>xvi</sup> Victoria Police, *Family Incident Reports 2009-10 –to 2013-14*, [http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?a=internetBridgingPage&Media\\_ID=72311](http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?a=internetBridgingPage&Media_ID=72311) accessed 08.04.2015
- <sup>xvii</sup> Interface Councils: *Creating Liveable Communities in the Interface 2013*
- <sup>xviii</sup> City of Whittlesea *Human Services Needs Analysis*  
<http://www.whittleseacommunityfutures.org.au/partnership/strategy.html>
- <sup>xix</sup> Whittlesea Community Connections *Family Violence Monitor Report #6 2013*
- <sup>xx</sup> City of Whittlesea *Draft Human Services Needs Analysis 2013*
- <sup>xxi</sup> 'Coalition Government boosts commitment to break the cycle of violence' <http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/media-centre/media-releases/9544-coalition-government-boosts-commitment-to-break-the-cycle-of-violence.html>
- <sup>xxii</sup> Figures are approximate and based on evidence from No To Violence. Recent announcement has led to an increase in places available. Figures will be slightly different to what is stated in this fact sheet.
- <sup>xxiii</sup> Figures are approximate and based on evidence from No To Violence. Recent announcement has led to an increase in places available. Figures will be slightly different to what is stated in this fact sheet.
- <sup>xxiv</sup> No To Violence Male Family Violence Prevention Association 2013 *Holding men who perpetrate Family Violence accountable: A system nearing crisis point* <http://ntv.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2013-NTV-submission-mbcp-funding.pdf> accessed 17 March 2014
- <sup>xxv</sup> 91 are allocated to Kildonan Uniting Care; 36 to Plenty Valley Community Health Men's Active Referral Service
- <sup>xxvi</sup> Victoria Police Family Violence Incidents 2009-2014, [http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?a=internetBridgingPage&Media\\_ID=72311](http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?a=internetBridgingPage&Media_ID=72311)