

Joint Hume Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Group (IFVRAG) and Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee (RAJAC) Submission to the Royal Commission into Family Violence.



**Hume Indigenous Family Violence
Regional Action Group**



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- L17s – services don't see any perpetrators until they get the L17s which can sometimes take anywhere from one month to six months. This is due to the processes used by the court system.
- Aboriginal workers in Non Aboriginal services are not referring to Aboriginal Controlled Organisations. They often refer to their own services due to competition for resources (funding).
- Polices and other services including Government services are not aware of all services provided by Aboriginal Controlled Organisations.
- Men's behavioural change programs are not working – they are not holistic in their approach and often don't target underlining issues of offenders.
- The closure of the Geraldine Briggs Hostel has had a major impact on Family Violence in the region. One more resource taken away.
- Services are competing against each other for resources.
- There is a need for Cultural awareness training as Non-Indigenous services are not culturally appropriate for the Koorie community.
- More emphasis on Elders abuse – elders are often sort out to care for grandchildren and there is not enough assistance for them. This often led to abuse from children, grandchildren and extended family toward the elderly care givers.

- Dementia and other disabilities put families under pressure with violent episodes of those affected. The Integrated Family Violence Committee doesn't address this.
- Berry Street – youth who are removed from family to Berry Street are disconnected from the Koorie community which is a concern.
- There is an issue with the time between acts of family violence and court appearance. Bail conditions should mandate perpetrators join and actively participate in family violence specific programs that are tailored to their needs. There are some instances where perpetrators are bailed to the same house as the victim.
- Resources - There are often threats to cut resources for case worker. There is a need in the community for more full time case workers (male and female) in Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.
- Programs need to be tailored to suit the needs of the client – investment in programs for the perpetrators – support and resources to develop and deliver these.
- Programs need to be mandated from Courts.
- Family Violence Education is key – been reported more as a result.
- There is a need for a local Rehabilitation and Detoxification facility in the Hume Region. It needs to be culturally appropriate and have identified beds.
- Mental Health facilities give files to clients upon request for a review from the board. In these files family members names may be recorded which puts the family members at risk of family violence.
- Koorie Community Safety Grants will finish soon and won't be continued - Regional programs have been successful in addressing family violence and are being discontinued. E.g. Harmony Program.
- Successful programs need to be sustainable and ongoing.

- More resources for full-time jobs addressing family violence at Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.
- Education programs around family violence in schools – to reliant on family violence agencies, DE&T need to come to the party.
- Centrelink's Income Management Plan has created instances of family violence with their one size fits all approach.
- We don't have specific family violence programs in the area for perpetrators which are culturally specific. OBP have Dardimunwoor in the metro area but none regionally.
- There are no programs for women perpetrators.
- Outcomes need to align between CCS and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.
- Contravene family violence offenses need to list the offense/more specific to correctly identify which category they fall into for risk management purposes.
- Shepparton has the second worst crime rate in Victoria which supports a strong case in the inquiry for Hume to gain more resources to prevent family violence!
(See photo below)

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VICTORIA'S WORST POSTCODES

3350 Ballarat	6681 (31,626)
3630 Shepparton	5245 (22,587)
3500 Mildura	4886 (22,458)
3550 Bendigo	4615 (21,137)
3337 Melton	4276 (17,281)
3840 Morwell	4062 (16,726)
3220 Geelong	3919 (17,927)
3844 Traralgon	3884 (15,948)

Source: Crime Statistics Agency. Figures show the number of crimes committed in 2014 and, in brackets, 2010-2014.

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