

Communique

TOGETHER FOR EQUALITY & RESPECT

Together for Equality & Respect Launch

'Together for Equality & Respect – A Strategy to Prevent Violence Against Women in Melbourne's East 2013-2017' was launched on Thursday 23 May 2013 at a Gender Equality Forum at Maroondah Federation Estate. The event was hosted by comedian and author Nelly Thomas, and approximately 100 guests from across the East attended.

Keynote speaker, Clementine Ford spoke powerfully and provocatively about the role of the media and popular culture in preventing violence against women. Forum panellists Cara Gleeson from VicHealth, David Digapony of Equality Consulting, Gregg Nicholls, CEO of MonashLink Community Health Service, Kellie Nagle from the Municipal Association of Victoria and Kristine Olaris, CEO of Women's Health East shared their knowledge and experience on how we can prevent violence against women. A Q&A session with panellists investigated the path to gender equality and looked at the links between gender equality and the prevention of violence against women.

The Strategy was officially launched with all seven Local Governments and all eight Community Health Services, both Primary Care Partnerships, both Medicare Locals, the Regional Family Violence Partnership, DV East and the Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault publicly signing a commitment to working together to prevent violence against women in the Eastern Metropolitan Region in 2013 2017.

The launch of the Strategy was followed by opening of the *Dark Nights* Arts Exhibition.

Together for Equality & Respect is now available for download at www.whe.org.au

Photos from the launch will be available soon. If you would like photos in the meantime, please contact WHE.



Action Planning Forum

A forum for discussion about the action planning phase of 'Together for Equality & Respect – A Strategy to Prevent Violence Against Women in Melbourne's East 2013-2017' was held on Thursday 20th June 2013. A full list of attendees follows this communique.

Starting the action planning process – an integrated planning approach

A re-cap of the Strategy was given along with discussion of the options of ways to progress. The benefits of an integrated planning process were considered. These benefits include:

- Development of shared objectives and actions
- Development of tools and indicators of success
- Informing priority areas and identifying target populations
- Identifying similar areas of work and bringing together organisations working in the same area
- Identifying gaps (eg settings, populations groups) for future action
- Promoting partnerships
- Enabling effective responses to the prevention of violence against women (PVAW)
- Enabling effective evaluation of the work so we can see what difference we have made over time

The Together for Equality & Respect Action Plan is everyone's plan – Women's Health East will lead its development but it will not be a WHE plan – it will belong to all involved. We all retain ownership of our own work but gain ownership of a regional plan. It was acknowledged that this approach will take time, is complex and requires trust, but is most likely to deliver the best outcomes for women in this region.

There was agreement from attendees that utilising an integrated planning approach was the preferred way to progress.

Mapping Exercise

A mapping exercise was agreed to as the first piece of shared work.

Women's Health East and Knox Community Health Service will lead this exercise. This exercise will map current and planned work to PVAW in the region. The mapping table was distributed and explained. The mapping table aligns with the VicHealth framework for PVAW but will also be collated under the four goals of the Together for Equality & Respect Strategy. Subsequent to the forum it was emailed in soft copy to all partners and is to be completed by 19 July. WHE will meet with individual organisations through August 2013 to support this process and will then compile and analyse the information gathered. The mapping will enable the identification of some shared objectives and some integrated pieces of work.

Once analysed the mapping information will be fed back to partners at a future consultation forum. It was felt that this realistically won't occur until Oct or Nov 2013.

Examples of what 'action' might look like

A number of presentations highlighted examples of action. An explanation of VicHealth preventative action areas and how they fit with the Strategic Directions was presented, along with practical examples of prevention work in the local government and community health areas, and partnership work across sectors. Thanks to Anna Stewart and Bronwyn Upston for their presentations.

Common areas for action and shared objectives

Whilst the mapping exercise will be used to identify common objectives and primary prevention areas for action for the next four years, an exercise was undertaken to identify common action areas to begin working on. The areas for action considered included:

- Organisational and workforce development
- Direct participation
- Communications and social marketing
- Community Strengthening
- Research/Evaluation
- Advocacy
- Legislative & Policy Reform

Those which were identified to be progressed in the next year were:

- *Social marketing / social media*
- *Capacity building ie organisational and workforce development*

Women's Health East undertook to facilitate the development of some suggested objectives for these two action areas and begin investigating evaluation tools.

How the action plan fits together with current work

A discussion/mapping of how the Together for Equality Action Plan will fit together with other plans at a regional, subregional and local government level in the region. It was commented that this process cannot always be neat and linear.

Practicalities of moving forward

Discussion occurred on the structures and support needed and roles of different organisations eg capacity building organisations. The sharing of tools, resources and training between organisations were identified as important for moving forward. An open email system was discussed as a possible communication tool (e.g. Google groups or similar).

A project steering committee was endorsed as structure through which to progress. It was agreed that large forums would take place a minimum of twice per year with all partners invited and involved. WHE was assigned to act as conduit between organisations when looking at different resources and tools that have been developed, and asked to consider acting as a clearing house for resources and tools and research. WHE will soon establish the project steering committee. A Together for Equality & Respect Project officer will soon be employed by WHE and should commence mid August.



For further info about 'Together for Equality & Respect' contact Women's Health East 8873 3700

Organisation	Representative
Boroondara City Council	Ros Winkler
Yarra Ranges Council	Cathi Walker
Maroondah City Council	Noelene Greene
Manningham City Council	Anissa Gracie
Knox City Council	Anna Stewart
Monash City Council	Natalie Russell
Manningham Community Health Service	Jo van Dort
Inspiro, Yarra Ranges	Narelle Algie
Whitehorse Community Health Service	Olive Aumann
Monashlink Community Health Service	Carolyn Poljski
EACH	Marg D'Arcy
EACH	Maggie Palmer
Knox Community Health Service	Catherine D'Arcy & Annette Rudd
Yarra Valley Community Health Service	Julia Blackburn
Whitehorse CHS	Libby Hargreaves
MonashLink CHS	Bronwyn Upston
Inner East CHS	Kaitlyn Yeomans
Inner East Melbourne Medicare Local	Mandy Geary
Eastern Melbourne Medicare Local	Sarah Campbell
IE PCP	Raymond Burnett
IE PCP	Kate Vrljic
OEPCP	Jacky Close
Relationships Australia	Christine Lye
ECASA	Judy Flanagan
ERFVP	Denise Roberts