

Communique

November 2013

TOGETHER FOR EQUALITY & RESPECT

Summary to date

- '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.
- Twenty-three organisations from the across the region signed a commitment statement to working together to prevent violence against women in the Eastern Metropolitan Regional (EMR).
- An Action Planning Forum in June 2013 brought together Strategy partners who endorsed that an integrated planning approach be used in the development of a 'Together for Equality & Respect' Action Plan.
- Work is currently underway to progress the development of the 'Together for Equality & Respect' Action and Evaluation and Plan *See notes below regarding the development of shared objectives.*

Taking action - events since the Action Planning Forum in June

Strategy Structure

The Leadership Group

A Leadership Group has been convened to uphold the principles and values of Together For Equality and Respect. The Leadership group will do this by providing Women's Health East (WHE) and partners with guidance and support to implement the Strategy.

Members of the Leadership represent TFE&R partners:

- Kristine Olaris – WHE, Chair
- Sue Rosenhain – WHE Project Manager
- Jill Exon - WHE
- Kate Vrljic – Inner East Primary Care Partnership (PCP)
- Deborah Cocks – Outer East PCP
- Marg D'arcy – EACH
- Annette Rudd – Knox CHS
- Narelle Algie - Inspiro
- Natalie Russell – Monash City Council
- Nicole Hunter – Knox City Council
- Erika Robertson – Whitehorse City Council
- Mandy Geary – Inner East Melbourne Medicare Local
- Belinda Crockett – Eastern Melbourne Medicare Local
- Regional Family Violence Integration Coordinator (position currently vacant)

Evaluation Working Group

The Leadership Group established an Evaluation Working Group which will:

- Advise the Together For Equality and Respect Strategy Leadership Group in respect of the Strategy evaluation, to support the principles and values of the Strategy be realised
- Coordinate a shared approach to evaluation of prevention of violence against women (PVAW) initiatives within the Eastern Metropolitan Region (EMR)

The EWG includes membership from WHE, PCPs, Community Health and Local Government.

Regional Plans

2013 has been an opportune time for the development of a regional strategy as the four year Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing plans, Community, Women's Health and Primary Care Partnership Integrated Health promotion plans align for the first time for 2013 – 2017. As yet some plans are still to be finalised, however they all include a commitment to working to end violence against women in the EMR.

As noted some of the plans are being finalised, nonetheless there are many initiatives working towards the prevention of violence against women already underway across the region.

Regional objectives for Prevention of Violence Against Women initiatives

Since the Action Planning Forum last June, Strategy Partners have completed individual versions of a mapping table which have been collated by WHE to provide an inventory of key primary prevention activities from organisations across the EMR.

The Evaluation Working Group has been progressing this work. The Group is using an approach known as Intervention Mapping to analyse the activities, identify common themes and from this develop regional objectives. Indicators and evaluation tools will be suggested for each objective, which will provide an opportunity for using common data collection methods. This approach offers the potential to provide information at both the local and regional level about changes resulting from the shared commitment to PVAW work.

At this stage draft shared objectives have been presented and discussed at the regional Community Health, Health Promotion Special Initiatives Group (CHPSIG) as Community Health services prepare to submit their four year Integrated Health Promotion Plans to the Department of Health.

The mapping process has highlighted some shared areas of interest and some gaps; this information will be used to inform the Action Plan.

Discussion has commenced with Local Government to identify mechanisms for using shared indicators within this context as well.

Communication Plan

The Together for Equality & Respect Leadership Group (formerly the Steering Committee) have developed a draft Communications Plan to identify key stakeholders, relevant messages and appropriate communication channels.

Looking Forward

Plans are underway for another Regional Forum in early 2014. At this stage we anticipate this Forum will include feedback from the mapping process and a proposed approach to sharing this information in an ongoing way. There will also be an opportunity for Strategy Partners to showcase work, contribute to the development of the Together for Equality & Respect Action Plan. This Forum will also provide an opportunity to workshop proposed shared evaluation approaches including use of shared indicators and evaluation tools.

For further information about 'Together for Equality & Respect' contact Sue Rosenhain at WHE on 9851 3703