

The development of *Together for Equality & Respect: A Strategy to Prevent Violence Against Women in Melbourne's East 2013-2017* was achieved within the strong commitment to the prevention of violence against women displayed in Melbourne's Eastern Region. All seven Local Governments and all eight Community Health Services, both Primary Care Partnerships, both Medicare Locals and the Regional Family Violence Partnership were all actively involved in the consultation and/or development of this Strategy.

In May 2014, a 'Partnership Report' was prepared by Kate Vrljic of the Inner East PCP detailing the outcomes of consultations with nine members of the TFER partnership. In 2014/15 Women's Health East engaged Belinda Haydon to expand the consultations to include a further twelve members of the partnership. Consultation questions were arranged and reported under a number of themes. The following provides a snapshot of key findings from this evaluation.

### Achievements:

- Development of a regional plan and evaluation tools.
- Prioritising PVAW across the region – including actions on everyone's plans.
- Endorsement of the action plan by diverse member agencies.
- The mapping process validated work happening in the region and aimed to add value by identifying gaps and opportunities.
- A growing momentum, engaging more people as the project moves along.

### Success Factors

- Working together towards a shared vision.
- Goodwill and trust between the organisations.
- Using the extensive skills of practitioners in the development of shared tools.
- Collaboration within the priority area – coordination of partners in the priority area to achieve a greater impact.
- WHE's leadership freed organisational resources to contribute and engage in the process – and allowed agencies to focus on implementation.

### Outcomes for Partners Agencies/Organisations

- Benefit in building PVAW community of practice, PVAW being seen as a significant and serious health issue.
- Sharing, understanding and learning from the work agencies are doing – reducing duplication, reciprocal relationships and benefits to non PVAW work.
- Feeling of being part of something bigger – supported in prevention work.
- Focus on primary prevention.

### Improvements

- Increase clarity around the purpose of the Leadership Group – in implementation and going forward around the links/relationships/duplications between the LG and Evaluation working group.
- Improving clarity around what is to be achieved in meetings and the purpose of discussions.
- Ensuring the expertise in the room are used as effectively as possible.
- Share meeting locations to balance the time and distance to travel to meetings.
- Changes in group representation and partners has resulted in lost momentum, knowledge and continuity.

### Future Directions

- The scope of the work is leading-edge and has the potential to create evidence currently unavailable.
- The TFER work will enable the sustainability of PVAW work within organisations, involving different/additional people.
- There are opportunities to promote the strategy via resources developed by partners.
- Hope for commitment from partners beyond the four year action plan.

The evaluation findings were reported back to the TFER Leadership Group at their March meeting and action was determined to address the identified improvements and help the partnership to move forward in a positive way. For further information about the partner evaluation findings, please contact Rebecca Morgan at the Inner East PCP, 8822 8516.