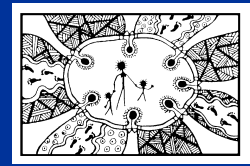




Responding effectively to women, children and young people: What Family Services and Family Violence Services bring to each other.

Workshop



Lead up to today



North East FV & FS Workshop, May 2007

Purpose:

- **Contribute to the development of a model for the best response for families**
- **Take initial steps to clarify referral pathways**
- **Identify further steps in developing a framework for collaboration**

Interface between two reforms



- Sector wide meetings raised issue
- Lack of clear answer
- High level of local interest in addressing
- Child FIRST implementation acknowledged Family violence as alternate referral pathway
- No clear distinction between pathways articulated

Questions posed



- Where do the two reform processes and intentions intersect?
- Where do they diverge?
- To what extent do they need to intersect?
- How do we describe these service systems and their entry point to the community and other service providers so they make sense?
- Children living with family violence live in different contexts of severity and protection?
- At what point should these be differentiated and on what basis?

Outcomes



- **Breaking down the silos- learning about each other**
- **Recognition of commonalities and differences**
- **Areas of expertise benefit to each other**
- **There is more work to be done to build relationships and further understanding**
- **Focus should not be on entry points alone**
- **Integration occurs behind the entry points**
- **Need to safeguard listening to women and children**
- **Need to protect women from going underground**

Principles agreed

“the intervention needs to be as strong as the perpetrator in its power and influence on outcomes for their children women and men”

Over arching principles for services:

- Safety and protection of children
- Empowerment and safety for survivors
- Responsibility and accountability of perpetrators
- Healing in the aftermath of violence
(strengthening the mother child relationship)

Action Outcome



NE Family Violence and Family Services Working Group formed

- BSV
- NEMC&FS Alliance
- Women's Health in the North
- Darebin Council
- Cathy Humphreys

Our presentation and workshop today are part of the ongoing evolution of *co-integration*, and will influence next steps

Differential pathways

Concerns about children: “Can the family be supported to address the issues for their children?”	“Is there risk of significant harm to children”	Family violence: “Are the parents open to assistance and the children not at significant risk in this environment?”
Call Child FIRST Monday to Friday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm	Call Child Protection Monday to Friday 8.45 am to 5.00 pm	Call Integrated Family Violence Services Duty Intake Monday to Friday 9.00 pm to 5.00 pm
	Call the Emergency After Hours Child Protection Service (Outside regional business hours)	Call the Emergency After Hours Service (Outside regional business hours)

FVS

FVS/FS

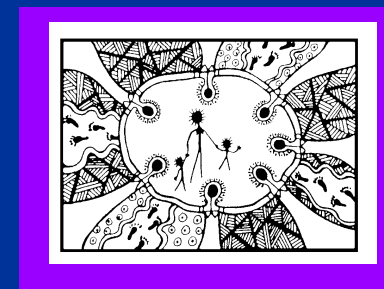
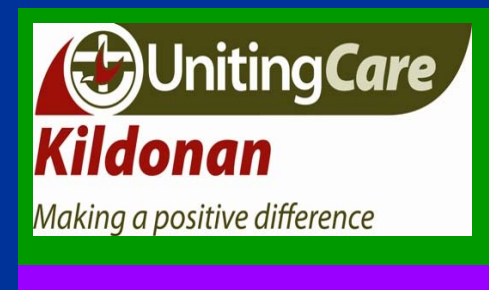
FS

Crisis intervention
Police collaboration
Legal advocacy
Housing support
Refuge referrals
After Hours capacity
Single issue response
Working with women

Voluntary engagement
Case Management
Working with children
Material aid
Group work
Counselling
Community Education

Assertive outreach
In home support
Parenting education & support
Multi-presentational response
Social networks
Family focused & working with men

Shared responsibility:



The way ahead



Working together in our local communities:

- Visible and accessible access points
- Combined potential of comprehensive service range
- Strength and learning in diversity
- Responding to thinking, feeling, acting clients – safety through choice, timing and relating

A family story...



Mum, Sally, discloses violence.
Dad, Bill, long term speed user.
Premature newborn, Alicia.
3 year old, John.
11 year old, Michelle
(not Bill's daughter).