

Media Release

Research Builds Knowledge on Domestic Violence Prevention

Uniting Care Wesley Country SA (UCWCSA) and Flinders University will launch their research report

Hearing their voices Perceptions of women and men on reducing men's perpetration of domestic violence

at the Port Pirie Men's Shed on Tuesday the 26th of April 2016

"UCWCSA is committed to the development of rural solutions for rural issues and has developed a research partnership with Flinders University to build a body of knowledge to contribute to this end. This is the first of a series of research projects that will assist us to implement best practice responses for country families in need." said Anthea Pavy CEO of Uniting Care Wesley Country SA

This research project has a focus on the role of men in domestic and Aboriginal family violence, not only as perpetrators, but as parties with both a responsibility and capacity to play a significant role in intervention. The research explored how a successful approach to the prevention of domestic and Aboriginal family violence can include the men who use violence in their relationships. 20 Women and 20 Men, who have experienced domestic violence, were interviewed to provide the basis of the research.

Dr Helen McLaren, from Flinders University who jointly conducted the research with Dr Ian Goodwin-Smith, said "I particularly enjoyed this project as domestic violence is an interest area of mine and it was good to hear from the men because research usually concentrates on the needs of women."

"This research balances the needs of both men and women."

"The Research includes the heartfelt stories of people with lived experience of domestic violence and uses their real words"

This research project was funded by Uniting Care Wesley Country SA, with the interest and financial support of the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI), Homelessness Strategy.

Even with the significant profile domestic violence currently has, it is important for us all to continue to work together to prevent this problem from growing further.

It has been reported by The Australian Bureau of Statistics that in 2014 in South Australia police recorded a total of 5,691 victims of family and domestic violence offences. Of these victims 44% were in the age bracket of 20 – 34 years. Since then the South Australian Domestic Violence Gateway Service reported that there was a 20% increase in the number of calls from 2014 to 2015.

In Australia the number of women that will experience violence in their life time is 1 in 3 and 1 in 6 has experienced violence from a current or former partner.

Domestic Violence is an issue of growing concern in regional areas” said Patricia, Manager of the Yorke and Mid North Domestic Violence Service. She said “So far this financial year we have worked with 240 women and children that had experienced Domestic Violence.”

“Last night 40 women and children were housed in crisis and transitional accommodation in the Mid North due to domestic violence.”

“Currently, 12 men have accessed our service to change their violent behaviours.”

Quotes from men interviewed as part of the research

“I heard about men’s groups but I thought I could do it on my own. But I bottled it up. Come here and release instead of releasing in a dangerous way. Coming here keeps the children safe.”

“Domestic violence creeps up on men too. You don’t want to be a perpetrator and you don’t even realise you are being violent until it is really violent and it is too late.”

“Men feel helpless, hurt and pain, whatever they been through in life, and it affects their mental health and they don’t deal with it the right way.”

Report quotes:

“Women do not see the early warning signs associated with domestic violence ... women have difficulty naming the men’s behaviour as domestic violence ... men likewise did not recognise they were controlling or violent until their behaviour became physical ...”

“Prevention and early intervention, alongside intervention responses with perpetrators, is essential for breaking the intergenerational cycle of domestic violence. This is supported by a growing evidence base on the benefits of maximising opportunities for social change, which is critical for building a stronger future for Australia’s next generations that is free from violence.”

The full report will be available on our website www.ucwcsa.org.au from the 27/4/16

If you need assistance for domestic violence related issues please call:

UCWCSA Clare	0428 326 530
UCWCSA Kadina	0428 326 527
UCWCSA Port Pirie	0428 326 540
UCWCSA Port Augusta	0428 326 529

Contacts for Further Information

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Photos of the event will be available shortly