



Message from Zonta House

Zonta House is saddened and concerned by the high number of deaths, assaults and incidents due to family and domestic violence so far in 2015. Of particular concern is the significantly high number of women's deaths, as reported by Destroy the Joint, 76 women have been murdered this year (as of November 3rd), the majority allegedly committed by their current or former partners.

Family and domestic violence does not discriminate; it affects people irrespective of gender, age, religion, cultural identity and status. We know the devastating impacts, short and long term, on the victims and their families and the substantial cost to the economy. It is a community issue that we all need to address as individuals, groups, organisations, state and federal government. More women are reporting being victims of violence and more women are dying. As newly appointed Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said "...disrespecting women does not always result in violence against women. But all violence against women begins with disrespecting women."

The first national, evidence-based framework to address Domestic Violence was launched at Parliament House by, chair of anti-domestic violence group Our Watch. Natasha Stott Despoja said "We now know what it will take to end violence against women and children in Australia, the framework shows us how. Whilst the causes of domestic violence were complex, evidence showed it is more likely to occur when gender inequality is ingrained in social, cultural and organisational, structures and practices."

Family and domestic violence thrives in silence. It has been a taboo 'private' subject for far too long. The sector has worked tirelessly for years working with victims and perpetrators of violence. However it just hasn't been enough. Through devastating circumstances, Rosie Batty, Australian of the Year has been instrumental in further bringing the topic to media attention and now the forefront of government agenda. We welcome the recent announcement of the \$100 million package over four years to further address and seek solutions to this now national crisis.

The solution needs to provide a holistic approach incorporating prevention, intervention, recovery and accountability for perpetrators. What does success look like for us? Surely it's a reduction in the overall prevalence of family and domestic violence, the prevention of generational recidivism and the recovery from the impact of violent relationships on survivors and their families.

It is about educating our young people on what is a healthy relationship. It is accountability for perpetrators through the legal system and intervention programs. It is shifting the stigma away from victim and survivor blaming. It is recognising the significant short and long term impact of family and domestic violence on the survivors and children and providing suitable recovery services. It is providing safety planning and resources to women who chose to return to a relationship. It is providing adequate training to front line services. It is gender equality.

At Zonta House we will continue to work tirelessly and are committed to support women and their children and seek opportunities to fill the gaps needed to address the issue.

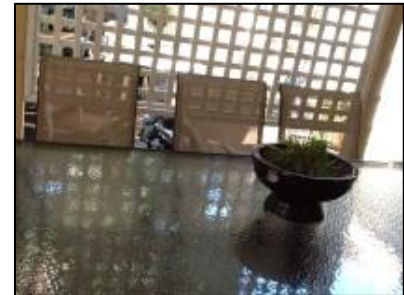


Community Support

Zonta House were very grateful to have had a group of 22, year nine students from Santa Maria Girls College, spend a day at two of our properties. The students worked tirelessly doing odd jobs including re-oiling the BBQ decking, tidying garden beds, cleaning out sheds, painting the lattice work, building new outdoor furniture, as well as, making a lunch spread and snacks for all clients, staff and students.

The workday was part of the 'Strive 9' program which is conducted by homeroom groups and is designed to promote community participation and support to services. The group enjoyed the opportunity to learn about the refuge system and more specifically Family and Domestic Violence. The student's bright, bubbly and positive attitude was welcomed by staff and refuge residents and the space has definitely been brightened up.

The clients and staff are so grateful to the students from Santa Maria, for their hard work and fantastic enthusiasm.





Homeless Prevention Week

"Shelter is a basic human need. How can we all step up to prevent homelessness."

Homelessness Prevention Week took place from the 3rd to the 7th of August. Homelessness Prevention Week seeks to raise awareness and seek solutions to the problem of homelessness in Australia. Shelter WA were successful in organising events and exhibits for the general community and the sector in Perth. Conversations and discussions we had and heard were based on looking innovatively at housing solutions and the need for ongoing support following people being housed.

Zonta House partnered with Centrecare to create a team in The Big Issue Street Soccer event on Tuesday. Both team members and supporters were enthusiastic and had a great time. The effort put into our t-shirts (thanks Benn) did not go unnoticed as we WON the best t-shirt competition!





Wellbeing focus at the refuge

We have had a focus on wellbeing at the refuge this spring including an adult colouring corner to promote mindfulness and relaxation, the staff have also enjoyed the theme.



Expansion of Services

Positive Pathways continually strives to provide services that fill the gaps for our clients. We are very excited to announce our Psychological Services now include children. Our provisional Psychologist Esra will be seeing Children and also supporting other refuge services.



Positive Pathways was supported by **Make a Difference WA** foundation to deliver 'The Magic Coat' a program presented by **Di Wilcox** an expert on children's emotional development. The program used the concept of a Magic Coat to explore emotions such as sadness, loneliness and friendship issues with parents and children. It was a successful evening with positive feedback from all that attended.

This term we look forward to hosting Di's Mother/Daughter workshop this workshop explores the importance of the mother daughter bond, and will teach mothers and daughters how to resolve conflict and reconnect their special relationship. For more information on Di please visit diwilcox.com.au



Funding and donations

Thankyou to DM Civil for their donation of \$560 raised from employees participating in the May HBF Run for a reason. DM Civil have continued to support Zonta House throughout the year with collections of food, clothing and household items and monetary donations. We appreciate the support and commitment from the organisation, DM Civil staff and their families.

Zonta House were one of four community organisations who presented and pitched to a live audience at the 3rd of September **The Funding Network** event in Perth. The event was to support organisations working with women and girls in WA and overseas. Zonta House enjoyed participating and appreciated the generous donations and offers of in-kind support from individuals, philanthropy groups and corporates on the night. The \$13,000 raised will go directly to the delivery of the Positive Pathways education programs. Thank you to TFN and all involved.

Zonta House staff and board members attended the Zonta Club of Perth Quiz Night on the 7th of August. It was a great night that raised funds for the refuge, Starting Over Support and Positive Pathways. Thank you to the Zonta Club of Perth and Debbie Mason for organizing this event.

Zonta House staff, board members, friends and family participated in this year's Chevron City to Surf. We raised over \$4,500 and had over 30 participant's wearing our yellow shirts. Thank you to all that ran, walked and potentially hobbled toward the end!





Positive Pathways



Coming up

White Ribbon day and International day to eliminate violence against women Wednesday the 25th of November

25th Anniversary of the Annual Silent Domestic Violence memorial march Friday 27th, November

How you can help

Due to expansion of our services to include children we are calling for donations of games (such as Connect 4 or Jenga) and suitable toys for older children

Christmas gifts for our women and donations that could be given as gifts to our women and their children would be appreciated.

Whitegoods, bed side drawers, beds and mattresses are the items sought the most for our Starting Over Support program supporting women moving out of crisis.

We are seeking volunteers to assist us in our Street Appeal to be held in the New Year. We are also looking for volunteers to help in Sunday morning market stalls.

You can support us by holding a donation drive, morning tea or casual clothes day to raise money to support our services. We have donation tins and receipts books available.