

# ***FV Reforms WUF Promoting Peace in Families***

Towards an integrated response Integrated to Family Violence in the City of Casey using a partnership approach.



## **FV Reforms**

- Crimes (FV) Act 1987
- Began August 2003
- Tabled in parliament March 2006
- 153 recommendations

## **Aims of new Act**

- Ensure safety
- Prevent FV
- Provide effective remedies
- Promote non violence

# Significant changes

- Courts to treat safety as paramount
- Encourage magistrates to protect children
- Expand family member to include Carer, kinship relative and other relative according to other practice
- Develop support codes and expand training for police
- Case Management

## **Significant changes**

- Police holding powers increases
- Access to legal advice
- Trained magistrates
- Forms in plain English
- Increase in court safety for victims
- Changes in ways of giving evidence
- Changes in ways to get orders to support victim

## **Significant changes**

- Police can remove perpetrator from home
- Child contact safer
- Breaches heard quickly
- Community Education

## **What can this group do?**

- Write a letter to support the acceptance of all the changes to the:

Attorney General Rob Hulls,

8 Nicholson St Melbourne, 3000

# **World Urban Forum Vancouver June 2006**



## What is the WUF?

- The World Urban Forum was organised by the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT).
- Experts can exchange views
- Capacity to act as an advisory body to the Executive Director of UN HABITAT.
- The theme of the Forum was “Our Future: Sustainable Cities – Turning Ideas Into Action.

# International partners

- Women in Cities International.
- Huairou Commission on Women, Homes and Communities.
- International Centre for the Prevention of Crime.
- UN-Habitat Safer Cities Program.



## Why did I go?

- As partner of the Gender and Local Governance project with COC and MU.
- To join with the other project partners in researching best practice.



## **Project Aims**

- Analyse current local government community safety policies against international good practice on violence prevention.
- Work with 4 local government/ community partnerships in Victoria to develop and evaluate integrated violence prevention programs.

# What did I do?

- Met with Canadian counterparts to share common project themes.
- Attended relevant forums about international best practice
- Explored the opportunities and learnings between all the projects.



## **Where to now?**

- Audit of COC and FV services now in process
- Briefing for council and this committee by Carolyn Whitzman from MU

# Promoting Peace in Casey

- An innovative project that developed as a result of a discussion I had with Anthony Basford and Trish Plompen.
- Dave Baker and Rob Ward supported the idea
- We employed a wonderful submission writer to help with the process

## **Promoting Peace in Families**

- Announced on Monday that the partnership of COC C-CCHS and the CPN submission was successful.
- Our aim: to educate and strengthen the capacity of diverse communities in the COC to identify, prevent and respond to family violence.

# What is emerging

- For the first time we are seeing the development of a an integrated multi faceted partnership approach approach to FV in the City of Casey.
  - GLOVE project
  - PPIF
  - Open Doors project
  - Disability Project
  - CALD project
  - FV Consortium
  - Survivors stories
  - Young persons Project
  - Healthy Families Task force
  - Safer Casey Partnership

## **Why Integration and Partnership?**

- Because “Good practice violence prevention strategies engage the whole community and do not focus on individual interventions at the expense of analysing the structural context of violence and of individual’s lives.” (Hayes, 2006)

## **The way forward**

- That all service providers understand and enhance the linkages between all the agencies providing services in the field of FV in COC.
- That there is a coordinated and open approach from all agencies/projects.
- That all agencies value and support the different strategies and approaches.

# **In achieving this we have an exciting Possibility**

Working collaboratively across all agencies and integrating all the strategies would make the COC an outstanding leader in the field of FV prevention.