

## From the ED



The end of 2017 was certainly very busy and exciting. Of course there was the outcome of the same-sex marriage vote and subsequent legislation. EDVOS fully supported the YES campaign and we acknowledge the distress felt by many within the LGBTIQ community throughout the survey period. I was attending the Domestic Violence (DV Vic) Victoria AGM, which was held in close proximity to the State Library, at the time the survey results were announcement. The response from the crowd outside the Library is one that will stay with me for a very long time.

EDVOS is very excited to have received financial support from the Andrews Government to allow us to undertake Rainbow Tick accreditation and we look forward to prioritising this important work in 2018.

I was honoured to be asked to attend the Menzies Research Centre 'Forgotten People' 75th anniversary dinner on 21st November. I was seated at the same table as Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull and took the opportunity to talk to him about our work in the region.

EDVOS acknowledged the 16 days of activism in a number of ways. We had a small but very "bright" group of staff attend the Walk Against Family Violence on 24th November. I was a guest speaker at the Yarra Ranges Council 'Preventing Violence Against Women' forum where I discussed how gender inequality contributes to men's violence against women and we had a social media campaign that we titled the '16 days of EDVOS'. We used daily Facebook posts to highlight the work that EDVOS does and how we aim to address the drivers of violence against women.

I have been invited to participate in the Executive Advisory Group for Specialist Homelessness Transitioning Planning Project along with others from a variety of sectors. I look forward to working with this state-wide group. 2018 looks certain to be just as exciting as the past year.

*Jenny*

Jenny Jackson  
Executive Director

### Our Vision

A community free from family violence, where everyone feels safe.



## Christmas Hampers / Toy Drive

EDVOS staff were able to bring smiles of delight to the faces of women and children in the lead up to Christmas. We were very grateful to receive numerous hampers filled with a range of items to help women and children re-establishing themselves after leaving a family violence situation.

Festive foods and decorations, everyday staples and personal hygiene products were amongst the goodies in the hampers. The hampers came largely from staff and friends of staff which is a remarkable achievement. Handbags filled with personal care products, makeup bags donated from L'Oréal Paris Australia, Bags of Love and toys from Impact for Women and Share the Dignity all contributed to festive joy around our office.

We also held a Toy Drive during November and December and were able to provide women with gifts for their children. We received donations of toys and vouchers / "gift cards" for children from agencies such as Doncare, but also schools, shopping centres and members of the community. We intend to do it all again in 2018. If you are keen to find out how you can help please contact our office on **9259 4200** or email [edvos@edvos.org.au](mailto:edvos@edvos.org.au).



## Manningham Business Excellence Awards

EDVOS was one of many worthy businesses and organisations to be nominated for the 2017 Manningham Business Excellence Awards. EDVOS Education and Training was amongst the nominees recognising our commitment to broadening community understanding of family violence and the gendered nature of family violence.

Our training builds the capacity of the community to recognise and respond to disclosures of family violence.

We have obtained various philanthropic and government grants and “fee for service” payments allowing us to deliver training to over 500 community members between December 2016 and July 2017. If you are interested in finding out more about our training program please contact Youna Kim: [younak@edvos.org.au](mailto:younak@edvos.org.au).

## Conference Presentations

EDVOS was part of two successful abstract submissions for the STOP Domestic Violence conference in Melbourne at the beginning of December.



We were pleased to have one of our Program Managers and a member of the Universal Services Team present at this conference and our General Manager of Services at the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology Conference in Canberra on our Universal Services Team. We were able to highlight the success of our team working with primary health, early childhood, schools and youth services to support families and provide an early intervention response.

The other presentation at the STOP Domestic Violence conference was in conjunction with Department Education and Training and Women’s Health East on ‘Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships – Providing a continuum of support through school’. The presentation detailed the implementation of a continuum of support to prevent violence against women and provide support to those already impacted. EDVOS, DET and WHE explored the impact of this approach on multiple factors including bullying, relationships between school staff and students and the interactions between students themselves.

## Golf Charity Day helps EDVOS establish Victoria’s first pet friendly crisis accommodation



Charity Day Committee Chairperson: Barry Dempsey presenting cheque to General Manager Paula Piccinini

We were pleased to be presented with a cheque for \$4,500 following a successful charity day on 17th November at Ringwood Golf Club.

We extend our sincere thanks to all those involved in this event and especially thank Andersons and Associates who nominated EDVOS as a charity recipient.

Some of the funds raised will be used to establish the first pet friendly crisis accommodation for women in Victoria. We know that one significant barrier to women leaving violent situations is the fear of what will happen to their pets if they leave. There are few short terms options available to women in terms of care for their pets and often those that are available are too expensive for women to utilise. Pet friendly crisis accommodation will allow women to take their pets with them while they look for longer term accommodation.

The remainder of the money was used to purchase gifts on behalf of women to give to their children for Christmas.





## EDVOS Board update

EDVOS held our Annual General Meeting on 26th October last year.

We were honoured to have Aunty Lou officially welcome everyone to the event and unveil our plaque acknowledging the traditional owners of this great land. Our special guest speaker Jenny Yates held the audience's attention with her presentation on how the experience of family violence as a child had impacted on her life as an adult.

Two of EDVOS' hard working Directors resigned from the

Board at the end of last year and we take this opportunity to thank Kimberly Batsas-Hill and Christine Bell for the time and energy they devoted during their time with EDVOS. We wish both Kimberly and Christine all the best for their future endeavours.

Lilia Szarski has been reappointed as Chair and looks forward to leading our Board through another busy year.



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EDVOS member.

## Interested in volunteering?

**Volunteers significantly boost the capacity of EDVOS to deliver much-needed services**, so if you or someone you know has time to spare, why not consider volunteering?

Please email us at [edvos@edvos.org.au](mailto:edvos@edvos.org.au)  
or call **03 9259 4200** for more information.



- ✦ EDVOS acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this land and we pay our respect to Elders past, present and future.
- ✦ EDVOS respect the many women and children and their pets and animals who respond to acts of violence in their lives.
- ✦ EDVOS is a child-focused and child safe organisation.
- ✦ EDVOS is a not-for-profit organisation, primarily funded by the State Government of Victoria. EDVOS also receives grants and donations from other sources.
- ✦ EDVOS celebrates diversity

