

NEWSLETTER



Autumn 2016

Eastern Domestic Violence Service

FROM OUR NEW CEO

Welcome to our inaugural EDVOS Newsletter. Published quarterly, it contains news about the projects, services and achievements of EDVOS and other relevant sector updates.

I was thrilled to be appointed CEO in January 2016 and am excited to build on the invaluable contribution of outgoing CEO, Maryclare Machen.

This year EDVOS celebrates 21 years of serving the community.

The organisation has built a strong legacy and should be proud of its resolute focus on the safety of women and children, and the accountability of perpetrators. I'm excited to dedicate my skills to strengthen our capability as an effective, expert and holistic service for women and children in the eastern metropolitan region (EMR).

We welcome the landmark recommendations of the

Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence which are well aligned with our mission. We look forward to joining with government and stakeholders to bring about necessary reform and believe the resulting policy, legislation and funding will enhance our ability to appropriately respond to the challenges of domestic violence.

“IMPROVING SERVICE
ACCESSIBILITY FOR WOMEN
AND CHILDREN IS A KEY
PRIORITY FOR US.”

Demand for our services is increasing at a rapid rate - over 100% per annum for the past several years.

We now receive around 700 referrals alone from Victoria Police per month (EMR only) which doesn't include referrals from other agencies or self-referrals. Improving service accessibility for women and children is a key priority for us. We will do this by strengthening our existing partnerships within the family violence sector and developing strong and productive relationships with other key services, such as local

Who are we and what do we do?

EDVOS is the specialty family violence support service for the EMR. Our service empowers women by providing a broad range of services and programs which are individualised and sensitive.

EDVOS provides support, advice, information, case management, safety planning, community education, programs for pet safety and a strong network of referral pathways to other services.

Visit our website www.edvos.org.au or call 03 9259 4200



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service
updates and
ways to be
involved.



government and community health centres.

It is vital we all uphold the safety of women and children as a fundamental human right and community understanding is

central to that. In my new role as CEO, I commit to further enhancing that understanding and better equipping our community to support women and children who are experiencing family violence.

Jenny Jackson, CEO

EDVOS APPOINTS RISK ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT PANEL (RAMP) CO-ORDINATORS

EDVOS has received generous funding from the state government to appoint two RAMP Co-ordinators.

RAMP is a group of local organisations that will meet regularly to ensure the safety of women and children deemed to be at high risk of serious injury or death from family violence. The program is designed to ensure that the group takes a co-ordinated approach through immediate risk assessments and action plans to minimise the threat to health, safety and welfare.

EDVOS CEO, Jenny Jackson co-chairs the two EMR RAMPs (in both the inner and outer east) with a senior member of Victoria Police. The panel also comprises representatives from other key agencies including housing, alcohol and drug, mental health and child protection, to name a few.

“As the region’s specialist family violence service, we see great potential in the ability of this co-ordinated network to work alongside the existing system and support such a high-risk group,” said Jenny.

“The joined-up approach of RAMP members enables a focused and determined response to prevent harm, hold perpetrators accountable for violent actions and threats, and uphold the right of women and children to live free from violence.”

Rachel Andrew (inner east) and Shirley Slann (outer east) are the EDVOS RAMP Co-ordinators. Along with all RAMP core members, they have received broad specialist training and the group will meet monthly. Contact Rachel or Shirley on 03 9259 4200.

1 in 4 women

have experienced violence
by an intimate partner
they may or may not have been living with

1 in 6 women

had experienced violence
by a partner they were living with

1 in 9

had experienced violence
by a boyfriend, girlfriend or date

Source: ANROWS 2015

COMPUTER AVAILABLE FOR CLIENTS

We have a computer in our waiting room here at EDVOS. Clients are more than welcome to use it to search for information, check emails, look for housing or any other services they need in a secure, safe environment.

STRATEGIC PLAN FEEDBACK ENCOURAGED

We are excited to be embarking on the next organisational strategic planning cycle, with the view to completing a strategic plan effective in late 2016.

Central to our planning process is the need for thorough consultation. We will actively connect with our valued stakeholders, staff and clients for contributions that help inform and develop effective strategy for the coming years.

Do you have thoughts, comments or ideas about what the domestic violence sector needs in the EMR? New services? New relationships or partnerships? Additional support groups?

We welcome your contribution. Please email us at edvos@edvos.org.au or call 03 9259 4200 and ask for Jenny (CEO).

VOLUNTEERS – WE NEED YOU!

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?

We welcome help with a range of tasks including database maintenance, data entry, reception and general administration. Or, you could help to organise our enormous stock of donated toys! There's also an opportunity to help out with our client intake processes.

All roles will be well supervised and volunteers will receive appropriate training. If you share our values and believe in the right of women and children to live free of violence, we encourage you to contact us.

Apart from being a rewarding way to connect with the local community, your help will provide invaluable support women and children in need.

If you or a friend or relative is interested, please email us at edvos@edvos.org.au or call Anne on 03 9259 4200.

WEBSITE REFRESH

Work is underway to refresh and enhance the EDVOS website.

This exciting project aims to improve the content and functionality of the site – a major information hub for clients, partner organisations and those wanting to learn more about our service.

As one of our major external touchpoints, it's important our website is clear, helpful and easy to use.

The changes will ensure an improved, more user-friendly resource with greater functionality, interactivity and the highest level of safety features.

We will also ensure our language is more client-friendly and easier to understand.

We are currently scoping this project and invite any feedback from our website users about how the site works and what information it should contain.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please email or call us.



The Board of Management acknowledges the Elders, past and present, of the Wurundjeri tribe of the Kulin Nation who are the traditional spiritual carers, original inhabitants and custodians of the land upon which we operate.



EDVOS acknowledges the generous support of the Victorian state government.



We humbly respect the many women and children who have been responding and continue to respond to the multiplicity of gendered acts of violence in their lives.