



“Women’s rights is the unfinished business of the 21st century”- Hillary Clinton



Our Vision

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



From interim CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we head towards the end of the year, I would like to thank all those individuals, community members and our partners who have worked alongside EDVOS throughout 2019, together we were able to support over 9,500 women and children (Jan-Nov 2019) experiencing family violence.

EDVOS is committed to the continuous improvement of services and programs in order to provide the best outcomes for women, children, their pets and other animals, who are responding to family violence.

At our recent AGM, Sandie de Wolf was appointed as our new Chair of EDVOS Board and we also welcomed new members of the Board, Denise McLaughlin, Sonia Sharp, Tony Pititto and Prue Monument. They join existing Board member Margaret Hodge, Sue Champion and Fay Daniel and Lilia Szarski who has served EDVOS as the Board Chair since October 2016 and who will remain as a Board Director for twelve months. For further information, please visit the EDVOS website about the [EDVOS Board and Management](#).

As you may be aware, EDVOS has been in a process of transition over recent month. In November, EDVOS formally farewelled Executive Director, Jenny Jackson who had been in the role for the past four years. Jenny was thanked for her years of service and her contribution to the organisation was acknowledged.

As Interim CEO, I will support EDVOS during this transition. One of our priorities is the recruitment of a new CEO. We have engaged Fish and Nankivell recruitment who have commenced the recruitment process. Please see the job advertisement on [Ethical Jobs](#) and [PRObono Australia](#).

I would like to thank all staff for their ongoing commitment and support of EDVOS, we continue to be inspired by the resilience and courage shown by the women and children we support every day, as we work towards our organisational Vision of a community free from family violence, where everyone feels safe.

I look forward to working with the Board, staff and sector partners in continuing to provide the best possible outcomes for the women and children and all victim/survivors of family violence we support across the Eastern Metropolitan Region of Melbourne.

If you have any further queries, please contact myself – Liz Billings, Interim CEO on 03 9259 4200.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Billings
Interim CEO

Celebrating 25 Years

Eastern Domestic Violence Service Inc.

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EDVOS Strategic Priority 1 – Person-Centred Practice

“Embedding and evaluating Person-Centred Practice for woman and children accessing services”

EDVOS Specialist Family Violence Advocates use Person-Centred Practice to keep women safe.

EDVOS Specialist Family Violence Advocates (SFVA's) who provide Case Management support to women responding to family violence, are guided by the women's goals, priorities, individual circumstances and their values. Our Specialist Family Violence Advocates use a collaborative Person-Centred Practice and aims to empower women to effectively meet their individual needs.

The EDVOS Intensive Case Management team provides case management for women and children who may face a range of complex, intersecting barriers and issues and / or are at the highest risk of lethal violence being perpetrated against them. The women may have experienced numerous barriers to services, with multiple attendances by Police and have had a crisis family violence service response.

The EDVOS SFVA's working in the Assessment and Response Team (ART) engages with women, utilising a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management 'MARAM' Framework. This framework assists to determine any immediate or potential risks to the safety of women, children, pets and animals, to deliver an appropriate response. ART can respond to external referrals, as well as refer to other services, including EDVOS case management teams. ART can provide secondary consultations to other organisations and coordinate court support for clients.

Women can also self-refer to EDVOS either via phone, email or visit, as well as be referred by police and other community services or EDVOS programs.



EDVOS Strategic Priority 2 – Accessibility for all

“Increasing EDVOS service responses for targeted priority groups”

EDVOS Festive Season Operating Hours

Every year during the festive season, Specialist Family Violence Services such as EDVOS experience significantly increased requests for support from women and children experiencing family violence.

As a result, EDVOS will be operating their normal hours during the festive season during December 2019 and January 2020, except for Public Holidays when they are closed on the following days;

Christmas Day: Wednesday 25th Dec 2019 – CLOSED
New Year's Day: Wednesday 1st Jan 2020 – CLOSED

Boxing Day: Thursday 26th Dec 2019 – CLOSED
Australia Day Holiday: Monday 27th Jan 2020 – CLOSED

EDVOS normal operating hours:

Mon-Fri: 9am – 8pm, **Sat:** 9am – 5pm **Phone:** 03 9259 4200 **Email:** edvos@edvos.org.au

EDVOS works across seven Local Government Areas including Boroondara, Manningham, Whitehorse, Monash, Knox, Maroondah and Yarra Ranges.

- ✦ In an Emergency Call 000 for Police.
- ✦ For state-wide family violence crisis accommodation support 24hrs/7 days call Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre on 1800 015 188.
- ✦ For National Sexual Assault, family violence counselling service call 1800RESPECT 1800 737 732.



EDVOS Strategic Priority 3 – Efficiency, Effectiveness and Sustainability

“Deliver more efficient and effective services and programs at EDVOS”

EDVOS Annual Toy Appeal provides toys to children responding to family violence

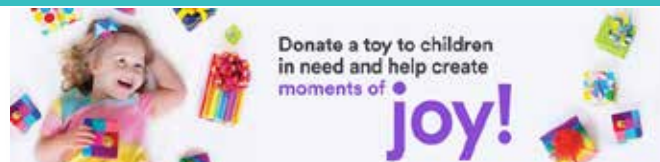
The EDVOS staff look forward to seeing the joy and smiles on the faces of children and their families who receive toys donated by the wider community, through the EDVOS Toy Appeal.

Our specialist family violence services support women and children who are living in the Eastern Metropolitan Region of Melbourne and are responding to any forms of family violence. In 2018, EDVOS distributed toys to more than 250 children leading up to the festive season, together we can reach out to more children this year.

If you'd like to donate to the EDVOS Toy Appeal and brighten up a child's day, you can;

1. **Donate funds to purchase toys:** www.givenow.com.au/edvostoyappeal OR
2. **Donate a toy to a child who is experiencing family violence:** edvostoyappeal.simplygiving.com.au/about.cfm
3. For all workplace group donations contact Eastern Domestic Violence Service via **email:** edvos@edvos.org.au

For more information contact EDVOS on email: edvos@edvos.org.au or **Phone:** 03 9259 4200, Mon-Fri: 9am – 8pm, Sat: 9am – 5pm.



EDVOS Strategic Priority 4 – Workforce Capacity and Wellbeing

“Implement a comprehensive Workforce Capacity and Wellbeing Plan”

The Christine Nixon Family Violence Graduate Program leading the way for Student Graduates

EDVOS was proud to recently introduce 'The Christine Nixon Family Violence Graduate Program for Social Workers', a first of its kind in the family violence sector. Following a full house of Student Graduates of Social Work at our Information Night in October 2019, we received sixty-seven applications to the Program from newly qualified and qualifying social Workers. The high calibre of candidates made shortlisting tough. Interviews commenced in November 2019, with two successful Graduates being offered a position in the program in December 2019.

EDVOS would like to thank everyone who applied and wishes each Student Graduate well, as they commence their careers.

The EDVOS Student Graduate Specialist Family Violence Advocate Position is a twelve Month Program, with 2 x 6 month rotations. Graduates will be mentored by qualified Social Workers & experienced Family Violence practitioners and will have:

- ✦ Access to internal & external family violence training
- ✦ Induction & Orientation to EDVOS services and service providers
- ✦ Professional Development & regular Social Work Supervision

For more information contact EDVOS Human Resources on email: humanresources@edvos.org.au or **Phone:** 03 9259 4200, Mon-Fri: 9am–8pm, Sat: 9am – 5pm.



EDVOS Strategic Priority 5 – Services across the continuum from Primary Prevention to Recovery

“Delivery of more EDVOS Services and Programs across the Family Violence Continuum”

EDVOS continues to collaborate with key partners and stakeholders to bring about change

Our dedicated Primary Prevention team continues to collaborate with key partners and stakeholders to introduce innovative programs that address the underlying cause of violence against women. Our approach aims to change the social and cultural conditions that excuse, justify or promote gender inequality and violence against women and children in our community.

The EDVOS Primary Prevention team works in partnership with many organisations and stakeholders in the Eastern Metropolitan Region of Melbourne. This includes partnerships with health and community services, local government, community groups, schools, neighbourhood houses and much more!

EDVOS Primary Prevention, Education and Training recent highlights

- The EDVOS led, **Thai Community Stands up for Gender Equality and Respect Project**, has delivered culturally appropriate gender equality and respectful relationships education within the Thai community through working in partnership with teachers, students, families and community members. Our Primary Prevention project team has developed and delivered educational sessions to teachers and parents/carers and have developed classroom resources and activities. Post evaluation found:

🦋 Teachers:

100% reported high understanding of gender equality, what makes a safe, healthy and respectful relationship, the impact of gender stereotypes on children.

92% reported high confidence in breaking down gender stereotypes in the classroom and teaching about gender equality and respectful relationships in the classroom.

🦋 Parents:

92% participants agreed that they feel confident to teach their child/children about respectful relationships.

- The **Youth Ambassadors for Gender Equality Project**, in partnership with the EDVOS Primary Prevention team, trained thirty-eight young people from schools in the Upper Yarra as Ambassadors for Gender Equality and Respect. This important, wide-spread community project, is working to build the capacity of the next generation of youth activist and inspiring young people to find their voice and make a positive impact on their local community. The Youth Ambassador Program supports young people to take action in their community to promote gender equality and respectful relationships. Post Evaluation found:

🦋 Ambassadors:

100% of Ambassadors acknowledged an increase in knowledge and understanding of gender equality, identified an increase in skills and knowledge in how to be an activist for change, felt more comfortable and motivated to advocate for change.

92% of Ambassadors expressed an increase in skills relating to project planning and felt more confident to lead discussions with other students about gender equality.



learn

play

read

- The EDVOS Primary Prevention initiative, **Level Playground**, has experienced a significant influx of followers on its social media platforms. The continued success of this initiative highlights how more people are becoming interested in gender equality and wanting to learn more about breaking down gender stereotypes. **Level Playground** is an online platform for supporting parents, carers and educators to raise children who can be their true selves, free to explore all things that interest them in life without being limited by gender stereotypes.

✦ Newly created fact sheets are now available on the [Level Playground website](#) and provide further information and tips on the below topics;

- What are gender stereotypes?
- How to avoid gender stereotypes
- Language that breaks down gender stereotypes
- Talking about respectful relationships
- Image checklist

- The Primary Prevention team recently provided education and training to a team of Support Coordinators at OnSide, a local NDIS provider. With almost half a million people expected to join up to the NDIS, the OnSide team of specialists are keen to learn more about their customers. The EDVOS, Recognise, Respond and Refer in family violence, 3-hour training program delivered at OnSide, aimed to build Support Coordinator's capacity to enable outcomes as set out in NDIS plans and focussed on intersectionality, particularly around barriers and obstacles women with disabilities face every day.
- EDVOS also presented to over Twenty Manager and Executive Members of RCA Retirement Villages at their Year-End Conference in November 2019. EDVOS presented on elder abuse and how to Recognise, Respond and Refer in family violence, including the importance of relevant organisational policies and procedures. RCA Village showed a keen interest to work with and support EDVOS.
- Simply Energy recently invited EDVOS to deliver our 3-hour family violence training workshop on how to Recognise, Respond and Refer in family violence. The Simply Energy Project teams received great insights into the key identifiers, impacts and support needed for their customer's impacted by family violence.

Followed by the Royal Commission into Family Violence in 2016, the Essential Services Commission developed a [better practice guide](#) by exploring how energy and water retailers can provide family violence assistance that is safe and effective.

[Following the new Energy Retail Code](#), Simply Energy showed a great understanding around family violence and aims to build on the momentum that the businesses will find inspiration to continue to improve services for those who are most in need of safe, understanding and appropriate assistance.

For more information, please contact Brianna Myors – Program Manager of Primary Prevention and Education – brianna.myors@edvos.org.au or Phone: (03) 9259 4200.



UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Celebrating 25 Years



Get Involved

THANK YOU to our 2019 Donors



EDVOS sincerely thanks all our donors and supporters from the general public who have generously provided financial support, goods and/or services throughout the year.

Also, the hard work and time given by volunteers and students has enabled EDVOS to provide the support needed by so many women and children, pets and animals responding to family violence in the community.

DONATE NOW



DONATE NOW and Support women, children, their pets and animals experiencing family violence.

Your donation will help EDVOS provide women, children, their pets and animals experiencing family violence in Melbourne's Eastern Region with the support they need.


EDVOS is a not for profit organisation that relies on Government funding as well as donations from the community.



Check out our ANNUAL REPORT for 2018/2019



Sign Up to receive the EDVOS Quarterly Newsletter



Follow us on facebook for news, service updates and ways to be involved.



EDVOS acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this land and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community. EDVOS pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.



EDVOS acknowledges all people from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) communities, children, pets and other animals, who are responding to family violence in the community.

EDVOS respects all people who are responding to family violence, regardless of ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age and ability.

EDVOS is a child-focused and child safe organisation.



EDVOS acknowledges funding from the Victorian Government.

