

WESNET

Women's Services Network



Annual Report
2003-04

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Chairperson

Maria Hagias, Central Eastern Domestic Violence Service, Adelaide

The year 2003-04 has certainly been a busy year for WESNET. In a climate of uncertainty WESNET has continued its commitment to ensuring that issues and barriers faced by women and children experiencing domestic violence are heard and acknowledged by policy makers.

Our members continue to show their support through their financial commitment and despite the lack of government funding and support for ongoing secretariat activities, WESNET has remained a strong and viable voice for women who are experiencing or escaping domestic and family violence in the national arena.

During the year, WESNET conducted research entitled *Examining Progress in Accommodation and support for women experiencing and escaping violence*, which was funded by the Office of the Status of Women. The key researchers were Wendy Weeks and Julie Oberin. We were sad to hear the news of Wendy Weeks' passing away after the report's completion. We want to take the opportunity to commend Wendy for her commitment and hard work to not only this research, but her activism in ensuring women's issues remain on the agenda. We remember and honour Wendy for her hard work and commitment to women in Australia.

Over the past financial year WESNET has participated in the following activities:

- Submission to the Parliament enquiry on presumption of joint residency;
- Collaborated with the "Elsa List" to further the Family Law Reform Campaign;
- Lobbied MPs Mark Latham and Nicola Roxon, around the Labor Party's commitment to domestic violence and the establishment of a peak body addressing violence against women;
- Lobbied the Liberal Party around their campaign on domestic violence and sexual assault in collaboration with the National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence (NASASV);
- Provided advice to the National Evaluation of the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program individually and through our representatives in the Australian Federation of Homelessness Organisations (AFHO); and
- Provided input and support to the submission on Women and the right to Adequate Housing in Australia to the UN Special Rapporteur on Housing as part of a Coalition of Non-Government Workers.

WESNET has also been busy organising our 10 year celebration this year and as Chair I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge and honour all the women who have contributed to the establishment and ongoing success of WESNET for the past 10 years. Thank you and we remember and honour your commitment to the plight of many women and children who face violence every day of their life. WESNET has faced many challenges in those years but one thing remains and that is the commitment of all those women and services in ensuring that women and children's voices are not lost and that their experiences are not only heard but understood by the community and policy makers in Australia.

During this financial year we had some changes on the Committee including resignations from Cara Kirkwood (NSW) and Anni Mather (ACT). We thank both members for their hard work and commitment to WESNET. We welcome Monica Mazzone (NSW) and Laura Klobucar (ACT) to the Committee, and look forward to working with both of them in the next year.

I thank Sira Nicholas, WESNET's Secretariat Coordinator, who has been a wonderful support to WESNET and the Committee. Her hard work and commitment to WESNET does not go unnoticed - we have been very fortunate to have Sira and once again thank you for your dedication.

I would like to take the opportunity to say goodbye as Chairperson, South Australian representative and AFHO representative. My time on WESNET has been a wonderful and positive experience. I have been honoured to be part of a cause that I feel very committed to and also to work with the most awesome and dynamic women. Thank you for allowing me to be part of this and participate in

ensuring women and children experiencing violence remain on the government's agenda.

I also thank the Committee for their support, particularly Julie Oberin and Pauline Woodbridge, for the chats when things were getting a bit too hard. Your faith and support in me was valued and appreciated.

Australian Capital Territory

Laura Klobucar, Toora Women, Canberra

The ACT Landscape

The ACT has a Women's Policy Unit within the Chief Minister's Department, which has released a whole of government safety plan, which includes addressing the issue of violence against women.

There are 13 refuges (houses) run by 5 women's agencies. These include communal living, cluster models and independent living models. The target groups include single women, women with accompanying children with some domestic violence specialist refuges. There is also a new service for single women over 55 who are relatively self-managing. These services provide crisis medium and long-term responses.

There is the Family Violence Intervention Project (FVIP), which is a collaborative effort between the ACT Domestic Violence Crisis Service, Police, and Relationships Australia. This includes a pro-arrest policy and most of the Domestic Violence Orders (DVOs) that have been issued over the last 12 months have been exclusionary ones (i.e. where the perpetrator must leave the home). There have been no significant issues regarding women's safety in these cases.

The ACT now has a Human Rights Act, which should provide a human rights framework for services. There is discussion about developing a Charter of Rights for homeless persons. There has been a significant review of the Children and Young Persons Act, which has resulted in the Family Services Branch now being located in the Chief Minister's Department. There is a proposal to develop a Commissioner for children and young people and changes to the Act have resulted in a call for children's death reviews and notification of revocation of DVOs where children are considered to be at risk.

The ACT government has released a number of Plans including a Social Compact (ways that the government pledges to work with community agencies); a Mental Health Strategy and Action Plan; an Alcohol and Other Drug Strategy; and a Homelessness Strategy. There has also been the development of standard funding agreements across the Territory and a move away from competitive tendering.

A total of \$13.4 million has been allocated under the Homelessness Strategy for 2003-04. This includes new accommodation services for families, single men, men leaving custody and households headed by a single male. A capital expenditure fund of \$33 million has also been allocated and about half of this has gone into houses for SAAP services.

Neither the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander supported accommodation service or outreach service were successfully tendered out. This is quite alarming as the ATSI population in the ACT is about 1% compared to 12% representation in SAAP services.

Of the \$13.4 million the only service for women is \$120,000 allocated for an outreach service. Most other new services are for families (which we know most often consist of single women with children). This indicates a view that women's services are adequately funded. Recent research indicates that although the ACT has the lowest proportion of homelessness by comparison to other states and territories, there are still approximately 1,129 people homeless each night. There is no breakdown to give numbers of women escaping domestic and family violence.

A recent initiative in the ACT is the Canberra Emergency Accommodation Service (CEAS). This is a joint initiative between Anglicare and Lifeline, where CEAS can accommodate people in caravans,

hotels and motels and provide brokerage funds to existing SAAP agencies to provide support. In a six-month period in 2003, there were 90 families accommodated in hotels/motels.

There is also a HOME Assistance Scheme (funded by the Department of Family and Community Services), which is providing early intervention and homelessness prevention services. Again, the majority of clients are female-headed households.

Issues

- Lack of exit points and lack of access to suitable housing;
- Cross border issues remains a priority, with only 6 out of 220 towns in southern NSW having a refuge. In Yass (45 km away) there were 100 domestic violence incidents in a 3 month period, but there are no services;
- Lack of appropriate support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander women/families;
- Women blaming social attitudes till prevail;
- Increasing pressure to respond to women with high and complex needs;
- Lack of resources for working with children;
- Staff recruitment and parity of wages both within and between sectors;
- Increasing numbers of women with no immigration status; and
- Beds for clients aged between 0 and 18 needs to be adequately funded.

New South Wales

Monica Mazzone, Immigrant Women's Speakout Association, Sydney

The past year has been very hectic for the women's sector in NSW.

Family Law campaign

The NSW Women's Refuge Movement in collaboration with Immigrant Women's Speakout, have been spearheading a campaign against some of the proposed changes to Family Law suggested in the House of Representatives Inquiry Report, *Every Picture Tells A Story*, to introduce a presumption of 50/50 shared residency as the starting point for custody negotiations, and a Families Tribunal.

The campaign has included:

- A strong presence at International Women's Day. Banner, placards, balloons, t-shirts and fliers were made, all brandishing our slogan of "Safety First in Family Law";
- Coordination of a letter campaign to politicians;
- Petition was widely distributed in support of safety for women and children in family law;
- Three delegates were sent to Canberra to meet and lobby 15 politicians and/or their advisors. A very positive response was received to the issues raised around family law, increased funding for Legal Aid, and the need for another Women's Safety Survey (which is now going ahead).

The Government's response to the House of Representative's Inquiry Report, a discussion paper, was announced by the Prime Minister on July 27, 2004, but is not currently available. Newspapers suggest the report advocates 50/50 joint residency as the starting point in custody negotiations. This arrangement will seriously impact on women and children escaping domestic violence.

Telephone Interpreter Services (TIS)

Another nationwide issue on which we have been very vocal, is the looming withdrawal of the fee free TIS. While at the moment the majority of SAAP services have an exemption from paying for TIS, this is gradually being removed and services will have to claim the cost of interpreters from their funding bodies and pay full commercial fees for using TIS. However, there has been no commitment to date from either the Commonwealth or NSW Departments of Family and Community Services for additional funds to cover interpreter costs. This may leave services unable to respond appropriately

to the needs of NESB clients. Some services have already lost their fee-free status.

This issue was raised at NCOSS through the SAAP peaks and a position paper was developed advocating the continuation of current arrangements until a satisfactory funding arrangement can be negotiated with the Departments through the SAAP V negotiations; and the reinstatement of TIS where they have already been withdrawn.

In the process of gathering information for this campaign, a short survey was conducted about interpreter usage patterns with 133 services in NSW. The survey showed that the domestic violence sector had the highest usage of interpreters. It also showed that 21% of respondents still use family/friends as interpreters and that many services, especially rural, are not accessed by NESB clients.

Orana West Region

The levels of domestic violence, child abuse, and child prostitution, amongst other issues, are very high in the Orana Far West, yet the refuges and safe houses in the area are poorly funded. This is because the Department of Community Services funds allocated to the area also cover alcohol services. Delegates from the NSW Women's Refuge Movement visited the area to investigate the difficulties services experience as a result of this inadequate funding. A report of the visit has been released.

Women On Tourist Visas Who Have Not Lodged A Temporary Spouse Application

More than a dozen cases have been identified where women marry Australian citizens overseas and enter Australia on tourist visas. Led to believe their partners have applied for a spouse visa, they find out too late that this is not the case. There are serious implications for women in this situation who experience domestic violence as they are not covered by the Domestic Violence Provision, nor are they eligible for income support or housing.

Ombudsman's Report

Last May the NSW Ombudsman tabled the report, *Assisting Homeless People: the need to improve their access to accommodation and support services*.

The Report severely criticises certain discriminatory practices in SAAP services, particularly blanket exclusion policies and the blacklisting of clients. The main groups excluded from accessing SAAP services are people with drug and alcohol issues, a history of violent behaviour, mental health issues and/or disabilities.

While the report accepts that resource and funding issues, as well as system failures in other areas such as mental health and drug and alcohol services are part of the problem, it still states that SAAP services need to provide a non-discriminatory service within the available resources. That is, any exclusions on the basis of Occupational Health and Safety guidelines and duty of care considerations should only occur after an individual assessment has been carried out, and not as blanket policies.

The Report also identifies the congregate care model as having a strong impact on exclusions and suggests that the development of other models of service may be useful in addressing exclusionary practices. It still remains to be seen what impact the Report will have on women's services.

The peak SAAP service organisations, the NSW Women's Resource Centre, Youth Accommodation Association and the NSW/ACT Association of Homeless Person's Services Incorporated are working together to develop a response to the Ombudsman's report.

Changes to the Residential Tenancy Agreement

The NSW Government has recently introduced changes to the Residential Tenancy Agreement to deal with antisocial behaviour in public housing. These changes introduce renewable tenancies for all public tenants, and Acceptable Behaviour Agreements (ABA) for tenants that have engaged in antisocial behaviour. The breach of an ABA may lead to the termination of their tenancy.

The agreements may relate to the behaviour of any member of the household living at the address. There are concerns in the sector regarding how this will impact on women experiencing domestic violence. It is extremely difficult for a woman in a domestic violence situation to control the behaviour of the perpetrator. A woman may not have disclosed the violence to the Department and may risk being evicted due to damages to the premises, noise, or other behaviour over which she would have no control. This means that women may risk losing their tenancy through no fault of their own.

Other unfortunate recurrent issues are the lack of public housing and exit points for women and children in domestic violence and funding issues for services.

Public housing cannot meet the current demand of clients in the priority list, which leaves many women who have escaped domestic violence with no option but the private market. However, this remains unaffordable, particularly in Sydney. There are not enough exit points from crisis services, which means women and children remain in crisis refuges longer than expected, overstressing the services' capacity to assist other women.

There are still a number of funding issues that remain unresolved. In particular, there is insufficient baseline funding and acute shortfalls in core funding for crisis response and counselling services for women and children. There have also been difficulties in securing recurrent and long-term funds for innovative projects or for outreach that as pilots receive non-recurrent funding. This is problematic when considering the time and resources required to initiate, create trust and community support in relation to new projects, as well as develop links and networks with other agencies, and gain trust with target groups in order to provide quality service. Given this, projects funded for short periods may be terminated just as they reach their full potential.

To end on a positive note, a working group to investigate the need for a fatality review had its first meeting on Wednesday, 7 July, 2004. The working group is made up of representatives from the Police, Coroner's Office, Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearing House, Violence Against Women, and the Criminal Law Review Division.

At the first meeting it was decided that the Clearinghouse would do a national and international literature review of published results of fatality reviews. They are to report back to the working group at the end of the year with a report defining the different models. The next step will be to decide if a fatality review is needed and, if so, what model will be the best. (Though judging by the amount of media and sector interest, they are confident it will go ahead.) If it does proceed, it is at this point that the working group will be looking to include other stakeholders.

Northern Territory

*Maxene Schulte, Alice Springs Women's Shelter &
Sue Brownlee, Dawn House, Darwin*

As a relative newcomer to the Northern Territory I am still grappling with the complexity of 'Territory' issues. I have been touched by the severity of domestic violence in the NT. While some domestic murders are acknowledged, the amount of victims with disabling injuries is not. During the past year I have seen women with permanent brain damage, ears bitten off and permanently maimed limbs.

Lack of resources and support services are critical issues for small NT communities. The Territory is distinguished by its remarkably high rates of rape, assault and sexual abuse. It is the highest among all Australian states and territories. In 2001, the Northern Territory recorded a rate of 1486 assaults per 100,000 people, and 133 sexual assaults per 100,000 people. The homicide rate of women in the Northern Territory is 6.5 per 100,000 of population, while the national average for women is 1.4 per 100,000 of population.

According to the Northern Territory Government's Domestic Violence Strategy Data Collection Project, Indigenous people form the highest proportion of victims of domestic and family violence being 72% of victims. The most significant relationship in which violence occurs is that of partner or ex-partner representing 73% of violent incidents, and this is consistent across cultural groups. The

remaining 27% of victims experienced violence predominantly from other family members or ex-boyfriends. Girlfriends or ex-girlfriends as perpetrators are reported as zero. This data also confirms that women are usually the victims of domestic violence while men are perpetrators of this violence.

Recruitment and retention of staff

Recruitment and retention of skilled workers has been nominated as an ongoing issue in the Northern Territory for many years. Our service users have complex needs, and in response, our workers need to be skilled in cross cultural sensitivities, have an awareness of professional ethics and service delivery, be proficient in data collection systems, have advocacy and crisis counselling skills, understand the dynamics of domestic and family violence, and of course be able to process vicarious trauma and deal with the occasional angry perpetrator at the fence threatening to kill them. In Darwin and Alice Springs it is increasingly difficult to recruit, and in isolated communities it is as good as impossible.

No drop policy

The NT Department of Justice is currently reviewing what is termed the 'No Drop Policy' (NDP). The policy has meant that prosecution of criminal offences arising from a domestic violence incident will proceed despite a victim not wishing to cooperate or give evidence at a hearing. The intention of a NDP is to emphasise the criminal nature of domestic violence and protect the victim. However critics have pointed out that the policy fails to take into account the wishes of victims, is applied inconsistently, and puts the victim at further risk. The infamous NT News recently reported the case of a woman who was threatened with prosecution if she did not attend court and testify against her partner in criminal proceedings. A clear case of re-victimising the victim. There is strong backing for a 'whole of system approach' from within the bureaucracy, the non-government sector, and other support services.

Children

The aforementioned Data Collection Project Report noted that 45% of reported incidents involved children who witnessed the violence or were nearby when the violence occurred. Recent research conducted by Dawn House noted parental requests for further support for their children. The requests were predominantly for children's counselling specific to domestic violence. A literature search also conducted by Dawn House found that the most appropriate form of intervention for traumatised children involved art, music or other play therapy to engage children, was culturally sensitive, built a sense of competence and control, provided an environment of acceptance, presented opportunities for children to express their feelings, and begin to re-build their relationships with their mothers. There is no consistent delivery of services. Private counsellors are beyond the financial means of most women, and a domestic violence specific service does not exist. We are not happy.

Housing

A lack of exit points continues to be an issue in the Territory. Although this is a national problem the Territory experience is extreme. Private rental is discriminatory and extremely expensive; in Alice Springs average rent for a three bedroom house is \$300pw. The waiting time for priority public housing is around two years and increasing.

Positive note

I want to mention that in spite of differences in philosophy and approach, there is a strong sense of connection between services in the NT. We share feelings of isolation, enormous work load, our unique cultural mix, and admiration for the women and children who struggle against so much to take control of their lives and bring about change.

Queensland

Pauline Woodbridge, North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Service, Townsville

Once again Queensland services have supported WESNET by retaining membership or becoming members. This has enabled WESNET to be active in responding to issues arising around domestic violence. One of the notable activities was participation in a major lobbying event with Government members and the Opposition about violence against women and the refunding of WESNET. Also press releases were prepared on issues such as the *Australia Says No* campaign and the latest Family Law reform plans for Family Relationship Centres.

Another notable event has been the PADV research, *Examining Progress in Accommodation and Outreach Options for Women*. The research has been concluded and delivered to the Office for the Status of Women. We are now awaiting the publication and distribution of the document. Findings from this research will be presented at various conferences and forums. It was a sad event for WESNET members to receive news of the death of Wendy Weeks, who had been involved as a researcher on the WESNET project. Wendy played a significant contribution to the welfare and status of women, especially around violence against women issues.

It is now a year since the changes to the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 1989*, bringing those who experience non spousal violence under the Act. This has meant a jump in applications with courts and police, and services reporting big increases in their workloads. This year the sector faced another change with Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month (DFVPM) being declared for the month of May. The launch, funding for events, and the DFVPM awards still occurred, but were spread out over the month. Evaluation seems to indicate that the change has generally been seen as beneficial, enabling communities to hold events in a timely manner.

As a result of a CMC investigation into child protection issues, the Department of Families is undergoing major change. The Department will be split in two, each with their own Minister and Director General. The changes are not completely clear as yet, but there seems to be more interest in a regional model after a long period of centralisation. Because of the size of Queensland, this could be a positive move for services across the State.

There will need to be a range of activities including networking between the domestic violence sector and the new child safety sector as it acknowledged that the departmental workers may not have a good overview of domestic violence issues. In services we hear from women who are having their children removed for 'failure to protect' the children even though the mother is the victim of domestic violence. This type of issue indicates the need for stronger links to develop more supportive responses to the women who are victims. The police are also starting to report to the department, the presence of children in households where there is domestic violence. Again women's services could have a role to work collaboratively around these issues.

In Queensland we are awaiting the release of a CMC report in to policing and domestic violence issues. Recently there have been some positive moves with the designation of District Domestic Violence Liaison Officers, who work full time in this role. Many strong relationships are being built between services and the Officer as they are now able to access each other during business hours. It was a constant frustration for workers in the past when contact was needed with the liaison officer, only to find they were on the midnight to eight shift, making it very difficult to connect clients to the police officer for assistance.

This year has gone by very quickly and we are nearing AGM time. Queensland is one of the positions up for election this year. I really have enjoyed my position as Queensland representative and have written to members to encourage them to nominate. Heather Selke has been my proxy for many years now, and I would like to thank her for being in that role and providing support to me. As the position of WESNET Chairperson will be vacant, I will nominate for this position. I have some anxiety about this as it is a big task, done by some impressive women in the past. Having a Chairperson so far away from the WESNET office will also be a huge challenge. Fortunately WESNET is made up of the best of women who are committed to the issue of stopping violence against women, and who contribute so much to the movement by being involved with WESNET. Thank you.

Tasmania

Terri Francis, Magnolia Place, Launceston

Looking back at the reports from Tasmania I note our previous representative commented upon the “sameness” of the reports. It is with sadness that I echo this comment.

What is not the same is that whilst there may have been having choices in access to public housing in areas that were sustainable for women, public housing is no longer available. Women and children accessing shelters are put into Category 2 for housing, although this can vary from North to South. There is concern public housing in Tasmania’s target group is developing towards people with high and complex needs. This could reinforce some of the issues previously experienced with broad acreage public housing areas. Private housing is difficult to secure and the rise in rents makes it prohibitive for many. Women escaping domestic violence are focusing on the housing crisis they find themselves in and even more than before are returning to unsafe situations. Some women find themselves moving from shelter to shelter, to the mainland and then back again, sometimes to start the whole cycle again. There is an increase in the number of women and children who find themselves on this crazy merry-go-round. Lack of exit points to safe, affordable and stable housing is a crisis that continues in Tasmania.

The following paragraph was written in March this year.

There still appears to be a lack of consultation with the sector. It is difficult to know what is going to happen in the future, the following information came from a leaked document and we have been unable to have it confirmed. It sounds like the Domestic Violence Crisis Service (DVCS) will no longer respond to women escaping domestic violence with the police but that there will be an additional 20 police to respond to domestic violence. It will be interesting to see the police securing emergency motel accommodation, buying food and disposable nappies for women. There will be a 9-5 telephone counseling service available. The Minister has said in a press release that “When the budget is determined we will be consulting directly with all key stakeholders, including the Domestic Violence Crisis Service, to implement the Safe at Home recommendations and build a stronger, ‘whole of Government’ framework for dealing with domestic violence in our community.”

Five months later, the domestic violence crisis workers are in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services as to how the service will look in the future. Workers are lobbying very hard to retain service provision that includes an after hours response. The police will have a 24 hour phone line and women who contact this phone line who do not require an immediate police response will be referred to lifeline. The number will be the phone number that the Domestic Violence Crisis Service (DVCS) has used for at least the last 10 - 15 years. Women who use this number would not be aware they were phoning the police. I believe this system does not recognise the complex issues surrounding domestic and family violence and constitutes at this time a reduction in services for women who do not require an immediate police response. Women have a right to access counsellors with expertise and the support to make proactive decisions after hours that may not require a police response but will keep them safe.

The Safe at Home options paper will form the basis of the Government’s response to domestic violence in this state. The sector welcomes the paper will have an emphasis of women remaining in their own home when possible. Although a new legislation has not yet been drafted, it is expected to be introduced in Parliament in Spring and proclaimed in March 2005. Implementation of the new model will begin on the first day of September in 2004

The integrated response and intervention system will include the following initiatives:

- Family Violence Orders
- 24/7 telephone line for reporting incidents
- Victim Safety Response Teams – 21.6 additional officers
- 6 Additional Police Prosecutors
- Pro Arrest Response

- Perpetrator Program (court mandated and rehabilitative)
- Court Support and Victim Liaison Service
- Legal Aid for Victims
- Children's Counseling Service
- Accommodation Brokerage (for perpetrators excluded from their homes)

The sector is looking at major funding issues with a significant pay increase in award wages coming into effect on 1 October 2004. We have not had an assurance from the Government that they will fund these increases. The Grants Department has informed the government of these increases, who responded that services would be looked at on a case by case basis.

It is due to the amazing women who work in this sector with their passion, commitment and creativity that we continue to provide quality services for women and children under circumstances that at times feel challenging.

Victoria

Julie Oberin, Annie North Women's Refuge and Domestic Violence Service, Bendigo & Janine Bush, Domestic Violence Victoria, Melbourne

In 2003-04, many policy issues relating to domestic and family violence were addressed in Victoria. The following is a summary of the main policy developments over the last twelve months. These are under the following mechanisms and strategies:

- Statewide Steering Committee to Reduce Family Violence;
- Family Violence Division of the Magistrates Court;
- Family Violence Court Intervention Program;
- Family and Domestic Violence Crisis Protection Framework;
- The development of the domestic violence peak body – Domestic Violence Victoria (DVVic) (formerly VWRADVS – Victorian Women's Refuges and Domestic Violence Services); and the
- Indigenous Domestic and Family Violence Strategy

Statewide Steering Committee to Reduce Family Violence

As outlined in last year's annual report, the Statewide Steering Committee to Reduce Family Violence (SSCRFV) was established in Victoria to develop an integrated, multi-agency response to family violence. Representatives from government, the police, courts and community organisations are represented on the Committee. Several representatives from the family/domestic violence sector are represented on the Committee – including the peak body, Domestic Violence Victoria (DV Vic).

The SSCRfV continued to meet throughout 2003-04. The Committee dedicated time to developing and discussing a framework for an integrated response to family violence in Victoria. This is still in progress and the framework is due out for consultation in October 2004.

The SSCRfV is an initiative of the whole-of-government response to enhancing women's safety. The relevant government departments involved in the SSCRfV came together to submit a bid for funding in the State Budget for 2004-05. Unfortunately, this bid was unsuccessful.

Domestic and family violence services in Victoria were disappointed by the outcome of the Victorian State Budget. The sector anticipates an increased demand on already under-resourced services as a consequence of both State and Federal initiatives that are raising awareness on the issue of family/ domestic violence. For example, by the ill-informed and thought out Commonwealth *Australia Says No* campaign which included the *No Respect, No Relationship* advertisements and the establishment of a second-rate attempted duplicate system from outside the domestic violence sector to provide a 24 hour response. This campaign shows how out of touch with the grassroots the Commonwealth Government is.

The domestic and family violence sector welcomes increased awareness, but governments must

acknowledge that increased awareness brings increased demand for services - and we must not tell women and children in need that they can access services which are not there, or are too under-resourced to support or help them. It is time that the value of the sector in its response to domestic and family violence is acknowledged through increased funding.

The peak body, DV Vic, has established a Campaign Sub-group to advocate for increased funding in the next State Budget. The sector supports a Statewide funding roll-out over a 4 year period as opposed to expansion of demonstration projects on a yearly basis.

An initiative that is related to the SSCRFBV is the development of a Code of Practice by Victoria Police. This is due to be launched in late August 2004. The Code of Practice is pro-action and an options model. It contains three options for responding to incidents of domestic violence – criminal, civil and referral. Training for police to encourage compliance with the Code will be provided over a 12 month period. Funding has been granted to appoint nine full-time Family Violence Liaison Officers.

Family Violence Division of the Magistrates Court

An initiative of the Department of Justice (DoJ) related to the SSCRFBV's development of an integrated response to family violence is the Family Violence Division of the Magistrates Court. It is proposed that this court will be cross-jurisdictional and allow matters to be heard relating to: Intervention Orders, VOCAT Awards, Summary Offences, Family Law, and Child Support.

The Department of Justice committed to two demonstration projects – and members of the Reference Group of the Family Violence Division of the Magistrates Court were given an opportunity to express their preferences for sites selected as possible options. The sites were audited for safety features of the court building and rooms available for accommodating support services.

The Attorney-General made an announcement regarding the sites at the end of June. The metropolitan site selected was Heidelberg and the rural site selected was Ballarat. Concerns were raised by the community services represented on the Reference Group regarding the process of decision-making and the extent to which the Government was prepared to listen to the expertise of service-providers. These concerns were raised at the Reference Group.

DV Vic will be supporting its member services that use the Courts selected as demonstration projects for the Family Violence Division of the Magistrates Court.

Family Violence Court Intervention Program

Linked to the SSCRFBV and the Family Violence Division of the Magistrates Court is another initiative of the Department of Justice, the Family Violence Court Intervention Program.

The Crimes (Family Violence) Act will be amended to create a new Order for men who use violence against women – a Counselling Order. This is separate from an Intervention Order and will enable an Intervention Order to be processed without a determination on the Counselling Order. This avoids a mandatory approach. There will be eligibility criteria set for Court directed counselling for men who have been violent towards family members.

Family & Domestic Violence Crisis Protection Framework

Implementation of the Family and Domestic Violence Crisis Protection Framework has been challenging for services due to delays in the development of the Statewide Strategic Plan. These delays have been caused due to the need to integrate the Family & Domestic Violence Crisis Protection Framework with the framework for integrating responses to family violence, which has not yet been released for consultation.

In December 2003, DV Vic undertook a survey of services to find out how they were experiencing the implementation of the Family & Domestic Violence Crisis Protection Framework. While it was determined that services were supportive of the principles underlying the Framework, it was clear that some agencies have concerns with the process of implementing the Framework. The causes of

their concerns related to under-resourcing, the lack of Statewide focus and the lack of transparency in communicating the reasons underlying delays in Statewide guidelines for implementation.

Development of the peak body – Domestic Violence Victoria (DV Vic)

The peak body, DVVic which finally received recurrent funding in July 2002, continued to develop throughout 2003-04. A planning workshop in December 2003 was held, to which all members were invited to attend to develop its infrastructure.

The planning workshop aimed to increase our understanding of who DV Vic is, what we are striving to achieve through it, and how we might achieve that. In brief, the key directions we identified were to:

1. Lead the policy debate and direction for domestic violence services in Victoria.
2. Provide leadership, advocacy and support in the provision of quality services.
3. Develop a communication strategy.
4. Ensure DV Vic is accountable.

Indigenous Domestic and Family Violence Strategy

Approximately \$650,000 in new projects, over four years, were announced in March by the Aboriginal Affairs Minister, Gavin Jennings. The grants were described as “a proactive program that empowers Indigenous communities to develop local solutions to family violence”. (http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/domino/Web_Notes/newmedia.nsf/0/09c7824724ed2f60ca)

The projects are part of a \$2.6 million Indigenous Family Violence Community Initiatives Fund, which aims to provide up to \$650,000 per year over four years for local Indigenous communities to address family violence.

The fund is part of the Victorian Government’s \$7.6 million Victorian Indigenous Family Violence Strategy, which is aimed at supporting local Indigenous communities to prevent and reduce high levels of family violence. This includes \$850,000 to employ nine family violence workers across Victoria.

There are a number of other projects underway.

Home Truth’s Conference (Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Conference, Melbourne)

The latter part of the 2003-04 year saw DV Vic and some of its members, along with CASA House work on developing the Home Truth’s Conference – a joint Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Conference to be held in Melbourne in September 2004. This promises to be a good conference.

Child Protection and Family Violence Services Protocols

A guide for the development of joint protocols to enhance collaboration between Child Protection and Family Violence Services is being developed by the Department of Human Services. A new document, *Towards Collaboration: a resource guide for child protection and family violence services*, looks at ways the family violence and child protection sectors can work together. (<http://www.vic.gov.au/commcare>)

Review of Crimes (Family Violence) Act 1987.

The Victorian Law Reform Commission has been asked by the Attorney General to conduct a review of the *Crimes (Family Violence) Act 1987*. It has been asked to “determine whether, among other things, differing approaches that have been taken to combating domestic violence, both nationally and internationally, have any lessons for Victoria”. (<http://www.lawreform.vic.gov.au>)

Defences to Homicide

The Victorian Law Reform Commission is undertaking a review of defences and partial excuses to

homicide. They are considering “issues ranging from how the law should treat women who kill in response to a prolonged history of violence, to the appropriate disposition for mentally impaired offenders”. (<http://www.lawreform.vic.gov.au>)

Women's Experience of Crime and Safety in Victoria - A Statistical Perspective

Crime Prevention Victoria (CPV) in partnership with the Women's Safety Strategy, has developed a booklet on *Women's Experience of Crime and Safety in Victoria*. This publication is drawn from Victoria Police data, current Local Safety Survey findings, Crime Victimization Surveys (1996 & 1999), and the ABS Women's Safety Survey (1996). It gives a current picture of recorded crime and perceptions of safety, as well as identifying gaps in data, and notes that domestic violence is often unreported. It is available through <http://www.crimeprevention.vic.gov.au>, under 'CPV Publications'.

Violence Against Women with Disabilities Project

The Violence Against Women with Disabilities Project is auspiced by the Domestic Violence Information & Resource Centre, and funded by the Department of Human Services (DHS). The project aims to create a partnership between disability services and services for women experiencing violence, in order to better address the needs of women with disabilities who are marginalised by the service system. (<http://www.dvirc.org.au>)

Productivity Cuts to the Sector

As we alerted in last year's report, the proposed productivity cuts to the sector continue to pose major concern.

Ongoing meetings and lobbying have been undertaken by the sector along with other peaks in an attempt to prevent the government from passing on Productivity Costs to the sector. As reported last year, this will effectively reduce DHS funding to services by 1.5% per annum. For an average funded women's refuge, this will mean a loss of approximately \$13,000 over three years. This is at the same time as other costs have and continue to rise. (Further exacerbated by the fact that DHS has ceased its allocation of one-off enhancement funds for such items as service replacement vehicles). The productivity factor has previously been absorbed or subsidised by the Victorian Government and it is now proposed that it is spread across the sector in a reduced percentage, with a productivity index proposal of 0.5%. This passing on of the productivity costs would be offset by the development of a Productivity Investment Fund with a starting point of \$2 million. This fund will attempt to secure and pass on government rates for the non-government organisation sector in a number of areas. At the time of writing this report it appears that the Victorian Government has conceded to not pass on these costs for the first year, but only because of Safety Net increases to the sector, not because it has retreated from its position on passing on the costs. We remind the government that the PAEC Parliamentary Inquiry conducted by KPMG reported that the community sector could not absorb any more funding reductions.

The Health Costs of Violence: Measuring the Burden of Disease Caused by Intimate Partner Violence

This important research was published by the Victorian Government in June 2004. As Dr Rob Moodie, CEO of the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation says, “the study is the first in the world to estimate the disease burden resulting from intimate partner violence”¹

The report begins by stating:

“Too often intimate partner violence is trivialised in our society as somehow being less serious than violence committed in other contexts: as a matter to be resolved in the privacy of the home. The finding of this study present a serious challenge to these views.

They demonstrate that intimate partner violence is all too common, has severe and persistent effects on women's physical and mental health and carries with it an enormous cost in terms of premature death and disability. Indeed it is responsible for more ill-health and premature death in Victorian women under the age of 45 than any other of the well-known risk factors, including

high blood pressure, obesity and smoking.”¹

We urge governments to take up the recommendations in the report and genuinely support services and communities to increase our efforts to appropriately address domestic and family violence against women and children in our communities.

¹(VicHealth (June 2004) *The health costs of violence: measuring the burden of disease caused by intimate partner violence*. Victorian Department of Human Services, Melbourne, p.9).

Western Australia

Kedy Kristal, Pat Giles Centre, Joondalup

This year has been a particularly tragic year for family homicides in Western Australia; eight women and one child have been murdered over the period, December 2003 to June 2004.

Roundtable

In April, the Women’s Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services, in conjunction with Giz Watson (MLC Greens), held a round table meeting at Parliament House to discuss with the government and non-government sector the issue of recent domestic homicides and the areas of high priority for future development.

The roundtable was attended by 30 delegates, and recommendations forwarded to the Minister Sheila McHale. The Minister has committed to acting immediately on two recommendations: 1) family violence training for magistrates/Judges and 2) developing across Government department assessment tools for domestic violence victims.

It is proposed that all of these recommendations be published widely and form the basis of the WCDFVS ‘report card’ each year on the progress of the government and non government sector to address family violence.

The Women’s Refuge Group is now known as the Women’s Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services (WCDFVS). This new model will retain a feminist perspective on family violence while seeking to broaden its membership base to include all family violence services in West Australia.

Research into costs of WA refuges

WCDFVS recently undertook research into the increasing cost refuges are experiencing that has resulted in several metropolitan refuges moving from being staffed 24 hours a day to reduced staff hours and providing a pager system at night.

WCDFVS’s key findings were:

- Refuge services are currently experiencing increased cost and increased client demand;
- Current funding levels are limiting the quality of service delivery;
- Refuge staff are committed to ensuring service standards for all clients but are constrained due to lack of funding;
- Refuge staff suffer from burnout due to pressure and constraints resulting from a lack of funding; and
- There is a need for more funding and resources towards outreach services and children’s services within refuges, as well as administration and cleaning costs.

Family and Domestic Violence Strategic Plan

The long awaited State Domestic Violence Plan, *A Balanced Approach: Prevention – Protection - Provision - WA Family and Domestic Violence Strategic Plan, 2004-08*, has just been released. The plan has yearly action strategies which are to be developed in conjunction with the non-government

sector. The Family Violence unit will coordinate the cross government commitments from each department and produce an annual checklist of what is achieved. The Family Violence Unit has responded to the Gay and Lesbian community concerns about same sex intimate violence with a small seeding grant to provide training to the government and non-government sector agencies who respond to family violence.

Revision of the Domestic Violence Restraining Order Legislation

The Department of Justice continues to be very proactive in the area of Family Violence and has developed a new Domestic Violence Restraining Order legislation that will:

- increase the penalties for assaults and breeches of restraining orders if children are present;
- enable police to issue Violence Restraining Orders (VROs) for 24/72 hours, without the consent of the person to be protected;
- increase police powers to enter a property if they have a reasonable suspicion that an act of domestic violence was committed prior to their arrival;
- increase the penalty for breeches of VRO to \$6,000, or imprisonment for 18 months, or both;
- remove the defence of consent to a charge of breaching a restraining order;
- provide for life-long restraining orders in cases of violent personal offence;
- broaden the definition of what constitutes domestic violence, to include property damage, injury and death of pets, and emotional abuse (the legislation does not define what emotional abuse is); and
- interim restraining orders will be held in a closed court. Affidavit evidence is to be accepted, the applicant may have a court approved support person near by and where respondents are not represented the court *may* make an order preventing the respondent from directly cross-examining a person with whom they have had a domestic relationship.

Family Court of Western Australia

The evaluation of the Columbus Project has not yet been released as a public document but the Court is indicating it plans to extend the case management, non adversarial approach to family court decisions on contact and residence where drug use and/or mental health factors are an issue with one or both parents.

From 1 July 2004, the Court introduced the Case Assessment conference format as the first 'event' all parties initiating matters in the family court will attend. The Case Assessment conference provides parties with an early opportunity to settle their dispute with the aid of a Registrar and/or court mediator/counsellor. Even if parties have a lawyer this conference will take place.

The conference will:

- provide for the opportunity to reach agreement;
- assess the main issues and facts, and where appropriate, recommend other services which might assist the parties to settle their dispute;
- where agreement is not reached, the Court will explain the next steps. This may include listing in the normal court system, referral to the Columbus Project or to Alternative Disputes Resolution process; and
- where family violence is a factor, the conference *may* be held in separate rooms.

The State Government is due to go to election early in the new year and the refuge sector and the Australian Services Union will be campaigning strongly for increased funding to increase the quality and range of services for all women and children experiencing family violence in the State.

Indigenous

Shirley Slann, North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Service, Mount Isa

Hello Everyone! It has been a busy year so far. I attended the WESNET face-to-face Meeting in Hobart in May this year. It was great to catch up with other State and Territory representatives.

May was a very busy month for Queensland. This year, the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Week was changed to the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month. This was excellent, however very busy. As a Domestic Violence Rural and Remote Resource Worker based in Mount Isa, I travelled with the Indigenous Families Support Unit to Boulia, Dajarra, Camooweal, Cloncurry, Mornington Island, Normanton, Doomadgee, Cherbourg and Burketown. We were able to visit every community in the North West. In each community, we followed the court circuit, held sausage sizzles, and held community awareness sessions on domestic and family violence and provided resources outside each court house. Large numbers of people attended.

I am also the North West representative for the Queensland Women's Health Network (QWHN). Betty McLellan (Chairperson, QWHN) and I travelled to Cherbourg to attend QWHN's Regional Forum in conjunction with Domestic and Family Violence Month, which was organised by Lillian Gray from Jundah Women's Shelter (Cherbourg). Lillian is also the South West representative for QWHN. The forum was well attended and it was great to have so many women share their stories and discuss the many issues affecting women's health.

The North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Service will be hosting a Domestic & Family Violence Conference over 24-25 October, 2004 in Mount Isa and will be focusing on Indigenous and Rural & Remote issues. The themes of the conference are *Silence Won't Stop the Violence – Learning what we need* and *Domestic and Family Violence in Rural & Remote Communities*.

In August 2004 I attended the face-to-face meeting for the Indigenous Reference group of the Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research, Central Queensland University in Mackay. It was great to catch up with other members of the group and to progress the outcomes of the *Which Way Now* forum that was held in Mackay on 4 May 2004. The Indigenous Reference Group face-to-face meeting coincided with a visit by visiting Associate Professor, Kalei Kanuha, from the School of Social Work, University of Hawaii. Associate Professor Kanuha's presentation titled *Ke Ala Lokahi (The pathway to Harmony): Using Native Hawaiian Cultural Values and Practices to Address Domestic Violence Among Hawaiian Men and Women*, was video-conferenced around Queensland and South Australia. It was an excellent presentation. The community of Mount Isa was lucky enough to have Professor Kanuha and Heather Nancarrow (Director of Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research) visit Mount Isa, observe Murrie Court and meet with non-Indigenous and Indigenous service providers and community members as well as the Chief Magistrate, His Honour Judge M.P. Irwin, and also Rachel Hunter (Director General of Department of Justice and Attorney General).

I would also like to acknowledge and pay my respects to Associate Professor Wendy Weeks who passed away suddenly this year. I met Wendy through my involvement with WESNET and found her to be an amazing and remarkable woman. Wendy was an active supporter for any issues facing Indigenous people and I found her most considerate and helpful. Wendy would from time to time send reports or any material she thought would be of interest to me as the Indigenous representative for WESNET. Since Wendy's passing, I have recently received another report, *The health costs of violence: measuring the burden of disease caused by intimate partner violence*, from the Mental Health and Wellbeing Unit of the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, stating that Wendy had supplied a list of names and addresses of prominent, active and committed women from across the globe, who have worked in the area of social justice and in particular, on issues relevant to violence perpetrated against women.

I would also like to acknowledge the many women who have worked endlessly, past and present to stop violence against women.

If anyone has any issues or would like me to know what is happening in their community, please contact me, as I would love to know what is happening in other communities.

non-English Speaking Background

Angela Nesci, Working Women's Health, Melbourne

The service provides health information through a series of six modules, covering a wide range of issues effecting women's health including reproductive health, occupational health and safety, stress and relaxation, mental health, and domestic violence. These sessions are run by bilingual/bicultural health educators in the preferred language of the women for women from NESB in factories and other workplaces and in the community – wherever women from NESB are gathered.

Women from around Australia met in Melbourne in December 2003 before the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA) Conference to discuss the representation (and lack thereof) of women from NESB on mainstream decision making bodies and ethnic bodies. The meeting also discussed FECCAs newly drafted women's policy.

National NESB Women's Group

Migrant Women's Lobby Group (SA) has received some funding to research the feasibility of a national body to represent the issues for women from culturally and linguistically diverse communities. The project is now in progress and the project worker has made contact with various women from NESB around Australia.

NESB representative on AFHO

Earlier this year I took part in the AFHO teleconference (in the absence of Maria Hagias). I also attended the AFHO meeting in Tasmania as one of the two WESNET representatives.

I attended the SAAP Data Sub-Committee meeting to listen to concerns around the omission of a question from the NDCA collection form regarding the cultural and linguistic background of the client. The justification of this omission, was that the data was not providing any usable information. We have long been concerned about the lack of data showing how many women in domestic violence are from a NESB and this action would again make ethnicity invisible.

The invisibility of women from NESB continues to be evident at conferences where they are seen as a 'special interest group' and are relegated to the concurrent workshops. Keynote speeches at conferences continue to neglect NESB, Indigenous, disabled, lesbian, young, and older women. It has been observed and often commented on, that only people who have a particular interest in a particular 'interest group' attends the 'particular interest' workshop and therefore speakers at these workshops are speaking to the 'converted'. I believe that while these groups are kept in the sidelines of all forums, they will continue to be marginalised in all discussions.

Audited Financial Statements 2003-04

Peter Irving & Co

Chartered Accountant

ABN 29109056314

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
WESNET (WOMEN'S SERVICES NETWORK) INCORPORATED

Scope

We have audited the financial statements of the association for the year ended 30 June 2004 being the Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flow and Notes to and forming part of the financial statements as set out on the following pages.

The association's committee are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information they contain. We have conducted an independent audit of those financial statements. Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with applicable accounting standards and statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the association's financial position and the results of its operations.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Qualifications:

1. The association, in common with many other similar organisations, derives a portion of its income from such sources as publication sales, memberships and other such types of income. As effective control over such transactions is not established until their initial entry into the accounting records, we have been unable to establish whether amounts receivable from these sources have been fully accounted for in the books of the association.

Qualified Audit Opinion

In our opinion, with the exception of the effect, if any, of the above qualifications on the financial statements, the financial statements are properly drawn up:

- (a) So as to give a true and fair view of matters required by subsection 72(2) of the Associations Incorporation Act to be dealt with in the accounts;
- (b) In accordance with the provisions of the Associations Incorporation Act; and
- (c) In accordance with applicable Accounting Standards.



PETER IRVING
Chartered Accountant
8 November 2004

83 - 101 Lysaght Street, Mitchell ACT 2911 PO Box 4, Mitchell ACT 2911
Telephone (02) 6241 6744 Facsimile (02) 6241 6581

CERTIFICATE FROM THE COMMITTEE

We, the undersigned, being two members of the Committee state on behalf of the Committee;

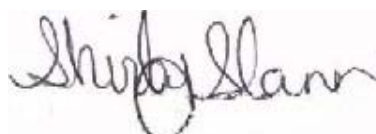
- (i) That the members of the Committee during the year ended 30 June, 2004 were;

Maria Hagias	Chairperson
Pauline Woodbridge	Secretary, Queensland Representative
Maxene Schulte	Treasurer, Northern Territory Representative
Shirley Slann	Executive Member, Indigenous Representative
Laura Klobucar	Australian Capital Territory Representative
Monica Mazzone	New South Wales Representative
Julie Oberin	Victorian Representative
Lynn Mills	South Australia Representative
Terri Francis	Tasmania Representative
Kedy Kristal	Western Australia Representative
Angela Nesci	NESB Representative
Anni Mather	Australian Capital Territory Representative Resigned February 2004
Cara Kirkwood	New South Wales Representative Resigned December 2003

- (ii) The principal activities of the association during the year have been those of a national non-party political independent organisation of women's services in Australia dealing with violence against women and related issues. WESNET is recognised as the national sector peak body by both the government and non-government sectors and has considerable expertise in the areas of policy development and the delivery of quality advice and information to government on issues impacting on women and children who have experienced domestic and family violence. WESNET promotes innovative models of practice and service delivery, undertakes community education, and conducts or facilitates research on the key issues around domestic and family violence and related issues for women and their children.
- (iii) The net surplus of the Association for the year ended 30 June, 2004 was \$12,836.
- (iv) In our opinion, the attached accounts show a true and fair view of the financial affairs of the Association as at 30 June 2004.



Committee Member



Committee Member

Dated at Canberra this 8th day of November 2004

CONSOLIDATED DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

INCOME	2004	2003
	\$	\$
Bank Interest	456	364
Memberships	29,764	12,381
Publication Sales	27	48
Other Income	603	3,241
Law Reform Campaign	1,135	2,190
AFHO Grant	0	6,600
PADV Grant	60,000	60,000
Unexpended PADV Grant	26,131	0
	<u>118,116</u>	<u>84,824</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Audit Fees	0	900
Bank Charges	273	344
Bookkeeping Fees	0	3,075
Depreciation	1,015	1,281
Family Law Reform Campaign	630	1,242
Grant Expenditure – AFHO	0	8,116
Grant Expenditure – PADV	74,667	33,869
Insurance	881	0
Postage	430	539
Printing & Stationery	939	1,020
Salaries & Wages	12,557	13,518
Subcontract Consultants	0	700
Subscriptions & Memberships	252	219
Sundry Expenses	112	356
Superannuation	1,120	1,171
Telephone	381	1,199
Travel	0	322
Insurance	559	165
	<u>93,816</u>	<u>68,036</u>
Unexpended PADV Grant carried forward	11,464	26,131
	<u>105,280</u>	<u>94,167</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	12,836	(9,343)
Accumulated funds brought forward	2,249	11,592
Accumulated funds carried forward	<u>15,085</u>	<u>2,249</u>

EXAMINING PROGRESS IN ACCOMMODATION AND OUTREACH OPTIONS
FOR WOMEN AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
2003-2004

INCOME	\$
Grant Received	60,000
Unexpended Grant Brought Forward	26,131
	<u>86,131</u>
EXPENDITURE	
Audit Fees	991
Coordinator Salary	3,547
Consultants	40,381
Postage	455
Printing & Production	874
Research Assistant	2,786
Stationery	424
Superannuation	319
Telephone	651
Teleconference	1,595
Venue Hire & Catering	218
Consultation Costs :	
ACT	858
NSW	807
NT	2,973
SA	1,887
TAS	1,296
WA	1,125
QLD	3,820
Travel	2,775
Travel for Face to Face	5,303
Overheads	1,582
	<u>74,667</u>
TRANSFERRED TO UNEXPENDED GRANTS	<u>11,464</u>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2004

	Note	2004 \$	2003 \$
MEMBERS FUNDS			
Accumulated Funds Brought Forward		2,249	11,592
Surplus/(Deficit) for year		12,836	(9,343)
		<u>15,085</u>	<u>2,249</u>
Represented by:			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at Bank	2	26,636	44,804
Prepayments		762	0
GST Recoverable		168	0
		<u>27,566</u>	<u>44,804</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant & Equipment	4	1,928	2,943
		<u>1,928</u>	<u>2,943</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>29,494</u>	<u>47,747</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Sundry Creditors		2,945	2,282
Superannuation Payable		0	385
Income in Advance		0	16,700
Unexpended Grants		11,464	26,131
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>14,409</u>	<u>45,498</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>15,085</u>	<u>2,249</u>

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Inflows of funds from operations			
Receipts		75,285	101,524
Payments		(93,453)	(75,859)
Net cash provided by operating activities	3	<u>(18,168)</u>	<u>25,665</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments for Property, plant and equipment		-	-
Net cash outgoings from investing activities		-	-
Net Incease / (Decrease) in Cash Held		(18,168)	25,665
Add Opening Cash Brought Forward		44,804	19,139
CASH AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	2	<u>26,636</u>	<u>44,804</u>

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS 30 JUNE 2004

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A summary of significant accounting policies adopted by the association is set out in this note.

This financial report which has been prepared in accordance with requirements of the A.C.T. Associations Act and includes applicable Accounting Standards and, unless stated otherwise, are consistent with those applied in the previous year.

- (a) These accounts have been prepared under the convention of historical cost accounting.
- (b) Fixed assets are amortised on a straight line basis or depreciated on a diminishing value or straight line basis over their useful lives.
- (c) The association is exempt from income tax under Section 23 (g) of the Income Tax Assessment Act. Consequently the principles of income tax effect accounting are not relevant.
- (d) For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes : cash on hand and at bank.

2. CASH RECONCILIATION

	2004	2003
	\$	\$
Commonwealth Bank Day to Day A/c	23,411	42,509
Westpac Operating A/c	1,685	822
CCTM Investment A/c	1,540	1,473
Total Cash at Bank	<u>26,636</u>	<u>44,804</u>

3. STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

(a) Reconciliation of Net (Deficit) / Surplus to the Net Cash Flows from Operations : -

Surplus/(Deficit) of income over expenditure for the year	12,836	(9,343)
Depreciation	1,015	1,281
Increase/(Decrease) in debtors and receivables	(930)	2,989
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors and accruals	(31,089)	30,738
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>(18,168)</u>	<u>25,665</u>

4. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

(a) Plant & Equipment

- at cost	8,127	10,430
- less accumulated depreciation	(7,307)	(8,988)
Written down value	<u>820</u>	<u>1,442</u>

(b) Furniture & Fittings

- at cost	4,474	4,950
- less accumulated depreciation	(3,366)	(3,449)
Written down value	<u>1,108</u>	<u>1,501</u>

TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT	<u>1,928</u>	<u>2,943</u>
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WESNET Financial Members

Full members

Albury Wodonga Women's Refuge, NSW
Alice Springs Women's Shelter, NT
Anne Summers, NSW
Annie North Women's Refuge, VIC
Armidale & District Women's Centre, NSW
Bankstown Women's Refuge & Resource Centre, NSW
Beryl Women's Refuge, ACT
Blue Gum, NSW
Bonnie Women's Refuge, NSW
Brisbane Domestic Violence Advocacy Service, QLD
Bundaberg & District Women's DV Service, QLD
Catherine Haven Women's Shelter, NSW
Catherine House, NT
Cawarra Women's Refuge, NSW
Central Eastern Domestic Violence Service (Dawn House)
Central West Women's Health Centre, NSW
Chisholm Inc, QLD
Crossroads Sunbury Accommodation Service, VIC
Dawn House Women's Shelter, NT
Delvena Women's and Kid's Shelter, NSW
Detour House Inc, NSW
Dolores Single Women's Refuge, NSW
Domestic Violence & Incest Resource Centre, VIC
Domestic Violence Crisis Service, SA
Doris Women's Refuge, ACT
Drug & Alcohol Women's Network, NSW
Dubbo Women's Housing Program, NSW
Dysart Community Support Group, QLD
Eastern Domestic Violence Outreach Service, VIC
Eastlakes Women's & Children's Refuge, NSW
Edith Edwards Women's Centre, NSW
Elizabeth Hoffman House, VIC
Elsie Women's Refuge Inc, NSW
Emma House Domestic Violence Services, VIC
Erin's Place Inc, NSW
Esperance Crisis Accommodation, WA
Essie Women's Refuge, NSW
Eyre Peninsula Women's & Children's Support Centre, SA
Gillian Mason-Johnson, NSW
Gipps Care DVOS, VIC
Goldfields Women's Health Care Centre, WA
Goulburn Valley Community Health Service, VIC
GOVE Crisis Accommodation, NT
Grafton Women's Refuge, NSW
Hastings Women and Children's Refuge, NSW
Hedland Women's Refuge, WA
Heira House, ACT
Immigrant Women's Speakout Association, NSW
Immigrant Women's Support Service, QLD
Indigenous Families Support Unit c/-West QLD ATSI Corporation for Legal Aid, QLD
Ipswich Women's Shelter, QLD
Jenny's Place, NSW
Jireh House Association, TAS
Joan Harrison Support Services for Women, NSW
Joan's Place Women's Refuge, VIC
Kangaroo Island Health Service, SA
Kara House, VIC
Karilya Young Womyn's Refuge, TAS
Katherine Women's Crisis Centre, NT
Kempsey Women's and Children's Service, NSW
Koolkuna Women's Refuge, WA
Kywong Women's Refuge, QLD
Laurel House (Northern Sexual Assault Group), TAS
Lillian's Medium Term Young Women's Accommodation Service, NSW
Lotus House Indo-Chinese Young Women's Refuge, NSW
Macleod Women's Refuge, QLD
Magnolia Place (Launceston Women's Shelter), TAS
Manly Warringah Women's Resource Centre, NSW
Manning Valley Neighbourhood Services, NSW
Marian Centre, NSW
Marian Community, VIC
Marian Villa Women's Refuge, NSW
Marnja Jarndu Women's Refuge, WA
Mary Anderson Lodge, VIC
Mary Smith Night Shelter, WA
McCombe House, TAS
Migrant Women's Support & Accommodation Service, SA
Molly's House, VIC
Molonglo Women's and Children's Services, NSW
Monaro Crisis Accommodation Service, NSW
Murrane Women's Housing, NSW
Nardine Wimmins Refuge, WA
National Council of Single Mothers & Their Children, SA
NESH Women's Scheme, NSW
Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council, NT
Ngala House (Moree Women's Refuge), NSW
North Queensland Combined Women's Services, QLD
North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Service, QLD
North Queensland Women's Legal Services Inc, QLD
Northern Domestic Violence Service (Berry Street), VIC
Northern Domestic Violence Service, SA
NSW Women's Refuge Referral & Resource Centre, NSW
Pam's Place Crisis Accommodation Resource and Referral Service, NSW
Pat Thomas Memorial Community House, WA
Patricia Giles Centre, WA
Pat's Place, VIC
Pendle Hill Crisis Centre, NSW
Relationships Australia, QLD
Rosa Shoalhaven Women's Refuge, NSW
Ruth Women's Shelter, QLD
Samaritan House, NSW
Sera's Women's Shelter, QLD
South East Regional Domestic Violence Services, SA
South West Women's Housing, NSW
St George Women's Housing, NSW
Starick Services Inc, WA
Stepping Out, NSW
Survivors, TAS
Susan Armstrong, NSW
Tennant Creek Women's Refuge, NT
Toora Women Inc, ACT
Tumut & District Women's Support & Housing, NSW
UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide - Domestic Violence Helpline, SA
Valerie House, VIC
Vinnie's EAP/Reconnect, NSW
Walgga Ngurra Women & Children's Refuge, NSW
Warrabee Women's Shelter, TAS
Western Domestic Violence Service, SA
Wimlah Refuge, NSW
Women's Domestic Violence Central Crisis Service, VIC
Women's House Shelta, QLD
Women's Housing Association Hunter Region, NSW
Women's Housing Association, SA
Women's Housing Company, NSW
Women's Housing Ltd, VIC
Women's Information and Referral Centre, QLD
Women's Place, VIC
Women's Refuge Group of WA
Women's Resource Information and Support Centre, VIC
Wonthella House, WA
Woorarra Inc, VIC
YWCA of Darwin, NT

Associate Members

Albany Women's Centre, WA
Alice's Cottages, NSW
Positivity Plus, VIC
Annie Kenney Young Women's Refuge, TAS
Armidale Women's Shelter, NSW
B Miles Women's Housing, NSW
Louise Lodge, QLD
Bathurst Women's Housing Program, NSW
Brenda House, VIC
Byanda/Nunyara, WA
Caboolture Regional Domestic Violence Service, QLD
Canberra Rape Crisis Centre, ACT
Caroline Chisolm Refuge, ACT
City Women's Hostel, NSW
Domestic Violence Service of Central Queensland, QLD
Elouera House, SA
Hanover Women's Service, VIC
Inner South Domestic Violence Service, VIC
Lismore Women and Children's Refuge, NSW
Jean's Place, NSW
Melinda Mayne, SA
Redlands Domestic Violence Service, QLD
Rockhampton Women's Shelter, QLD
Ruah Refuge, WA
Ruby Gaea - Darwin Centre Against Rape, NT
Sacred Heart Mission, VIC
Sexual Assault Support Service, TAS
Sisters Housing Enterprise, NSW
Stirling Women's Refuge, WA
Tanderra Women's and Children's Refuge, NSW
Tweed Shire Women's Service, NSW
Warrina Women & Children's Refuge, NSW
Women's Centre for Health Matters, ACT
Women's Health West, VIC
Women's Information Support & Housing in the North, VIC
Woy Woy Women's Refuge, NSW
Yoorana Women's DVRS, QLD
Young Women's & Children's Services Coalition, SA
Zonta House Refuge Association, WA