

# Partners in Prevention

## Evaluation Working Group

19 February 2009

Present: Jan Tracey (Gippsland Women's Health ),Kylie Murphy (RMIT), Liz Senior (EACH), Renee Imbesi (CASA House), Kiri Bear (DVRC)

Apologies: Claire Zara (WHGNE), Michael Flood (VicHealth/ LaTrobe Uni),

1. Introductions – aim of meeting is to deliver final results of needs analysis and develop action plan
2. Delivery of Needs Analysis Results
  - a. 4 extra people submitted surveys throughout January bringing the total responses to 13.
  - b. Discussion about push for 'evidence base' and criticism of this trend, particularly how 'evidence' is defined, a google search will turn up articles on the issue.
  - c. DHS is trialling new 'Community care' plan in Gippsland, will only fund health promotion activities that are 'evidence based' GWH is currently advocating to expand what is counted as 'evidence.'
  - d. Kylie spoke to coordinator of 'consumer science' at RMIT, her details will be circulated with next bulletin.**
  - e. Survey responses to questions 12 and 13 (asking what support workers' need and what they want from PiP) were grouped into three categories: mentoring, resources and professional development.
3. Action Plan Ideas
  - a. Kiri circulated a list of potential activities for discussion.
  - b. Training
    - i. Have evaluation workshops separate from PiP meetings but in close proximity so rural workers can do several things in one trip.
    - ii. Decision to offer first evaluation workshop after annual forum in May.
    - iii. Suggestions of people who could offer training: Sue Dyson (ARCSHS), Centre for Program Evaluation (Melb. Uni.), Cara Brough (independent consultant), Ben Smith (Monash Uni.)
    - iv. Possible gap in current training on offer = collation and analysis of data
    - v. Does PiP need to provide training on all of this?
      1. Workshops could be used to develop tools/resources.
      2. Important to give VAW prevention specialists opportunities to talk about specific evaluation issues relevant to them.
  - c. Resources
    - i. Evaluation guidelines for projects
      1. Could be developed through workshops with workers.
      2. Would be good to develop a position paper to respond to demand for 'evidence base'
      3. Can we make US CDC evaluation resource more widely available? Perhaps develop on or two page document based on this.
    - ii. Survey template
      1. Based on SSAFE resource
      2. Kiri to start collecting resources/audit tools from workers
      3. Jan has a survey she gives to teachers before she starts working with them
    - iii. Resources to be developed further down the track after training gives workers an opportunity to discuss issues in greater detail and develop shared understanding.

- d. Online discussion group
  - i. Concern about whether workers would use this, particularly because of time constraints and unfamiliarity with technology
- e. Mentoring
  - i. Important to have people to ring and 'chat' to about evaluation ideas who can advise for example on validity and rigour of evaluation plans.
  - ii. This is something that is not on offer elsewhere and could be of great benefit to workers.
  - iii. EWG to think about possible mentors for next EWG meeting e.g. post-grad students, trainers from eval workshops, academics.
  - iv. Kiri to develop position description for the role, mentors contact details not to be made public but held by Kiri and offered to workers who get in touch with her. Thus calls can be guaranteed to be less than 1 per week.
  - v. Discussion about whether EWG members might act as 'peer mentors' to others in the network but there were concerns about limited expertise in the group, some doubted their usefulness.
- f. Kiri to develop draft work plan for EWG based on these discussions – first priority is mentoring, then training with resource development to follow.

#### 4. Next Steps

- a. **Evaluation workshop linked to forum, to be discussed at next EWG meeting.**
- b. **Kiri to write position description for mentor role (half page including questions workers might ask).**
- c. **EWG members to raise possibility with potential mentors (where convenient) and prepare to generate list at next meeting.**
- d. **Kiri to email US Centre for Disease Control re: evaluation manual for primary intimate partner violence prevention projects. (Done)**
- e. **Kiri to update PiP website with evaluation training contacts from survey (after ascertaining what is being offered this year).**
- f. **Kiri to generate draft workplan for EWG based on discussion.**

**Next meeting early April.**