

Partners in Prevention Network Meeting

Wednesday 9 December 2009, 1.00-4.00pm, Queen Vic Women's Centre

Information sharing

- PiP network meeting dates for 2010 will be circulated by the end of the year
- Kiri will be taking a week off between Christmas and New Year and then available throughout January
- Kiri attended the first pilot of the VicHealth Short course on preventing violence against women, the course will continue to be piloted throughout the first half of 2010 and there are plans to make it publicly available from July
- The PiP Evaluation Working Group has just completed an Evaluation Tip Sheet to help guide workers' evaluation efforts. The Tip Sheet will be available in pdf format on the [Evaluation page](#) of the PiP website, please feel free to download, print or distribute it at will.

A Right to Respect: Victoria's plan to prevent violence against women

Lara Fergus, Office of Women's Policy

Lara's power point presentation will be added to the PiP website [network page](#)

Violence against women is serious and prevalent (see ppt for statistics). Whole of government has been involved in family violence/ sexual assault/ indigenous family violence reforms. This resulted in the integrated family violence initiative, increases in reporting of family violence and sexual assault/family violence law reform.

Primary prevention has developed in leaps and bounds over the last five years.

VicHealth framework:

- Ecological model
- Preventing violence *before* it occurs
- Identified a number of settings – education is a key one
- Identified population groups
- Proposed short, mid and long term outcomes

Family violence ministers endorsed the VicHealth framework and it became the foundation of 'A Right to Respect'

Indigenous violence prevention plan is being developed via a parallel process and due for release next year.

Worked to get buy in on the state plan from a broad range of government departments. Aims to embed PVAW in current work of government not just have a new/standalone policy.

(See ppt for information on settings approach)

Result = far more information that we could include in the plan (but the information will be used during implementation.)

Prevention is about changing hearts and minds, all the policy in the world won't change anything unless we have champions at the local level.

Need to put in resources to make processes accessible as the plan is implemented.

Questions –

Were there any sources of resistance to the development of the plan?

- Currently there is no template for whole of government approaches to particular issues, had to invent what they were doing
- Departments are siloed and don't have time or resources to focus on PVAW as an issue
- Had to demonstrate that PVAW is good for all work areas, a positive issue to take up

Steering structures – how do implementation plans for each setting look?

- Immediate actions are outlined in 'A right to respect'
- Setting plans include short, middle and long term actions
- Start with finding existing programs/activities/models
- Move on to applying those models elsewhere

How will the implementation of 'A right to respect' be funded?

- Can't comment at this time

Advocacy is absolutely essential:

- The plan needs a strong sector to support the work
- To hold government accountable
- To develop the conversation about good practice

Respectful Relationships Education in Schools

David Billimoria, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

RREiS is the culmination of 2 years work, partnership between DEECD and VicHealth

Building on two policy initiatives - 'A Right to Respect' and the 'Respect' agenda (responding to alcohol fuelled violence), as well as 'Working together to reduce family violence'

Needed to know what work was already happening in schools – VicHealth undertook scoping/research work. Interim report identified 7 criteria for good practice, final report refined these down to 5.

Programs in the interim report were initially grouped into 'good practice,' 'promising practice' and 'sessional' – this information will not be made public.

Consultation on the interim document identified the need for scaffolding – integrated curriculum and policy solutions for schools to address violence.

The final report built on this ground work and can be downloaded from the [DEECD student wellbeing website](#)

The DEECD's approach is about all forms of violence, not just VAW – bullying, alcohol fuelled violence, harassment.

Erika Turner, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

DEECD is planning a comprehensive and cohesive approach. Recognise that respectful learning environments are key to young people's learning. Early intervention is also important.

The National Community Attitudes Survey found that young people are more likely to hold attitudes that are supportive of violence compared with the general population.

Actions:

1. Reviewing the 'Safe schools are effective schools' policy, pulling together responses to all forms of violence.
2. Violence prevention demonstration projects
 - a. 'No regrets' project targeting alcohol fuelled violence has already been delivered by 'Step back, think'
 - b. Violence against women demonstration project, to be announced
3. Curriculum guidance, integration with VELs
4. Teacher professional learning opportunities
5. Evaluation of the strategies

Questions

Which schools will be involved in the demonstration project?

- That is yet to be decided, the DEECD is currently going through a process of selecting a partner organisation to work with
- They are committed to partnering with an organisation that has experience in working with gender and understands the theoretical background to VAW

Will there be additional resourcing for professional development?

- Professional development is a part of the overall strategy under 'A right to respect' and will happen in the future

Is there a plan for embedding this work and providing longer-term funding?

- It will depend on the outcome of the evaluation
- They are thinking about funding but can't comment at this time (see note at end of previous section)

How will gendered violence be addressed as distinct from the broader issue of violence/bullying?

- Schools are under a lot of pressure and so can't necessarily do a project for every issue
- Will be taking advice from the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority about how these issues can be integrated with existing school curriculum

What does the demonstration project mean for existing programs?

- The demonstration project is not intended to undermine or supersede existing projects in any way.
- DEECD is interested in taking a community development approach that recognises and builds on existing work in the field.

How will it build on expertise and local knowledge from the sector?

- Not planning a one size fits all model, there will be some flexibility, interested in hearing from current projects

Where should we direct people (particularly from schools) who are interested in this issue now?

- Watch this space, will depend on the outcome of the demonstration project
- Will be able to give a better answer in June/July of next year

Where can we put our energy to support the work that's taking place?

- Keep moving toward best practice, read the RREiS report and reflect on how your work can move closer to the recommendations.

Erika Turner is happy to answer further questions and can be contacted on 9637 2494 or email turner.erika.t@edumail.vic.gov.au