

Partners in Prevention

Network meeting notes Tuesday 11 May 2010

Update

- Announcement about federal relationships education funding was in the bulletin, one Victorian project targeting indigenous men.
- Good news about the state budget, demo project will get further funding, I have no further details at this time, but there is likely to be a fact sheet for stakeholders in the next couple of weeks.
- Forum will be 11 August, 'For better and worse: young people, technology and preventing violence against women' Suggestions for presentations:
 - Anastasia Powell as a keynote speaker
 - Erin Richardson speaking on the ICT report for the Statewide Steering Committee on Preventing Sexual Assault
 - Session on social media run by young people
 - Print out media articles relating to young people, violence and technology and display
 - Discussion on pros and cons of new media technologies
 - See what DEECD is doing about it, get a speaker on the guidelines

Information Sharing

Maree Crabbe, Reality and Risk, Brophy Youth and Family Services

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Project targets mainstream pornography and its impact on young people's perceptions of their sexuality and gender.

Maree worked on a healthy relationships program in schools for about ten years, noticed an increase in young people's use, exposure to and discussion of porn in that time.

Project has funding from four philanthropic organisations until August next year. There are two main components:

- Schools materials such as teaching notes, curriculum resources, school policy, and information/tools for engaging parents.
 - Initially planned to produce two kits, one for girls and one for boys, now planning to combine the two but maintain some single gender and some mixed classes.
 - Aim to integrate materials with existing curriculum resources within sexuality and respectful relationships education (eg Catching On, Talking Sexual Health are currently under review, Demo project is also producing curriculum resources)
 - Would also like to develop cross curricula activities for English, history, SOSE or biology classes
- Engaging with public discourse
 - Opening a conversation rather than polarising the audience
 - Development of a documentary to be screened on ABC or SBS television (early next year)
 - Production of media articles (eg opinion articles and letters to the editor)
 - Public speaking at various events

Recently interviewed 26 people for the documentary, in Australia and Budapest with plans to go to the USA later in the year.

- Interviewees included academics, porn stars, young people, teachers, police, porn directors
- Struggle to avoid being didactic and keep focus on open dialog (others commented that this is an issue for most prevention educators), Brendan offered a Ben Okri quote about 'passionate uncertainty'

Emma Price, Interstate Sexual Assault Prevention Program for Secondary Schools (SAPPSS), CASA House
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CASA House is running the SAPPSS program in Canberra in partnership with the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre, funded by the federal govt.

- The feds chose three schools for the project to work with (without regard to readiness or interest)
 - One year 7-10 bilingual (French and English) school where all classes and materials must be available in both languages
 - The boys' campus of Canberra Grammar
 - And a year 11/12 college
- Each of these settings provides challenges to the way the program has been run in Victoria.
 - For instance the SAPPSS program currently has no stand alone curriculum for year 11 or 12 and relies on young people having done the year 9/10 program to become peer educators.
 - Plan is to run the year 9/10 program for year 11 but allow students to self select, explain the situation to them and ask them for feedback on the relevance of the information to people of their age.
- Fortunately they have also been allowed to run the program in a Canberra school that has an existing relationship with Canberra Rape Crisis Centre and a commitment to sexual assault prevention. There the program has been a great success.

Emma also shared information about the No Means No show, there is a plan to run 2 boys' shows and 2 girls' shows in Canberra later in the year.

The production company for the No Means No show has received federal funding to run the show in regional Victoria and possibly interstate (if interested you'll need to confirm with them). The funding also covers the development of an interactive website and a version of the show for indigenous young people.

Evaluation of the No Means No Show indicates that young people enjoy the production but it doesn't shift attitudes and behaviours unless it's coupled with longer term interventions.

SAPPSS in Victoria

- Now running at Hume Central School
- Very large classes
- Open plan 'teaching spaces'
- Very different environment to the usual

Other resources

Love Bites DVD – features sexual assault scenarios involving 3 young women, available from NAPCAN
<http://www.napcan.org.au/love-bites> or phone Angela Walsh (02) 6584-4326

Gammin Love DVD an education resource (story of two indigenous sisters, one living with domestic violence and one who is raped at a party)– Emma Price spoke to this but we haven't been able to track down where it comes from.

Fiona Tinney, VicHealth

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Short course on Preventing Violence Against Women is being piloted in 6 local govt areas.

- 3 courses already delivered, Maribyrnong, Strathbogie and Darebin
- 3 courses to go Banyule, Yarra Ranges and Barwon
- If you live/work in any of these areas you may be able to attend the short course, get in touch with Sarah Posner at VicHealth to see if there are places available ph. 9667 1310
- Next steps for the short course will depend on state govt funding which is yet to be confirmed.

Rhonda Fitch, Be the Hero, Victoria Women's Trust

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The Victorian Women's Trust is a nongovernment philanthropic organisation that aims to help Victorian women and girls and also works in advocacy.

Over time developed an interest in working with men and boys to prevent violence against women

- Received VicHealth Respect and Responsibility phase 1 funding
- Continued on with some private donor assistance
- Developed '[Be the Hero](#)' website with group of young men from Northcote High

Teachers' kit is available on the website, program is designed for a small group of young men working with a male facilitator.

Evaluation of the program showed good results with mainstream groups of boys, was not effective for selected groups of students with behavioural issues. Have discovered that teachers need a long lead in time before they implement the program and that some need extra confidence to jump in and make use of the resource.

www.bethehero.com.au

Brendan Fitzgerald, 'This place nurtures good relationships,' LaTrobe University

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University based violence against women project, also received phase 1 funding from VicHealth, now funded through the university.

Working with uni students is different to secondary schools:

- Agency, students must volunteer to become involved in activities
- Thus the project looks at engaging existing organisations in the university community
- Invites groups to develop resources – college heads, sporting groups, special interest orgs.
- Football club wanted a 'winning culture'
 - Defined (with facilitator) as responsibility to each other and the club
 - Worked together to create a community atmosphere
 - Facilitator linked this back to intimate relationships
 - All teams won their premierships for the year
- Bendigo campus of LaTrobe made stubbie holders
 - "It's a lot of small decisions but date rape is horror in black and white"
 - Holders were developed by students and handed out to all new students
- Student leaders of residential colleges developed a postcard with a letter outlining their position on date rape and violence against women, given to all new residents

- Some groups came up with humorous text messages that they could send discretely to mates who were out of line or dodgy in their behaviour.

Brendan has developed lots of small, student-led initiatives with a variety of groups.

Currently working on a resource and writing up the project evaluation. Has developed templates for the posters and cards. Plan to release a kit in June, complex project, difficult to capture outcomes.

Showed short film, developed by LaTrobe students "Choices"

- Film needs to be shown in context of guided discussion, not publicly available
- Many young people get very angry watching it
- Linked with activity about 'illegal' vs 'dodgy' behaviour
- Would like to develop a version of 'choices' for young women ([Love Control](#) resource was mentioned)

Emma Wilkinson, Respect and Equity, Maribyrnong Council

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Aims to create a community where women can live free of violence and the fear of violence.

- Making prevention work everyone's business
- Integrating the determinants of violence into policy. Sample policies are available on the [LGPVAW website](#)
- Cultural change, white ribbon working group, meets once a month, made up of council staff, have produced t-shirts, posters etc, attend events
- Increase awareness in the broader community, developing region wide strategy with the PCPs (Primary Care Partnerships), considering a social marketing strategy.
- Wants to develop a gender lens for local government (suggestion to look at Mary Crook's book on Gender lens for philanthropic investment, on [VWT website](#))

Janelle Dymock, Promoting Peace in Families, Casey Council

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Project has now finished, it had federal crime prevention funding and won an Australian Crime Prevention award

- Worked with 16 faith communities
- Piloted their approach with 4 and then covered 8 in the second year
- Trained the faith leaders and then supported each community to run a 'family violence' month

Found that communities were ashamed and overwhelmed by the information they received about family violence

- In second phase of the project, prepared the communities better for this by letting them know they can help
- Communities really got that they were responsible for the safety of women and children
- However there were varying levels of confidence in responding

Janelle shared some great stories about how some of the church communities took responsibility for supporting women who are experiencing violence.

Everything is now on the website – can't download because orgs must have training before they use the program but can read. www.caseyconnect.net.au/promotingpeace

Mandy Stevens, Capacity Building Project Officer, Family Planning Victoria

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Mandy was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following information to be read out in her absence.

Sexuality and respectful relationships education is a compulsory component of the Victorian Essential Learning Standards. Family Planning Victoria is currently developing a model to build the capacity of Victorian schools to deliver effective learning programs in this area.

The model is based on evaluation learnings from the 'Bass Coast Project' which was a pilot program conducted over a number of regions in Victoria. An impact evaluation conducted by Deakin University found the professional development program created a profound shift in attitudes and confidence levels of teachers, and demonstrated the program had scope to be adapted as a model. An outcome evaluation in 2008-2009 (conducted by Deakin and Southern Cross universities) enabled us to evaluate the projects strengths and weaknesses and consider changes required to adapt the program as an effective model.

These findings are directing the development of our new model capacity building model. The model will facilitate a whole-of-school approach which includes:

- a mechanism for establishing school and community champions to drive the agenda for sexuality education in their school and region
- a two-day professional development program to support teachers and schools in implementing sexuality education in the classroom
- a resource kit which will include a base program for years 5-10 and all activities, handouts and assessment and reporting tools to support this program
- professional development for key community link staff to equip them to support schools
- follow-up professional development which includes a train-the-trainer component to equip teachers to provide in-service training to colleagues
- a peer mentoring network to provide ongoing support to teachers
- tools for allowing parent input into the sexuality education program (eg parent needs analysis).