District 9780 Rotary Conference
Maryborough: March 2015

Say NO to Family Violence: Our Journey

Garry Higgins
Maryborough SAFE Project
Where it started

- Club Visioning exercise
- Issue Identification with Stakeholders
  - Police
  - Go Goldfields
- Gaining members support
- Bringing in stakeholders and community members
Sobering statistics

• Overwhelmingly women and children are victims
• One woman killed each week by partner, or ex partner
• Leading cause of death and disability in women under 45
• Reported incidents: Our communities top leader board
#SayNO2FamilyViolence program

- Maryborough Rotary invest in a publicity and media consultant to refine work
- Bring together stakeholders to form action group
- Drive idea’s and initiatives
What's on offer

- Support
- Advice
- Facilitation
- Early intervention
Making it happen!

- Developed SAFE model
- #SayNo2FamilyViolence campaign
- VicPol: Men’s behaviour program
- Footy clubs spreading the message
- Pride of Workmanship scholarships
- ‘What would you do?’ awareness
- Workplace outreach programs
The Launch
Pride of Workmanship awards

- A focus on people who work with and address Family Violence
- Liz Albanese funded to study worlds best practice at Penn Green in the UK
- Runner up Dave Scott funded through district grant to become a “Men’s Behavioural Change” Facilitator
Wallet Cards and Posters
Good values, safe families... stronger communities

Abuse to children is when...
- you physically harm or threaten to harm them
- they hear or see violence directed towards their parent or sibling
- you excessively criticise, reject or withhold affection, praise or attention
- you use physical or social isolation as punishment
- you use them to get back at your partner and involve them in adult issues

A healthy relationship is when you are...
- paying thoughtful attention to your child
- being respectful and empathetic
- communicating with your child and listening to them
- prioritising individual time with your child
- encouraging your child
- trying to understand things from your child’s perspective

#SayNO2familyviolence
Maryborough Rotary Working for a SAFE Community

24 Hour Help Lines:
1800RESPECT or 1800 737 732
MensLine Australia: 1300 789 978
In an emergency call: 000

Maryborough Rotary Club

Silent abuse is when someone ...
- purposely breaks your possessions or property
- harasses you through other people
- deliberately ignores you
- unfairly controls your money
- isolates you
- keeps checking up on you
- uses children to control you

A healthy relationship is when you are ...
- treated with respect
- safe and never scared
- free to say no
- free to make your own choices
- free to see your friends and family when you want
- able to be yourself
- able to compromise, say sorry and talk arguments out

#SayNO2familyviolence
Speak up...
Family violence is hidden by silence

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Family violence can be ...
Physical, Emotional or Sexual

- You don’t have to be hit to be hurt
- It can involve partners, parents, children, siblings, extended family, carers and past intimate relationships.
- It occurs when someone harms you, controls you or makes you feel afraid
- Just being exposed to family violence is damaging

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#SayNO2familyviolence
A packed house attended
#SayNO2FamilyViolence
Footy Round
Sunday 17th August 2014
Elephant in the room
By Stander Training and “What would you do?” series

- 400 places for local businesses to train staff
- Focus on supporting employee’s experiencing Family Violence
Introduction to the Prevention of Domestic Violence Policy
Wide range of Community Support

- Huge thanks to (in no particular order)
  - Go Goldfields
  - Maryborough Police
  - NAB Maryborough Branch
  - MCDFNL
    - MEC and Highview College
    - Zonta Club of Maryborough
    - And many more
What has Maryborough Rotary Accomplished?

- We’ve started the conversation
- We’ve influenced local government and services decision making
- Go Goldfields to establish a Family Violence project in shire with a dedicated worker
- Raised awareness of issue in community
- We’ve seen reporting go up (both primary and third party)
- There has been an increase in recidivism
Rotary’s voice in the community

- We are strong
- We are respected
- We can influence decision making
- We can advocate for change
- We can lead by example
- We can have the conversations others fear to have
What can you do?

Everyone has a role to play

Name three ideas that you could initiate in your community...