

#SayNO2familyviolence Report - November, 2018

So much has happened in our Club's #SayNO2familyviolence project since our last major report in January of this year.

As part of our "awareness phase" we continue to erect signs at prominent locations within our community to further highlight our campaign.

Our most significant project was our "Legal Forum" which was conducted at the Highland Society. Over 100 people attended the Forum to hear a panel of very distinguished speakers. Evaluations at the Forum found that we had achieved a 100% brand recognition of the #; quite an achievement.

We take the opportunity to thank our partners in The Rotary Club of Melbourne, GoGoldfields, The Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Committee, The Centre for Nonviolence and ARC ventures.

The whole proceedings were recorded and are available on our website. **I recommend that members who were unable to attend, take the time to view the proceedings as they give a real insight into the drivers of family violence and the complexities and frustrations that those working in the field have to deal with.**

We published a four page lift out covering all the projects that had been conducted by our Club in Maryborough and as luck would have it, it came out on the same day as our legal forum. Our working group were quite surprised to see the comprehensive body of work that we had achieved. We take the opportunity to thank the Maryborough Advertiser for their ongoing support.

Again, if members have yet to read this lift out, I encourage them to go to our website.

As a community we are seeing the outcomes of our sometimes, frustrating and challenging efforts to address the consequences of family violence.

Our Maryborough District Health Service has established a Governance Board as part of its "hospitals response to family violence". We have a seat at the "table" along with Vicpol, GoGoldfields, Centre for nonviolence, service providers and MDHS staff.

Our Health service is the only service in Victoria that has this program and at the recent Victorian Community Health Awards received the Secretary's Special Commendation for its work in this field.

We have also seen the appointment of two family violence support workers through CNV, who are located at the Hospital and also do work at our Children's centre and the Police station.

In addition we have seen the "Tipping the scales" project continue to provide legal support to victims of family violence and as recently as this month, have seen the appointment of an additional two support workers who will be located in Maryborough.

These are great achievements in which our Project has played a major role. These services and programs didn't exist a couple of years ago and through collaboration with other groups in our community, we will continue to make a major contribution to improving local services to women and children victims of family violence.

We are still working on our #SayNo website in conjunction with the Rotary Clubs in Portland and Horsham. Portland has their site up and running and we are planning that our site will be operational before Christmas. Our site will be the primary site, and we are awaiting a risk assessment from the Loddon Campaspe legal service and the Centre for Nonviolence.

We are now moving into the "preventative stage" of the Campaign and members will see some changes in activities in programs.

Although we will continue to promote the "# brand" we will be focusing on issues that we hope will prevent family violence from happening in the first place.

The first area that we will be addressing is “institutional change” where we will be focusing on encouraging local major employees to develop policies and procedures to address family violence. We will be conducting a forum on December 4th as part of the “16 days of activism” campaign and already we have commitments from Central Goldfields Council, MDHS, Havilah, SONIC and Coliban Water.

We will also be promoting and reinforcing the drivers of family violence based around gender equity and respectful relationships.

Our Club has just received an announcement from Minister for Education, Dan Teehan, that we have received a National Volunteer Award which will be presented in Ararat on the 22 of November.

The good news keeps coming, as we have just received confirmation of ongoing funding from GoGoldfields for Raelene Williams position to resource our Rotary group to implement the “Community Pillar” aspect of the GoGoldfields Family Violence Action Group.

Recently we conducted our fourth Harness Racing awareness day in conjunction with the Maryborough Harness racing club. The “reach” that this event has to a global male audience is quite amazing in being able to start the conversation around family violence. The event was a financial success with approximately \$3400 being made on the day. Many thanks to Les Chapman from HRM as well as the many sponsors and supporters of the day.

I take this opportunity to thank our Club for the support they have shown towards this project which continues to be an innovator in addressing family violence in our community. More specifically, can I thank members of our working group in Rotarians. Chris Frahn, Bob Butterfield, Thea Allan, Martin McKay, Graeme Rogan and Anthony Ohlson and Raelene Williams who has been so instrumental with her administration services.