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ABN 19 633 403 991 INCORPORATION NO. A00091730

The **No excuse for family violence** is an initiative of the Victorian Arabic Social Services (VASS) which is funded by the National Community Crime Prevention Programme (NCCPP). The NCCPP has provided \$150,000 for a three year timeframe, 2007-2010.

The project aims to inform, assist and support families of an Arabic Speaking Background (ASB) to understand, avoid and resolve family violence in a culturally sensitive and the use of an appropriate framework.

The project aims to establish partnership arrangement with other key service providers to ensure on-going benefits to the community. The project covers ASB communities residing in the municipality of Hume, Darebin, Greater Dandenong and Hobson's Bay.

The project will assist ASB communities by:

- Raising awareness of what constitutes violence in Australia, the way it is understood and dealt with in Australia
- Increasing awareness of the law and legal system as it relates to family violence
- Increase awareness of the available services and networks that families can draw on for support and in time of crisis
- Increasing competence and skills to better cope and deal with pressures and conflicts
- Lessen the incidence of family violence
- Minimise risks that expose families to violence
- Develop partnerships between VASS and other support services to ensure sustainable outcomes
- Creating a more sensitised and competent mainstream service sector, better able to meet the needs of ASB families affected by violence
- Reinforcing a positive message of leading healthy, active and crime-free lifestyles

## SUMMARY OF OVERALL ACHIEVEMENTS 2007 – 2009/10

- The ‘No excuse for family violence’ project designed, translated, printed and distributed over **2000** brochures to clients, service providers, community leaders, local governments, members of the Arabic Speaking Background communities and the wider community. Distribution includes hardcopy handouts and electronic versions sent through emails, displayed in websites, and voiced over community radio station programs.
- The project supported, assisted and referred **150-200** clients that were either affected primarily by family violence or was expressed as one of the issues among family violence risk factors such as unemployment, drug and alcohol abuse and gambling.
- More than **100** people were trained in family violence awareness, some were accredited with certificates after intense training others attended information sessions and learnt about violence, victimisation, offenders, effects, intervention orders and available services. Participants then become a strong mechanism in spreading the message that violence in and outside the household is not okay and a crime in Australia.
- Assisted over **50** young and middle aged men on community correction orders who have anger management issues and have perpetrated violence towards members of their families especially their wives and children.
- Over **3000** people living in and around metropolitan Melbourne especially in the municipality of Hume, South Eastern and Western Melbourne were informed about the project through the distribution of resources, media awareness in community radio stations, the VASS Annual General Meeting, community events and festivals and word of mouth which is a very popular way to increase awareness of an issue, project and/or available services.
- In summary the ‘No excuse for family violence’ has affected **1000’s**, directly and indirectly and will leave a lasting impression on the targeted community and mainstream society as a whole.

## CONTINUING TO SUPPORT CLIENTS

The Victorian Arabic Social Services will continue to support victims of family violence as it remains a common issue that clients disclose when accessing the service. The organisation will apply for further funding in order to support staff members and provide adequate resources to better cater for the clients. In addition the Victorian Arabic Social Services will continue to work alongside other community agencies through referrals, cross-cultural training sessions and seminars to pave the way forward.

The organisation will also be working on producing an Arabic Resource Booklet to assist community members in contacting family violence services. The resource booklet will have the contact details of ethnic and mainstream service providers and information about family violence. The manual will be printed in Arabic and English to reach a large number of the population living in the Northern, Western and South Eastern suburbs of Melbourne. The

organisation will aim to produce this booklet before the end of 2010. The organisation has already produced an Arabic Directory which list services that members of the community can access in relation to family violence but something more comprehensive will be produced specifically for the subject matter.

For more information please contact VASS on (03) 9309 0055 or [mail@vass.org.au](mailto:mail@vass.org.au)



*We choose the butterfly to symbolise life and rebirth after  
the cocoon of family violence*

*We choose the colour purple because it is associated with the  
women's advancement*

*Advocating for equality and fairness*