

DVRCV

Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria

ANNUAL REPORT 2008-09



promoting respect

preventing violence

educating the community

inspiring good practice



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report from the chair

It has been another busy year at DVRCV and as always it has been a pleasure to serve on the management collective. As a community representative it is inspiring to work with such dedicated staff. The management collective is a group of people from all sections of the community united in a common cause to keep women and children safer in their homes. Some of the women on it have worked or volunteered for the organisation for 20 years and some for two months, which gives a nice mix of stability, a sense of history and new ideas. With this mix, this year has seen us move to being proactive, looking for new opportunities and challenges while remaining reflective of the past. A balance is needed to keep community organisations afloat particularly during the global financial crisis.

A highlight for the year would have to be moving closer to changing our governance structure. This will be finalised in the next few months so watch this space. Prevention has become a real focus with the Partners in Prevention project. On the training side, the Common Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework training has been an enormous amount of work, and both new and existing staff have pulled together to deliver a high quality product. Our advocacy work, particularly in the law area, culminated in a joint forum to introduce the *Family Violence Protection Act 2008*.

Our focus on disability over the last few years has now been translated into working with other organisations. Regrettably, after seven years our string of philanthropic grants for disability projects came to an end and we finally said farewell and thank you to our project worker Chris Jennings. The organisation has grown and changed as a result of Chris's persistent advocacy around disability issues both internally and externally. We are delighted that the Victorian Women with Disabilities Network now has an ongoing position for a family violence policy officer and look forward to ongoing work with the Network.

Family violence has been on the policy agenda and in the media, particularly in relation to the premise of shared parenting in family law and the new focus on mediation. DVRCV has had an active voice in this debate. We need to maintain this voice as we move into the next year as there are many challenges to protecting women and children from violence. Let us hope that the ongoing training of professionals, the review of the family law shared parenting arrangements, and the implementation of *Time for Action: The National Council's Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children* will ensure that when women and children come in contact with the legal and health systems they are supported and believed.

Thank you to all who spend their time attempting to prevent and ameliorate the effects of domestic violence on Victorian families. DVRCV is an organisation to be proud of in 2009.

Kelsey Hegarty
Chair

who's who at dvrcv

Community representatives on the management collective

As an incorporated association DVRCV must have a governing body made up of volunteer representatives from the community. The women in our management collective have taken on the responsibility to guide the organisation and make higher level decisions for its governance. They are drawn to this work by their determination to end family violence, and many of them also do related work in their professional lives. DVRCV owes them a huge debt, as the service's survival depends on their vigilance and the skills they so generously contribute. The following women were members for all or part of the year:

Kelsey Hegarty (chair), Deb Davison (chair), Suzie Nesbitt, Deb Bryant, Felicity Rorke, Renee Imbesi Jen Scantlebury, Leanne Abela

Staff

During 2008–2009 the following people worked at DVRCV:

Alice Bailey	Trainer
Kiri Bear	Project Worker, Partners in Prevention
Debrah Clinch	Trainer
Marianna Codognotto	Trainer
Jan Cooper	Reception Information Worker
Marj Costa	Cleaner
Libby Eltringham	Community Legal Worker
Ellen Fish	Publications Worker
Virginia Geddes	Centre Coordinator
Aggie Gioftidis	Reception Information Worker
Janet Hall	Finance Worker
Mardi Harrington	Reception Information Worker
Chris Jennings	Violence and Women with Disabilities Project
Vida Luimaite	Trainer
Mandy McKenzie	Websites and Publications Coordinator
Louise Morphett	Trainer
Belinda Morris	Publications Worker
Yvonne Pilley	Reception Information Worker
Priscilla Salloum	Office Coordinator
Margot Scott	Training Coordinator/Trainer
Delanie Woodlock	Library Worker
Lorraine Yeomans	Training Coordinator

Vale Marj

Marj Costa, who had been our cleaner for 20 years, passed away in June 2009, a few months after retiring. Marj was a much-loved member of our organisation who cleaned and shopped for us, did the DVRCV washing, attended to our plants, provided advice and comment on range of topics and continued to visit after her retirement. We all enjoyed Marj's company and miss her very much.



information and referral service: connecting survivors to services

DVRCV provides support and information for those affected by domestic violence, consultation for professionals and information for other members of the community.

In 2008–09, DVRCV recorded over five thousand contacts by phone, email, fax, mail and in person.

The nature of these requests involved:

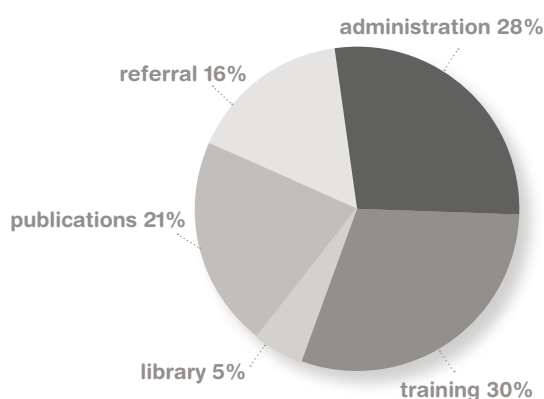
- Personal (often crisis) support, options and referrals
- Worker consultations and training
- Publications orders and website queries
- Library use and research assistance
- Media comment
- Advocacy and policy advice

Increasingly, people are contacting us via email. Direct requests for assistance and support (locally and from around Australia and overseas) are flowing in as a result of the high quality and relevance of the information available on our websites.

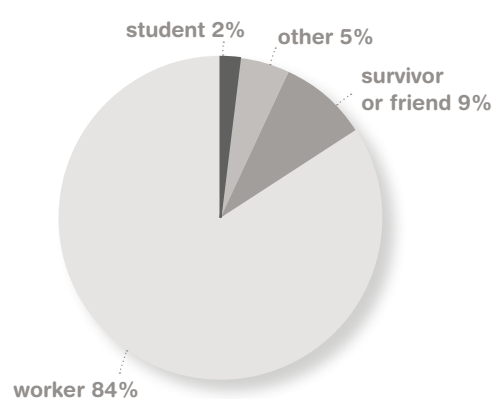
Victims of violence (predominantly women) contact DVRCV with a range of needs. Some are in crisis or danger, others seek clarification about past or present experiences of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. The DVRCV Information Workers validate and support all callers and acknowledge the great courage it has taken to contact us. Most of our referrals are to Domestic Violence Outreach Services, Centres Against Sexual Assault, the Women's Legal Service, Women's Domestic Violence Crisis Service, Immigrant Women's Domestic Violence Service, support groups and regional services throughout Victoria.

This year we have also seen a large increase in demand for our publications and resources from, for instance, Maternal and Child Health Nurses who have attended DVRCV training sessions, and from workers in primary and secondary schools seeking to support and educate young people about violence and respectful relationships.

Nature of Contacts



Contacts from



professional training: promoting good practice

DVRCV is Victoria's major provider of training on family violence. We provide accredited training and professional development programs for family violence workers and a broad range of other professionals.

Our training work in 2008–09: A SNAPSHOT

- DVRCV trained 1,490 people in family violence risk assessment
- Over five hundred professionals undertook our other training courses on a range of topics
- Over one hundred people received training in family violence and working with women with disabilities

The training team had another busy year which included the development and delivery of training for the Victorian government's Common Risk Assessment Framework (CRAF) and for the newly introduced *Family Violence Protection Act 2008*.

Demand for training remained high especially for the four-day program *Introduction to Domestic Violence (IDV)*. Additional funds were received from Department of Human Services in 2009 to deliver two additional IDV programs in an effort to clear the waiting list for this course.

DVRCV collaborated with Women's Legal Service to deliver *Domestic Violence and the Family Law Act* and *Case Notes, Domestic Violence and the Law*. Both these programs were well attended and were rated highly by participants.

DVRCV worked with Seniors' Rights Victoria and CASA House to develop and deliver *Responding to the Abuse of Older People*. This program brought together participants from both the domestic violence and disability fields and enabled them to learn about each other's work and to build networks. Of particular interest to the disability workers was the section on risk assessment.

DVRCV, in consortium with Swinburne University of Technology and No To Violence, again delivered the 11-day program *Integrated Pathways*. This program delivers nationally accredited units covering domestic violence and issues of case management and disability.

Also in consortium with Swinburne, DVRCV completed two-day training programs for Phase 2 of the *Women with a Disability and Family Violence Learning Program 2008* with funding provided by the Department of Human Services (DHS). The purpose of the program was to provide workers in both the disability and family violence sectors with the skills and knowledge to support women with a disability who are experiencing family violence. The program was conducted in six DHS regions.

This year we said farewell to two DVRCV trainers, Allie Bailey and Donna Zander, who both made valuable contributions to the training provided by the Centre. Allie's passion was the need for changes to the Family Law Act, while Donna's focus was on responding to children and young people affected by violence. During this year, Margot Scott's desire to concentrate on a training role was achieved and a new training coordinator, Lorraine Yeomans, was employed in February 2009. Margot provided guidance and leadership in her role as Training Coordinator and we thank her for her commitment to this role and for the groundbreaking work she has done in family violence training. We also welcomed three new trainers in August 2008: Marianna Codognotto, Vida Luimaite and Louise Morphet.



The Family Violence Protection Act 2008 training

FORUM

On 24 November 2008, DVRCV and DHS launched the new Family Violence Protection Act 2008 at a forum attended by more than 800 domestic violence, community legal and community service workers. The forum provided an opportunity to hear about the history of the reforms, what the changes entail, and implications of the Act for workers in supporting women to access protection through the courts.

Training

DVRCV and Women's Legal Service developed a two-day training program to provide additional information about the new *Family Violence Protection Act 2008* and how community workers can support women applying for Intervention Orders through the Magistrates Court. The Department of Human Services provided the funds to develop and deliver this program, and following the success of the first two programs, DHS has provided funding for an additional five programs in 2009/10.

Leadership and Women with Disabilities: Capacity Building in Violence Prevention

As part of the *Leadership and Women with Disabilities: Capacity Building in Violence Prevention project*, women with disabilities were invited to attend a two-day workshop to develop training and presentation skills to strengthen the voice of women with disabilities in violence prevention. A further workshop for this group is planned for the second half of 2009.

Comments from DVRCV training participants:

I've been very impressed with the attitudes, knowledge and skills in delivering the training. The trainers are very professional in their approach, worked well as a team and in facilitating reflection and understanding. Good quality and excellent value training. (Introduction to Domestic Violence training, June 2009)

Excellent course – detail of the legislation was well explored and we were stepped through the sections in logical sequence. (Family Violence Prevention Act training, March 2009)

Found the course very helpful and would recommend my colleagues to attend the course. (Responding to the Abuse of Older People, June 2009)

Training Programs Delivered

2008

MONTH	MODULE	DAYS	LOCATION	PARTICIPANTS
July	Recognise and Respond to Domestic and Family Violence	3	Broadmeadows	20
	Responding to Family Violence	1	Bendigo	16
August	Groupwork for Parents of Adolescents who are Abusive in the Home	2	Stawell	16
	Children and Family Violence	1	Castlemaine	16
	Responding to Family Violence	1	Melbourne	22
	Young People and Family Violence – Faith Community	2	City of Casey	20
	Family Violence and Mediation	1	CBD	16

September	Domestic Violence and the Family Law Act	2	Melbourne	22
	Introduction to Domestic Violence	4	Melbourne	25
October	Domestic Violence and the Family Law Act	2	Stawell	11
	Introduction to Domestic Violence	4	Melbourne	28
November	Case Notes, Domestic Violence and the Law	2	Melbourne	18

2009

MONTH	MODULE	DAYS	LOCATION	PARTICIPANTS
February	Introduction to Domestic Violence	4	Melbourne	22
	Case Notes, Domestic Violence and the Law	2	Melbourne	22
	Domestic Violence and the Family Law Act	2	Melbourne	22
March	Responding to Family Violence	1	Mitcham	12
	Working with Adolescents who are Abusive in the Home	1	Melbourne	23
	Family Violence Protection Act 2008	2	Melbourne	21
April	Responding to Family Violence	1	Melbourne	18
	Case Notes, Domestic Violence and the Law	2	Benalla	19
	Professional Support for Family Violence Community Educators and Trainers	0.5	Colac	8
April/May	Train the Trainer for Women with Disabilities	2	Melbourne	6
May	Introduction to Domestic Violence	4	Melbourne	20
	Family Violence Protection Act 2008	2	Melbourne	17
May/June	Integrated Pathways – 3 accredited units	4	Melbourne	19
	Introduction to Domestic Violence	4	Melbourne	19
	Integrated Pathways – 3 accredited units	4	Melbourne	12
June	Responding to the Abuse of Older People	1	Melbourne	19
	Domestic Violence and the Family Law Act	2	Melbourne	15
	Case Notes, Domestic Violence and the Law	2	Bairnsdale	26



Family Violence and Women with Disabilities Project

2008

MONTH	MODULE	DAYS	LOCATION	PARTICIPANTS
July/August	Family Violence and Women with Disabilities	2	Geelong	12
	Family Violence and Women with Disabilities	2	Bendigo	16
August	Family Violence and Women with Disabilities	2	Eastern Metro	17
August & September	Family Violence and Women with Disabilities	2	Western Metro	16
August & October	Family Violence and Women with Disabilities	2	Grampians	16
	Family Violence and Women with Disabilities	2	Traralgon	16
September & October	Family Violence and Women with Disabilities	2	Preston	20

Forums

2008

MONTH	MODULE	DAYS	LOCATION	PARTICIPANTS
July	Staying Awake: Putting Sleep on the Domestic Violence Agenda	0.5	Melbourne	51
November	Family Violence Protection Act 2008 Forum	0.5	Melbourne	811

Common Risk Assessment Framework (CRAF) training

A consortium of DVRCV, Swinburne University of Technology and No To Violence was contracted by the Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) to develop and deliver this training. It aims to build capacity and consistency across the workforce in risk assessment and risk management practice to enhance the safety of women and children experiencing violence. The training is an integral part of the Victorian family violence system reform agenda.

The CRAF project kept the trainers exceptionally busy during the year. DVRCV had the major role in developing training materials, including the training DVD, handbooks and trainer's guides, and at times the project placed high pressure on the training team and across the organisation.

DVRCV was responsible for producing the training DVD *Family Violence Risk Assessment: Working Together*, which was the first time we had undertaken such a project. Although this was challenging and required extensive consultation, engaging film-makers, planning the script, negotiating content with government departments, and recruitment of workers and survivors who appeared in the DVD, the final product was an extremely professional training DVD. Nancy Corbett provided initial script outline and suggestions as well as course materials. Donna Swan was employed to write the script and we thank her for contributions, which went well beyond the scope of her contract. DVRCV also acknowledges the contributions of Rebel Films who produced the DVD.

The DPCD provided additional funds for captioning the DVD, making it more accessible for a range of participants at training.

Training was rolled out in regions, and training schedules were negotiated through the Family Violence Regional Integration Coordinators. A *Train the Trainer* program was provided in each region, so that regions were then able to plan their own *Identifying Family Violence* sessions for a range of other community groups.

Training was also tailored for Magistrates Court registrars and maternal and child health nurses (MCHN). All MCHNs participated in CRAF training as part of their 'Key Ages and Stages' framework.

Evaluations from the CRAF training showed that the training was consistently highly regarded and participants reported an increase in confidence, knowledge and skills in family violence risk assessment. Overall it has been an extremely successful project and has demonstrated the capacity and expertise of DVRCV.

Common Risk Assessment Framework training delivery involving DVRCV trainers

Training Category	2008		2009		TOTAL 2008/09	
	Participants	Sessions	Participants	Sessions	Participants	Sessions
Comprehensive	23	2	256	18	279	20
Comprehensive and Train the Trainer	64	5 x 2 days	50	3 x 2 days	114	8 x 2 days
Preliminary	40	2	326	21	366	23
Maternal Child Health Nurses	117	6	339	24	456	30
Court Registrars	275	6 x 2 days			275	6 x 2 days
Totals	519	21	971	66	1490	87

publications: online and in print



DVRCV produces publications in print and electronic formats, including pamphlets, posters, newsletters, stickers, websites and Discussion Papers.

Exploring new opportunities

In 2008–09 the Publications Team decided to take stock of our publications and review our communications strategies. Our printed publications are still in high demand, and we continue to update and reprint pamphlets that were originally developed some years ago. But with the explosion of digital and online communications, there are new opportunities to reach a greater number of people.

We consulted with Bloom Partners, who generously shared their expertise in publishing and communications, as part of our review. As a result, we decided to seek feedback from those who use our publications and websites, and to further explore print and online publishing opportunities. In 2009/10 we will engage communications consultants to develop and implement our strategy.

Print and electronic newsletters

The *DVRCV Quarterly* is our newsletter/journal and has a distribution of over one thousand people, predominantly workers within the community sector. It contains feature articles, sector updates, and project overviews, as well as details of upcoming forums, initiatives, and general items of interest. The *Quarterly* also provides a listing of support groups in Victoria, which is used by many other services looking for groups to refer women and children to.

Editions of the *Quarterly* this year have contained articles on a range of topics, including:

- Violence against Women after Natural Disasters
- Adolescent Violence to Parents
- Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse
- *The Family Violence Protection Act 2008*
- Tenancy Laws
- Reflections on the Domestic Homicide of Julie Ramage

Most of the articles are now on DVRCV's website and, on average, are downloaded over one hundred times per month.

The Vine, DVRCV's email newsletter, was distributed to almost two thousand people every quarter. It provides updates on the latest publications, policy initiatives and upcoming events.

Pamphlets, booklets and other information

DVRCV assists members of the community to identify, and deal with, domestic violence and abuse via our booklets, posters, pamphlets and cards. On average, DVRCV receives over eighty orders per month.

In 2008-09 our most popular items were:

The Relationships booklet. Our booklet for young people on love, respect and abuse is ordered in large quantities by schools and youth services. This year we distributed approximately twelve thousand copies.

Are You Happy? Our wallet-sized card that assists people to identify the warning signs of abuse is in high demand with over nine thousand being distributed.

Something Not Right At Home? We distributed approximately seven thousand copies of this colourful 16-page booklet, which helps teenagers deal with family violence and child abuse.

Discussion Papers

DVRCV's Discussion Paper series aims to provoke debate and discussion of current issues in the field.

This year DVRCV researched and wrote a new discussion paper titled *"Bad Mothers and Invisible Fathers": Parenting in the Context of Family Violence*.

This paper argues that good parenting, rather than good mothering, should be placed at the centre of attention when decisions are being made about where a child's best interests lie in the context of domestic violence. The paper questions why the fathering role is not subjected to the same level of scrutiny as the mothering role in such cases. It explores the research on the ways in which domestic violence undermines the mother-child relationship and affects women's parenting. It also reviews the small amount of research available on violent men as fathers. The discussion paper will be published in late 2009.

Meanwhile, our previous discussion paper, *Behind Closed Doors: Family Dispute Resolution and Family Violence* (2007) is still in high demand. It was downloaded one thousand times each month from our website.

Our websites: Support and information online

DVRCV was one of the first Victorian community organisations to adopt web technologies, and our website, which went online ten years ago, has a well-established audience. We now have significant web traffic and expertise in providing accessible online support and education.

A summary of our websites in 2008–09:

- **DVRCV's website www.dvrcv.org.au:** the site provides information about our services and advice for the community. The site received 7000 visits per month, and 3,000 visits each month to our page of personal stories from those who have experienced abuse or violence.
- ***When Love Hurts***, our guide for young people on love, respect and abuse received 5,000 visits per month
- ***Bursting the Bubble***, our award-winning website for young people experiencing family violence received 2500 visits per month
- ***Getting Free From Abuse – A Guide for Women with Disabilities*** is our newest web resource, and on average this is visited 400 times per month
- ***When Love Hurts***, our award-winning website for young women, was originally uploaded in 1998. This year we began redeveloping this website, based on the feedback we have received from visitors to the site. We are currently rewriting the content, adding new stories of personal experiences and developing YouTube videos to update the site.

The impact of online support: Feedback on our websites

I think this website is absolutely fantastic. I am 20 years old and have experienced for years witnessing family violence from my older brother to my mother, ranging from emotional, verbal and occasional physical abuse. (Bursting the Bubble)

This site confirmed to me that my relationship is abusive and not normal and confirmed that it is very unlikely for things to change. I've been avoiding the truth and was confused and hoped for a miracle. This site is easy to use and the checklist is what I needed. (When Love Hurts)

The site was invaluable in supporting me to help a friend who is being abused by her husband. It gave me peace of mind to approach her and the tools to help her discreetly. (When Love Hurts)

I learned that I am not responsible for the way my ex-boyfriend treated me. Before, I felt like all the things he did were my fault. I did the right thing. (When Love Hurts)



public advocacy: informing policy and practice

DVRCV's position as a state-wide service with capacity to gather information about systems, responses, gaps and emerging issues enables us to continue to play an advocacy role in a range of committees and working groups, both at state and national levels.

Victorian policy and law reform

The family violence service system in Victoria continues to be in development. Many of the issues where we have been able to contribute to debate and policy development arose as we travelled the state delivering the *Common Risk Assessment framework training*. New projects were developed by government in response to needs identified through the training, including the need for information-sharing guidelines, and better approaches to risk management in Victoria.

A great loss for the sector was the resignation in March 2009 of Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police Christine Nixon, who has made such a significant contribution to reforming responses to family violence in Victoria over the last seven years. DVRCV was represented at the farewell dinner to say thank you to Christine.

Significant new policy and legal developments that occurred during the year in Victoria where DVRCV was involved included the following:

Family Violence Protection Act 2008

This year saw the passing of the new *Family Violence Protection Act* in September 2008, and it was enacted in December 2008. The new Act is a great improvement on the *Crimes (Family Violence) Act 1987*, and was welcomed by DVRCV and its partners from the Whole Package Family Violence Law Reform Campaign Group. The campaign group has lobbied for the government to adopt all the recommendations contained in the Victorian Law Reform Commission's *Review of Family Violence Laws: Report*.

Key recommendations we strongly advocated for, and that were adopted in the new Act, included extending the definition of 'family member' to allow women with disabilities to seek protection through the court from carers, the inclusion of guiding principles in the new Act, and a definition of family violence that includes economic abuse.

The campaign group worked to promote the new Act to members of the opposition parties to ensure its safe passage through Parliament. We created a media kit with the Federation of Community Legal Centres and Domestic Violence Victoria so non-government organisations could support media work during the period the Bill was being debated in the Lower House. Government members of the Family Violence Statewide Advisory Committee requested copies of the kit to support their own work.

A forum was organised by DVRCV, with the Department of Human Services, to explain the new Act. Over eight hundred workers from across the state and from a variety of sectors attended, indicating the high level of interest in the Act.

Establishment of a Victorian Domestic Violence Death Review Committee

DVRCV was delighted with the Attorney-General's announcement of plans to establish a Victorian Domestic Violence Death Review Committee, under the State Coroner Jennifer Coate. This was one of the recommendations of the VLRC Report, and is the first of its kind in Australia. DVRCV with the campaign group has had various meetings with Department of Justice officers over a number of years in advocating for this committee to be established.

Non-family violence Intervention Orders

DVRCV attended a number of Department of Justice consultations on 'non-family violence Intervention Orders', following the decision to separate family violence matters from other kinds of Intervention Orders.

Family Violence Courts

DVRCV and other organisations spent a considerable amount of time providing feedback and lobbying the Department of Justice in relation to the evaluation of the Family Violence Courts. A number of concerns with the draft evaluation report led to a smaller summary report being used to inform government budget processes, to the relief of non-government organisations.

Committees and Working Groups we attended during the year around state issues included:

- Family Violence Statewide Advisory Committee
- Family Violence Roundtable
- State-wide Steering Committee to Reduce Sexual Assault
- Family Violence Court Evaluation Steering Committee (Department of Justice)
- Department of Justice Family Violence Stakeholder Reference Group
- VicHealth Violence against Women Advisory Committee
- Common Risk Assessment Framework Reference Group (Department of Planning and Community Development)
- EVA Awards Project Reference Group
- WEAVE Project Reference Group Domestic Violence Victoria Board of Management

Federal law and policy

The National Plan

The establishment of the *National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children* in May 2008 led to a range of opportunities to feed into the work of the council, including the national plan called *Time for Action*. DVRCV attended focus groups and meetings and contributed to discussions about priorities for action. The release of the National Plan, in March 2009 was welcomed as it flags work to be done in areas that we have long advocated for: a review of family Law, including issues affecting the safety of women and children after separation; intersections with family law and state child protection laws; ways to ensure the safety of women moving between state systems; a review of men's behaviour program approaches and models; and planning for prevention of violence against women.

Family Violence Protocols Committee (Family Court of Australia)

Due to overlaps in its work with that of other groups, Justice Brown of the Family Court decided to disband the Family Violence Protocols Committee and the final meeting was held in March 2009. DVRCV has participated in this committee since the early 1990s. We have since been lobbying the Department of Planning and Community Development to co-opt a representative of the Family Court to the Family Violence Statewide Advisory Committee, to improve links between state and federal systems and courts.

Family Law Rally

A rally to improve safety for children under the Family Law Act was held on 3 May 2009 and attracted good media coverage. DVRCV contributed towards costs of organising the event, and several workers attended. Postcards promoting 'safe dads' were distributed at the rally for participants to send to the federal Attorney General.

Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse Reference Group

DVRCV participates in the Reference Group for the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse. The group assists in the development of research priorities and in identifying issues for discussion papers and newsletters.



partners in prevention: resourcing prevention work in victoria

Partners in Prevention (PiP) is a network for professionals working with young people for the primary prevention of violence against women. The project is funded for three years, as part of VicHealth's Respect, Responsibility and Equality: Preventing Violence Against Women campaign. The project has just completed its first year of work.

'All the forces in the world are not so powerful as an idea whose time has come.' (Victor Hugo)

Partners in Prevention (PiP) is riding the wave of interest in the primary prevention of violence against women (PVAW). It is a project that has arrived to support primary PVAW initiatives with young people just as the federal and state governments have decided to take action.

Over its first year of increased funding PiP has continued to foster the development of the sector. The project has successfully carried out all core duties now associated with the PiP network and expanded its work in consultation and evaluation capacity building.

Supporting new projects

The PiP project coordinator, Kiri Bear, has a role to play in supporting new projects in the field. She attended reference group meetings for Women's Health in the North's Modern Media Messages project and Brophy Youth and Family Service's Reality and Risk project. She met with new workers to the field to orient them to the current Victorian prevention landscape.

Providing consultation

The project's profile as a central point of contact for consultation on young people and healthy relationships education has become firmly embedded. The project's website received 3320 visits over the 2008-09 financial year and the coordinator fielded over seventy-five queries from a range of individuals and organisations. The project coordinator was quoted in the *Herald Sun* and interviewed for youth radio station SYN fm, and the project has been added to the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault's good practice database.

A focus on evaluation

PiP has heard the call for more evidence of effective practice and shown leadership by putting together an Evaluation Working Group. The group began by carrying out an evaluation needs analysis with network members and then developed an action plan with strategies to address the identified needs. The annual forum included an evaluation seminar by Jacques Boulet and the project began setting up an evaluation mentor scheme so network members could access expert evaluation advice.

Policy development

PiP has also played a role in policy development at state and federal government levels. In 2008 the project coordinator gave feedback on VicHealth's research into best practice healthy relationships programs for the Department of Education. She was later invited to Sydney for roundtable discussions of the Sexual Assault Prevention Education Framework released by the National Association of Services Against Sexual Assault. In 2009 she contributed to planning for the education setting of the state PVAW plan and facilitated the involvement of several other PiP network members.

Forum on cross-sector approaches

The annual PiP forum brought schools and community agencies together to consider cross-sector approaches to prevention. It featured a keynote presentation from Michael Flood that gave participants information on an unpublished Department of Education research document on best practice in respectful relationships education.

Network meetings

Partners in Prevention is about supporting the work that is currently happening across the state and also improving it. The project ran four network meetings over the year covering topics at the request of network members, including violence against women with disabilities, education policy, sexual health and violence prevention, and theories of change. The meetings gave members an opportunity to expand their skills and knowledge while meeting fellow workers and forging new partnerships.

PiP Bulletin

The PiP Bulletin has become a staple communication tool for the emerging primary prevention sector across Victoria. Over the last year twelve bulletins were circulated – three times our funded commitment – due to the level of interest in primary prevention of violence against women and the sheer volume of information and events currently being generated across the state.

Although the main focus for the project is work with young people there are now over two hundred professionals who receive the project's monthly bulletin. Alongside the usual community sector suspects the email list includes police, teachers, academics and policy makers. The total circulation of the bulletin is even greater as anecdotal evidence suggests that many list members forward the email on to their colleagues. A number of list members are located interstate and even overseas.





violence and disability project: raising awareness, promoting inclusion

For seven years, the DVRCV Violence and Women with Disabilities Project has raised awareness about the high incidence of violence against women with disabilities. It has focused on relationship building, influencing key stakeholders, addressing barriers to service access, and pursuing inclusive practices.

The William Buckland Foundation, administered by Philanthropy Partners and ANZ Trustees, generously provided us with funding from November 2007 to November 2008. This enabled us to provide a perspective on violence and disability in the various aspects of the state government's efforts to create an integrated response to family violence. During this period our project worker Chris Jennings had direct contact with hundreds of workers through secondary consultation, workplace presentations, training, forums and conferences. Chris also contributed to a number of government committees.

Leadership and women with disabilities

From December 2008 to May 2009 the Women's Services Network (Wesnet Inc), the peak body for women's domestic violence services in Australia, provided a capacity building grant for a further project called *Leadership and Women with Disabilities*. This project mentored women with disabilities to be advocates and educators in violence prevention.

This project was a return to classic community development work. Over a period of six months the project was to find women with disabilities who were interested in enhancing their existing skills in participating in violence prevention. The project supported women with disabilities to develop their leadership and education skills and to speak out about violence.

Chris spoke to many women and conducted interviews, and the final group of participants reflected the diverse experiences of women with disabilities. Chris and two DVRCV trainers facilitated violence prevention workshops for these women. They also provided opportunities for project participants to attend DVRCV training or any other that was appropriate. A train-the-trainer module was also delivered in learning circle form. Project participants increased their capacity to be involved in leadership roles and were mentored in choosing and becoming engaged in a violence prevention activity.

Prevention work encourages participation, fosters social connections, builds self-esteem and reflects positive images of women and their contributions. This project achieved direct contact with over twenty-five organisations, resourced 24 women with information about violence against women with disabilities and attained the active participation of 19 women.

An important focus for project participants was exploring how to establish credibility and convey expertise. The project supported the resilience of women with disabilities and their capacity to represent their own concerns.

Future work on women with disabilities

May 2009 saw the end of funding for the Violence and Women with Disabilities Project at DVRCV. Our project worker Chris Jennings was initially employed on a two-year grant from DHS and later funded through a series of grants from charitable trusts. Unfortunately, these grants have now come to an end. Chris has been a very vocal and effective advocate for women with disabilities both inside and outside DVRCV. Her work has led to changes in the content our training programs and materials and to making our resources more accessible. Chris has advocated for women with disabilities in many government policy forums and other settings. This has helped DVRCV build new relationships and partnerships. Our task now is to build on the work that Chris has done over the past seven years.

DVRCV was pleased to see the Victorian Women with Disabilities Network receive recurrent state government funding for a Policy Officer position to become the specialist voice that DVRCV had continually advocated for. A fundamental purpose of this position is to strengthen the service system's capabilities to respond to victims/survivors with disabilities.

DVRCV continues to maintain a focus on women with disabilities in all its resource development, advocacy and training.

Our web based guide *Getting Free from Abuse*, which was developed by the project and draws on interviews with women with disabilities who have experienced violence, continues to be a valuable resource, receiving over 400 visits per month in 2008–09. Our companion guide *Getting Safe Against the Odds: Family Violence Affects Women with Disabilities Too* for workers in the disability and family violence sectors remains popular, and this year the Queensland Department of Communities requested permission to reproduce sections of it to use in training for workers in that state.

In November 2008 the Violence and Women with Disabilities Project was named on the Good Practice Database of the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse.





dvrcv library: self-help and research resources

The DVRCV library provides a clearinghouse for printed material on family violence in Victoria. It has a collection of more than five thousand books, videos, DVDs, manuals and articles. The library provides an environment that is informative, accessible and available for all to use.

In the past twelve months the library has received over five hundred calls, emails and visits from members of the public, students and workers with enquiries about materials. Most notable is the increase in the number of survivors who have been contacting our library with requests for books and DVDs on, among other topics, recovery, mental health issues and the impact of domestic violence on children. In order to meet this increase in demand the library is developing a 'Recovery Resources E-Newsletter' which will enable those interested in new recovery-related resources to view the latest books and DVDs on these topics in the DVRCV library, via email. Topics of particular interest this year for students and workers in the field include:

- Sibling abuse
- Elder abuse
- Adolescent violence to parents
- Prevention of violence amongst young people
- Violence in higher socio-economic areas
- Sexual abuse of men
- Childhood sexual abuse and breastfeeding
- *The Family Violence Protection Act 2008*

Our catalogue goes online

The library now also has a stronger presence on our website, with our books being added to an online database, enabling people to find and read descriptions of a range of our library resources. The online catalogue was launched in June 2009 and in that month received over five hundred visitors. This catalogue will eventually list online all the resources we have in the DVRCV library.

The online catalogue can be found at:

<http://www.librarything.com/profile/DVRCVlibrary>
and it can be searched via tags such as 'DVDs and prevention'.

thank you to the following benefactors for funding or services

- Blake Dawson Solicitors
- Victorian Health Foundation (VicHealth)
- The William Buckland Foundation and ANZ Trustees
- The Body Shop
- Microsoft and Donortec
- Women's Services Network Inc (Wesnet)
- Kris Honey
- Bloom Partners



audited financial report

Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria – Financial Statements For the Year ended 30 June 2009

Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria – Balance Sheet
As at 30 June 2009

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Equity		
Asset Revaluation Reserve	61,536	61,536
Retained Earnings	245,956	239,949
Total Equity	307,492	301,485
Represented by:		
Current Assets		
Cash on Hand	150	150
Cash at Bank - CBA Cash Mngt A/C	355,146	282,724
Cash at Bank - Austral Credit Union A/C	112,159	87,204
Sundry Debtors	7,489	-
Provision for GST	23	3,446
	474,968	373,524
Non-Current Assets		
Motor Vehicles	20,183	20,183
Less Accumulated Depreciation	12,142	11,099
	8,041	9,084
Office Furniture & Equipment	121,912	115,155
Less Accumulated Depreciation	57,149	46,719
	64,763	68,436
	72,804	77,520
Total Assets	547,771	451,044
Current Liabilities		
Cash at Bank – CBA Chq A/C	43,834	38,435
Provision for Annual Leave	46,664	43,656
Provision for Long Service Leave	39,682	37,468
Grant in Advance	110,100	30,000
	240,280	149,559
Total Liabilities	240,280	149,559
Net Assets	307,492	301,485

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria – Income Statement

For the Year ended 30 June 2009

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Income		
Donations – Buckland Foundation	30,000	40,295
Donations – Other	-	12,930
Training	186,993	79,057
Training – SAAP	42,659	(2,646)
Projects Funding	120,884	39,000
Interest Received	18,218	18,774
Newsletter	4,235	4,086
Publications	10,637	14,082
Contracts – Training	-	61,212
Workers' Compensation Reimbursement	12,840	-
Other Income	318	1,064
Grants – DHS – Office for Children	340,253	328,423
Grants – DHS – SAAP	348,597	337,759
Grants – DHS – One-off	1,235	13,205
	1,116,870	947,240
Expenditure		
Audit & Legal	2,325	2,305
Bank Charges	861	1,124
Consultancy Fees	11,000	-
Depreciation	11,473	-
Equipment Purchase & Maintenance	10,795	9,851
Annual Leave	3,008	(5,343)
Internet	2,648	3,578
Long Service Leave	2,214	(8,017)
Motor Vehicle Expenses	3,196	2,880
Newsletter	10,372	14,161
Occupancy Costs	51,927	48,027
Office Expenses	17,965	14,581
Projects	-	11,236
Projects - Partners in Prevention	6,862	-
Projects - Women with Disabilities	9,560	-
Postage	5,248	5,200
Printing & Publishing	17,764	11,979
Salaries - On-Costs	73,645	66,877
Salaries - Permanent	639,535	569,296
Salaries - Relief	16,334	21,647
Staff Development	5,260	11,451
Staffing, Travel & Meetings	11,588	17,828
Subscriptions & Library	7,074	7,282
Telephone	5,364	7,706
Water & Power	5,315	4,657
Workshop/Training Costs	96,191	56,781
CRAF Training	83,338	-
	1,110,863	875,088
Operating Profit	6,007	72,152



**Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria
– Statement of Changes in Equity**

For the Year ended 30 June 2009

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Retained Earnings at the beginning of the financial year	239,949	176,761
Profit (Loss) Attributable to Members	6,007	72,152
Prior Year Adjustment	-	8,964
RETAINED EARNINGS AT 30 JUNE 2009	245,956	239,949

audited financial report

Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements For the year ended 30 June 2009

Note 1: Statement of Accounting Policies

These financial statements are special purpose financial reports prepared for use by the Committee and members of Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria. The Committee has determined that Association is not a reporting entity and there is no requirement to apply Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements (Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views) in the preparation and presentation of these statements.

These statements are prepared on an accrual basis from the records of the Association. They are based on historical costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the economic entity in the preparation of the financial report.

Fixed assets

Each Class of fixed assets is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated using the prime cost method or the diminishing value method over their useful lives to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Employee Entitlements

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee entitlements arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee entitlements expected to be settled within one year together with entitlements arising from wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave which will be settled after one year, have been measured at their minimal amount. Other employee entitlements payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those entitlements.

Contributions are made by the association to employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognized net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of the GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognized as part of the cost of the acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the Balance Sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

audit report



J L COLLYER & PARTNERS
ACCOUNTANTS & AUDITORS

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of Report on the Financial Report
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCE CENTRE INC

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCE CENTRE INC** which comprises the balance sheet as at 30th June 2009, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The management of **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCE CENTRE INC** is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The management's responsibility also includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Management's financial reporting requirement. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

DIRECTORS
JANE L. COLLYER FCPA LIONEL R. ARNOID CABBIE



Chartered Accountants

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the relevant independence requirements.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion the financial report of **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCE CENTRE INC**

- (a) gives a true and fair view of **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCE CENTRE INC's** financial position as at 30th June 2009 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1.


Janet Collyer
J L COLLYER & PARTNERS

4th November 2009

notes





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