

# Partners in Prevention

## Network Meeting, Tuesday 2 December 2008

### State-wide and National developments

The meeting opened with a discussion of several local and national developments relevant to the field.

- VicHealth has completed the first stage of their stock-take of healthy relationships programs in Victorian state secondary schools.
  - The survey process identified 26 programs throughout the state, most of which were run by community agencies. Concerns were raised in the meeting about whether schools had adequate time to respond to the survey and whether some schools may have 'missed' it altogether.
  - Stage 2 of the project will build on the information obtained in stage 1 and make suggestions to the Dept Education and Early Childhood Development on how best to support the healthy relationships work that is happening.
  - There is some funding available but it is not yet clear how it will be spent.
  - It is likely that the Stage 2 report will be made publicly available mid next year.
  
- National Sexual Assault Prevention Education (SAPE) Roundtable, meeting in Sydney 4/5 December 08 to discuss draft framework for SAPE. The framework also has relevance for those doing relationship violence prevention more generally.
  - Completed framework is due for release in March 09.
  - 1 to 3 prevention programs that meet framework requirements will be funded next year. Priority will most likely be given to those with a youth focus that take a whole of community approach.
  
- National Council on Violence Against Women and their Children is due to submit its national plan of action to the Rudd government in December, primary prevention will certainly be a feature.
  
- Some time was spent discussing the ACSSA/DV Clearinghouse forum 'Men's role in Preventing Men's Violence Against Women.' Bob Pease's paper is available online at: [http://www.adfvc.unsw.edu.au/PDF%20files/Issues%20Paper\\_17.pdf](http://www.adfvc.unsw.edu.au/PDF%20files/Issues%20Paper_17.pdf)

## **Sexual Health and Violence Prevention**

Shelley Walker, Knox Community Health, Youth 'KISS' research project

Lucy Forwood, Women's Health West 'Girls talk, Guys talk'

(Power point presentations available for download from [www.dvrcv.org.au/pip/network.htm](http://www.dvrcv.org.au/pip/network.htm))

Mandy Stevens from Family Planning Victoria spoke from the point of view of a sexual health educator.

- She commented that the educators at FPV are interested in relationship issues in their discussion of sexual health but there is pressure to adopt a purely clinical focus.
- It is widely recognised that if young people are unable to negotiate gender and power they won't be able to negotiate safe sex.
- 'Talking sexual health' and 'Catching On' are both excellent resource manuals for educators that include material on violence and power in relationships.
- Teachers fear teaching this material because they are legally tied up.
- There is a lack of support and structure for teachers in traversing 'grey areas'
  - The temptation is to give students 'right and wrong' answers
  - Teachers need support of whole of school approach so they are safe, not going out on a limb

Since the meeting my attention has been drawn to 'Catching *Online*' the Sexuality Education section of the Dept of Education and Early Childhood Development website:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/teachingresources/health/sexuality/>