

DV Vic Annual Report

2010



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Domestic Violence Victoria Inc. (DV Vic)

Our Vision

A society in which women and their children live free of violence

Our Mission

To promote, support and advocate:

- for the rights of women and children to live free from violence; and
- for best service system outcomes for women and children experiencing family violence.

With the safety of women and children as central, DV Vic works to change and enhance systems that respond to family violence in the interests of women and their children.

DV Vic Board of Management Members 2009–2010

Chair: Janine Mahoney (Maroondah Halfway House)

Treasurer: Julie Lane CPA

Public Officer: Samiro Douglas (WIRE)

Ordinary Members

Keran Howe (Women with Disabilities Victoria)

Narie Anderson (Quantum Support Services)

Vig Geddes (Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria)

Wendy Austin (Brenda House)

Maya Abdevjobic (Immigrant Women's Domestic Violence Service)

Angela Palmer (Mornington Peninsula Domestic Violence Service)

Lucy Prinzi (Berry Street)

Kerry Moylan (Regional Family Violence Integration Coordinator – Hume)

Introduction

What is DV Vic?

Domestic Violence Victoria Inc. (DV Vic) is the peak body organisation for family violence services for women and children in Victoria.

Aim

To promote, support and advocate:

- for the rights of women and children to live free from violence; and
- for best service system outcomes for women and children experiencing family violence.

With the safety of women and children as central, DV Vic works to change and enhance systems that respond to family violence in the interests of women and their children.

Objectives

- To enhance services available to women and children experiencing family violence in Victoria;
- To support best practice;
- To facilitate coordinated responses and provide commentary representing the family violence service system to government regarding relevant issues, policy initiatives and directives;
- To facilitate communication between services and other key stakeholders to inform policy, protocol and other requirements of systems integration;
- To act as central point for services, government and other relevant stakeholders regarding information and advocacy related to family violence and the service system;
- To inform public policy and research;
- To raise community awareness and promote community responsibility for violence prevention.

Key Activities

- The membership of DV Vic comprises services providing a response to women and children who experience family violence in the state of Victoria.
- DV Vic acts as a central point for its services for information, analysis and support regarding:
 - State and Federal Government policy;
 - State, Federal and International developments regarding family violence and associated issues;
 - best practice in responding to women and children experiencing family violence and service provision.
- Central point of distribution for donations to family violence services.
- DV Vic forms collaborative partnerships with other peak organisations and relevant stakeholders to strengthen structural advocacy and DV Vic's ability to champion the rights of women and children on a government and community level.
- Consultation assists DV Vic to identify and respond to government policy/issues that impact on women, children and the services that support them, in a way that is representative of their needs.

Membership

The primary membership of DV Vic comprises specialist family violence services providing a response to women and children who experience family violence. DV Vic also has an associate membership open to various organisations and individuals that support the purpose and objectives of DV Vic. (See DV Vic Constitution for further information regarding eligibility).

DV Vic provides its membership with services which include:

- Taking issues from the grassroots of service delivery into the policy arena;
- Providing opportunities for networking with other services;
- Ensuring members are informed of the current policy context, best practice and innovative practice models.

Acknowledgments

DV Vic would like to thank all those organisations and individuals who have supported DV Vic financially and in other ways over the past financial year, including:

- DV Vic Board of Management
- Our Members
- DHS Office of Housing
- DHS Office of Children, Youth and Family
- Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
- Emily's List Victoria
- Aitken Partners
- Women's Legal Service
- Federation of Community Legal Centres

DV Vic Staff Members

(in order of appearance)



Chief Executive Officer: Fiona McCormack

Finance Worker: Linda Ranik

Policy Officer: Alison Macdonald

Practice Development Manager: Deb Western

Children's Pathways Project Officer: Emma Wilkinson

Communications Project Coordinator: Steph Ellis

- Council to Homeless Persons
- Community Housing Federation of Victoria
- ASU
- Public Interest Law Clearinghouse Victoria
- Dr Robyn Mason, Social Work, Monash University
- URCOT
- Queen Victoria Women's Centre
- VCOSS

While preparing for our accreditation review, DV Vic received an incredible amount of support by many willing to share their knowledge, resources and time. We would particularly like to highlight again the amount of effort and time Janine Mahoney and Maroondah Halfway House provided; she went above and beyond her role as Chair of DV Vic. We would also like to thank:

- DV Vic Board of Management
- DV East
- Kathy Desmond
- Our members
- Sandy Milne, CHP
- Family Access Network

CEO's Report

The past year is another marked by an environment of significant family violence reform and continuous change in Victoria. As in any change process, this comes with both opportunities and challenges.

The release in the past year of the Victorian government's 10 year strategic plan for family violence, 'A right to Safety and Justice', is a landmark document in terms of articulating and demonstrating a long-term government commitment to a strategic response to family violence. Testimony to the import of this policy document, and other equally noteworthy government policies such as the 10 year strategy for family violence prevention 'A Right to Respect' and the Indigenous Family Violence 10 Year strategy 'Strong Culture, Strong Peoples', is their inclusion in DV Vic's 'Call to Parties' for the 2010 state election. For many governments of the past, responses to this critical issue have too often been ignored, or shaped by ideological interpretations of the causes of violence against women, as opposed to robust and verified research. In contrast, these current Victorian policy documents are evidence-based and provide a strategic and sustained vision for improving responses to family violence and, importantly, begin the work of preventing violence against women in our community. This is why our membership are seeking a multi-partisan commitment to these policies over the next decade, as a means of ensuring Victoria continues to build upon, and improve, the current reform.

While the political commitment and policy context in Victoria is strong, the task to effectively reform is enormous which means that diligence is required to monitor and hone the strategies being employed throughout this change process. The next challenge, I believe, is to strengthen the model of integration to ensure common base-line features across regions to build better statewide consistency and stronger accountability within and across various sectors and

responses. Marked regional variations can create inconsistencies for women trying to access support depending upon where in Victoria they are situated. This can also create difficulties for other stakeholders trying to support women across regions, for example, police, child protection and the statewide crisis service. A consistent statewide framework would also better support the layering of additional statewide frameworks, such as risk management; in effect translating to a greater sophistication of our model of integration with a strengthened capacity for ensuring the safety of women and children is central in every response.

Another 'next step' required in the reform is the improvement of responses to children. Children exposed to family violence are particularly vulnerable. Family violence was a factor in sixty two per cent of child death cases reviewed in the annual report of inquiries into the deaths of children known to child protection in 2008–09. Infants and small children who are exposed to violence in the home experience so much added emotional stress that it can harm the development of their brains and impair cognitive and sensory growth. Member services are extremely concerned about the capacity of our service system to provide appropriate and timely responses to these children. Children are not funded as clients in their own right and family violence services are increasingly concerned about the capacity to respond to children. This is particularly important given the marked increase in service demand since the introduction of the Victoria Police Family Violence Code of Practice in 2005 (some services are reporting a seventy per cent increase) and the ongoing challenges for child protection and family services in managing overwhelming demand. Services also report regional waiting lists for children's counselling services averaging three to four months. This is why a call for greater investment in children's

safety and wellbeing is the key plank in DV Vic's election platform and will continue to take primacy in our advocacy work.

Issues related to the sustainability of our workforce are also a challenge to reform due to the key role the workforce plays in providing responses to women and children and implementing various aspects of, not only the family violence reform, but other relevant reforms, such as those connected to housing and children. The third tenet of DV Vic's election campaign therefore seeks party commitment to the outcome of the ASU pay equity case for community services which Fair Work Australia will rule on later in 2010. We are also calling on the development and implementation of a comprehensive workforce industry plan in partnership between peak bodies, union and government.

The Victorian Minister for Housing, Richard Wynne attended DV Vic's AGM last year to hear member's recommendations on the development of the government's next Victorian homelessness strategy. This event was one aspect of our ongoing advocacy throughout the year to have this key document consider the issues relevant to the vast number of women and children who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, as a result of family violence. Our advocacy on issues relevant to the implementation of this recently released strategy will continue, given it is quite broad and therefore poses ongoing opportunities for greater relevance and connection to family violence responses. We welcome the introduction of a family violence unit within the Office of Housing heralded in the strategy, as this also holds the potential for providing greater synergy between two such closely related issues.

I'd like to thank all our partners with whom we work and on whose collaboration we depend, including government, other peak bodies, philanthropics, stakeholder services, the ASU and our members.

The work of a peak body is extensive, particularly in a time of such significant reform and we therefore depend upon the contribution and support of others and in particular, our members. The partnership and expertise they offer is crucial to our effectiveness and really appreciated. One of the many ways in which member support is evident is their representation on our Board which requires time, a precious resource for services these days, and diligence. I'd like to thank the DV Vic Board for their generosity in both.

The DV Vic team have done an incredible job yet again over the past year; they face the challenges of peak work with dedicated professionalism and passion. We were particularly sorry to have to say good bye to Emma Wilkinson, at the conclusion of her project earlier this year, and also Deb Western. Em and Deb were great assets to their respective projects and we wish them well.

We look forward to our next strategic planning phase next year which will allow us time to reflect on the significant progress of DV Vic over the past few years and develop new strategies with our partners, for ways to continue this growth and take DV Vic forward.

Fiona McCormack
CEO



Chairperson's Report

The past year has been another of note for DV Vic. Firstly, the efforts of the previous two and a half years in restructuring and redeveloping DV Vic culminated in successfully being accredited by QICSA (Quality Improvement & Community Services Accreditation). DV Vic passed all seventeen standards of the QIC Health and Community Services Core Standards which was a terrific outcome and a just reward for all the hard work undertaken by both staff and Board members over the previous year. We congratulate our members for their efforts and successes in achieving accreditation and for their generosity in so willingly sharing resources and support throughout this process, while still delivering responses to women and children; a remarkable achievement.

DV Vic's current strategic and business planning framework, which has guided the organisation through a significant period of growth and change, concludes in June 2011. As we now embark upon planning for the next phase of DV Vic's development, it is timely to reflect upon the achievements of this framework which comprised three areas of strategic focus:

Organisational Development – Building Capacity:

this was the work required for internal capacity building to support DV Vic's journey of development as a sound, viable and accountable organisation. This work involved: reviewing and strengthening the organisational governance structure; a constitution review, including a review of membership eligibility criteria; achieving organisational accreditation and; pursuing additional resources to support strategic directions. This work has been achieved however fortifying and diversifying DV Vic's resource base will continue to be a primary strategic objective in the next strategic phase.

Stakeholder Engagement – Building Relationships:

this objective focused on work required to strengthen our collaborative working relationships to improve collaboration and communication. The work

involved: promoting the role of DV Vic as peak body to a number of key stakeholders; the development of a sector engagement strategy; the development of relevant policies to clarify roles and processes for collaborative relationships, including a Policy Development policy; the development and provision of monthly e-bulletin updates and; the introduction of an annual performance survey to members.

The objectives of this focus area have been largely achieved however a gap of note is the objective to establish a consumer engagement initiative which would allow us to consider the perspectives of women who have experienced family violence in developing our advocacy and policy positions. This however will be a strategic funding priority in the next framework as we believe this an essential component of accountability to women and will ensure our advocacy remains sound.

Advocacy and Representation – Building Better System Responses and Preventing Violence:

focused on the advocacy, representation, advice and analysis required by DV Vic to identify gaps and provide recommendations to improve outcomes for women and children experiencing family violence. Advocacy for systemic change is an ongoing priority for DV Vic as a peak and has been a core part of our efforts over the past three years, involving a range of different initiatives and issues articulated in the framework.

One of these projects is the EVA media awards which acknowledge excellence in the reporting of family violence. DV Vic partnered with No to Violence on this successful initiative; we are therefore really pleased to have received funding from the Victorian government to run the event over the next four years. We have extended the partnership to include the CASA forum which will support a more comprehensive approach to an initiative concerned with violence against women.

The considerable work achieved throughout the life of this strategic framework, I believe, provides a solid foundation for us to build upon in the next stage of our journey. There are new possibilities for our organisation including a longer term focus on advocacy objectives united with the advocacy strategies we have begun in our state election campaign this year. The process we are currently undertaking to ‘re-brand’ our organisation also provides an exciting opportunity for us to promote the profile and work of DV Vic and our membership to the broader community. Our next planning phase will reflect the process utilised in the previous

planning cycle in that we will be consulting with our members and other key stakeholders and partners.

I’d like to thank the rest of the Board and staff for their commitment and fantastic work over the past year, and for the support of our partners, including our members in contributing to development and growth of such an exciting organisation.



Janine Mahoney
Chairperson

Practice Development Manager’s Report

2009–2010 saw a year of concentrated effort by the family and domestic violence sector towards accreditation. My role as Practice Development Manager supported this process by facilitating work that focussed on reflective practice, coordinating the provision of training and development opportunities, participating in strategic planning processes and governance training with FV organisations and advocacy and liaison in relation to issues arising from this work.

The facilitation of reflective practice workshops for the family violence and homelessness sector continued across the year as did the coordination and facilitation of Managerial Peer Support meetings. My role also involved representing DV Vic and membership on relevant projects related to practice such as participation on the Family Violence Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework Reference Group, the CRAF Training Task Group, the Vocational Graduate Certificate in Family Violence Steering Committee for Chisholm Institute,

the Mental Illness and FV Working Group (Northern region) and the Practice Guidelines: Women and Children’s Family Violence Counselling and Support Programs Implementation Working Group.

I also took on the development of a portfolio area for DV Vic in relation to family violence and older women. This involved work undertaken in conjunction with CASA House, participation on the Elder Abuse Prevention Advisory Group (Department of Planning and Community Development) including presentation at a forum, and consultations with DV Vic members around their work with older women.

DV Vic partnered with CASA House in relation to women’s experiences of intimate partner sexual violence and how sexual assault and family violence services respond. A paper co-written by our two services has been submitted for publication to the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse. DV Vic also partnered with Monash University on the Feminist Supervision Research

Practice Development Manager's Report cont.

Project, a project which is currently on hold.

DV Vic has worked in close collaboration with Council to Homeless Persons in supporting our member organisations through the accreditation process. We have also co-facilitated CHP/DV Vic sector accreditation and quality meetings with a focus on supporting organisations post-accreditation; for example, bench marks for second round accreditation; completion of quality journals for second round and; implementation of quality work plans. We have also contributed to discussions in relation to state-wide generic accreditation system and national accreditation processes (National Quality Framework).

I have really enjoyed my time at DV Vic, working with such a great team of women and members, particularly in the context of a feminist approach to organisational practice and service delivery.

Deb Western
Practice Development
Manager



Policy Officer's Report

This time last year we were heading into our accreditation review and the busyness of the DV Vic office was palpable. All staff participated in preparing DV Vic for our accreditation review and it was with enormous relief and satisfaction that we did so well in it. The rest of the year was no less busy; something it seems that defines the work of a peak body.

Balancing the need to respond swiftly to arising and urgent issues with undertaking longer-term planned work is a constant challenge, especially in a minimally staffed organisation like DV Vic.

We continue to engage with the multiple elements of family violence reform in the Victorian system and a considerable component of DV Vic's work is our representation on various steering, working and reference groups – we added these groups up at some stage and it numbered over 30! The past few years have seen unprecedented work at a Commonwealth level in homelessness and violence against women prevention, which provides an additional layer of engagement for us.

The launch of the prevention of violence against women agenda is an exciting thing for Victoria with work starting on primary prevention activities across its different settings. I have been fortunate to sit on the Steering Group for the Local Government Networking and Capacity Building Project to Prevent Violence against Women and be part of the important work going on in that space.

We continued with our strong alliance on family violence justice reform with focus on a number different projects during the year. The big-ticket piece of work was the Australia Law Reform Commission's Family Violence Inquiry, which considered the interaction in practice of state and territory family and family violence and child protection laws with the Family Law Act 1975 and the impact of those laws. DV Vic partnered with the Federation of Community Legal Centres, Domestic Violence Resource Centre and Women with Disabilities Victoria to write the approximately 35,000 words we submitted to the Inquiry in June.

The Commonwealth Attorney General is yet to table the ALRC's findings in Parliament, but we'll follow the outcomes closely.

The case of Deanne Bridgland and her appalling experience of charge, trial and conviction in the Victorian County Court was profiled by the 7:30 Report in March this year. Her case highlighted significant and concerning gaps in the justice system response to women experiencing family violence in areas that have not necessarily been part of the integrated response to family violence to date. DV Vic, FCLC, DVRCV and WLS developed several key recommendations to improve responses to victims of family violence at all points of interaction with the justice system and took up her case with the Attorney General, the Police Commissioner and the Director of Public Prosecutions.

We also made joint submissions with the above agencies and the Victorian Women's Trust and on the five-year review of Defensive Homicide Laws and with No To Violence on the Australian Association of National Advertisers Code of Ethics Review. DV Vic made individual submissions to the Victorian Victims of Crime Compensation Review, the National Homelessness Legislation Inquiry, and the CEDAW Shadow report.

We were invited along with No To Violence to sit on the Family Violence Projects Monitoring Committee which oversees the work of the specialist FV courts. Through this, and other Department of Justice mechanisms we are able to be much more involved in the justice part of the state's FV reform. In November 2009, we co-hosted an issue of Parity, the Council to Homeless Person's journal on the topic of Family violence and homelessness and their programmatic relationship. We also wrote for the 'White Paper one year on' edition and the 'Industrial Issues' edition of Parity during the year.

During the 2009/10 year DV Vic collaborated with the Council to Homeless Persons and the Victorian Government Interdepartmental Committee on Family Violence to present a series of regional family violence data workshops to highlight the Victorian Family Violence Database Report Volume Four, the SAFER research and the DPCD Benchmark data among other initiatives. The participant evaluation of the workshops was very positive and the workshops demonstrated good collaborative practice.

One of the really significant issues for the family violence sector is of course the ASU's current pay equity case under Fair Work Australia, which will hopefully see meaningful outcomes for the wages and conditions of our sector's workforce. DV Vic has been active in supporting the ASU's case and in lobbying for the wider workforce needs of our vulnerable sector.

I received funding from the Office of Housing during the year to attend a 'Women's Leadership Course' which met over six months and provided a great opportunity to reflect on practice and for networking. Finally, towards the end this financial year we were excited by the news of federal funding and commencement of work to support workplaces to adopt family violence clauses in their enterprise agreements. DV Vic will support the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse this area of work and we look forward to seeing what this project brings.

Thanks to my DV Vic colleagues over the year and to the support we receive from our members and other partners.



Alison Macdonald
Policy Officer

Children's Pathways Report

The 2005 Personal Safety Survey indicated that 61% of men and women who had experienced violence by a previous partner had children in their care during their relationship. Additionally 49% of people who reported they had experienced violence by a current partner said they had children in their care at some point during the relationship (ABS, 2006: 11).

The Family Violence Protection Act 2008 recognises that children who are exposed to the effects of family violence are particularly vulnerable and exposure to family violence may have a serious impact on children's current and future physical, psychological and emotional wellbeing.

Family violence significantly affects the health, well-being and development of children and young people.

In Victoria we are building an integrated service system so that whenever a woman or child experiencing family violence goes for help – she will be provided with help to access the right information and support to stay safe. The services that are needed will work together to ensure her immediate and future wellbeing are safe and protected and that she has support in the aftermath of family violence (A Right to Safety and Justice, 2010: 5).

In Victoria we are working together to further embed systems which respond with shared understandings and shared practice approaches to ensure the safety, protection and wellbeing of children, above all. Work is being done to continue the powerful feminist discourse and encourage collaborative approaches which support the safety and empowerment of women who experience family violence. The Victorian Government acknowledges that to ensure the safety and wellbeing of women and their children, strong innovative systems and responses must be in place to hold perpetrators accountable and responsible for their violence.

As part of this, the family violence sector has been working with Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Protection and Family Services/Child FIRST establishing partnership agreements. The purpose of

these agreements is to acknowledge and support the essential work happening in the sector in response to children and young people who experience family violence. The aim of these partnerships is to contextualise and encourage this work. To recognise that best practice requires shared ways of working and must be framed by a theoretical understanding that family violence is gendered violence, is about the abuse of power and control. The content of these partnership agreements outline our commitment to ensure that children, young people, women and men receive appropriate, coordinated, respectful and genuine responses and support.

During my time at DV Vic working with services to develop this work, I have been privileged to be involved in discussion exploring:

- What best practice means?
- What are the best interests of a child?
- How do we work together if we have different clients (children, young people, women, men, the family, the community and so on)?
- When do we work together, who coordinates that and what are benefits?
- Why and how must we keep women and their children central to all of our conversations and practice?

It has been an honour to be included in challenging forums where a region of services are present, attempting to 'map out the service response' and all its variations and necessary intricacies. Forums where staff shared information about their service, the ways they work well (and not so well) together and openly talked about challenges to 'do it better'. I have travelled around the state to meet children's workers with incredible tool kits of practice wisdom, heartbreaking and uplifting stories, minimal resources and support and of course, never enough time. But always lots of courage and commitment to the best interests of children.

What I have learned is the development of the 'partnership agreement', regional, sub-regional, across

catchments, inside DHS boarders and transgressing, has been more than a funding compliance to produce a document between Family Violence Services, Family Services/Child FIRST and DHS Child Protection. Rather it has become a journey to critically reflect on our own ways of working.

Looking at training and event calendars has been a way of considering where we can be inclusive (and how we may sometimes only look out from a single perspective). It allowed us to consider how we can share our knowledge and experience and what we can learn from others. Meeting together in the midst of hectic service delivery schedules, sometimes fortnightly! was about more than drafting a document. It enabled practitioners to get to know one another, to build the trust and shared language to create a space necessary to talk about the impact of family violence on children. It provided a place to share our models of practice, which are based on strength and self determination. The meetings enabled the articulation of our core practice principle, which is to operate in a way that enables women and their children a sense of being in charge of their own lives and experiences. In short, it formalised and legitimised the debate.

My role at DV Vic as the Children's Pathways Officer has allowed me to work in this energetic field and make contribution to A Right to Safety and Justice: Strategic Framework to Guide the Continuing Family Violence Reform in Victoria 2010–2020, Protecting Children is Everyone's Business: National Framework for Protecting Children 2009–2020, the SAFER project, post graduate research into community and practitioner attitudes to child protection, the Family Violence Roundtable, the state-wide forum and reference group, DV Vic members meetings, the Children's Practice Network Group, explore intersections between the CRAF and Best Interest Practice Framework and engage with an incredible sector of passionate people! The time has been a delight, working with a peak body staffed by a group of women I am in constantly awe of.

When I consider what the successes are for the project, I think not only of tools, documents, meetings, systems, governance structures and Partnership Agreements but healthy working relationships and honest communication, shared goals and respectful celebration of different strengths and perspective. Above all though, I think of a community working together to ensure the safety and wellbeing of women and their children, because family violence affects us all and is everyone's business.

In September we held a state-wide working towards collaboration forum. This provided an opportunity for regions to come together and share their experiences, challenges, successes and plans for 2010. The most heartening feedback I heard over and again was 'it is time to work together'.

In the last twelve months I have been honoured to work with Family Violence/Family Services PASA's, Community Based Child Protection, Family Violence Regional Integration Coordinators, family violence, family services and child protection practitioners, team leaders, coordinators and managers, the family violence and sexual assault team at DHS central and the amazing DV Vic team. I have been privileged to be a part of frank dynamic debate, hear stories of practice wisdom and daily practice frustrations and witness cultural change in these sectors. I am grateful for the relationships I have developed and look forward to hearing more of the 'where to from here' in 2010.

Emma Wilkinson
Children's Pathways
Project Officer



Communications Project Coordinator's Report

DV Vic has had a very busy year. The build up to our accreditation review was both strenuous and rewarding as I'm sure it was for many other organisations. The team at DV Vic all contributed in the preparation for the review and I want to say congratulations again to my fellow staff for doing so well and also to the sector for all their hard work. Accreditation presented a great opportunity for us to examine our internal and external processes in regards to communications and we are continually trying to improve our systems.

The position of Communications Coordinator has evolved slightly during the past year and I am currently working on improving our internal systems and processes to coincide with the CQI steps we identified during accreditation. Due to the nature of working within a peak body, the need for coordinated, concise information for our membership and the sector is one that will not change. This year the DV Vic team is operating with a smaller staff and a larger membership, there is still a vast amount of information streaming out from the peak due to the level of reform we are currently experiencing and it is my role to coordinate this.

The DV Vic Member E:Bulletin has continued to receive really positive feedback and we are continuously receiving requests by different organisations to be added to our email list and to include information. We are getting a wide range of stakeholders interested in contributing which I believe reflects its' effectiveness and popularity. Unfortunately with the team at DV Vic becoming smaller this year we have had to reduce the output of the bulletins, but they will continue to be a consistent source of information for our members and will play a prominent part in our Communication Strategy for 2010/2011.

Maintenance of the DV Vic website is still inclusive of my role. We are planning an exciting redevelopment of our website and utilising social networking tools, the planning for this has thus far been an ongoing process and we are working towards securing the funds for it. I have been collaborating with other organisations for information and ideas for the site and social networking setup so thanks to those people for their time and expertise. The website is still viewed as a vital communication tool and its development is a priority throughout the next financial year. We are all eagerly anticipating the new set up and are looking forward to sharing it with members.

Forging open communication channels with the peak and our members continues to be an enjoyable part of my role and I always encourage members to contact me with any feedback or concerns about our communication processes. I look forward to another year of development within DV Vic and to building a stronger relationship with the sector. I also must mention a huge thanks to the wonderful women at DV Vic for their continuing support and guidance.

Steph Ellis
Communications Project
Coordinator



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTORIA INC.

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

Scope:

We have audited the attached Financial Statements comprising the certificates and statements indicated for the year ended 30th June, 2010. The organisation's directors/management are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information they contain.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the company's financial position, the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion:

In our opinion, the attached financial statements, as listed below, of Domestic Violence Victoria Inc.

- (i) give a true and fair view of the financial position of Domestic Violence Victoria Inc. during and at the end of the financial year ended 30th June 2010.
- (ii) have been extracted from the financial records of Domestic Violence Victoria Inc which have been prepared on the basis of accounting policies consistent with applicable Australian Accounting Standards.

Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position
Statement of Financial Performance
Statement of Cashflows

Dated at Balwyn this 28th day of September, 2010

KYLIE J MCRAE B.Bus (Acct) CPA.
Walters & Partners.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTORIA
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010**

	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Receipts from Debtors	293,864.26
Payments to Suppliers and Employees	(304,537.75)
Interest Received	10,528.82
Goods and Services Tax Paid	(634.17)
Net Cash used in Operating Activities	(778.84)
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash Held	(778.84)
Cash at Beginning of Year YEAR	408,823.83
Cash at the End of Year	408,044.99

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTORIA
PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010**

	NOTE	YEAR \$	2009 \$
INCOME			
DHS Grants		268,861.93	294,970
Other Revenue		26,377.33	32,494
Interest Received		10,528.82	17,787
		<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL INCOME		305,768.08	345,251
EXPENSES			
Advertising & Promotion		-	3,313
Auditors Remuneration - Fees		2,300.00	2,550
Bank Charges		134.49	385
Computer Expenses		5,462.94	9,840
Consultants Fees		727.27	11,591
Conference Costs		4,339.20	8,194
Depreciation		2,802.00	3,961
Insurance		1,077.70	1,043
Legal Costs		800.00	-
Operating Costs		10,241.74	5,775
Project Costs		-	7,842
Rent		17,792.95	20,444
Subscriptions		1,692.99	1,232
Superannuation		22,220.05	22,349
Telephone		5,287.85	7,158
Travelling Expenses		2,300.87	2,363
Wages & Salaries		250,619.31	260,376
Workcover		1,328.79	4,156
		<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL EXPENSES		329,128.15	372,572
		<hr/>	<hr/>
OPERATING LOSS		23,360.07	27,321
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**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTORIA
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010**

	NOTE	YEAR \$	2009 \$
Revenues from Ordinary Activities	1	305,768.08	345,251
Employee Benefits Expense		(272,839.36)	(282,724)
Depreciation and Amortisation Expenses	2	(2,802.00)	(3,961)
Other Expenses from Ordinary Activities		(53,486.79)	(85,888)
Profit from Ordinary Activities		<hr/>	<hr/>
Before Income Tax Expense	2	(23,360.07)	(27,322)
Income Tax Expense Relating to Ordinary Activities		-	-
Net Profit from Ordinary Activities after Income Tax Expense Attributable to Members of the Company	9	<hr/> (23,360.07) <hr/>	<hr/> (27,322) <hr/>
Total Changes in Equity Other than those Resulting from Transactions with Owners as Owners		<hr/> (23,360.07) <hr/>	<hr/> (27,322) <hr/>

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTORIA
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010**

	NOTE	YEAR \$	2009 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash Assets	3	408,044.99	408,824
Receivables	4	1,375.00	-
Other Assets	6	5,605.34	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		415,025.33	408,824
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant and Equipment	5	8,698.73	10,987
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		8,698.73	10,987
TOTAL ASSETS		423,724.06	419,811
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	7	25,216.73	(1,206)
Provisions	8	10,973.55	10,187
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		36,190.28	8,981
TOTAL LIABILITIES		36,190.28	8,981
NET ASSETS		387,533.78	410,830
EQUITY			
Retained Profits	9	387,533.78	410,830
TOTAL EQUITY		387,533.78	410,830

	NOTE	YEAR \$	2009 \$
		YEAR \$	2009 \$

NOTE 1 - REVENUE

Operating Activities

Interest		10,528.82	17,787
Rendering of Service		268,861.93	294,970
Other		26,377.33	32,494
TOTAL REVENUE		<u>305,768.08</u>	<u>345,251</u>

Interest from:

Other Persons		<u>10,528.82</u>	<u>17,788</u>
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NOTE 2 - PROFIT FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

Profit from ordinary activities before income tax expense has been determined after:

Expenses

Depreciation Non Current Assets		2,802.00	3,961
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Remuneration of Auditor

Audit or Review		2,300.00	2,550
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NOTE 3 - CASH ASSETS

Cash in Hand		(43.68)	207
WBC Account 240514		8,803.66	14,816
WBC Maxi I Direct Account		364,413.45	359,715
Donations Account		34,871.56	34,086
		<u>408,044.99</u>	<u>408,824</u>

NOTE 4 - RECEIVABLES**Current**

Trade Debtors	1,375.00	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

NOTE 5 -PROPERTY PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Office Equipment - at Cost	32,012.73	31,499
Less Prov'n for Depreciation	23,314.00	20,512
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	8,698.73	10,987
	<hr/>	<hr/>

NOTE 6 - OTHER ASSETS**Current**

Prepayments	5,605.34	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

NOTE 7 - PAYABLES**Current**

Visa	(1,637.84)	(1,593)
Superannuation Payable	51.77	-
Revenue in Advance	13,636.32	-
GST on Supplies	13,166.48	387
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	25,216.73	(1,206)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

NOTE 8 - PROVISIONS

Current

Provision for Annual Leave	8,307.67	10,187
Provision for Sick Pay	695.88	-
Provision for PAYG WH	1,970.00	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	10,973.55	10,187
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Aggregate Employee Entitlement Liability	9,003.55	10,186
	<hr/>	<hr/>

NOTE 9 - RETAINED PROFITS

Retained Profits (Accumulated Losses) at the Beginning of the Financial Year	410,893.85	438,152
Net Profit Attributable to Members of the Company	(23,360.07)	(27,322)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Retained Profits (Accumulated Losses) at the End of the Financial Year	387,533.78	410,830
	<hr/>	<hr/>

NOTE 10 - CASH FLOW INFORMATION

(a) Reconciliation of Cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statements of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:

Cash in Hand	(43.68)	207
WBC Account 240514	8,803.66	14,816
WBC Maxi I Direct Account	364,413.45	359,715
Donations Account	34,871.56	34,086
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	408,044.99	408,824
	<hr/>	<hr/>

(b) Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations with Profit from Ordinary Activities after Income Tax

Profit from Ordinary Activities After Income Tax	(23,360.07)	(27,321)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash flows from operations	23,360.07	27,321
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Members

- Annie North Inc.
- Bethany Community Support Inc.
- Brenda House Inc.
- Child and Family Services Ballarat Inc.
- Cooroonya Domestic Violence Service Inc.
- Domestic Violence Resource Centre (DVRC) Victoria
- Eastern Domestic Violence Outreach Service (EDVOS)
- Elizabeth Hoffman House
- Emerge Women and Children's Support Network
- Emergency Accommodation and Support Enterprise (EASE)
- Emma House Domestic Violence Services Inc.
- Family Violence Outreach Program – The Salvation Army Crisis Service
- Georgina Women's Refuge.
- Gippsland Women's Health Service Inc.
- Grampians Community Health Centre
- Gunditjmara Aboriginal Co-operative
- Gwen's Place/Lisa Lodge
- Hanover Welfare Services
- Immigrant Women's Domestic Violence Service
- Jewish Taskforce Against Family Violence
- Kara House Inc.
- Kardinia S A Women's Service
- Mallee Domestic Violence Service
- Marian Community
- Maroondah Half way House Inc.
- Martina Women's Refuge
- Mary Anderson Lodge
- McCauley Community Service for Women
- Mercy Care
- Molly's House Inc.
- Mornington Peninsula Domestic Violence Service (MPDVS) / Valerie House Inc.
- Northern Family and Domestic Violence Service – Berry Street Victoria
- Olive's Place Women's Refuge Inc.
- PACT Community Support
- Quantum Support Services / Pat's Place
- Robinson House Inc.
- The Salvation Army Gippscare
- Women With Disabilities Victoria (WDV)
- WAYSS Ltd.
- Willaneen Women's Shelter G.E.G.A.C
- Western Women's Domestic Violence Support Network
- Wombat Housing and Support
- Women's Domestic Violence Crisis Service (WDVCS)
- Women's Health West
- Women's Health in the North
- Women's Health in the South East
- Women's Health Service
- Women's Housing Ltd.
- Women's Information Referral and Exchange (WIRE)
- Women's Liberation Halfway House
- Woorarra Inc.
- WRISC Family Violence Support Service
- YWCA Victoria
- Zena Women's Services Inc.



DV Vic

Domestic Violence Victoria

*Peak body for domestic violence
services for women & their children*

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