

**INQUIRY INTO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TRENDS AND
ISSUES IN NSW**

Organisation: Sydney Local Health District

Date received: 20/09/2011

Appendix A



New South Wales Legislative Council – Standing Committee on Social Issues Submission: Inquiry into domestic violence trends and issues in NSW

Terms of reference

Item 2: Early intervention strategies to prevent domestic violence

- In the case of refugees and humanitarian entrants, it is vital to consider the pre-arrival experiences and the challenges of resettlement faced by new and emerging communities as contextual and exacerbating factors in the development of prevention strategies.

Recommendations:

- Improve national data collection and reporting capacity to adequately capture the dynamics and patterns of violence against women, including high risk groups such as women from refugee communities;
 - Strengthen the focus on refugee men and boys, targeting them through male leadership programs;
 - Form mutually respectful partnerships between community leaders, community members and legal services;
 - Enhance the capacity of the legal system to provide culturally responsive and appropriate services;
 - Develop contextual and effective community legal education programs for newly arrived refugee communities that will maximise learning.
- In 2003, NSW Health introduced routine screening for domestic violence for women in key program areas as a prevention and early intervention strategy. The current response for management of women who are positively screened assists in both appropriate intervention and referral but does not encourage co-ordinated collaborative care with other agencies or stakeholders.

Recommendations:

- NSW Health enhances its framework for domestic violence by incorporating case planning and case co-ordination processes, as seen in child protection matters.