

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

**Organisation:** Western Plains Regional Development Inc

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Community Builders

*Serving The Heart of New South Wales*

Submission to “Parliament to the People” on  
Domestic Violence

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- A. Need to encourage victims to seek support
- a. When come forward, have a safe house and trusting work office. (very important for Koori's) Like to know who works there( often related, don't like them or a family feud from the past)
  - b. Knowing someone is there for support, at the service and physical support. Referral to professional help; counselling programs for the children of victims. Having someone to talk to as an elder (an aunty within the community – building up confidence to be able to talk speak out)
  - c. Create more posters/advertising to put out phone numbers and contacts for local support services, 24 hour help line and a regional safe house.
- B. Raising awareness in the community.
- a. “Breaking the Cycle” Working with children
  - b. School Programs, High School – “Love Bites”
  - c. Primary School – Resilience Building
  - d. 0-5 years “Safe from the Start” (Salvation Army Tasmania)
  - e. Speakers who go to groups and explain the different aspects of Domestic Violence
  - f. Contact Politicians to ask for support
  - g. More training for Police to have a better understanding of Domestic Violence and lead up to an AVO being made.
  - h. Court Support worker (trained volunteers and service providers) and safe room.
  - i. Create a local DVD to be played in between sessions in clubs and pubs presenting its not ok to condone violence in the family. Young kids present their point of view on the effects of violence on their lives
  - j. Opportunity for local football/cricket/golf clubs to sign a pledge that they will not be violent against their partners and families
- C. “Koori Women want the relationship and just want the violence to stop”
- a. Need for a Safe House in rural areas – not 100km away with limited transport support. Often not enough room at Safe House, need alternative site
  - b. Women would stay in own house and men could be place in a “Sober House”. Men would be placed under a supervision order, to help stop the violence – need to involve the whole family, mother, kids to work on reducing the violence.
  - c. Need an ongoing counselling service -> follow up worker to assure that ADVO conditions are being followed (Program in Orange)

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- D. Breaches of AVO's are not followed up by police locally.
  - a. All breaches could be reported to a central position, or police register in local area command office and then breaches sent out to local police station to be acted on. Police need to be accountable so that breaches will be acted on.
  
- E. Pubs Clubs and Sports Clubs should become mandatory reporting. Could be a clause or condition of their liquor licence. Could be part of the Liquor Accord agreement in small rural towns. Incidents of domestic violence and violence could be reported directly to the police.
  
- F. The Status of AVO's
  - a. The seriousness has been reduced due to petty modern age cyber bullying, Facebook and texting. There needs to be penalties for cyber bullying, that can be implemented; eg confiscate mobile phone for 24 hours. Police need training on how to deal with Facebook, twitter, texting and the user needs to learn the consequences of their actions. Need to implant a reasonable level of interaction, then after that a charge of personal attack.
  - b. AVO's need to be left for the more serious events of one person trying trying to have the power over another.