

WestCASA

Western Region Centre Against Sexual Assault

25TH ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

VISION

A world where everyone lives free from the fear of sexual violence

MISSION

To promote the recovery of all people who have experienced sexual violence and to strive for a world free of sexual violence

AIMS

To create an environment in which recovery from the effects of sexual violence can occur

To advance community understanding of the social conditions that allow sexual violence to continue to occur

To encourage communities to take responsibility for addressing the crime of sexual violence

WestCASA

Western Region Centre Against Sexual Assault

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2012-2013 BOARD OF GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

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Board of Governance:

Alexis Eddy
 Angela Hart
 Barbara Heilemann – Treasurer (resigned October 2012)
 Jacqui Morse
 Jenny Elliott
 Jenny Wilson
 Jodi Dawkins
 Laurel Sutton – Chair
 Michelle Wells – Treasurer
 Patricia Lee (resigned February 2013)

General Staff:

Jane Vanderstoel – Executive Officer
 Alanna Smith – Finance/Payroll Officer (maternity leave)
 April Multanen – Finance/Payroll Officer
 Michelle Kenney – Office Administrator/Receptionist

Counsellor Advocates:

Deb Mountjoy (Senior Counsellor/Advocate)
 Eileen Mundy
 Esen Uygun
 Fran Goodwin
 Georgia Taylor
 Luciana Castagna
 Penny McDonald
 Suzanne Swift
 Tara Schintler (maternity leave)
 Ursula Benstead

After Hours Crisis Team:

Carol Tomnay (resigned January 2013)
 Cigdem Yilan (maternity leave)
 Cindy Tarczon
 Kelsey Schwabe
 Linette Harriott
 Marta Jones
 Matilda Xerri
 Nicole Battle
 Sudha Narayan
 Thuy Ho (resigned June 2013)

Students:

Jessica Downey
 Monica Karst

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

It is with pleasure that I present my fifth Annual Report as Executive Officer of WestCASA.

The Victorian State Parliamentary Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Organisations and the Commonwealth Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse have highlighted the breadth and depth of child abuse in our community. This recognition is important in breaking the secrecy that surrounds sexual abuse of children by those in positions of power and trust.

The recognition by our parliaments that sexual assault occurred and is not okay has enabled many people to speak up in ways that they've not been able to before. Speaking up as an adult can be difficult: to put words to experience and to connect to the impact this may have had on one's life is challenging.

The increased attention in the media and beyond often elicits the need for support and a desire for understanding and change, and this has brought many more people to our service.

WestCASA made a submission to the Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Organisations, calling for institutions to be legally mandated to report child sexual assault to police; to train leaders, workers and volunteers in receiving and responding to allegations of abuse; to have clear documented procedures that outline the organisational response to an allegation of abuse and to provide support to the victim/survivor.

In addition to all of this it is important to remember that the institution where most sexual assault of children and young people takes place is the family.

Speaking up as an adult can be difficult: to put words to experience and to connect to the impact this may have had on one's life is challenging.

NOVEMBER 10, 2012

DAMNING VIEW *"They wring their hands, but in mediation it's boots and all"*

The inquiry heard from Jane Yonderstov, executive officer of the Western Region Centre Against Sexual Assault; Karen Negele, manager of the Safehouse Centre at the Royal Children's Hospital; and Patrick Thimmarh, a Victoria Police forensic interview adviser.

Imported priests a risk, abuse inquiry told

FROM PAGE 1

Imported mostly from India, Nigeria and the Philippines to ease the catastrophic decline in parish priests, but a study last year estimated they made up 20 per cent of Australia's total of 1500.

In other testimony, Dr Chamley said:

- Church lawyers tried to "king hit" victims as hard as possible to demoralise them in negotiations for compensation. "They wring their hands and speak in humble voices, but in the end and threat of mediation it's boots and all."
- The church's internal system for investigating abuse was a charade that had no legal standing. He said the Melbourne Inquirer's independence commissioner, Peter O'Callaghan, described himself as operating like a royal commission. "What act of Parliament set that up?" Dr Chamley said.
- Letting the church investigate itself was like "leaving Dracula in charge of the blood bank".
- Dr Chamley condemned the submissions to the inquiry by the Salvation Army and Catholic Church. The former, at eight pages, was "an insult" to the Parliament and people of Victoria, given the hundreds of child victims of abuse by its officers, and its response to victims was often "inertness, uncooperative, mean-spirited and hostile".
- The Catholic submission was notable for what it left out, including two Australian female priests that showed "children who ended up in the 'bars' of the Catholic Church were subjected to widespread sexual abuse, procurement for sexual purposes by other adults, severe and unprovoked physical abuse, criminal assault, prolonged solitary confinement, exploitation and unpaid child labour, slavery, starvation, administration of drugs and provision of alcohol" during most of the past century.
- Dr Chamley compared the life of a paedophile priest who was not exposed despite church payouts with that of his victims. The priest would be housed, given medical care, a stipend, and the respect of his family and parishioners, who did not know of his position.
- Of the victims, 91 per cent had mental health problems.

"They live in public housing, wait in queues at emergency departments in public hospitals for days. Their days are shocking."

Patrick Thimmarh, a Victoria Police expert on interviewing victims, said the inquiry the Catholic Church had neither the motivation nor the ability to investigate abuse complaints.

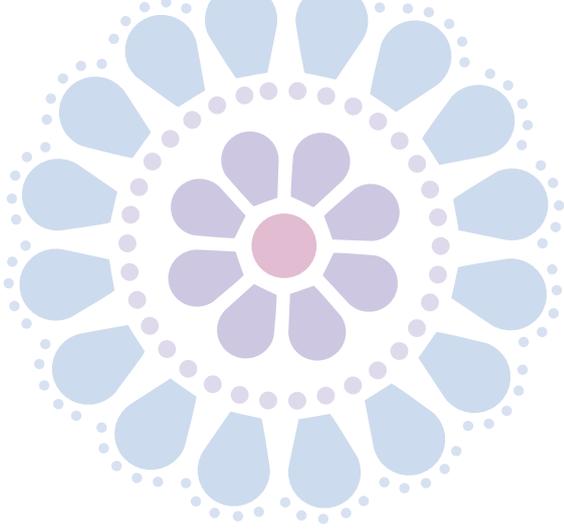
"There is the conclusion by an organisation or person to pursue perpetrators when the consequences to that organisation are so severe? I can't think of a single case where a priest has not been moved and re-allocated, and moved again and re-allocated again."

He said a church investigation could not bring the "crucial independence" the police had.

"You can call someone independent, but that doesn't make them so," he said, in an apparent reference to Mr O'Callaghan.

Committee chairwoman Georgie Crocker said the commissioner had taken action to obtain documents from the Catholic Church, and that every person who wanted to testify at the inquiry would be heard.

PEOPLE'S 'TIT TIPS' IN 'THE ARGENT'



FINANCE AND PAYROLL OFFICER

Hi, my name is April and I have been covering the position of Finance / Payroll officer, while Alanna Smith is on maternity leave.

It has been a great challenge for me coming into a well-established position for a brief time care-taking while Alanna enjoys her new family life.

My time here so far has been very positive and productive. Preparing the budget with Jane was a great challenge and experience. With salary increases in this financial year and the next a tight budget was prepared. This always presents a challenge to staff and the Board. Thank you to Jane for her expertise with the budget and to Michelle Wells (Treasurer) and the Board for approving the 2013/2014 Budget.

Preparation for the Auditor went well and once again WestCASA has passed with flying colours. Thank you to Bhavna Joshi our Accounting Consultant for all her assistance with both Alanna and myself over the past year. Also thank you to Jan Collyer our Auditing Accountant for completing the audit in such a timely and efficient manner. There is always a feeling of satisfaction when the audit is completed and all the financials are closed and we start a new year.

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I am enjoying my time at WestCASA and have enjoyed the challenges brought to me. I am sure I will continue to enjoy the challenges ahead until Alanna returns and once again takes over the reins.

I would like to thank Jane Vanderstoel, Alanna Smith and Luciana Castagna for giving me the opportunity to fill this position as the Finance/Payroll Officer.

I would also like to thank all the staff and Board members for their warm welcome to WestCASA. It has been a great pleasure working with and supporting you all. I wish WestCASA all the best in their future endeavours.

I attended a hearing before the Family and Community Development Committee with two others on behalf of CASA Forum.

New funding from the Victorian Government was announced in September 2012 to increase support to women and children who experience family violence and sexual assault. Without any credible explanation, WestCASA did not receive any of this additional funding to increase our capacity to respond to victim/survivors in Brimbank, Hobson's Bay, Maribyrnong, Melton and Wyndham. This has been very disheartening for the team on behalf of our community.

Our partnership with women's crisis services in Fiji and Vanuatu has been a highlight of the year. WestCASA staff spent a week in each country to provide sexual assault counselling training to their teams. To connect with women in other countries who share our values and passions strengthens my belief in change being possible.

My thanks to the Board members who, with humour and foresight, grapple with issues both large and small in the spirit of the values that underpin the culture at WestCASA. I appreciate the support you provide to me in my role at WestCASA.

My thanks also to the day staff for your commitment to the work, the organisation and each other. I also appreciate the commitment and dedication of the After Hours team who keep our 24 hour response alive.

I look forward with great enthusiasm to the coming year with all the challenges it will bring. I appreciate my continuing work with the wonderful and stimulating staff and Board towards the shared vision of WestCASA.

Jane Vanderstoel
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

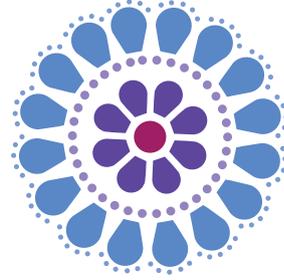
April Multanen
FINANCE/PAYROLL OFFICER



SPRING BREAKFAST

On 4 September 2012 WestCASA celebrated the arrival of spring with our annual Spring Breakfast.

There was lots of animated conversation and putting faces to names amongst the many diverse workers in the west who attended. As always it was a lovely opportunity to network whilst nibbling on delicious food prepared by the staff of WestCASA.



WestCASA

Western Region Centre Against Sexual Assault

NEW LOGO AND WEBSITE

At our 2011 Planning Days Penny ably led us through a process to assist us in our decision to develop a new website and logo for WestCASA.

After a good start we came to a halt in the middle of the year but got going again towards the end of 2012. Graphic designer and web developer Karen Parish of Munatha Design agreed to develop our logo pro-bono. Karen worked with the team to develop our lovely new logo.

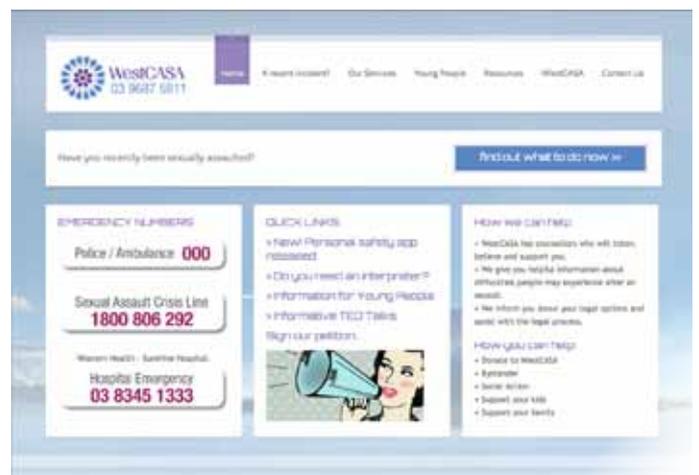
Karen has continued to work with us to complete the re-branding with a whole suite of stationery, brochures and client materials.

We have also been working on a new website. Again Karen has assisted us in developing a website that will engage the community and support our work with clients.

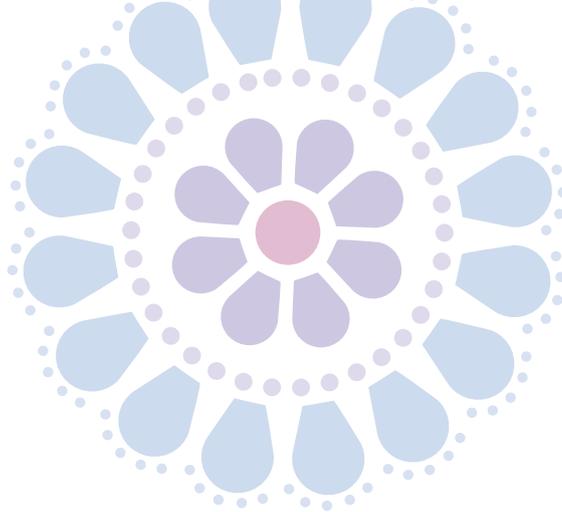
I'd like to thank Tara, Penny, Fran, Alanna, Georgia, Michelle and our social work students Jess and Monica for your collective wisdom, effort and creativity.

We look forward to the completion of the project and thank Karen for her ability to turn our words into pictures.

Jane Vanderstoel
EXECUTIVE OFFICER



CHAIRPERSON



During the year WestCASA has continued to provide an empowering and supportive service for clients. This is due to the dedication and professional capability of the Counsellor/Advocates and support staff of the service. This has been recognised externally by services within the South Pacific, namely Fiji and Vanuatu where WestCASA provided a consultancy service to similar services. The Board were very supportive of this initiative as not only did it recognise the high service standards of WestCASA, but provided an important work balance for the staff of WestCASA in managing their wellbeing.

The Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse has had an impact on WestCASA. The service provided a written submission to the Commission with a follow up interview by the Commission. The Board are grateful to Deb Mountjoy for her work in preparing the written submission and to Jane Vanderstoel for ably representing WestCASA at the interview. Partly as a result of the Commission, WestCASA has experienced an increase in referrals this year which has impacted on the waiting list. This is expected to continue within the next year due to work being undertaken at both a State and Federal level around child sexual abuse.

It is unfortunate in the light of the increased work demands that WestCASA did not receive any additional funding from the recent assistance package to 'tackle' family violence including sexual assault. The Board in collaboration with the Executive Officer are seeking to redress this with the government.

In terms of thinking about its future, WestCASA held a joint planning day between staff and the Board. The day was received positively by everyone who attended. It allowed and encouraged us to examine multi perspectives on issues and to develop our understanding of our future direction holistically.

During the year, the Board has seen some movement in its membership. Barbara Heilemann who has been a long

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standing member and Treasurer of the Board chose not to continue this year. I am extremely grateful for Barbara's wisdom and commitment over an extended period of time and wish her well in her future endeavours. Another Board member Patricia Lee chose not to continue due to alternative career pursuits. Patricia's sound advice on constitutional matters has been deeply appreciated and we wish her all the best.

I would also like to welcome two new members of the Board, Jodi Dawkins and Jenny Elliott. I look forward to working with them and I welcome their contributions. Finally I would like to thank the Executive Officer Jane for her dedication and care during the year and my fellow Board members for their humour, wisdom and support. I cannot help but reflect that it is important to acknowledge the skills and dedication and the collaborative and respectful working together of staff, Executive Officer and Board of WestCASA that makes it so unique and well respected.

Laurel Sutton

CHAIR OF THE WESTCASA BOARD

PRISON OUTREACH

It has been another busy year at the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre (DPFC) as WestCASA have continued to provide counselling, advocacy and support to the women. Penny McDonald and Suzanne Swift have remained at the prison this year and counsel women every Thursday.

Caseloads at the prison are always at full capacity and unfortunately the waiting list has gone as high as 11 waiting. However, those prioritised due to Indigenous status or because of a recent sexual assault have been able to be seen reasonably quickly.

The women usually present with complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms and have usually been subject to major and often multiple traumas over time. Often when women are incarcerated (particularly for the first time), they realise how much drugs and alcohol have served to mask their PTSD symptoms prior to prison, and once in prison, they are often “flooded” with memories, sleep problems, nightmares and other trauma impacts.

Penny and Suzanne continue to develop the connections within DPFC and maintain the ever-growing profile of WestCASA’s work in the prison.

Penny and Suzanne alternate their attendance weekly at the DPFC clinical meetings with clinical services management, prison mental health and the psychiatric medical staff. This is supplemented by general networking and secondary consultation work with prison staff when required. Positive relationships have been built with many prison staff as a result of these interactions.

Penny McDonald & Suzanne Swift
COUNSELLOR/ADVOCATES

CONNECTIONS GROUP

Tara and Eileen ran a “Connections” group in 2012 for adult female survivors of childhood sexual assault. Initially eight women attended the group but two withdrew in the first few weeks owing to other events needing to take priority.

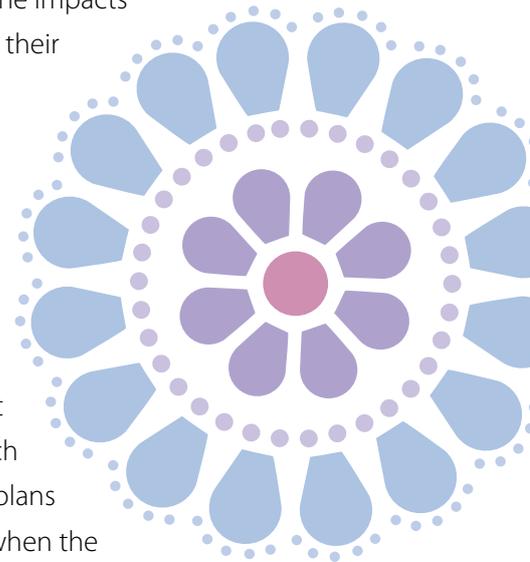
The participants chose topics for discussion which they felt were most important for themselves. The most appreciated sessions focussed on the impacts of sexual assault, the development of self care skills and the capacity to recognise and respond to future or current abusive and /or controlling relationships.

All of the participants felt as though they had developed more understanding of the ways in which they had tried to adjust to the impacts of their abuse, felt that their shame and self blame had reduced or had gone, and loved the experience of being with others who really “got” them. Everyone wanted the group to go on and felt so connected with each other that they made plans to continue meeting when the group concluded.

Comments included:

- “My understanding of the huge impact that sexual abuse has had on my life has dramatically increased”
- “I have more confidence in having my own point of view”
- “I loved having more ways to express my point of view than just talking”
- “What I wanted from the group was self growth, understanding and acceptance”

Eileen Mundy
COUNSELLOR/ADVOCATE



ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES

Shiatsu & Yoga 2012-2013

The Alternative Therapies Program at WestCASA continues to provide a critically important space for individuals to safely engage with their bodies as part of their healing journey from sexual abuse. Individual shiatsu sessions and a yoga group have provided many benefits for the participants and here are some of their reflections:

Shiatsu 2013

- "It was relaxing...There wasn't any pressure or judgement".
- "I had to learn how to say stop... As a result that has carried on in my life... I am very much a please everyone sort of person, no conflict thank you very much. So to learn to say stop has been really good".
- "It was very peaceful and nurturing and it was a really beautiful feeling to have just that".
- "My circulation...is something it really has improved".
- "I have picked up some really good food habits".
- "It was actually just nice to be physically touched, physically have contact with no expectation. There wasn't an expectation of "I want something". It was just what it was".
- "Using the breathing in bed when your head is racing has been really good".

Yoga 2012

- "I am now setting boundaries in ways that I have never been able to set before".
- "Now when I am upset I remember Clare's voice saying just use your feet to ground yourself to the floor and that helps me remember to reconnect to my body and ground myself".
- "She asked me if I was comfortable for her to touch me before repositioning my body. This made me feel safe, it made me think about the way I should be treated".
- "I have realised that I have been running away from myself all my life."
- "I never appreciated myself, I was a workaholic until these two girls talked to me and showed how to care for myself".
- "I think Yoga helped me to release. To open up to the past. Now I can talk to my daughter instead of having this mask on in front of my children. This is a huge step forward for me."
- "Until the Yoga I couldn't accept a compliment about my body. This Yoga helped me to bring my attention to my physical body and my soul."

Georgia Taylor

COUNSELLOR/ADVOCATE

STUDENTS

Jess and **Monica** are students at WestCASA as part of their placement component of a Master of Social Work.

We both have a passion for social justice and have welcomed the opportunity to be engaged in feminist social action. We have also begun to develop practice wisdom in working with victim/survivors of sexual assault.

My name is **Jess** and I am a Master of Social Work student from Melbourne University. I have a background in counselling and activism. I have been helping to organise a new event that will be held in September, called Spring into Action. This event was previously run as a networking breakfast and has been redeveloped to include a focus on social action. I have also been involved in some clinical work at the agency and have been learning a lot about trauma and sexual assault counselling.

I am **Monica** and am studying a Master of Social Work at RMIT. I have spent the last 6 years working in programs supporting men transitioning out of prison and working together to reduce the previously harmful behaviours. During my time at WestCASA, I have been facilitating the annual Service User Evaluation. This project involves collecting feedback from people who use the service to ensure the quality of the counselling they receive. I have also been assisting with some clinical work, which has provided me with new skills and knowledge that I look forward to using in the future.

We both have a passion for social justice and have welcomed the opportunity to be engaged in feminist social action. We have also begun to develop practice wisdom in working with victim/survivors of sexual assault. This placement has been a rich learning experience that has contributed greatly to our growth as social work practitioners.

Jessica Downey & Monica Karst

STUDENTS ON PLACEMENT

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Fostering Relationships and undertaking Cross-Training within the community in 2012-2013

WestCASA received visits and training from the following organisations:

- Gamblers Help Western.
- Western Region Community Health – Victims Assistance and Counselling Program (VACP)
- Child Protection Principal Practitioner– Linda Gurditz
- Lesley Hewitt CASA Forum History Project
- Teri Van Geelen & Ian Berry – Department of Justice.
- Victoria Police Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT) Footscray
- Anne-Florence Plante from the Chronic Pelvic Pain Clinic at the Royal Women’s Hospital

WestCASA visited and provided training to the following organisations:

- Footscray SOCIT
- Melton Family Violence Network
- Western Region Community Health Centre
- Sudanese Australian Integrated Learning Program (SAIL)
- Victoria University.

WestCASA is involved in the following Committees and Networks:

- Western Region Integrated Family Violence Committee
- Western Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Group
- Wyndham Youth Services Network
- Wyndham Family Violence Network
- Crisis Care Unit Liaison Committee (co-ordinated by WestCASA)
- National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence (NASASV)
- CASA Forum
- Dept of Justice Family Violence Stakeholder Reference Group

Staff undertook the following Professional Development training during 2012 / 2013	
ACT Mindfully	Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT)
Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW)	Health Social Work /Directors Group Research Symposium
Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault	Understanding False Allegations in Sexual Assault
Berry Street	Best Practice with Adults
CASA Forum Conference	
CASA Forum Workforce Development	Trauma and the body
	Art & Creative Therapies
	Trauma & Complex Presentations
	Including Family Members & / or Partners in Sexual Assault Counselling
EMDR Institute	EMDR Master Class
	Grief and Loss EMDR
Family Systems Institute	Parenting & the Family System
Melbourne Magistrates Court	Walk in Her Shoes Tour
Robert Leahy	Emotion Regulation in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy
Swinburne University	Common Risk Assessment Framework (CRAF) Training
Therapist Training	Schema Therapy
	EMDR
	Dialectical Behaviour Therapy with Complex Presentations
Victorian Hospitals’ Industrial Association (VHIA)	Hazard Management Risk Assessment
	The Occasional Counsellor



VANUATU

In the week beginning 27 May 2013 WestCASA counsellor/Advocates presented five days of training to the Vanuatu Women's Centre in Port Vila on the island of Efate.

The women were very keen to learn and on the first day they were all seated and waiting when Georgia and Penny arrived at 8am to set up, even though the training was scheduled to start at 8.30am!

Penny and Georgia presented the first three days of training: "An Introduction to Sexual Assault Counselling". (Ursula and Suzanne assisted them on Day Two.) Topics over the first three days included "Suicide Risk Assessment", "Confidentiality and Boundaries", "Trauma and the Brain", "Strengths Based Counselling" and "Asking about Sexual Assault". Ursula and Suzanne presented the last two days: "Shark Cage Theory and Five Steps" and "Reflective Practice" with a focus on group supervision.

The women particularly enjoyed the role plays and found them the most helpful way to learn. The national language is Bislama and although all but one in the group spoke English, the manager of the women's centre would sometimes interpret the more difficult concepts for the group.

We were given an opportunity to look through the Women's Centre in Port Vila which they have acquired quite recently and plan to renovate.

On the Friday night a dinner was hosted for us and the manager, Merrilyn, made a speech about the value of the training. In particular she noted that the training was

delivered in plain language and was easy to understand, but it was also extremely useful and informative, and participants felt respected and not patronised. We were presented with lovely baskets by the women.

We were very moved by the dedication of these workers. Some of them work in very isolated settings on small islands, and sometimes work from home as there is no money for offices. They are working within a culture where family violence, although illegal, is widely tolerated.

Some comments received on evaluations of the training were:

- "The training is well organised, but one week is too short."
- "...everything was new to me but I understand"
- "I regard myself as an empty drum. NOW! My drum is full through this 5 days and I can help clients that come through centre and use these new skills..."
- "The training was really helpful with the work that I'm doing."
- "Thankyou so much. To help me to give strength, to empower me, to open my eyes during the five days training"
- "...You have given me more support to do my work in my community..."

Georgia Taylor & Suzanne Swift
COUNSELLOR/ADVOCATES

The feedback from the participants was very positive and many expressed the hope that WestCASA would return to provide further training in counselling skills.



FIJI

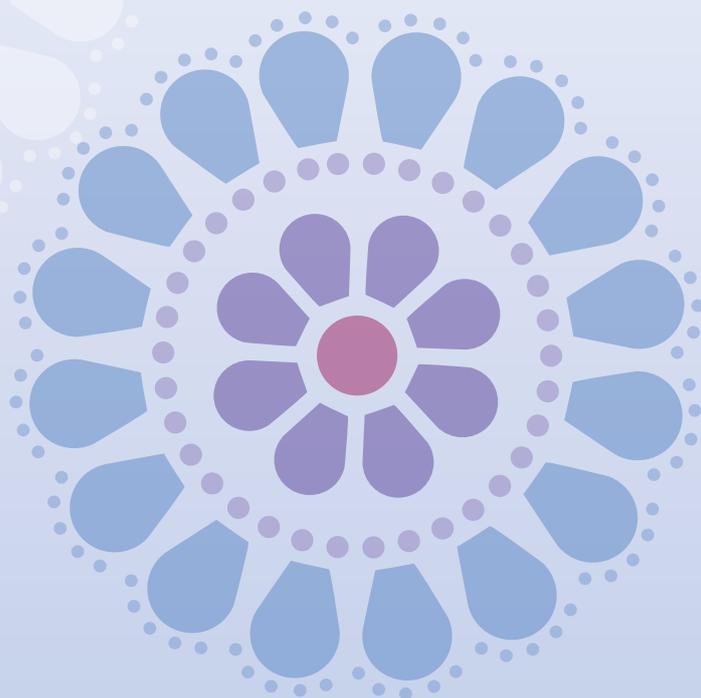
In our last Annual Report it was noted that preparations were taking place to provide training to workers at the **Fijian Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC) in Suva, Fiji**. FWCC is a lead agency that has pioneered feminist anti violence work and has had significant social and political influence in Fiji and in the Pacific region.

The training provided by WestCASA took place in July 2012 and was a wonderful success in many ways. Ursula, Esen, Jane and Deb provided a week of training to 31 Domestic Violence Counsellors from Fiji, Vanuatu and Tonga, who recognised the importance of responding to sexual assault and were keen to increase skills and confidence in working with sexual assault issues.

The women were extremely receptive to the training. They were particularly enthusiastic about demonstrations of counselling and were highly motivated to do role-plays. The feedback from the participants was very positive and many expressed the hope that WestCASA would return to provide further training in counselling skills.

The four WestCASA workers found it energising and inspiring to experience solidarity with women in the Pacific who are all working toward the elimination of violence. A highlight was a dinner (and community singing) where Shamima Ali, the CEO, expressed the hope that FWCC might look forward to an ongoing relationship with WestCASA.

Deb Mountjoy
SENIOR COUNSELLOR/ADVOCATE



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COUNSELLING

The counselling team is very aware of how difficult it is for people to wait when they have taken the first step in seeking support.

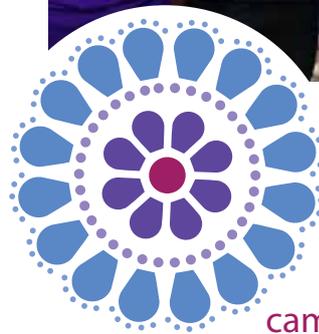
The small team of 10 Counsellor/Advocates continues to offer professional, specialist counselling for victim/survivors of sexual assault. An ongoing issue is the pressure on the agency due to the growing number of people who are waiting for our counselling service. The counselling team is very aware of how difficult it is for people to wait when they have taken the first step in seeking support. We also recognise that some clients return to WestCASA to address new issues or issues that they now feel ready to face. We endeavour to be responsive to this developmental nature of recovery from sexual assault.

In the face of increasing demand WestCASA has not sacrificed support and professional development for Counsellor/Advocates. In the last year we have explored therapeutic issues, examined and streamlined processes and reflected on our counselling practices, always holding the clients' needs in mind. This investment of resources both sustains counsellors and ensures that the quality of counselling is not compromised.

Recently there has been significant media coverage of violence including sexual assault, particularly against women. This has highlighted the broader social and political context of our work. While we participate in and witness the transformation that occurs for clients who reclaim self-worth and control in their lives, we also participate in and hope for change on a larger scale. We have welcomed opportunities to be actively involved in events such as 'One Billion Rising' and training in Fiji and Vanuatu. These experiences have informed and enhanced the counselling work and strengthened solidarity with others working for a safer world.

Deb Mountjoy
SENIOR COUNSELLOR/ADVOCATE

ONE BILLION RISING CAMPAIGN



WestCASA Staff step out with others from around the world with the ONE BILLION RISING campaign.

This campaign called for global support for survivors of violence to STRIKE-DANCE- RISE for safety within our communities across the world.

The WestCASA team involved themselves in the action by spreading the word about this campaign and inviting others to participate. Staff were diligent and learnt the dance which created much fun and laughter.

Although we did not strike on the day we were all there on 14 February 2013 at Federation Square doing the DANCE and singing the song BREAK THE CHAIN.

All Staff felt with pride the enormity of the action by engaging in this campaign that makes direct linkages between racism, poverty, slavery, homophobia, colonialism and war and violence against women and girls.

We all look forward to 14 February 2014 when we will stand with this campaign once again with the focus on ONE BILLION RISING FOR JUSTICE.

Fran Goodwin
COUNSELLOR/ADVOCATE

CRISIS CARE UNIT (CCU)

This financial year we have responded to 48 call outs. April 2013 was our busiest month, with 10 call outs, and over the rest of the year we responded to between 2 and 6 call outs each month. The majority of Crisis Care clients were female at 98%; 2% were male. Regardless of their gender they were well supported by our day and After Hours team members. Some of our CCU clients continued with longer term counselling and some declined ongoing counselling for various reasons.

Our After Hours team received several types of training of the during the 2012/2013 year. They received training from Drug and Alcohol Counsellor, David Conti, which improved their knowledge around the impact of drugs and alcohol, including common party drugs, and issues of consent when clients are drug/alcohol-affected. WestCASA also provided training around case/file notes. The After Hours team requested further training in the next financial year from Victoria Police Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT) and Forensic Medical Officers. The team have also engaged with WestCASA in meaty discussions around Vicarious Trauma (VT) and how to manage and keep VT to a minimal level.

WestCASA continued to meet regularly with Western Health Sunshine Hospital, Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM) and SOCIT in order to provide best practice services to our clients. Even though each agency operates under a different model (i.e. medical, legal, etc) we are all committed to the recovery and wellbeing of our clients.

I would like to take this opportunity to give my heartfelt THANKS and acknowledgement to the after hours and day teams for the effort, dedication and hard work they put into the CCU this year.

Esen Uygun
COUNSELLOR/ADVOCATE & CCU COORDINATOR

WESTERN INDIGENOUS FAMILY VIOLENCE REGIONAL ACTION GROUP

WestCASA has become involved in the Regional Action Group enabling us establish and strengthen our relationships with Aboriginal services and people in the western region. The committee has provided a pathway for our service to connect with the local Aboriginal community that we hope will build over time to ensure we provide a relevant service. It also allows our service to play a part in the reconciliation of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians.

WestCASA attended and participated in the Aboriginal Community Day held in Footscray on 3 May 2013. This was an opportunity for people to meet us and get to know about our service, and for us to listen and participate in a facilitated process about identifying the needs of the community and service responses to those.

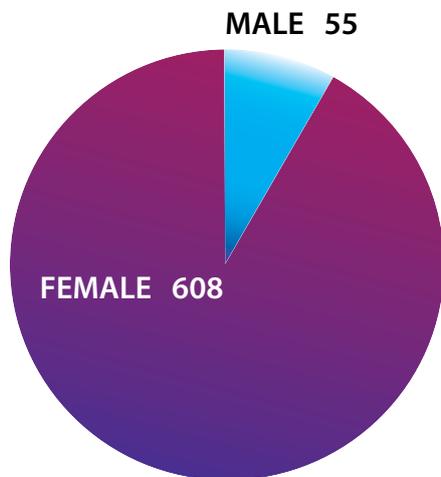
WestCASA attended the flag raising ceremonies at the Cities of Maribyrnong and Brimbank at the beginning of NAIDOC Week.

WestCASA supported the NAIDOC Week football match at Rockbank, sponsoring the football team and having a banner on the boundary of the football ground. This was a great day that enabled informal connections to be developed and strengthened.

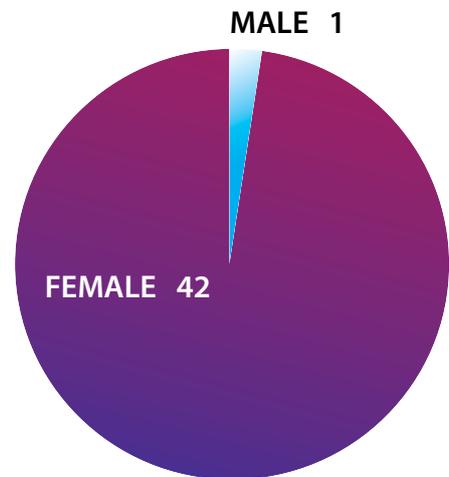
Jane Vanderstoel
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

COUNSELLING STATISTICS

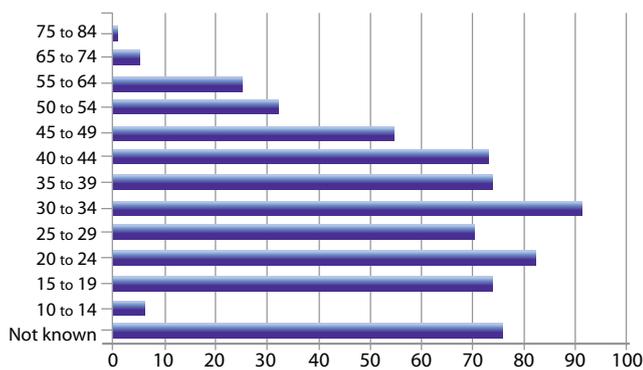
WESTCASA CLIENTS



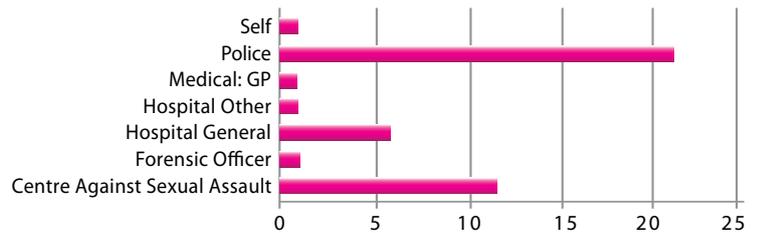
CRISIS CARE PRESENTATIONS



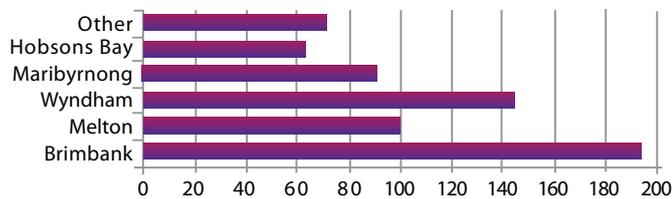
AGE GROUP



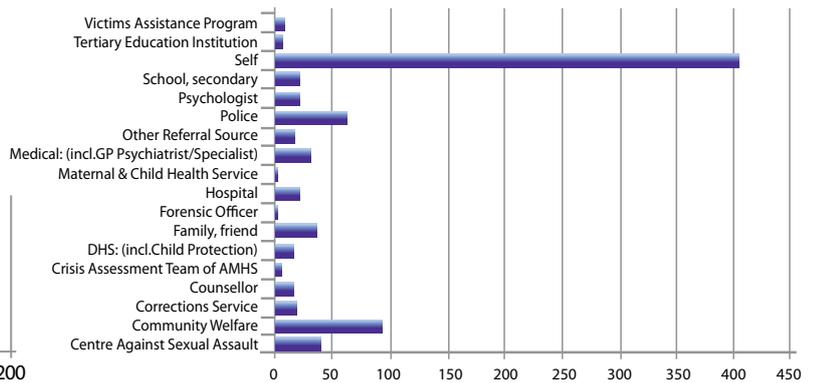
CRISIS CARE UNIT REFERRAL SOURCE



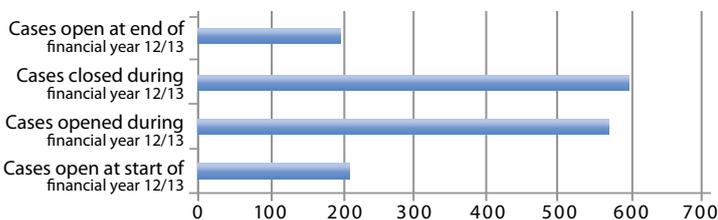
CLIENT LGA



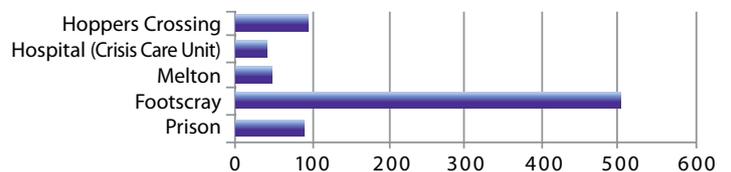
REFERRAL SOURCE



CASES



COUNSELLING LOCATIONS



FINANCE REPORT

Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2013

	2013 \$	2012 \$
Income		
Community Education	989	1,227
Professional Development Fees	10,010	-
Donation	-	12,500
Interest Received	14,337	17,672
Reimbursements, Sales & Sundry	93	369
VOCAT	18,452	18,785
DHS - Core Operating Grant	983,456	967,727
DHS - Better Pathways	91,636	106,261
DHS - ANCOR Funding	-	18,506
Other Grants	5,000	5,000
DHS - Indigenous Inclusion Plan	-	3,545
Profit on Sale of Non-Current Assets	-	-\$4,678.00
	1,123,973	1,146,915

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2013

	2013 \$	2012 \$
Equity		
Fixed Asset Reserve	1,154,012	1,154,012
Retained Earnings	171,437	215,112
Total Equity	1,325,450	1,369,124
Represented by:		
Current Assets		
Cash on Hand	300	300
Petty Cash - Group	600	600
Cash at Bank - Community Access Account	35,866	347,585
Cash at Bank - Visa Debit Float/Salary Pack	764	1,145
Cash at Bank - Investment Accounts	302,647	-
	340,177	349,630
Non-Current Assets		
Land, Building & Improvements at Valuation	1,100,000	1,100,000
	1,100,000	1,100,000
Motor Vehicles	37,015	37,015
Less Accumulated Depreciation	14,280	7,679
	22,735	29,335
Equipment, Library, Furniture and Fittings	182,011	172,447
Less Accumulated Depreciation	133,459	120,516
	48,553	51,931
	1,171,288	1,181,266
Investments		
Shares in other companies	5	5
	5	5
Total Assets	1,511,469	1,530,901
Current Liabilities		
Other Creditors - PAYG	5,240	9,507
Superannuation Payable	5,728	8,629
Provision for Holiday Pay	54,494	69,879
Provision for Long Service Leave	96,207	51,513
Provision for GST	24,351	22,249
	186,020	161,777
Total Liabilities	186,020	161,777
Net Assets	1,325,450	1,369,124

	2013 \$	2012 \$
Expenditure		
Accountancy and Audit Fees	7,267	7,115
Advertising	435	289
ANCOR Funding	-	18,506
Bank Charges	59	14
Building Maintenance	3,996	2,520
Catering	1,093	1,595
Cleaning and Gardening	15,843	16,185
Client Costs	5,823	4,215
Board Expenses	1,653	3,158
Computer Support and Supplies	26,394	24,159
Community Ed/Prof Dev Costs	12,770	9,324
Depreciation	19,543	21,062
Emergency Relief	558	920
Equipment Purchases	1,620	1,770
Fringe Benefits Tax	2,420	1,785
Provision for Holiday Pay	70,975	71,015
Insurance	1,401	1,309
Legal Costs	40	39
Library and Resources	332	574
Light and Power	6,407	5,546
Provision for Long Service Leave	44,694	12,287
Materials/Program costs	362	699
Motor Vehicle Expenses	7,991	7,061
Other Staff Costs	167	-
Outreach Hoppers	8,320	8,320
Outreach Melton	4,128	2,967
Plant and Equipment - Repairs and Maintenance	248	69
Postage and Courier	1,081	1,448
Prison Costs	-	15
Printing and Photocopying	6,888	6,431
Professional Services and Consulting	3,461	2,497
Rates and Taxes	576	579
Sanitation	1,025	981
Salaries and Wages	781,435	794,510
Staff Amenities	3,958	3,836
Staff Training	6,609	4,716
Stationery	2,311	2,210
Subscriptions and Memberships	5,182	9,917
Sundry Expenses	447	371
Supervision	4,930	8,450
Superannuation Contributions	76,608	75,561
Telephone, Fax and Pagers	11,434	10,131
Travelling - Staff and Clients	1,445	1,419
Waste Disposal	425	339
Workcover	15,291	10,320
	1,167,647	1,156,233
Surplus/Deficit	-43,674.00	-9,318.00

AUDITORS REPORT

-2-

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.

Independence

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

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion the financial report of WESTCASA

(a) gives a true and fair view of WESTCASA's financial position as at 30th June 2013 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

9th September 2013

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PO Box 300
Cremorne NSW 1585
Phone: 02 950 0711
Fax: 02 950 2897
Email: toronto@westcasa.com.au

J L COLLYER & PARTNERS
ACCOUNTANTS & AUDITORS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of WESTCASA

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of WESTCASA comprising the balance sheet as at 30th June 2013, 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 WESTCASA are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have 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.

DIRECTORS:
JANE L COLLYER FCPA
LONNIE R. ANKOUZ CPA B.BUS
RAEHEL LAL CPA B.COM



LIABILITY LIMITED BY A SCHEME APPROVED
UNDER PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS LEGISLATION