

RCM FAMILY VIOLENCE PROJECTS UPDATE: February, 2018

The Family Violence Working Group of our Community Welfare Committee has provided the following report on their mission and achievements. As a reminder, our Club has made the following Family Violence Pledge in 2016:

“In keeping with Rotary’s focus on peace, service and supporting community values, the President, Board and Members of the Rotary Club of Melbourne recognise that Family Violence is a major social issue.

As Rotarians and leaders in our community, professions and family life, **WE** pledge to:

- Acknowledge that the use of control, abuse and violence against a child, young person or adult is a violation of human rights and commit to uphold the rights of all people to live free from violence.
- Raise awareness of the impact family violence is having on the individuals and organisations we are associated with and promote best practice responses for business and the community.
- Support and contribute to projects that build a response to and understanding of Family Violence”

The FVWG identified 3 areas of focus in 2016:

1. The development of ideas to build Rotary commitment to raise awareness to family violence issues and in particular in our Club. Commit Rotarians to act against family violence, in Business, in Rotary and in the wider community.
2. Men's Behavioural Change Programs (MBCP): A review into the management of queuing in men’s behavioural change programs.
3. Providing support for child victims - Support the development of programs to bridge the gap between current programs and the special needs of child victims of family violence.

The Committee has provided their report to the Members of their advancements in achieving these goals as below:

- To discuss and respect the Pledge and use it to develop other activities that raise awareness within the Club of Family Violence Issues as they impact our Club and our community.
- RCM Bystander program - Current priority is to work with Our Watch to develop a bystander framework to apply to RCM activities. This project will be completed in the second half of this Rotary year.
- Men's Behavioural Change Programs (MBCP) - A review into the management of queuing in men’s behavioural change programs.
 - The Working Group undertook a pilot with "No To Violence", to study the effect of queuing on perpetrators. The pilot was to analyse the value chain connecting perpetrators to MBCP’s and to test the scope to shorten queues and add value.
 - Our pilot supports the need to re-engineer the value chain that links perpetrators to individual programs aimed at men's behavioural change. Currently the system is process focused and NOT focused on clinical protocols.

- Our pilot agreed with The Royal Commission Report, "that it was unable to assess whether and to what extent existing programs are successful in changing an individual's behaviour and attitudes or is keeping victims safe".
- See "Changing the behaviour of perpetrators" a full report of the Project.
- EMDR - Eye Movement Desensitisation Reprocessing. Sponsorship of a Children's Recovery Program (training for NFP professionals). The aim is to deliver skills that can be applied to assist young persons with trauma. The first program was well received. A Second program has been organised for this year.
- Helping Hand Award - A pilot bridging project has been developed to test the ability to apply various Rotary capacities to assist a disadvantaged young person impacted by family violence to complete education and transition effectively into the workforce.
 - The Award will provide targeted financial, educational and cover other expenses to achieve agreed outcomes for the individual using the resources and skills of Rotarians e.g. mentoring, work experience and participation in selected Rotary activities.
 - The Award is to be a co-operative partnership between the Rotary Club of Melbourne and the Awardees sponsoring organisation.
 - Our first partnership is with Western Chances, a NFP organisation who assists disadvantaged young persons in the Western suburbs of Melbourne, who have experienced Family Violence and other trauma. The assistance can span up to three years depending on successful progress, and needs to be focused by agreed priorities and outcomes for the individual.

A REMINDER: ROTARY NEEDS TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

Commitment from Rotarians	Focus on community needs	Independent community voice	Worldwide network
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