

Domestic and Family Prevention Month May 2009

Report on NQDVRS activities

Each year NQDVRS staff plan activities for the month based on a range of criteria: the direction set by Dept of Communities, staff ideas, trends that have become evident during the year, ideas that come from previous year's activities and state wide events, i.e. the Candlelight Ceremony held each year on the first Wednesday of May. The service prepares a submission for DOC D&FVPM funding and often submits activities and resources for consideration in the D&FVPM Awards.

This year NQDVRS applied for 4 funding submissions to DOC. Out of the 4 submissions, NQDVRS was successful in receiving funding for 2 of them, Transporting the Message and the cost of printing 1000 Healthy Relationship postcards.

Radio station 4K1G (broadcasts to a wide area of Queensland) broadcasted from NQDVRS building to launch the start of D&FVPM also.

OPEN DAY-1/05/2009

Where? NQDVRS

How many attended? 40 people

Media attendance? 4k1G Radio Station broadcast from NQDVRS.

Who spoke? Pauline Woodbridge, placements students, Aardvarc workers and MenTER Worker interviewed.

Anita, an Aardvarc workers spoke on radio and shared information about the AARDVARC program. Shem also spoke on radio about MenTER (The Men's Behaviour Change Program), the program that he co-facilitates. Elissa used the radio station as a great way to promote the Rock Out Concert. Students on placement shared information on their experiences as students at the service as well as spoke about other events that will be held in the month of May.

In the afternoon the AARDVARC workers held a workshop in relation to the Children's Program, including a tour of the AARDVARC room.

The ambiance? It was a fun, relaxed, and informative event. There was a festive feel to the day with balloons displaying DV messages around agency. Fortunately we had 2008 resources available as there were very few 2009 D&FVPM resources. People were welcome and were given a tour of the agency and had discussions with workers around programs and supports available. A catered lunch enabled great networking. The radio station was a terrific way to advertise our agency and the supports that are available, as well as get the message out about D&FV and the effects it has on our community.

Candlelight Ceremony-Women's Centre-6th May 2009, 5.30pm-7.00pm

Where? Women's Centre, Patrick St.

Who organised it? NQDVRS Students-(Shae, Zac, and Gitte), Women's Centre Student (Janne), and Sera's Women's Shelter Student (Tine)

How many attended? Approximately 45.

Who spoke? Lindy -Nelson Carr, Dr. Betty McLellan, and Pauline Woodbridge

Media attendance? Channel 7, aired Wednesday the 6th of May and Townsville Bulletin.

The ambiance? The event was reflective and thoughtful with a safe and respectful environment. A heart moving song was sung by Elissa a NQDVRS worker. The women who spoke at this event showed great strength and determination in working towards changing legal, government and social systems in keeping women and children safe from domestic violence. The event was organised by the students on placement from our service as well as our sister services. The students from Denmark on placement read a poem about DV in Danish then translated it into English, this gave the event a multicultural feel, and acknowledged that DV is a wide spread problem throughout the world. The event was peaceful and somber remembrance for women who have lost their lives through DV. It is important to note, that a variety of local business were kind enough to donate towards this event.

Transporting the Message-13st May 2009, 12.30pm

This activity was funded by a grant from DOC for D&FVPM. NQDVRS organised with SUNBUS to have a message on 5 buses using various routes across the suburbs of Townsville during the month of May. The message was designed by Ann and Pauline. Photographs of the message are available. A bus displaying non violence messages was organised for the 13th May to take workers to JCU to distribute the D&FVPM resources. Once at JCU the bus was covered with posters displaying the message of non violence.

Where? JCU Townsville, near the library

Who organised it? There was not a main person/worker who organised the event and as a result tasks were over looked, such as organising other agencies participation.

How many attended? Around 13 NQDVRS workers.

Media attendance? Media releases were sent out to all local media

The ambiance? It was a relaxed environment NQDVRS walked around the JCU campus handing out DV resources. Many of the students had positive responses and attitudes towards workers and the information that was being shared. Sunbus had complications with displaying the messages on the buses as organised and they were displayed days later than planned.

Stockland Shopping Centre-14th May 2009, 5.30pm-8.30pm

Elissa and Gitte (Danish student) promoted the event by handing out non violence posters and pamphlets to the Rock Out Concert at Stockland Shopping Centre. This event took place on a Thursday to coincide with late night shopping.

This was a successful event, as many of the people who attended the concert were given information from Elissa and Gitte at the Stockland Shopping Centre.

Rock Out Against Domestic Violence-15th May 2009, 7pm-11pm

Where? PCYC Aitkenvale

Who organised it? NQDVRS workers Anita and Elissa. Elissa designed a 'My Space Page' which is attached to NQDVRS website to advertise the events and provided information around Domestic and Family Violence. Rock Out Concert posters which were developed and printed by NQDVRS were displayed in a variety of places all over Townsville, such as Schools and Shop windows.

How many attended? Approximately 170 people, from a variety of ages and cultural backgrounds attended. The goal of advocating non violence towards the younger teens was shared, as this year more younger teens were present than the previous year. Five local bands played, ranging from a variety of different musical genres. A band played a song that they especially wrote about DV.

Who spoke? A PowerPoint presentation with DV information, such as statistics on women experiencing DV and Pets in Crisis was presented on a big screen. Pamphlets with information on DV, other agency referrals and free material, such as rulers, which were popular with the younger teens were available for individuals to take at their leisure. Some of the bands were enthusiastic in speaking out about Domestic Violence. People were encouraged to participate in producing a painting on their thoughts about DV. This activity was very popular amongst the young people and everyone who participated came up with interesting and insightful descriptions of DV. The participation in the painting was an interactive approach to encourage young people to participate in social action and promote messages of non violence.

Hats, a pencil case, surf bags, CD wallets and some other prizes were donated by Off Ya Tree and SunSki and Surf shop. \$50 worth of vouchers was donated by Revoler Music and also Booyah clothing store donated a \$50 voucher.

Media attendance? An artist/photographer has shown interest in using the artwork painted by people in an exhibition.

The ambiance? The concert was an informative, fun and entertaining. The message of non violence was heard and people played an active part in standing up against Domestic Violence. The audience peacefully danced and listened to the music with enjoyment on their faces. There was a youthful feel to the event.

Workshop Day: Focusing on Fellas-20th May 2009 9.30am-3.30pm

There were 3 different events that were held on this day.

1. Talking about Young Men and Healthy Relationships, presented by NQDVRS workers Gerry and Jeff
2. DOVETAIL-members shared their experiences on DOVETAIL and the support the program has provided. Agencies networked and shared information over lunch.
3. MenTER presentation, presented by NQDVRS workers Chris and Shem

Where? All events were held at NQDVRS

Who organised it? NQDVRS workers-Sarah, Gerry, Jeff, Chris, Shem and Lorraine

How many attended? Approximately around 30 people attended the DOVETAIL/Lunch get together. Brochures and information was shared and new knowledge on the roles of DOVETAIL members was gained as well as new interest in the approach, although attendance from other agencies was disappointing. NQDVRS workers took this as a great opportunity for them to be presented with new information on current and future NQDVRS programs. Great discussions and beneficial information was shared between the NQDVRS staff.

The ambiance? The DOVETAIL community lunch was relaxed and great discussions were held over lunch. The presentations had a great feel with enthusiasm from the participants who participated in the presentations. NQDVRS workers showed great support towards their colleagues who were presenting the information on the programs. The day had a great team atmosphere and everyone collectively worked together. It is thought that next year the event name will be changed from “workshop” to “training session”, as it is hoped that the change of wording will assist with workers from other organisations recognising that new and beneficial information can be learnt when participating in this event.

Child Safety Lunch Seminar -28th of May 2009 11:00am to 2:00pm

Where? NQDVRS

Who organised it? NQDVRS workers Elissa and Anita in conjunction with Selma KumSing from Department of Communities – Child Safety Service.

How many attended? Approximately 23 workers from NQDVRS, Department of Communities – Child Safety Service workers from different zonal areas, Indigenous Family Legal Outreach Unit (IFLOU) and ACT for kids.

Who spoke? Manager for ACT for children, Co-coordinator of IFLOU, as well as Anita and Elissa NQDVRS AARDVARC workers. Information on support and programs were presented, which included a tour of the AARDVARC room.

The ambiance? Everyone had a common goal, which was to assist women and children in being safe. This was a very beneficial networking event. Feedback was sought from the participants, and the focus was for that more information sharing days need to take place in the near future so departmental staff can attend and increase their knowledge of DV. Lunch was at enjoyed by all.

Picnic in the Park-29th May 2009, 5.00pm-5.45pm

Where? A walk from NQDVRS through the Townsville mall displaying messages of anti-violence.

Who organised it? Sarah and Pauline

How many attended? Approximately 13 people, which included a family of 5 children who attend the AARDVARC program

Media attendance? Townsville Bulletin

The ambiance? A fun family event. The children enjoyed playing musical instruments. Cars driving past honked their horns and people waved at us. A woman riding her bike past the event, stop and joined in playing musical instruments and spreading the message of non violence.

Pauline's Question and Answer time-10th of June 2009

Is has been noted by many that Pauline has a wealth of knowledge and experience in DV and on the 13/06/2009 NQDVRS has been operating for 15 years. Many of the NQDVRS workers are interested in gaining some of this knowledge and have many questions about what drives Pauline to stay dedicated in assisting women and children living free from DV. It was initiative by workers to have a casual information sharing event were workers could anonymously ask Pauline question around areas they would like to know more about.

Where? NQDVRS at 5pm

Who organised it? A number of workers

How many attended? Most NQDVRS workers

Who spoke? Pauline

The ambiance? The event was very enjoyable and the aim of the event was achieved with beneficial information from Pauline being passed on to workers. Most left feeling like their questions had been answered and an understanding of how the agency operates and functions were gained. This event encouraged workers to reflect on their own practice wisdom.

End of Month Celebrations-10th of June 2009

With the success of D&FVPM 2009 it was decided that an event recognising the time and effort staff put into the month of May should be celebrated. An informal get together over dinner was collectively decided. As a way for Management to recognise workers commitment over DV month they generously contributed a subsidy towards the event.

Where? Dinner at the Metropole restaurant

Who organised it? Gerry, Lorraine, and Lisa

How many attended? Most workers and students

The ambiance? It was a fun and celebratory night. Laughter and great discussions went across the table. A relaxing dinner was a great way for workers and students to unwind from the busy and successful month of May. This event contributed to the consolidation of the staff team's development and assisted in acknowledging their value to the organisation.

Postcards-Printed 2009

Funding from DOC's was success, 1000 postcards were printed. They were printed and distributed in the Month of May and will continue to be utilised in our future involvement with youth in the community. The target audience is teens and young adults with a focus on healthy relationships.

Who designed the postcards?-NQDVRS workers Gerry and Elissa.

The concept behind the postcards? A postcard that would appeal to youth and have a youthful and fun approach in sending the message of "Healthy Relationships". The previous year NQDVRS designed an "Unhealthy Relationships" postcard. Its success motivated NQDVRS to design a follow up postcard with a positive focus on relationships.

Popularity? The postcards have been popular. A variety of organisations have taken multiple bundles of postcards, many of these organisation's clients are not predominately teens, but many of their clients have children who may benefit from the information displayed on the postcard.

Where have they been distributed? NQDVRS office, multiple schools throughout the Townsville area, The Rock out Concert, JCU, and training events which were host to a wide range of people from the North Queensland area. The postcards also will be used by the Police initiative SAFE (Safety and Female Empowerment) workshop that is designed for year 12 females. The postcards were handed out and or displayed at every event that took place in the month of May, examples of services that showed interest in the postcards were, Relationships Australia, Child Safety, FEAT, Youth Network and Lifeline.