Highlights in 2016

- Visit to Amsterdam NL new shelter model
- Launch of Men’s Research project (UTAS, Dr Peter Lucas)
- New Funding - Men’s Training Module & multimedia clip

SAFE from the START is an evidence-based and early intervention Australian project, developed by The Salvation Army in partnership with the University of Tasmania in 2006-2009. Researchers A. Prof Erica Bell and Dr Angela Spinney conducted the initial research working with women’s refuges and children’s services to design and develop a one-day Safe from the Start training program and resource tool-kit that focuses on improving awareness of the impact of family and domestic violence on young children, how to engage children in ‘activity based play’ and using the resources to assist in ‘listening to the voices of children.’

www.salvationarmy.org.au/safefromthestart

Safe from the Start training has now been delivered in all Australian states in over 180 locations, New Zealand and the UK. The training program has been updated and is now delivered by Dr Wilma Gallet (Vic) and Nell Kuilenburg (Salvation Army). The project has won a number of national awards with 900 Safe from the Start resource kits distributed throughout Australia including New Zealand, Canada and the UK.

In Australia statistics continue to demonstrate that domestic & family violence is a serious crime with the number of fatalities increasing from at least one murder a week as a result of family violence. This has continued to impact on and engage the Australian community to challenge governments and the community to respond more effectively.

The Australian Commonwealth and state Governments, national networks, universities and non-government organisations continue to conduct research and inquiries, run conferences which has informed the planning for new programs and interventions to address the issue of violence against women and children. These include:

- The National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022
- COAG Advisory Panel on Reducing Violence Against Women and their Children
- Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence
- Our WATCH and ANROWS research & conferences

Congratulations!

Our Safe from the Start training consultant, Wilma Gallet recently achieved her PhD from Melbourne University. Wilma, as the Safe from the Start trainer, has made a significant contribution to the development of the Safe from the Start project and we congratulate her on this great achievement.

Amsterdam Visit to new Shelter model

Nell Kuilenburg, the Safe from the Start project manager, visited the new Blijf Group shelter and headquarters in Amsterdam in August 2016. The Netherlands women’s shelters have implemented an innovative new national women’s shelter service model informed by research taking into account the voices of clients using the shelters. The Blijf Group sought extensive input from service clients, shelter workers and external services reviewing the shelter model that was implemented in 1974 in Amsterdam. The new model was informed by many victims of family violence expressing their feelings about wishing the violence to stop to remain together safely as a family free from violence. The needs and safety of children were also seen as priority and a number of children’s support programs were implemented.

http://www.childhood.org.au/for-professionals/resources

The new model includes assessing risk and working with the women’s partners and men who are violent to ensure that a holistic family approach is considered.

The new model incorporates:

- Shelters and housing for victims of family violence which are no longer hidden in an undisclosed location. Shelters operating as ‘Oranje Huis’ are now visible and recognisable.
- Domestic Violence Support Centre within the shelter, which means that all services are available collectively under one roof.

An Oranje Huis is a place for advice, case management, coordination, support, accommodation and children’s programs and provides direct help for all family members, women, men and children, emotionally impacted by the domestic violence.

https://www.blijfgroep.nl/sites/default/files/infoLeefletengels.pdf

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Men’s Violence Research Project Launch
The Salvation Army in partnership with the University of Tasmania, conducted a research study titled: “How can we increase men’s awareness that family violence has a harmful effect on their children?”

This research conducted by Dr Peter Lucas commenced in 2015 and aimed to identify evidence-based resources currently being used in men’s change behaviour programs and other similar groups to increase men’s awareness about the possible harms that exposure to family and domestic violence can have on children. The intention was to develop a best practice education module including new resources, which could be used in a variety of settings.

The research showed that men who use violence against their partners are more likely to stop when they understand the impact on their children. Most fathers do not wish to harm their children and when informed of the damage can be motivated to change.

Research Report Launch
The final research report was launched by the Tasmanian Governor Prof Kate Warner with guest speakers: Tasmania’s Commissioner for Children Mark Morrissey, Prof Katereena Scott, Caring Dads Canada, Tino Carnevale, Dr Peter Lucas and Prof Kenneth Walsh from UTAS.

Caring Dads Presentation Launch Highlight
We were very fortunate to have Prof Katereena Scott, the founder of the Canadian Caring Dads program speak at the Launch and present a 2 hour workshop on the successful Caring Dads program. www.caringdads.org

New Focus on preventing Men’s Violence
There is increasing interest in addressing how men’s violence can be prevented with new funding available and national conferences with a focus on men who use violence scheduled for 2017.

Donations and Grants
The Salvation Army gratefully acknowledges the support of Tasmanian Community Fund grant for the UTAS men’s research project and multimedia film clip, and the Commonwealth Department of Social Services, Building Safer Communities for Women Program for the Men’s Action Research project, 2016-2017.

Training 2016
Safe from the Start one-day training sessions in 2016 were held in Adelaide, Brisbane, Gold Coast (2), Toowoomba, Townsville, Cairns, Cranbourne and Box Hill and Rockdale.

New Men’s Action Research Project
The Salvation Army, in partnership with the UTAS, recently received a Commonwealth Building Safe Communities for Women Program grant. The action research project will develop a specific men’s flexible training module in consultation with key stakeholders, with an aim to increase awareness for men who use violence of the impact of their violence on their children.

The project will result in a multi purpose training module and resource tools including a multi-media film clip for use in men’s change behaviour programs, community organisations, sporting clubs, rehabilitation programs and the wider community. The multi-media clip will be adaptable for use in social media, TV advertising, training, sporting groups and business sponsorship. A UTAS research team is overseeing the project, supported by community champions and a wide range of specialist stakeholders have been engaged.

Conferences


STOP Domestic Violence Conference: Dec 2016 ANZMHA stopdomesticviolence.com.au

USB Training resource: All training participants now receive a USB pen with the Safe from the Start training powerpoint presentation with YouTube clips to enable facilitation of further training sessions in local communities