Highlights 2017

* Visit to the Northern Territory
* New Men’s Research project — Dads for Kids
* Book Publication

SAFE from the START National Training continues to be facilitated across Australia and in 2017 has been conducted in: NSW, Queensland, Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

Safe from the Start is continually updated as new research and resources are sourced and continues to attract support and interest around Australia. The message is the same: children who witness or live with domestic or family violence can be at risk of being hurt or traumatised emotionally impacting on their health, development and educational prospects in later life. However there is hope for healing by adults engaging with, understanding and listening to children.

The Safe from the Start training message is about providing opportunities to be kind and ‘listening to the voices of children’ is a positive step that all parents, family members, teachers, medical professionals or community services can do to contribute to a child’s safety and healing.

Training in the Northern Territory

Family violence is endemic in the Northern Territory; Indigenous women and girls are more than 35 times more likely to be injured or killed that other Australian women, as a consequence of family violence. This horrific fact is well known by the wide range of services working to provide safety and support for women and children experiencing violence. In all three locations, staff from various agencies attended the SFTS training and vowed to work collaboratively to improve options, particularly for the children who are exposed to FV. We know that these children experience significant trauma and their emotional, psychological, physical and cognitive development can be seriously impacted. The SFTS training is designed to provide workers from various disciplines with the tools to make a positive difference in the lives of children who experience violence.

New Resources

Dr Bruce Perry

First Impressions: Exposure to Violence and a Child’s Developing Brain

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=brVOYtNMmKk

Mothers Still Face Experiment

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apzXGebZht0

Understanding what children say

Children’s experiences of domestic violence, parental substance misuse and parental health problems. Author: Sarah Gorin
**Book Launch**

A new children's book by Tasmanian authors Judi Rhodes and Tanya McQueen was recently launched at Fullers Bookshop Hobart. 'Queenie's little book of comfort' was launched by her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, Governor of Tasmania. Beautifully illustrated, the book encourages children who are scared through witnessing violence how to be safe.

From left: Tanya McQueen, Tasmanian Governor Kate Warner and Judi Rhodes

**New Men’s Project—Dads for Kids**

Safe from the Start is pleased to support and contribute to a new action research project in partnership with the University of Tasmania. The Dads for Kids project is managed by a skilled research team who are developing multimedia film clips, resources and a training module. The project is working collaboratively with services to deliver educative training tools to increase awareness of the impact of family and domestic violence on children. The aim is to engage fathers who use violence to focus on keeping their children safe, care for their children and motivate them to change their behaviour. A Canadian program of interest is CARING DADS! www.caring.dads.org

**Two film clips are currently being developed**

One is a Paul Kelly song: “If I could start today again”, as a resource alongside the You Tube Paul Kelly https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tb9nrAvGPAl

The second is The Sponge video clip — a visual of a injured mother in the bathroom over the sink with a child watching, with a message that a child’s brain is like a sponge absorbing everything they see and feel, both good and bad. These will be available by end 2017.

**Resources**

This is a useful resource for churches to use providing a response to spiritual abuse and explaining the misuse of scripture to justify domestic violence.

Useful resources and training tools for churches and pastoral workers can be found: website:


**Working with immigrant and refugee communities** to prevent violence against women: A guide to engage immigrant and refugee communities in violence prevention activities.


**USB Training resource:** We have had fantastic feedback from training participants who just love the USB pen containing all Safe from the Start resources: training PowerPoint presentation & YouTube clips, research reports, brochures, training manual and new resources.

**Update Orange House Women’s Shelters in the Netherlands**

The first new Orange House women’s shelter model in Amsterdam is being replicated in other cities in the Netherlands and continues to create discussion and interest in Australia. This new model has implemented a whole family approach to address and ensure safety for women and children and support and counselling for the whole family. There is a targeted approach to working with children through various children’s programs. Organisations within Australia who are establishing new women’s shelters or rebuilding existing services have shown interest in this new initiative.

For further information see website: https://www.blijfgroep.nl/downloads/flyer-oranje-huis-engels

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