

## Looking Ahead

### September

- World Suicide Prevention Day 10<sup>th</sup>
- Blue Ribbon Day 29<sup>th</sup> - an expression of remembrance, support and appreciation for the Victorian police force.

### October

- Mental Health Week 5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>
- World Mental Health Day 10<sup>th</sup>
- Canteen Bandana Day 31<sup>st</sup>
- Pink Ribbon Day 27<sup>th</sup>

### November

- November – raising awareness for men's health
- White Ribbon Day November 25<sup>th</sup>

## Information Sessions

### Parents in City of Casey

**1st Sept at 7.30 p.m. - Casey Council Chambers**

Latest research into bullying, social networking sites, online games, and internet addiction by Dr Michael Carr-Gregg, author and founding member of the National Coalition Against Bullying.

**8<sup>th</sup> of September - Cranbourne Library.**

Sleep and Settling Techniques seminar by Liz Leslie, maternal child health nurse.

**15<sup>th</sup> of September - Endeavour Hills Library.**

Toddler behaviour, realistic expectations, setting limits, and teaching strategies by Pinky McKay, lactation specialist and mother of five.

**For further information please contact Narre Warren Library on 9704 7696.**

## White Ribbon Day

White Ribbon Day, November 25<sup>th</sup>, is the International Day for the elimination of violence against women.

Wearing a white ribbon is a personal pledge that the wearer does not condone violence against women, and is committed to supporting community action to stop violence by men against women. The White Ribbon Foundation of Australia aims to eliminate violence against women by promoting culture change around the issue. The major strategies to achieve this are a national media campaign as well as education & male leadership programmes aimed at men and boys around Australia. For more information please go to:

[www.whiteribbonday.org.au](http://www.whiteribbonday.org.au)

## Housing Week

August 31st - September 7th

Housing Week's annual celebration of public and community housing will focus on connecting tenants to their neighbours and local communities and recognising great achievement across Victoria. In its 11th year Housing Week continues to bring thousands of people across Victoria together to celebrate with award ceremonies, student scholarships, local community events and networking opportunities

SHASP Support will be holding two half day events at community facilities that we manage. Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> Rosebud and Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> Noble Park. Local police, council and OoH staff will be in attendance. Lunch and drinks will be provided.

## Mental Health Week October 5-11

The week commences on October 5<sup>th</sup> and this year's theme is **Mental Health: What Do You Know?** The aim of Mental Health Week is educate and engage Victorians around mental health and related issues by coordinating a variety of events held by individuals and organisations across Victoria.

### **Schools' Mental Health Week 2008 Creative Writing Competition**

The Mental Health Foundation of Australia (Victoria) has again organised a Creative Writing Competition for Victorian schools in the lead up to Mental Health Week.

### **Cruden Farm Fun Day 12th October**

Cruden Farm in Langwarrin will be holding a fun day for young and old. There will be entertainment, fun activities, and mental health information available. Bring your own picnic. Entry is \$15.00 for people over the age of 15. Children are free.

Details of events can be found on their website. [www.mentalhealthvic.org.au](http://www.mentalhealthvic.org.au)

## Young Renters Project

The Young Renters Project is a program serving to assist young people to enter the private rental market through the facilitation of a series of workshops in the community. Young people are given information on finding and securing private rental as well as their rights and responsibilities in regards to tenancies. They are provided with a private rental kit to take away with them, and are sent out a certificate of participation, which they can present to real estate agents when attempting to access private rental. The workshops are informative and interesting, with refreshments provided, and generally run for approximately two hours. The Young Renters Project is facilitated by the Peninsula Community Legal Centre. The workshops are held at various locations within the local communities of Casey, Dandenong and Frankston, including the Dandenong and Narre Warren WAYSS offices. There is also a reference group of workers and real estate agents that meets to provide information on the needs of clients. New members are welcome. For further information on the workshops or reference group meetings please contact 9783 3600.

## National Bandanna Day

This year, National Bandanna Day will be held on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October. Since its inception in 1994, National Bandanna Day has grown to become one of Australia's leading not-for-profit fundraising and awareness raising events.

Amazingly, almost one million bandannas are sold nationally each year and these can be seen worn on beaches, in gyms and on Aussie streets throughout the year.

CanTeen's National Bandanna Day products will be available nationally through Woolworths, Myer, NewsLink, Strandbags, Sportspower and Industrie stores during the month of October.

The Australian Organisation for Young People Living with Cancer, CanTeen, is the national support organisation for young people (aged 12-24) living with cancer.

The touchstone of CanTeen is the belief that young people, through meeting and talking with one another, are better able to cope with uncertainties of a cancer diagnosis.

## Data & Statistics

For the period  
1 January 2008 - 30 June 2008

### FaxBack

Referrals - 893

### HEF Assisted Clients

Private Rent Arrears  
469 - (25.27%)

Private Rent in Advance  
695 - (37.45%)

Emergency Accommodation  
985 - (36.91%)

Other - .37%

**Total HEF Clients 1856**

## PROGRAM PROFILES

WAYSS has 12 programs servicing the needs of homeless people and victims of family violence. Each newsletter we will profile three of those programs. Detailed information can be found on the WAYSS website



### Social Housing Advocacy and Support Program.

SHASP has 4 main components.

**Intervention At Risk Tenancies (IART)** SHASP Support Workers provide short-term support through a case managed based approach. In partnership with the client, they will identify and address issues impacting on the client's Office of Housing "at risk" tenancy.

**Establishing Successful Tenancies (EST)** This component of SHASP aims to identify and address the issues impacting on a client's ability to make a successful transition into a Office of Housing property. SHASP Case Workers provide ongoing minimal support for up to 6 months to assist clients in establishing their tenancy.

**Advocacy** SHASP advocacy provides assistance to clients who are unable to advocate on their own behalf and who do not require ongoing support.

**Assistance to Early Housing Applicants** Client's housing options are explored and a support letter is prepared for OoH Segment 3 applications.

### PRAP

The Private Rental Access Program (PRAP) provides services to women and children escaping family violence, clients with mental health issues and young people. The three components of PRAP have referral partnerships within the Southern Region. These clients are referred to PRAP for assistance to obtain/maintain private rental accommodation. The program is currently accessible by worker referral only. The Brokerage component of PRAP is time and amount limited subsidized through rental payments. PRAP and use of PRAP resources assists the client and Case Worker to address current issues without the client's private rental accommodation being compromised through an inability to pay the rent owed.

### Family Violence Crisis

WAYSS Family Violence Crisis Service operates extended hours, 7 days a week. This service provides assistance to women and children escaping family violence to access support, advice and short-term crisis accommodation. This service also has access to a range of transitional housing and support options. WAYSS Ltd also has a domestic violence outreach program for women and children experiencing family violence who require longer-term support.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### National Refugee Week

National Refugee Week was celebrated in the City of Casey on the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> June, with the theme, 'A Place to Call Home'. The celebration provided families in Casey with an opportunity to meet other families with similar experiences, and to honour their backgrounds. The main event, whose aim was to build a culture of welcome throughout Casey, was held at the South Eastern Migrant Resource Centre, and included a multicultural lunch, children's entertainment and activities, and guest speakers from Africa and Afghanistan. A bus tour around Casey was held for members of the Sudanese community. City of Casey's aim in acknowledging National Refugee Week was to encourage people to think about the global themes of protection and human rights by focusing on the fundamental right to a secure home.

### Mums and Bubs Event in City of Casey

A special Mums and Bubs movie event was on Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of July as part of the We Are Family campaign at Westfield Fountain Gate. Targeted at expecting mums and mums with babies up to twelve months in the City of Casey, the event included a private screening of Sex and the City, and an interactive workshop. Guest speakers included Betty Rankin from the Transition to Parenthood project and Cathy Rix, assistant coordinator of City of Casey's maternal child health service. The event received a turn-out of fifty mums and expecting mums, and was both an interesting and informative opportunity for mums and expecting mums in the City of Casey.

### National NAIDOC

July 6<sup>th</sup>—July 13<sup>th</sup> July 08. NAIDOC celebrations were held around Australia in July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This is a great way to celebrate Indigenous culture and build bridges between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The week is celebrated in the Indigenous community and increasing numbers of government agencies, schools, local councils, community organisations and workplaces. WAYSS staff supported our local Indigenous community by attending various events during the week.

### Useful Contacts

WAYSS Family  
Violence Crisis Service  
ah 0400 503 338

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Mornington Peninsula  
Domestic Violence  
Service 5971 9454

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Hanover - Dandenong  
"Bob's Place"  
Crisis Accommodation,  
Housing Support and  
Family Focus  
9792 0750

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Office of Housing

- Dandenong  
9767 8777
- Frankston  
9784 3200

### Links



WAYSS  
[www.wayssltd.org.au](http://www.wayssltd.org.au)

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The Association of  
Neighbourhood Houses  
& Learning Centres Inc.  
[www.anhlc.asn.au](http://www.anhlc.asn.au)

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Hanover Welfare  
Services  
[www.hanover.org.au](http://www.hanover.org.au)

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Homelessness Australia  
[www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au](http://www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au)

### Feedback

Di Goujon, Mental Health Worker at Bunnarong Co-Op, would like to commend the FVC team at WAYSS who were very responsive and professional in a recent case she was managing.

