

Our submission was the product of consultation with clients, staff and Board members of both organisations.

In addition to this submission, Starick worked with refugees in the south east metropolitan corridor to consult with children and mothers about how the needs of children could be heard and responded to. This information was written up as a separate submission to the Strategy.

### **Developing Starick's Program Logic**

With support from Anglicare WA, we worked with staff across the organisation to develop a Program Logic, to assist with maintaining a focus on good practice and positive outcomes for clients. Thank you to previous and current Anglicare WA CEOs Ian Carter and Mark Glasson for their collegial approach and providing specialist staff to work with us.

### **Strategic Plan**

This year we focused on developing our Strategic Plan for 2018 to 2021. This is a whole of organisation plan to guide the work of the Board and staff in relation to our strategic priorities of:

- Providing safe, secure and supported accommodation
- Supporting and develop the resilience and strength of the women and children who use our services
- Advocating for women and children affected by family and family violence
- Engaging with, and raise awareness, of communities to address family and domestic violence
- Building organisational capacity and excellence

### **16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence**

The United Nations 16 Days of Activism from 25 November to 10 December has become a central focus of Starick's community awareness raising. In 2018-19 we conducted our second campaign which included an extensive social media campaign and engagement in community activities including the DV Memorial marches in Perth, Midland, Armadale and to honour victims of domestic violence.

**Leanne Barron** *CEO*

## **OUR VISION**

Building futures free from violence.

## **OUR PURPOSE**

Providing specialised support services and advocacy for women and children affected by domestic and family violence and for the community as a whole.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Our heartfelt thanks to our Chair Damian Green and members of the Board, all of whom have voluntarily dedicated their time, skills and experience.

### **A special thanks to our ongoing program funders and partners, in particular:**

- Department of Communities
- Department of Industry Innovation and Science
- Lotterywest
- Cities of Canning and Gosnells
- Access Housing
- Women's Council for Domestic & Family Violence Services (WA)
- Ascot Rotary
- Applecross Rotary
- Soroptimists of South Perth
- Jacaranda Community Centre
- Ride Against Domestic Violence

In addition, our thanks to the multitude of community groups and donors, all of whom are listed on our website, who are part of the fabric that makes Starick a vibrant and energetic organisation.

## **FINANCIAL DISCLAIMER**

Starick Services Inc. audited financial statements for 2018/2019 are available upon request. Please contact our Finance Manager on (08) 9478 5300, or email [financemanager@starick.org.au](mailto:financemanager@starick.org.au)



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Communities**



## ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

### **BOARD**

#### **Chair**

Damian Green

#### **Deputy Chair**

Natalie Sangalli

#### **Treasurer**

Sean Thorpe

#### **Board Members**

Gail Brindley

Shirley Anne Fortina

Natalie Lund

Georgia Malone

Dr Annette Raynor

Dr Gae Synnott

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Starick is a registered charity with over 40 years' experience in supporting women and children escaping domestic and family violence in Perth's south-eastern metropolitan corridor.

If you would like to assist us in our work, please visit our website at [www.starick.org.au](http://www.starick.org.au).

Starick acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Custodians of this country and its waters. We pay respect to their Elders past and present and extend this to all Aboriginal people seeing this message.



## CHAIR'S REPORT



As the scourge that is Family and Domestic Violence (FDV) continues to ravage the lives of women and children across Australia, it has been my privilege to take over from Wendy Wiley as the Chair of Starick for 2019.

The organisation has a strong history of supporting the West Australian community, and this past year has seen us continue this work in

numerous ways. We remain focused on our core business of providing refuge and support to women and children escaping violence, and this mission remains a clear focus for the Board as we implement our new strategic plan. However, we also know that so much more is needed, and it is our clear intent as we move forward to do our absolute best to rise to meet these new and emerging challenges.

This past year has seen an increased emphasis on the unique and specialised support needs of children experiencing FDV, and it is pleasing that Starick has been able to extend our capacity in this area through a number of new initiatives. This has been complimented by our increased advocacy and representation of the needs of children and young people and is something that will continue to feature as a core part of our work into the future.

However, we also recognise that we can't do this work alone. As responses to FDV become more integrated, the way we work with other partners and stakeholders is critical in achieving this aim. As such, the Board have worked hard over the past 12 months to build and strengthen our working relationship both within the sector and within the broader community. We view this as an essential component in developing a service system and community response that views ending FDV as everyone's responsibility.

As we move into 2020, the Board is continuing to consolidate and develop the organisation in ways that enable us to be more responsive and outcome focused, whilst also ensuring we remain committed to the mission of safety for our clients and community. To this end, I want to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to the Board and Staff for their efforts and commitment to Starick over the past 12 months.

It is because of everyone's unique and vital contributions that we find ourselves in a strong position and ready for the future with the imminent launch of the 10-year strategy, which we hope will help to guide the work of the sector through the next decade.

**Damian Green Chair**

## TREASURER'S REPORT



Starick's strong balance sheet, commitment to productivity and the incredibly generous contributions from our community partners and donors continues to allow the organisation to weather an enormously difficult economic period in the refuge sector. This has allowed us to deliver not just a safe space, but to go the extra step in helping women and children fleeing domestic violence.

Our results for FY19 reflect the above, and Starick continues to manage our operating budgets responsibly. Starick also continues to invest for the future, to ensure that we can continue to provide great outcomes for our clients, and to respond to potential changes to funding models.

Sound financial management has ensured that Starick remains in a strong position to weather the tough economic conditions impacting the refuge sector across the State.

I would like to thank the entire Starick team, all of our stakeholders and my fellow board members for their continued dedication to Starick and our clients. The dedication you bring to building futures free from domestic violence is above and beyond, and an incredibly necessary cause.

**Sean Thorpe Treasurer**

## CEO'S REPORT



Starick continues to work to address the impacts of FDV in our community and to raise awareness of this issue and of the work that we do.

**Over the last year five women, five men and two children were murdered by a current or former partner or family member.**

The scale and the complexity of this issue means it is increasingly important that Starick is positioned to respond to emerging needs, and works in partnership with other FDV services, community organisations and government in the areas of prevention, early intervention and crisis intervention.

By coordinating our refuges and outreach services, we are able to provide a seamless service delivery model tailored to the needs of women and children.

Our work over the last year reflects this integrated and multi-faceted approach.

## SERVICE DELIVERY

During 2018-19, Starick has continued to enhance our service delivery responses to women and children affected by FDV.

### Lead agency

In our role as lead agency in the south east metropolitan corridor, we have continued to work with other refuges to ensure an immediate and safe response to women at very high risk. The high level of collaboration between services in the corridor ensures that the safety of these women and children is prioritised.

**In 2018-19, we accommodated 48 women and 68 children in our emergency room at Mary Smith refuge. The number of women and children supported increased over the year, with double the number of women and 2.5 times more children being accommodated in the first half of 2019 compared to the previous six-month period (July to December 2018).**

As lead agency, we are also responsible for facilitating collaboration between refuges. We continued to do this by organising monthly networking meetings and shared training to improve our practice.

### Our refuges – Mary Smith and Starick House

Our two refuges continue to provide crisis accommodation and high-quality support to women and children escaping FDV.

**In 2018-19, Starick's refuges accommodated 137 women and 230 children.**

Refuges are a critical component of the service response, creating a physically, emotionally and psychologically safe space so that women and children can recover from the effects of violence.

## Our outreach services

Starick outreach staff provide important support to women who are living in the community, working with them to enhance their safety, attending to court and other legal processes and addressing their housing and financial needs, as well as providing them with counselling and emotional support.

**In 2018-19, Starick's outreach services provided assistance to over 1200 women and their children.**

Our mix of outreach services includes:

- DV advocates based at Armadale and Cannington police stations
- A part time counselling service.
- A supported transitional housing program.
- A Safe at Home program.
- An Aboriginal Safe at Home program.

This year, the Safe at Home programs have once again received a generous boost to its funding from Ascot Rotary, which supports our clients' need for home security enhancements.

## Our children's program

Working with children to address the impact of violence has always been a priority for Starick, and this year we have continued to develop this work.

Government funding provides for children's advocates at our two refuges. We also use small amounts of funding through donations, fundraising and volunteer efforts to enhance services to children through programs such as baby massage, children's yoga, the Circle of Security parenting program and school holiday programs.

This year, we successfully negotiated Federal Government funding for **Communities for Children (C4C)**, which is administered through Communicare. This funding has enabled us to employ a part time children's counsellor and children's outreach worker to ensure that children affected by FDV continue to be supported after they have left refuge accommodation. Further information on the C4C program is provided later in my report.

Our **Annual Starick Camp** for mothers and children has been funded since 2005 by our valued supporters Vivienne Stewart and Mandy Loton. This is a special event for families, many of whom have never been out of the metro area or experienced the joys of camping.

We have continued to create safe and nurturing outdoor spaces for children through our **nature based playgrounds**. In 2018-19, the outdoor space at Starick House was further enhanced through a Federal Government grant for a **Sense of Place** project which incorporates artwork reflecting the six Noongar seasons. It has been a pleasure to work with Nature Based Play to continue to create spaces where children feel welcomed and can play, create, explore and develop confidence and other skills.

Finally, this year we worked with refuges in the south east corridor to hold **a children's consultation**, thus ensuring that the voices of children were represented in the State Government's consultations on the 10 Year Strategy to Prevent Family and Domestic Violence. We believe it is critical that children are consulted in discussions about FDV because they represent the majority of victims, yet their voices are rarely heard. We intend to further develop our consultations with children in the coming year.

## OUR PROGRAMS

Specialist programs enable us to provide additional support for women and children as they build their physical and emotional wellness. These programs fall outside of our core funding and are

made possible by fundraising, grants, donations and volunteer effort. The programs we provided during 2019-19 were:

- Baby massage
- Lived Experience
- Meditation
- Restorative yoga for women and children
- The Circle of Security parenting program
- Art therapy

## THE STARICK OP SHOP

The Starick Op Shop is a valuable service to Starick clients and the general community, providing:

- Volunteering and work participation activities for community members.
- A facility for sorting donations for the refuges, with surplus items available for sale at bargain prices to the local community.

It also generates a growing amount of income to support Starick's services, thanks to the hard work of our volunteers and our regular garage sales. My heartfelt thanks go to volunteer Op Shop Manager Sandie Hunt and to all the wonderful volunteers, donors and customers who helped to make this year our most successful yet.

## NEW PROJECT AREAS

Three new projects were initiated this year, all reflecting our increasing focus on prevention and early intervention.

### Respectful Relationships

The State Government engaged Starick and White Ribbon to implement the Respectful Relationships Teacher Support program in WA schools. Training was provided to the first cohort of 10 schools during 2018-19, all of whom are now implementing respectful relationships initiatives in their schools. Liaison with the 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort of schools has begun.

### Community Linkages

Local Projects Local Jobs grant funding has enabled us to pilot a project targeting small to medium businesses in the south eastern corridor, raising their awareness of FDV and offering support and resources to assist them to intervene early in response to disclosures of FDV from employees and colleagues.

### Communities for Children (C4C)

This children's outreach program commenced on 1 July 2019 and enables us to provide support to children after they have left our refuges, or who are living in one of our transitional homes.

Children are the primary victims of FDV and many experience multiple transitions as a result moving out of the family home, coming into a refuge, changing schools, losing contact with friends, moving into transitional housing, etc. We believe it is important that children are supported through these transitions and are able to access appropriate services.

## KEY AREAS OF WORK

In addition to the areas outlined above, Starick has undertaken the following key areas of work:

### Input to the State 10 Year FDV Strategy

Starick developed our submission to the State FDV strategy in partnership with Zonta. As two specialist and multi-faceted FDV services supporting women and children and single women, we saw a joint submission as an opportunity to deepen the collaboration between our services, and to bring together our collective insight and ideas about what an effective service and community response would look like. *Continued overleaf.*