

## Patron's Report



During the past year Starick took important steps towards achieving its goals, by building its profile and focusing on strategic relationships.

In September I was delighted to speak at a family and domestic violence (FDV) community forum with keynote speaker Rosie Batty, FDV campaigner and 2015 Australian of the Year.

The Mayor of Gosnells Cr Olwyn Searle welcomed a wide audience of regional stakeholders and introduced other speakers,

including the Hon Lisa Harvey MLA, Deputy Premier and Minister for Police and Women's Interests, Sergeant Melissa Russell from WA Police's SE Metropolitan Victim Support Unit and Starick's CEO Leanne Barron.

This important event was made possible through the hard work of the City of Gosnells, in particular the Director of Community Development Adele Cochran, past board member Dr Elizabeth Walker and the Older Women's Network. Generous financial support was received from event partners Women in Mining WA, Lotterwest and Bendigo Bank.

Over the past year, I have continued to receive welcome advice and guidance from Founding Patron Kay Hallahan AO, who is never far away from Starick when there is an opportunity to connect us to important stakeholders. Kay has hosted several meetings with our donors Mandy Loton and Vivienne Stewart, who continue to fund the annual women and children's camp to Fairbridge. Their ongoing support and passion for the work of Starick is greatly appreciated.

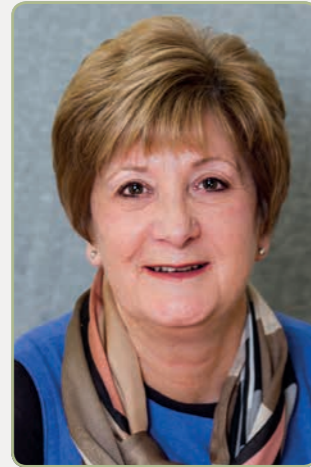
This year, with the assistance of Mandy Loton we embarked on a new relationship with Curtin University, key stakeholder in the south west metropolitan region. I would like to acknowledge Vice President Corporate Relations Valerie Raubenheimer and Chief Advancement Officer Celia Hurley, for facilitating our introduction to Curtin and committing to build a mutually beneficial relationship into the future.

At a time of significant change in the not-for-profit sector, I would like to commend Starick's Chair Wendy Wiley, all board members, CEO Leanne Barron and the staff and volunteers, for responding positively to the current sector challenges while continuing to provide such important services to the women and children of the region.

**Anne Banks-McAllister**

Patron

## Chair's Report



Throughout 2017, the Starick Board has continued to strive towards meeting its vision and goals. It has concentrated on its business sustainability project and continues to pursue new opportunities for future business sustainability and evaluating trends and operating environment analysis. We have a number of projects in the development stage, including outcomes measurement.

In addition, the board remains focused on its

financial objectives, with the delivery of a balanced budget being its highest priority. Ongoing funding continues to be challenging although we are optimistic for change, with the WA government's focus on FDV and the appointment of a designated minister, the Hon Simone McGurk, whose portfolio encompasses child protection, women's interests and FDV.

This year the board welcomed two new members with marketing expertise - Mrs Alicia Scaffidi and Ms Georgina Malone. With this expertise, Starick has now adopted a more strategic approach to fundraising and marketing and how it connects to the wider community as we meet the challenges of funding along with rising FDV in our communities

We continue to work with our valued community partners, the cities of Gosnells, Armadale, Canning, South Perth and Belmont, as we strive to provide safe and secure accommodation in these regions. In addition we have developed a positive partnership with Ascot Rotary, who assisted Starick with the provision of funding for two vehicles to assist our clients with transport.

This year we farewell long-serving board member Arthur Wilson, and thank him for his contribution to the board and Starick. We welcome new board member Ms Gail Brindley, who will provide expert advice on Human Resource matters.

I would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution and support of all board members, CEO Leanne Barron and Starick's dedicated staff, whose endeavour is always to provide a safe, secure and caring environment in which to assist women and children to re-build their lives and move forward.

**Wendy Wiley**

Chairperson

## CEO's Report



The past year has been busy and productive for Starick's team of dedicated staff.

The increasing awareness of FDV in our communities has seen more and more women come forward to report it and seek assistance.

From an operations perspective, the last 12 months have seen us expand our range of services and significantly extend our reach.

For a relatively small not-for-profit organisation, we cover a large section of the south east

metropolitan area - and our refuge services can be accessed by all women, regardless of their location across the State.

This expansion is largely due to our Safe at Home program, which covers an area that begins just east of the Perth CBD, spreads across the northern part of the south eastern corridor and extends into the hills area - encompassing a total of 42 suburbs.

Starick also continues to work with a growing number of relevant local government authorities to establish links, keep them informed of our services and seek out opportunities to work together.

Currently we have longstanding associations with the cities of Armadale, Gosnells and Canning, and this year we have established new relationships with the cities of Belmont and South Perth.

We have established a greater connection with the City of Belmont this year, as a result of its welcome decision to fund an advocate at the Belmont Police Station - a model of FDV service delivery that was initiated by Starick in Western Australia and that we believe to be very effective.

While we will not be continuing with this project in 2017-18, we congratulate the City of Belmont on its initiative of funding a position at the police station, and we offer particular thanks to the officers at Belmont Police Station, who worked with our advocate to facilitate this important service.

We were also delighted to be the recipient of the City of Belmont's Community Spirit Award for the Starick Op Shop, which was presented to us in October at the City's Gala Awards night.

2017 also saw us launch the Friends of Starick newsletter, which is currently emailed once a quarter to our database of 1800 contacts.

Another first for 2017 was our Lived Experience program, which offers women escaping FDV an opportunity to write about their experiences and, for those who choose to continue, coaching in public speaking.

We participated in a variety of fundraising events throughout the year, including a screening of a locally produced short film *Caged In* at the State Library of WA, about a woman's experience of FDV, and our annual Mother's Day High Tea at the Pagoda Ballroom.

This has been our most successful fundraising year yet, thanks in large part to generous donations from Ascot Rotary, Transalta and Women in Mining WA and ongoing support from community groups and local business.

I would like to personally acknowledge those staff who organise and support our fundraising activities. It is largely through their efforts and our community connections that we have had such a successful year of fundraising.

## PARTNERSHIPS

Some key organisations and individuals continue to support Starick. These important partners assist us to build upon our core services, allowing us to augment and widen the scope of our work with women and children escaping FDV:

- » Bunnings Belmont donated toys and shelving for our office in the Belmont Police Station, to make it more client- and child-friendly.
  - » Bunnings Cannington donated wheelbarrows and gardening equipment to our Mary Smith refuge, so that we could begin the work of revamping the garden.
  - » The City of Gosnells provided staff to carry out regular garden maintenance and revamp the front garden at our Starick House refuge.
  - » The City of Belmont provided Community Contribution Grant funding to refurbish our Op Shop, while Bunnings Belmont once again came to the party by providing shelving and hanging racks.
  - » Transalta donated \$11,000 to fund the installation of solar panels at Mary Smith refuge.
  - » Vivienne Stewart and Mandy Loton again funded our annual women and children's camp to Fairbridge.
  - » Women in Mining WA, who sponsored a visit to WA by 2015 Australian of the Year Rosie Batty and allowed us to feature Rosie as a keynote speaker at our own community awareness forum, co-hosted with the City of Gosnells and the Older Women's Network. Women in Mining WA also provided a donation of \$7,500 to Starick.
- We also enjoyed the support of various local service organisations, who support us in so many ways:
- » Long-term supporters Soroptimist International South Perth have worked with Starick for 19 years, providing many forms of support over the years. As well as holding an annual fundraising breakfast for us, they support our clients each year with Christmas hampers.

- » Ascot Rotary have provided amazing support to us over the last 12 months, donating two new vehicles so that we can ensure safe, timely transport for our staff and clients. Ascot Rotary also supports our clients at Christmas time with hampers.
- » Applecross Rotary have raised funds for us at their events and, together with volunteers from Aquinas College, have assisted with the revamping of the Mary Smith refuge garden.
- » Surfside Ladies Golf Club donated the proceeds of their annual fundraising event to Starick.
- » For the second year running, Starick has been involved with the Ride Against Domestic Violence, welcoming riders into Armadale and seeing them off on the last leg of their ride. I would like to acknowledge the support of Tony Buti who, with his parliamentary colleague Tony Simpson, initiated the ride in 2016 as a way of raising awareness of and funds for FDV. I would also like to thank all the riders and support crew for their ongoing commitment.
- » Rivervale New Apostolic Church continued its sponsorship of a family from our outreach service by providing fortnightly food hampers, Christmas and birthday gifts, thus easing the burden of financial hardship for women who face additional costs such as education and medical expenses.

## SERVICE DELIVERY

### Crisis accommodation through our two refuges

Mary Smith and Starick House refuges continue to provide crisis accommodation and high quality support to women and children escaping FDV.

Starick also continues to provide a lead agency role for refuge services in the south eastern metro corridor, providing a 24/7 crisis response service for women and children at very high risk when other refuge accommodation is not available.

As a lead agency, Starick also has the important role of ensuring collaboration between refuges in our corridor and across the metropolitan area to ensure safety for women and children at high risk.

### Community outreach services

The majority of women and children experiencing the effects of FDV - and the majority of Starick's clients - are not living in a refuge. Our outreach staff continue to work hard to ensure the ongoing safety of these women and children, who live in the community.

- » Our advocates in Armadale and Cannington police stations are an essential part of the service mix we provide. They continue to provide specialist court support and advocacy, and see a large number of women each year.

- » Our counsellors work with women and children to support them to address the longer term effects of FDV.
- » We also provide outreach support for women and children who have left refuge accommodation and are residing in our transitional housing programs Housing of Women in Community (HOWIC) and the Eudoria Clustered Housing project which is delivered in partnership with Access Housing.

### The Safe at Home program

In the past year, Starick expanded the mix of services we provide with the launch of the Safe at Home program - an important complement to our existing services. The Safe at Home program assists women and children to remain in their homes after an incident of FDV, increasing their safety and preventing homelessness.

In addition, we have been working in partnership with Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Service and Wungening Aboriginal Corporation to pilot a Safe at Home service for Aboriginal women and children. This initiative came about as a result of the low levels of engagement of Aboriginal women in the original Safe at Home program.

Through consultations with stakeholders including Aboriginal services and community members, refuges and other service providers, and working directly with Aboriginal women, we are developing a model of service that is more appropriate to the needs of Aboriginal women and children.

### Working with children

The impact of FDV on children continues to be a focus for Starick.

Child advocates are based at our two refuges and provide specialist support for children. This year we introduced a scrapbooking activity with the children in the refuges. This art-based activity helps children to express how they are feeling when they first come into the refuge, and assists workers to tailor the support they provide for each child.

We have continued to run our baby massage program through fundraising. We are very proud of this program, which is run by a certified instructor and paediatric massage consultant. This program continues to be effective in helping mothers to improve their baby's sleep patterns, decrease crying time and provide mothers with an opportunity to spend quality time with their babies.

We were also able to provide a support service for children after leaving the refuge as a result of one-off Commonwealth Government funding. This service was highly successful and we are looking for avenues to continue this much-needed support for children living in the community.

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## KEY STATISTICS

Over the 12 months July 2016 to June 2017:

- » We accommodated a total of 168 women and 239 children in our two refuges.
- » We provided a crisis response service to 26 women and 24 children at very high risk of harm.
- » Our advocates and counsellors provided services to over 1,100 women and their children.
- » In addition, our new advocacy service based at Belmont Police Station saw over 250 clients over a nine month period.
- » Since its inception in January 2017, our Safe at Home program has assisted 66 women and their children.

## PROGRAMS

The following programs fall outside of Starick's core funding, and are made possible by fundraising and donations. All these services are designed to support wellness by addressing some of the impacts of FDV on women and children's lives:

Art therapy	Baby massage
Lived Experience	Meditation
Self defence	Yoga

We see these programs as extremely worthwhile additions to our service mix, as indicated by the feedback from participants shown below:

- "I discovered something different about myself every week."
- "I felt calm and relaxed."
- "I feel more positive and empowered about myself!"



The Starick Op Shop is a valuable service to Starick clients and the general community. Our op shop provides:

- » 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 small amount of income to support Starick's services for women and children. Thanks to funding from the City of Belmont and donations of labour and fittings from Bunnings Belmont, this year has seen the op shop undergo a makeover, providing improved facilities for volunteers and customers. We also held our first op shop garage sale, which raised over \$1,500.

My heartfelt thanks go to Jenny and Sandy, our two op shop managers over the past year, and to all our wonderful volunteers, donors and customers who have helped to make this past year our most successful yet.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The increased awareness and reporting of FDV, coupled with the limitations on government funding, mean we are constantly trying to do more with less. Our dedicated board, staff and volunteers work tirelessly to raise additional funds to support Starick's service delivery. But we can't do it alone, and depend heavily on community support.

Donations of money are greatly welcome and we thank our current donors, particularly those who are able to make regular monthly contributions. We also continue to receive a multitude of donated goods such as baby items, toiletries, clothing, linen and food items like canned goods, fresh fruit and vegetables, which are always appreciated.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In closing, I would like to personally acknowledge our dedicated volunteers and staff, who help to keep our services operating and client focused.

It is a privilege to serve as the CEO of Starick and I would especially like to thank our Chair Wendy Wiley, board members and managers for their ongoing support and commitment.

**Leanne Barron**  
Chief Executive Officer

### BOARD

**Chair**  
Wendy Wiley

**Deputy Chair**  
Damian Green

**Treasurer**  
Sean Thorpe

**Board members**  
Vanessa Harvey  
Georgia Malone  
Annette Raynor  
Alicia Scaffidi  
Dr Gae Synnott  
Arthur Wilson  
Gail Brindley (from Sept 2017)

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### OUR VISION

Building Futures Free from Violence.

### OUR PURPOSE

Providing safe refuge and support services for women and children as a foundation for an empowered future.

### Acknowledgements

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

A special thanks to our ongoing sponsors and partners, in particular:

- » Department for Child Protection and Family Support
- » Lotterywest
- » Department of Housing
- » Cities of Armadale, Belmont, Canning, Gosnells and South Perth.
- » Access Housing
- » Women's Council for Family and Domestic Violence and Homelessness Australia

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



## HOW TO SUPPORT US

If you are reading this and would like to support Starick, there are various ways you can help.

Visit our website at [www.starick.org.au](http://www.starick.org.au) get-involved or call us on (08) 9478 5300.

Donate cash and choose how your donation is used by selecting from a range of options which have been carefully considered to ensure they are of maximum benefit to clients – call or email us to ask how.

Ask us what we need right now – canned goods, toiletries and baby items are often in short supply at critical times.



Government of Western Australia  
Department for Child Protection  
and Family Support

**Financial Disclaimer**  
Starick Services Inc. audited financial statements for 2016/2017 are available upon request. Please contact our Finance Manager on (08) 9478 5300 or email [financemanager@starick.org.au](mailto:financemanager@starick.org.au)