

Starick

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

Chair

Natalie Sangalli

Treasurer

Daniel Winters

Board members

Gail Brindley

Kylie Cutton

Liza Dunne

Shirley Anne Fortina

Claudia Mancini

Dr Annette Raynor

Anna Wildy

Yawar Zoeb

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.



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

Natalie Sangalli



As the year draws to a close, it is fabulous to be able to reflect on another 12 months of hard work for all the staff, volunteers and members at Starick as they continue to provide high quality services and advocacy for women and children dealing with or escaping family and domestic violence (FDV) in Perth.

Unfortunately the work continues to be an uphill battle, with recent statistics from the new National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children showing that, as a society, we are really not making a dent in the problem. One woman still dies every week in Australia as a result of FDV, 1.6 million women in Australia still experience some form of FDV, and escaping FDV is still a major contributor to homelessness among women and children.

This last year has seen us continue our growing commitment to addressing how this issue impacts children and young people. We were proud to finalise the outcomes of the Children and Young Peoples Engagement Project (CAYPEP), with resources on Child Safe Principles to be made available to the sector as the principles are rolled out by the State Government. We have also continued to look to expanding the reach of our Respectful Relationships Program in 2022, in an effort to shift the conversation to prevention, rather than response.

The Board was busy this year, welcoming two new members, commencing a journey towards cultural competence and finalising our new Strategic Plan 2022-2025, further shifting our focus to the prevention space and reaffirming our commitment to being a loud voice for change.

We continued to hit the targets in our five-year Fundraising Strategy, which was bolstered by our signature events for the year. These included a corporate breakfast as part of the 16 Days of Activism, the Mother's Day High Tea and a highly successful newcomer: the Side-by-Side event at Picabar, all generously supported by the Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services, Hon Simone McGurk MLA.

Finally, I wish again to convey the Board's appreciation to the team at Starick, as we rode another (hopefully the last) year with services and staffing impacted by COVID-19.

I look forward to the year ahead as we deliver services within the new National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children and the State Government's Paths to Safety.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Daniel Winters



Starick, like many organisations across almost all community sectors, has continued to endure the pressures that come with significant demand for FDV refuge and outreach services.

The high demand, coupled with high inflation, workforce shortages and insufficient funding, has placed enormous pressure on staff to keep the service running. The ongoing commissioning discussions with the State Government will continue to create a level of uncertainty for the future.

Despite the current conditions, we have launched our new fundraising strategy in FY22, ramping up our efforts to support our clients through advocacy and donations. These donations will enable us to supplement our funding, and build sufficient resources to invest in programs and facilities that generate better outcomes for our women and children.

Our results for the FY22 financial year reflect close management of our operating budgets and a commitment to investing in the future. Our fundraising and donations for FY22 totalled \$302,000, contributing to a net surplus of \$274,000 that will be re-invested to generate positive outcomes for our families.

The organisation maintains a strong balance sheet, with net assets of \$2.4 million that will support us to deliver on our purpose in the years ahead.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our donors, corporate sponsors and supporters for their contributions during the year. Their support has made a significant impact during a tough time, and I am so proud of the important work that the people of this organisation do.

A huge thanks to Chief Executive Officer Leanne Barron, Chief Finance Officer Francine Trovarello, Starick staff and my fellow Board members for their tireless efforts throughout the year. It is very much appreciated.

CEO'S REPORT

Leanne Barron



2021/22 has been both a challenging and inspiring year at Starick. We have continued to focus on advocating for and responding to the needs of women and children impacted by FDV, and developing Starick as a specialist and multi-faceted FDV service.

COVID-19 continues to impact on us as a service and on our clients. These impacts include:

- Health issues for clients and staff.
- Staff shortages and difficulties in recruiting.
- A significantly limited supply of affordable housing, which in turn has affected women's capacity to access safe housing. As a result, the average length of stay for women and children in refuges as increased from three months to six months, with some families staying for over a year.

Starick has been proactive in providing safe and accessible services for women and children through implementing COVID-safe practices, ongoing recruitment and other HR strategies to support staff and advocating with peak bodies and other community organisations about the impacts of the housing crisis.

We now know that COVID is an ongoing issue, rather than a one-off pandemic, and that we will need to continue to manage and adapt to its impacts.

THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE

Starick has continued to develop as an integrated and multi-faceted service, working across the continuum of prevention, early intervention, crisis intervention, re-establish and recovery. This is reflected in the diagram below, which shows these areas of work are not discrete. Rather, they are interconnected and mutually reinforcing.



Developing our work across this continuum has stretched us at times over the year. It has taken us into new territory and challenged some of our thinking and practice. This has required us to be open and reflective, to commit to ongoing learning and development and to ensure we keep women and children victim survivors at the centre of what we do.

This would not be possible without dedicated staff who have risen to this challenge and continued to provide critical services for women and children. It's not easy work, and I thank them for their ongoing commitment to victim survivors and to Starick.

PREVENTION

Starick is committed to stopping violence against women and children by addressing the underlying drivers and changing community attitudes to violence.

We continue to implement the Respectful Relationships Teacher Support Program in WA public and primary secondary schools, to develop a whole of school approach to the primary prevention of gender based violence.

In 2021-22 an additional 30 schools participated in, or registered for, the program including a number of regional schools. These schools have implemented many positive initiatives to promote respectful relationships education and address the gendered drivers of violence against women.

In addition, Starick undertook a project to investigate development of the Respectful Relationships program for sport and recreation clubs. We look forward to further work in that area in 2022-23.

The Respectful Relationships projects are part of the WA Government election's commitment to prevent FDV, and are undertaken in partnership with the Department of Communities, the Department of Education and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation and Cultural Industries.

Starick is committed to implementing the Child Safe Principles in our service to safeguard children and young people and to enhance their wellbeing. The Consulting with Children and Young People Project (CAYPEP) was created to address Child Safe Principle 2: that Children and Young People are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.

This project trained over 70 FDV staff across the state on consulting with children and young people. The consultation skills were then put to use to develop COVID-19 resources for children and young people, mothers/carers and services. All resources developed by the project are available on the Starick website.

Advocacy is also an important part of prevention. Starick continuously advocates to improve the service system and community response to FDV in general.

In the past year, some key areas of work have been:

- Input to the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2023. I was honoured to be the lead delegate for WA for the national consultations on the Plan in February 2022. I also look forward to participating in the consultation process for the WA State Plan.
- Participation in the Preventing Violence Together initiative Steering Committee, to develop a WA Primary Prevention Framework.
- Representation on the Expert Reference Group for the Office for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence FDV Commissioning Plan, to develop a blue print for the design and delivery of FDV services.

The 16 Days of Activism to End Gender Based Violence, held between 25 November and 10 December each year, is an opportunity to raise awareness about the incidence and impact of FDV, and the role that services like Starick play. It is also a call to action for everyone to address FDV in their community.

Our 16 Days social media campaign has been running every year since 2017. Our 2021 campaign reached unprecedented numbers of Facebook users. As a snapshot:

- 40 Facebook posts were published over the 16 days.
- Our posts reached over 12,000 people.
- Over 2,000 individuals engaged with the campaign content by liking, sharing or commenting on our posts.

As part of our campaign, we also held our third Corporate Fundraising Breakfast and Spirit of Starick Awards. Our thanks to Beyond Bank for sponsoring the awards, and to the Karrakatta Club for the amazing venue. Thanks also to supporters old and new, who helped us raise much needed funds and joined in celebrating the individuals and organisations who made a significant contribution to Starick over the year.

Starick is also Lead Agency for the Refuge Service System Emergency Response in the south east metropolitan corridor and, in addition to providing the emergency response for victim survivors at high risk, facilitates meetings of the corridor services to strengthen service delivery.

In 2021/22, the corridor undertook two projects: the CAYPEP project with Starick as lead (described above) and the Housing Families project with Orana as lead, which develops links with supportive landlords and real estate agents to facilitate access to secure homes for victim survivors of FDV. These projects demonstrate the service and system improvements that can be made when services work together.

EARLY INTERVENTION

Starick acknowledges children and young people as primary victims and survivors of family and domestic violence. We provide a range of early intervention services and programs aimed at mitigating the effects of FDV on children and young people, protecting them in the immediate and long term and breaking the cycle of violence.

Starick's Ripple Project is an early intervention project delivered in partnership with Curtin University School of Allied Health. This project, new in 2021, seeks to address the impacts of FDV on a child's sense of safety, their development and wellbeing. This is an innovative world-first project that brings social work, speech pathology and occupational therapy students into our services to develop programs and other interventions to support children and their mothers.

This year we have continued to develop our Children's Counselling service. Funded through Communicare's Communities for Children, this service supports children living in the Gosnells, Armadale and Mundijong areas. We have also, through generous donations from individuals and philanthropic foundations, provided counselling and play therapy for children and young people who are living in our refuges.

In 2021/22, 94 children and young people accessed our counselling services.

In addition, our Children's Program at the refuges and transitional housing program supports children and young people to settle into the refuge or new homes, provides a space for them to talk about their experiences and concerns, and supports connections with school and community resources. Again, our work in this area is supported by generous donations from the community. Activities and programs provided by Starick include:

- Protective behaviours workshops.
- Homework clubs.
- School holiday activities.
- Breakfast clubs.
- An annual camp.

CRISIS INTERVENTION

Starick's crisis services provide immediate safety and reduce the risk of further violence. This includes assessing risk and supporting women to enhance their safety, including through advocating on their behalf to police, the courts, social security, immigration and housing. In 2021/22, our crisis services provided:

- Refuge accommodation and support for women and children in our two refuges, Mary Smith and Starick House, for an average length of stay of six months. In the past year, we have accommodated 81 women and their children.
- Emergency accommodation and support to women and children who were at very high and imminent risk of harm from a perpetrator and were unable to access refuge accommodation. In the past year we have provided this support to 111 women and 135 children.

- In partnership with Orana and Koolkuna Refuges, a Mobile Outreach service to 164 women across the eastern metropolitan corridor of Perth.
- Our FDV Advocates in Armadale, Cannington and Kensington Police Stations provided assistance to 951 clients.
- Our Safe at Home program supported 180 women and their children to remain safely in their homes, while our Aboriginal Safe at Home program, delivered in partnership with Wungening Aboriginal Corporation, supported 64 women and their children.

We acknowledge Lotterywest for emergency relief funding, which enables us to support women with urgent needs such as food, clothing, utility bills, medications and other essential items, and community donations which supplement the support we are able to provide to women and children in crisis.

RE-ESTABLISHMENT

This aspect of our work addresses the impact of perpetrators' use of violence and coercive control, both during the relationship and after a woman flees, on the financial security and social connectedness of women.

For many women, the process of recovering from FDV is about meeting practical needs – such as securing an income, looking for employment, engaging in study, finding long term housing, furnishing a new home, settling children into schools and re-connecting with family, social networks and local community supports.

Through a partnership with Jacaranda Community Centre, we provide financial counselling to refuge clients to address the impacts of financial abuse, and to support their ongoing financial independence.

Starick's transitional housing program provides women and children with a medium term supported housing option when exiting refuge accommodation. Currently, we have access to 10 houses and are in the process of exploring partnerships to develop other supported housing options.

In 2021/22, we accommodated 15 women and 32 children, with the average length of stay being 18 months to two years due to lack of longer term housing options. Previously, the average length of stay was 12 months. In addition, our Outreach programs support women in the community, including women exiting refuges.

Flexible Support Funding from the Department of Communities, plus an ongoing partnership with Starting over Support and generous donations from the community, enable us to assist women and children to re-establish themselves and reconnect with social and other supports.

RECOVERY

Recovery and healing for victim survivors is part of the holistic and integrated service Starick provides. It is often an ongoing process for us to address the short, medium and long term impacts on women and children's health and wellbeing, as well as supporting their ongoing safety and resilience.

In 2021/22, Starick provided counselling services to 167 women and 94 children living in the refuges and in the community. In addition, we provide a range of wellbeing programs and activities including yoga for trauma, baby massage and Lived Experience therapeutic writing.

These activities are an add-on to the core services provided by government funding, and can only be made available through philanthropic funding and donations, which we gratefully acknowledge.

STARICK OP SHOP

Our Starick Op Shop continues to go from strength to strength. The premises at 110 Kooyong Road have provided a higher level of amenity for our volunteers and customers, and the new location has boosted sales.

My sincere thanks to Sandie and her dedicated team of volunteers for their hard work and excellent customer service. The Op Shop makes a significant contribution to our work – receiving and sorting donations, supporting our clients to access essential items, providing return to work opportunities for our volunteers, playing an integral role in increasing awareness in the local community and helping us to fundraise for our services.

Last but not least, I would like to honour our small and dedicated administrative team. All team members are part time and all work well beyond the call of duty to ensure the sound financial management and operations of Starick, to meet our contractual and accountability requirements, to support the Board in their governance role and to drive our fundraising and communications with stakeholders – along with a range of other tasks that sit outside anyone's job descriptions.

It has been a pleasure to continue in the role of CEO in 2021/22. My thanks to the Board, staff and volunteers for their hard work in continuing to build Starick as a client-focused, innovative and effective organisation.

I would particularly like to acknowledge and thank all of our donors whose ongoing support is much needed and greatly appreciated.





Unit 25, 63 Knutsford Avenue
Rivervale WA 6103
PO Box 174, Cloverdale WA 6985

Phone
(08) 9478 5300

Email
ceo@starick.org.au

Website
www.starick.org.au

ABN 56 721 993 085



Department of
Communities



CITY OF GOSNELLS



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Local Government,**
Sport and Cultural Industries

