

## Patron's Report



It was an honour to accept the invitation to be Starick's second patron following Foundation Patron Kay Hallahan AO. Kay's contribution has spanned Starick's 30 year history, initially working as a Committee member to establish much needed services for women and children experiencing domestic violence in the Gosnells-Armadale area. Over this time Kay has provided unwavering commitment to Starick and her leadership has been critical for its growth and reputation. Since commencing as Patron, it has

been a privilege to learn about Starick's history from Kay and through her, connect to its supporters.

My first official role as Patron was to launch the 30th Anniversary Booklet at the 2015 Annual General Meeting. Produced by Jane Cornes, the Booklet not only captures Starick's rich history, but recognises the many women who have contributed to its development over its long journey from the opening of Starick House in 1985. The AGM was a wonderful opportunity for me to meet many of these people, including representatives of Southcare and Soroptimist International South Perth who provide ongoing support to Starick.

As Patron a key role is to support fundraising activities that allow Starick to fund new programs and projects that would otherwise be impossible. My first opportunity to contribute to this essential activity was at the Soroptimist International South Perth Fundraising Breakfast at the South Perth Golf Club in September 2015. This enjoyable and successful event would not have been possible without the support of Soroptimist women who again demonstrated their generosity.

Since becoming Patron it has been a pleasure to work with Chair Shona Zulsdorf and then the current Chair Wendy Wiley, and their Boards. These hardworking volunteers provide the experience and skills necessary for guiding Starick's strategy and ensuring its good governance. This role has become even more important over the past year as Starick responds to the many challenges facing the not for profit sector, in particular imminent changes to government funding and the increasingly competitive fundraising environment. It has been my pleasure to work with the Board and Chief Executive Officer Leanne Barron in developing Starick's Strategic Direction and identifying strategies that will ensure its growth and sustainability into the future.

**Anne Banks-McAllister**  
Patron

## Chair's Report



Over the past 12 months, Starick has developed and strengthened its governance responsibilities. It has also consolidated its structure to accommodate the responsibilities of a lead agency.

During the 2015/2016 year, the Board has focused on its business sustainability project. It will continue to pursue new business opportunities as part of Starick's strategic plan to provide safe and secure

accommodation, build resilience and independence of our client groups, provide advocacy for women and children and build organisational capacity and excellence.

The Board has also undertaken a review of all operational contracts and services, with a view to ensuring that Starick achieves value for money with its major and minor operational costs. A further improvement has been the implementation of a contract management plan.

We will continue to focus on business operational improvement and achieving a balanced budget.

Over the past 12 months the Board has undergone some changes, with two resignations and the appointment of Dr Gae Synott and Damian Green. I am confident that these new members will provide further depth to the Board, with skills of development of business plans, strategic planning, project management, and sector experience.

We continue to engage and strengthen our valued relationships with the City of Gosnells, City of Canning and community service providers. We are also working with numerous others, who provide Starick with funds, practical assistance and support.

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

## Starick's Services

### Our Refuges

Mary Smith and Starick House refuges provide crisis accommodation and high quality support to women and children escaping family and domestic violence.

In 2015/16, 348 women and their children were accommodated at our refuges. In addition, Starick provided a crisis response service for women and children at very high risk when refuge accommodation was not available. As a result, an additional 59 women and children were provided with a safe room until refuge accommodation became available.

Of the women and children accommodated:

- » Most of the women were aged between 25 and 49 years.
- » 59% of the 213 children accommodated with their mothers were aged under 5 years.
- » 36% identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.
- » 16% were from a culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) background.

Starick's ongoing partnerships and interagency relationships ensure that our refuges can meet the needs of high risk clients and those with complex needs.

Highlights in our refuges during the year include the following programs and workshops:

- » **Self Defence:** Clients attended a six week self-defence course designed to build confidence and self-esteem. Feedback from participants was very positive with clients identifying that they now have more confidence in how to avoid or escape a dangerous situation.
- » **Sing & Grow:** This community driven music therapy project focuses on strengthening family relationships and assisting parents to support their child's development. It encourages the use of music and song to bond as a family, through fun and interactive sessions. Both mothers and children thoroughly enjoyed the workshops.
- » **Baby Massage:** Starick is very proud of its baby massage program, run by a certified instructor and paediatric massage consultant. We know that babies absorb much in their early development and that this can include stress and tension that occurs in situations where there is domestic violence. This program helps mothers to soothe their babies and provides a calm, relaxing environment for them to bond with their babies. This workshop continues to be a great success 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.

Our refuges 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. Indeed, an impact of the increased awareness of family and domestic violence,

through the work of 2015 Australian of the Year, Rosie Batty, is that we were overwhelmed by community generosity, particularly at Christmas, Easter and Mother's Day.

This coming year will see the commencement of the refurbishment of Mary Smith refuge, providing a new emergency room for women and children who are at very high risk, improved fixtures and fittings throughout the refuge and generally contributing to a more liveable and welcoming space for clients. Funds have also been raised to improve the Children's Playground.

### Our Community Services

Starick provides important services to women and children living in the community through:

- » **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, delivered in partnership with Access Housing – or in private or public housing.
- » **Specialist court support and advocacy** through our Domestic Violence Advocates based at Cannington and Armadale police stations.
- » **Counselling** for women and children to provide much needed support to address the longer term effects of domestic violence.

Starick's outreach, advocacy and counselling services continued to be very busy throughout the year. Starick's links within the community are strong and are reflected through increased referrals across all areas. In 2015/16, Starick's counsellor provided support to nearly 160 women while the Domestic Violence Advocates provided a service to over 960 clients. Referrals from police and through the court continue to be high, and the service remains in high demand from women who find themselves having to navigate the difficult legal system in order to protect themselves and their children.

Staff are always looking for ways to improve our outreach services, and the introduction of individualised programmes for the women in our transitional housing was met with great success. These women have also been able to access the baby massage and self defence programs run through the refuges.

The majority of women and children experiencing domestic violence – and the majority of Starick's clients – are not able to or do not want to enter a refuge. Our outreach staff continue to work hard to ensure the ongoing safety of women and children living in the community

### Our Work with Children

Starick was one of the first refuges in WA to recognise children as clients in their own right. We have dedicated children's workers in each of our refuges who provide support to children through safety and case planning. These staff also liaise with mothers regarding issues or concerns they or their children identify, and assist with referrals to specialist services and linking with mainstream services such as child health, schools and child care centres.

In 2015/16, Starick was able to secure the services of a children's

counsellor one day a week through a partnership with Zonta Refuge, complementing the counselling that has been provided to children over the years by Starick's own counsellor.

We also provide a small range of programs and supports including:

- » Baby massage to strengthen attachment and assist mothers to tune into their young children
- » Music therapy programs for mothers and children
- » Art therapy
- » Mother and child yoga
- » Parenting programs

These programs run on an ad hoc basis and are dependent on fundraising or access to free programs.

### Our Fresh Start Op Shop

Starick's 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.

This year the Op Shop has had a bit of a makeover, providing improved facilities for volunteers and customers.

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



#### HOW YOU CAN HELP STARICK

With the growing pressure from Government and funding bodies 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. We need your help!

Donations of money are greatly welcome. If you would like to donate to Starick and choose how your donation is used, you can select from a range of options.

The options have been carefully considered to ensure they are of maximum benefit to clients.

There are also other ways in which you can help. Please visit our website at [www.starick.org.au/get-involved](http://www.starick.org.au/get-involved) to find out more, or call us on 9478 5300.

## Our Focus for 2016/17 Children First

Early intervention is crucial to breaking the cycle of family and domestic violence. Whilst children represent the majority of clients in our service, this is not reflected in our core funding. This results in critical service gaps at a time when children are highly vulnerable.

Children are the hidden victims of family and domestic violence, and the effects on children are neither well understood in the community nor reflected in the statistics on deaths and injury. Children tend to be seen as silent witnesses or secondary victims rather than as directly affected by the violence.

In the aftermath of a family and domestic violence incident, children may have to phone for emergency assistance, tend to a parent's injuries, have their own injuries to cope with, see a parent arrested, or have to leave home and experience dislocation from family, pets, friends and school. Children growing up in this environment experience trauma – they live on a daily basis with feelings of hopelessness, fear and a state of constant alertness.

Commencing in 2016/17, Starick will prioritise seeking funding for its Children First project to build a child-focused service within Starick, providing an integrated and enhanced service response for children who come into our refuges, transitional housing and outreach programs.

The **Children First** project will build on and enhance Starick's existing work with children and meet gaps in service delivery in order to:

**PROVIDE A SAFE SPACE:** Breaking the cycle of violence in the immediate term by providing safe shelter and a safe space to deal with the effects of the violence.

**INTERVENE EARLY:** Intervening early in children's lives to help them heal from the effects of family and domestic violence and build their resilience through access to specialist children's programs and counselling.

**EDUCATE:** Educating the service system and the wider community about the impacts of family and domestic violence on children.

**ENHANCE:** Enhancing the service system and community response to children affected by family and domestic violence.

**EVALUATE:** Evaluating the results of our work to demonstrate improved outcomes for children and their mothers and build the evidence base on what works.

The **Children First** project will also support mothers so that they, in turn, can support their children within the family setting.

## CEO's Report



2015/16 saw Starick take on the role of lead agency for the eastern metropolitan corridor under the State Government's new Refuge Service System Model. This has changed how Starick works in two key ways: we now provide an emergency service to women and children at very high risk of harm due to domestic violence where there are no refuge beds available; and, linked to this, we are responsible for facilitating collaboration between refuges in our corridor and across the metropolitan area to ensure the safety of women and children.

We are pleased to report that the new Refuge Service System is working well and has been an effective initiative to improve safety for women and children at high risk. This is evidenced in that Starick has been able to assist an additional 59 women and children who would not have previously been assisted due to lack of refuge beds. A common issue that has been identified across the Refuge Service System is the number of single women without children who are at high risk.

As Lead Agency, Starick has been able to work effectively with other refuges to ensure more standardised intake and case management processes. The Common Risk Assessment Framework is being used by all refuges and is proving an effective tool for assessing risk. It has resulted in streamlined assessments and referrals between Crisis Care and refuges in the east metro region. Starick also coordinated training on "Managing challenging behaviours" in 2015/16 which was attended by six refuges from the eastern and other metropolitan corridors.

In addition to the increased work associated with the lead agency role, this has been another busy year for all areas of Starick. Increasing community awareness as a result of the work of 2015 Australian of the Year, Rosie Batty, and government information campaigns has resulted in a noticeable increase in requests for assistance and pressure on staff to respond. We have also identified a more diverse range of women seeking assistance from our services, which require us to think about how we deliver our services. A noticeable change is the increase in working women seeking advice and support, requiring us to offer some of our services outside of working hours.

A much anticipated event in the coming year will be a community forum at which Rosie Batty will be a keynote speaker, to look at local level responses to domestic violence. Starick is working with the City of Gosnells and the Older Women's Network to organise the event and it is being supported by

Women in Mining WA, Lotterywest and Bendigo Bank.

Ongoing relationships with donors and partners are particularly important in assisting us to deliver and improve our services. This year we would like to particularly acknowledge:

- » MOUs with Zonta Refuge to provide an additional one day a week of counselling services for women and children, and with Ruah Rapid Re-Housing, which enabled us to assist one family per month to move into private rental by providing assistance with costs.
- » Soroptimists International South Perth, who organised two fund-raising events in 2015/16 that generated over \$10,000 for Starick.
- » Mandy Loton and Vivienne Stewart who fund our annual Starick camp, delivered in partnership with Fairbridge.
- » Labor MP Tony Buti and Liberal MP Tony Simpson who joined forces to organise the Ride Against Domestic Violence that raised just over \$5,000 for Starick.
- » Rivervale Apostolic Church who have sponsored a family in our transitional housing program for a year.
- » TransAlta for its donation of \$2,000 towards the Starick Christmas Party.
- » The Boronia Club of Joseph Banks Retirement Village, who have become regular donors of money and in-kind assistance.

Starick's people are its most important resource. In 2015/16, Starick welcomed the following staff:

- » Rebecca Clair as Refuge Manager
- » Kombe Musonda as Women's Advocate
- » Carrie Ridley-Clissold as Women's Advocate
- » Tara Burke as Project Officer
- » Jane Cornes as a casual Marketing Officer

Staff members who were farewelled in 2015/16 were:

- » Aorangi Te Huia, who had been a Women's Advocate at Starick since 2009
- » Atoa Enari, who had been an Administration Officer since 2011
- » Rosita D'Adamo, who had been an Executive Officer since 2014

I also wish to acknowledge our dedicated volunteers and relief staff who help to keep our services operating and client-focused.

It is a privilege to serve as CEO of Starick and I especially would like to acknowledge the Chair, Wendy Wiley, Board and Managers for their ongoing support and commitment to Starick.

**Leanne Barron**  
Chief Executive Officer

Centre for Non Violence • Centre for Safety & Well-Being • Centre for Community

## Building futures free from violence

**Starick**  
Building futures free from violence

### BOARD

#### Chair

Wendy Wiley

#### Deputy Chair

Jessica Royce (Oct 2015–Jan 2016)  
Sophia Benedetti (from Jan 2016)

#### Treasurer

Leckraz Sukhram

#### Board members

Beth Walker  
Arthur Wilson  
Sean Thorpe  
Annette Raynor (from Nov 2015)  
Dr Gae Synnott (from Aug 2016)  
Damian Green (from Aug 2016)

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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 Patrons and Board members, who 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
- » City of Gosnells and City of Canning
- » Access Housing
- » Women's Council for Family and Domestic Violence and Homelessness Australia

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



### Financial Disclaimer

Starick Services Inc. Audited Financial Statements 2015/16 are available on 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 for Child Protection  
and Family Support

# Annual Report 2016