

Chair's Report



It has been an exciting, albeit challenging, year for the Board. The year began with the opening of six new accommodation units at Mary Smith. Starick Services can provide high quality accommodation for women and children affected by domestic violence. It has also proved to be an ideal venue for our monthly Board meetings.

The Board has focused on reviewing and consolidating the financial and governance aspects of the organisation. One of the priority areas has been the professional development of Board members. The Board participated in a strategic planning day with training provided by the Western Australian Council of Social Services Inc. (WACOSS) on the roles and responsibilities of Board members. The financial processes have been improved by contracting the financial operations to Nulsen Haven. The transfer of functions provided an opportunity for a comprehensive review of the finances of Starick Services.

Over the last year, the Board has recruited three new members: Kerry Regan, Lynette McGivern and Jenny Berry. They bring to the Board invaluable and diverse skills that complement the knowledge and experience of the current Board members. Unfortunately, we also bade farewell to two long term Board members with the departure of the former Chairperson John Gladstone and Deputy Chairperson Erica Lewin. Their contributions will be missed.

Starick Services is continuing its process of renewal and expansion. In 2010, we will be expanding our operations into regional areas, updating our policies and procedures, developing a website and reviewing our strategic plan.

Rosie Cable

Acting Chairperson

CEO's Report



30th June 2010 was a significant milestone for Starick Services, 25 years of delivering family and domestic violence support services in the South East Metropolitan District of Perth, Western Australia.

These past twelve months have provided great opportunities for growth and expansion for the future where focus has been on the following three areas;

- Working with families in developing more responsive programmes and activities. This includes concentrating on the overall health and wellbeing of women and their children by providing workshops such as nutrition, yoga, art therapy, domestic violence education and support groups.
- Regular training in specialist areas for staff to increase their capacity to meet the ongoing complex needs of families has been an important aspect of quality service delivery.
- Ongoing review of practice, operational procedures and systems to ensure the best possible outcome for all stakeholders.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board for their incredible hard work and to staff for their strong commitment to maximising the safety and protection of women and children who access our services.

NB: Centre for Safety & Well-Being: Mary Smith has been operating since 1978.

Arina Aoina

Chief Executive Officer

Centre for Non Violence • Centre for Safety & Well-Being • Centre for Community
Working toward keeping women safe & children and young people protected

Starick Services
Incorporated

BOARD

Acting Chair

Rosie Cable

Treasurer

Shona Zulsdorf

Board Members

Diane Alger

Jenny Berry

Lynette McGivern

Kerry Regan

Arina Aoina

(Ex officio Board Member and CEO)

OUR VISION

Starick is a lead independent agency working to end family and domestic violence and protect children, young people and women.

OUR PURPOSE

Starick Services provides safety and protection from family and domestic violence for children, young people and women, and empowers its community.

OUR VALUES

We value people. We believe in respect, commitment, diversity, and innovation.

Acknowledgements & Thank you

We offer heartfelt thanks and much appreciation to all our valued supporters.

There is not enough room in this report to name the Board members, past and present, who have volunteered their time and energy to strategically guide and oversee the governance of the organisation; The Department of Child Protection and other Government funding bodies, Lotterywest, City of Gosnells, organisations large and small, schools, community groups, sponsors, donors, and individuals who believe emphatically in the work we do and have given so generously in a variety of ways so our work can continue.

Financial Disclaimer

Starick Services Inc. Audited Financial Statements 2009/2010 are available on request. Please contact Administration on (08) 9478 5300 or email starick.pa@inet.net.au for a copy.



Annual Report 2010

Patron's Report



Reducing homelessness is a priority for both levels of government.

Since the introduction of the new Commonwealth/State National Affordable Housing Agreement (replacing SAAP – Supported Accommodation Assistance Programme) last year, there has been a significant increase in much needed new and expanded services.

The South East Metropolitan District (SEMD) was fortunate to gain fully funded outreach and housing support services which are complementary to the services that Starick Services currently provide. It is envisaged that these new and expanded services will work collaboratively with existing agencies to achieve greater levels of support, and substantially improve outcomes for those who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness.

The Western Australian Council on Homelessness was established in February this year and has been instrumental in developing a State Plan to reduce homelessness which is to be released by Minister McSweeney in the near future. The expansion of existing services and newly created initiatives will prioritise three areas; Early Intervention and Prevention; Breaking the Cycle; and Improving and Expanding the Services System.

I am aware that these three priority areas fit well with Starick Services three priority areas; Prevention; Intervention and Follow-Up, evidenced in the successful programmes currently being run. A special mention to all Domestic Violence Advocates in the Support, Prevention, Education, Advocacy, Referral Services (SPEARS) programme at each of the police stations; their expertise and experience provide a valuable and essential service not only to the police in the South East Metropolitan District but also the wider community.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to congratulate the Board, Chief Executive Officer and staff for 25 incredible years of service in maximising the safety and protection of children, young people and women experiencing family and domestic violence.

Hon Kay Hallahan AO

Patron

Centre for Community

Since its inception in 1996 Support, Prevention, Education, Advocacy, Referral Services (SPEARS) has become a much valued resource, not only in the South East Metropolitan District (SEMD) but also state-wide. We have seen it grow from humble beginnings at the Armadale Police Station to now covering all seven police stations in the district including an outreach programme and a counselling service at Neerigen Brook Primary School.



In this past year the Domestic Violence Advocates have focused on working collaboratively with the South East Metropolitan District in the following ways:

- Provide and attend training-this is done in conjunction with the Domestic Violence Advocates and Police DV officers
- Home visits
- Dealing with increased demands for advice on domestic violence related matters
- Increased input on police procedures related to domestic violence

- Joint public relations activities (media releases in the local newspapers and The West Australian)
- Strengthen Starick Services/SEMD abilities in providing a more holistic approach to family and domestic violence
- Increased opportunity to follow-up on recidivist files (where there the police have attended six times at the same address), allowing greater information flow between all stations in the SEMD
- Comprehensive case management, although time consuming, has raised many issues which are currently being addressed through the partnership
- Cross fertilisation of skills and knowledge between both agencies
- Streamlining existing processes for referrals and follow up between both agencies
- Greater understanding of the impact of family and domestic violence on victims and perpetrators
- More awareness of police processes vital in understanding how victims can navigate the legal system

We are very fortunate to have dedicated and highly skilled advocates at each of the police stations.



Centre for Safety and Wellbeing



In the past twelve months staff have concentrated on developing new programmes and strengthening current projects to provide a wide variety of choices for clients accessing the Centres (Starick House and Mary Smith).

Experience has shown that these programmes are vital in strengthening women's self determination and offering many opportunities for 'up skilling' and broadening their knowledge base to increase their safety and overall health and wellbeing of themselves and their families.

Financial independence has been identified as of the utmost importance for women when leaving abusive relationships. This is promoted through staff working closely with families using the 'Budget Busters Booklets' designed by one of the Women's Support Advocates and presenting very successful weekly nutrition classes. The centres are fortunate to receive generous donations of fresh fruit and vegetables from the 'Birdman' which assist these classes and augment children's school lunches.

The 'Clothesline Project' is an international project to raise awareness of sexual abuse of women and children by hanging T-shirts with hand painted messages/slogans on a mobile clothesline in public. This is an ongoing project throughout the year, and produces fabulous work from the children and their mothers. At the last 'Reclaim the Night' March in October residents from Starick House, Mary Smith and Outreach clients displayed and sold their painted T-Shirts and aprons which was a highlight for both staff and families involved.

Centre for Non Violence

The Centre for Non Violence currently accommodates administration and the Op Shop in the City of Belmont. As the central point of the organisation it provides resources and information and co-ordinates all public activities.

The Centre is in its infancy, and the following projects have been planned for implementation over the next three years;

- Training component with the ability to provide mobile services
- Development of specific family and domestic violence resources targeting indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- Expanding the current Family and Domestic Violence Education and Support Groups
- Research and publications

It is envisaged that the Centre will provide professional and responsive services not only at a local level but also State and National.



Future Directions



A vibrant organisation is one which never stands still and in the past 25 years, Starick Services has worked conscientiously and with much passion in maximising the safety and protection of victims of family and domestic violence. We have celebrated many wins and worked through some major challenges throughout our journey which has only strengthened our organisation.

We are working on ensuring our Strategic Plan is sustainable and reflective of the trends in the family and domestic violence arena, and flexible to meet the requirements of service users and funding bodies.

In past months opportunities have arisen for the organisation to submit tender applications, which if successful will allow Starick Services Inc to expand from the South East Metropolitan district and reconnect into rural and remote regions. There is excitement and anticipation in the air, and while presenting enormous challenges the rewards will be essential for the overall legal wellbeing and health of those most disadvantaged in our community.

HOW YOU CAN HELP US

Starick Services recognises that building safe and healthy communities requires generosity of spirit and the giving of hearts. Whether financial, goods, services or volunteering, each are interwoven threads that make the rich fabric of communities strong.

Please help us help the families we work with by supporting what we do so well.

Contact us now by phoning 9478 5300, or send to: PO Box 345, Bentley WA 6982