



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 2021

## Chair

Natalie Sangalli

## Treasurer

Daniel Winters

## Board Members

Gail Brindley  
Shirley Anne Fortina  
Dr Annette Raynor  
Dr Gae Synnott  
Liza Dunne  
Kylie Cutton  
Tahnya Wood  
Glenda Blake

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.





**Starick's outreach services  
provide assistance to over**



**This year Starick's FDV Advocates  
at Armadale and Cannington Police  
Stations supported**



**967 women**



**44 Children**

**accessed counselling services  
through Starick.**

**Starick's  
Safe at Home  
supported**

**655**

**women**

**to remain safely in their homes.**



**236 women**

**accessed counselling  
services through  
Starick  
this year.**



**This year, Starick's  
Refuges accommodated**



**170  
Women**

**and**

**249  
Children**





## CHAIR'S REPORT

### Natalie Sangalli

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In my first year as Chairperson of Starick, it has been an absolute pleasure to work with the skilled team of staff, volunteers and Board members as we worked through what 'COVID normal' looks like in WA in 2021. Although we were far better prepared for the impact of lockdowns than we were in March 2020, the housing shortages that grew out of the back of COVID-19 continued to present challenges for the organisation in managing capacity for both our refuges and emergency accommodation. It has been strong and committed work from the team, with support from the Government, community partners and donors allowing us to continue to keep women and children safe in crisis situations as the Lead Agency in the eastern metropolitan corridor.

A highlight for the year was the National Summit on Women's Safety to contribute to the next National Plan to end violence against women and children. This brought together a range of experts, advocates, service providers and lived experience advocates to explore issues faced by women and their children experiencing violence in Australia. Starick was very proud to have our CEO, Leanne invited by Minister Simone McGurk to coordinate the response from WA representatives and continues to echo the sentiment from delegates at this conference that "Listening must continue beyond the Summit, so that all voices are heard and inform the design of actions in the next National Plan".

We also look forward to our ongoing contribution to the priority of primary prevention to stop violence before it starts and achieving long-term attitudinal, cultural, systemic and behavioural change. Starick's approach to recognising the effects of FDV on children and acknowledging that education is critical is key to this. Our work with children and young people includes the Children and Young Peoples Engagement Project (CAYPEP) which commits to including children and young people's voices in enhancing service responses. Also in the prevention space, we have continued to deliver the Respectful Relationships Program in schools in conjunction with the WA Departments of Communities and Education and look forward to expanding this important work in 2022.

Starick was pleased to hear of the WA Government's \$60M commitment to implement a range of family and domestic violence initiatives including the Safe Home Safe Family package, expanding Respectful Relationships and providing grants for community service organisations to provide frontline support. We look forward to procurement reforms which will enable us to securely continue core services with long term funding across prevention, refuges for women and children, supported community housing, court support, advocacy, children's programs and community outreach.

In continuing to address the challenges of current funding frameworks, the team and the Board have again committed to strengthening organisational sustainability through fundraising and working with our generous supporters. Our annual Mother's Day High Tea in May grew bigger and better and in support of our prevention focus, the Marketing and Fundraising committee turned its attention to engaging young adults at the hugely successful Side-by-Side event at the Pica Bar.

I would like to thank the supporters of these events, as well as all the supporters of Starick throughout the year, whether it be generous corporate donations or the regular, scheduled contributions that keep us able to deliver that little bit extra for women and children in crisis. With the 16 Days of Activism fast approaching, we look forward to being a key voice advocating for ending violence against women and children, including at our corporate breakfast in December.

Finally, I wish to convey the Board's appreciation for the team at Starick, particularly Leanne, for the committed, passionate work throughout another challenging year, and express our enthusiasm for the journey that the Board and the organisation have before us.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### Daniel Winters

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Starick continues to maintain a suitably strong balance sheet thanks to sound financial management by the Board and senior staff, strong support from our community partners and donors, and the commitment of staff to productivity and innovation in seeking out new projects and funding sources. Whilst Western Australia has remained largely protected from major COVID-19 outbreaks, the organisation is prepared for disruptions arising from possible future Government restrictions with a tested COVID-19 response plan, supplemented by ongoing support from both the State Government and our generous donors.

Our results for the 2020-2021 financial year reflect close management of our operating budgets and a commitment to investing in the future. This year, we saw the return of our major in-person fundraising events, including a record-breaking Mother's Day High Tea. The success of these events has enabled us to invest further in our mission, including further enhancing our service model and associated projects to have an even greater positive impact on our community given the ever-increasing demand on services.

I would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to all our wonderful donors and supporters for their contributions during the year, your support has made a real impact to the women and children who access Starick's services. I am so proud of the important work that the people of this organisation do. In light of the current environment and the disruptions associated with the pandemic, the team has not wavered in its focus to provide the best possible support for our clients in achieving positive outcomes.

A huge thanks to Chief Financial Officer Francine Trovarello for her patience and significant support in my first year as Treasurer for Starick. I look forward to another important year ahead!

## CEO'S REPORT

Leanne Barron



2020-21 has been a time of development and change for Starick as we have designed and implemented new programs and projects and strengthened our service delivery. In all of this work, our focus is on remaining responsive to the needs of women and children impacted by family and domestic violence (FDV), and on changing community attitudes and behaviours around violence.

COVID-19 has had an ongoing impact on us as a service and on our clients, and we have been proactive in ensuring that we continue to provide safe and accessible services. The stresses in the housing market in particular have meant it is increasingly difficult for women and children escaping violence to access safe and affordable housing. One consequence of this has been that the average length of stay for women and children in our two refuges has increased from 3 months to 6 months, which in turn means that women and children in urgent need of refuge accommodation are unable to access it. Starick has worked throughout the year with peak and other community organisations to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable members of our community are taken into account in WA's COVID-19 response.

COVID-19 funding from the WA Government has enabled us to expand our services in key areas including:

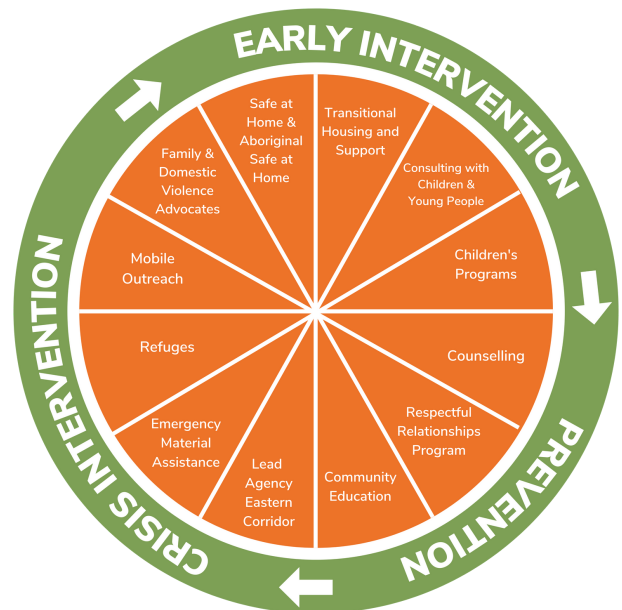
- A weekend program for children at our refuges.
- Increased after hours staffing at our refuges, and in our Safe at Home program.
- A Children and Young Person's Consultation Project to raise the voices of children and young people accessing FDV services.
- A Mobile Outreach Program for women exiting refuges and/or living in the community.

The National Summit on Women's Safety this year was an opportunity to put FDV on the national agenda, with significant media on the work being done around the country, and the work that still needs to be done. A small group of WA delegates was nominated by Minister McGurk and I was privileged to be the lead delegate, synthesising the input from other delegates and providing WA's input to the Statement. I believe the statement provides a firm foundation for the development of the next 10 Year Action Plan.

In addition to the strong support we receive from the State Government we are fortunate to have strong connections and relationships within the community, resulting in grants and income from a range of sources which help us to deliver further supports to families.

## THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE

Starick works across the continuum of prevention, early intervention and crisis intervention. In this way, we provide an integrated and multi-faceted approach to addressing FDV. This approach is reflected in the diagram below of our key areas of activity:



During the 2020-21 financial year our services provided:

- Refuge accommodation and support for 93 women and 155 children in our 2 refuges, Mary Smith and Starick House, for an average length of stay of 6 months.
- Emergency accommodation and support to 77 women and 94 children who were at very high and imminent risk of harm from a perpetrator and were unable to access refuge accommodation.
- A Mobile Outreach service to 56 women (December 2020 to June 2021) across the eastern metro corridor of Perth, in partnership with Orana and Koolkuna Refuges.
- Counselling for 236 women.
- The Children's Outreach and Counselling programs supported 47 families, including 83 children.
- Play therapy and counselling for 44 children.
- Transitional housing and support for 16 families, including 48 children.
- Our FDV Advocates based at Cannington, Kensington and Armadale Police Stations supported 967 women and their children.
- Safe at Home and Aboriginal Safe at Home supported 655 women to remain safely in their homes.
- 32 primary and secondary schools participated in our Respectful Relationships Teacher Education Support Program.

These figures demonstrate that our greatest reach is through our outreach services. This is an area we hope to expand in the coming year – to make our services as accessible as possible and ensure we are proactively reaching out to women and children to support their safety and wellbeing.



## WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Starick prioritises the needs of children as primary victim survivors of family and domestic violence. In 2020-21 we have continued to:

- Develop our Children's Outreach and Counselling service funded through Communicare's Communities for Children.
- Provide an additional day of children's counselling through a generous donation from Wendy and Max Ellis.
- Enhance our school holiday program through a generous donation from the Rothwell Foundation.

Children and young people are also a focus of our prevention work. Through our **Respectful Relationships Teacher Education Support Program** Starick works with the Departments of Communities and Education to support schools to develop a whole of school approach to preventing gender-based violence and promote respect. To date 32 schools have participated in this program, including 8 in regional areas.

In addition, in 2021 we initiated two key and innovative programs to improve our service response to children and young people:

- The Children and Young People's Engagement Project (CAYPEP) was developed in partnership with eastern corridor refugees and seeks to ensure that the voices of children and young people accessing services are heard and inform service delivery. This reflects the national Child Safe Principles on empowering children as a way of ensuring their safety and wellbeing. The Project is funded through WA Government COVID-19 Response funding.
- The Early Intervention Project, developed in partnership with Curtin University School of Allied Health, is a 2.5 year project to improve our service response to the needs of children and young people in our refuge and transitional housing program. Its focus is on recognising the impacts of FDV on children's development and wellbeing, and developing service approaches to address these impacts in the short and long term.

This Project is jointly funded by Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and Lotterywest.



## 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

**25 NOVEMBER TO 10 DECEMBER**

In December 2020, we held our second Corporate Fundraising Breakfast and Spirit of Starick Awards as part of our 16 Days of Activism campaign.

Our thanks to Beyond Bank for sponsoring this event, and to supporters old and new who attended and helped us raise much needed funds, and to also honour those who made a significant contribution to Starick over the year.

Our 16 Days social media campaign has grown in momentum since our first campaign in 2017. It is an important opportunity to communicate key message about the prevalence of FDV in our community, and the need for everyone to take action to address it.

Our 2020 campaign reached unprecedented numbers of Facebook users. As a snapshot:

- 73 Facebook posts were published over the 16 days, featuring a video pledge to take action, messages of support, and infographics.
- Our campaign posts reached over 12,000 people.
- Over 3,800 individuals engaged with the campaign content over each week of the campaign by liking, sharing or commenting on our posts.

## STARICK OP SHOP

Our Starick Op Shop continues to go from strength to strength. This year we closed the doors of our Cloverdale Op Shop after almost 10 years of trading and moved to new premises at 110 Kooyong Road, Rivervale. This new location will provide greater security of tenure and better amenities and accessibility for volunteers and customers.

This year we also recognize **10 years of service from Volunteer Op Shop Manager Sandie Hunt**. Thanks to Sandie's hard work and to her dedicated team of volunteers, the Op Shop makes a significant contribution to our work – receiving and sorting donations; supporting our clients to access essential items; to fundraising; providing return to work opportunities for our volunteers; and playing an integral role in increasing awareness in the local community.

It has been a pleasure to continue in the role of CEO in 2020/21. Thank you to the Board, staff and volunteers for your 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 greatly appreciated.

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Department of  
Communities



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