



## **Intimate Partner Abuse of Men**

### **Recommendation**

That \$280,000 is allocated to contract a non-government service provider to conduct two pilot projects, one for men who are victims of intimate partner abuse and the other for women who are abusing their partner. These funds would also need to be used to promote awareness of the service.

### **Rationale**

The definition of family and domestic violence contains six forms of abuse and violence:

- From a male towards his female partner
- From females to males in intimate relationships
- Between same-sex couples
- Between siblings
- From adolescent children to parents
- From family carers to a frail aged relative or a relative with a disability.

The current services only address abuse and violence from a male towards his female partner.

Even policies and services that are limited to intimate partner abuse should address the first three forms of family and domestic violence.

Currently there are no support services for men who are the victims of abuse and violence and no intervention programs for women who are using abuse and violence.

MAN has had discussions with Lifeline WA, which has previously expressed an interest in tackling these issues. Lifeline has demonstrated a willingness to adopt a balanced view of domestic violence and to plan services that are based on evidence. Lifeline has the capacity, expertise and staff to conduct a pilot program, for both male victims and females who are abusing their partners, but does not have the resources to implement them.

In addition to providing services for male victims and females who are using abuse and violence, the services will also need to be promoted in order to make people aware of their availability.

A study of intimate partner abuse of men was initiated by MAN and is being conducted by Professor Alfred Allen and Dr Greg Dear of the School of Psychology at Edith Cowan University, with funding provided by Lotterywest. Interviews with men who are victims of intimate partner abuse, family and friends plus service providers have been completed. A survey of service providers is about to be undertaken. The results of the study will be available in early 2010, which will provide valuable information for service providers.

The Men's Advisory Network (MAN) is the peak body for service providers, organisations and individuals concerned with men's health, well-being and other issues affecting men and boys in Western Australia. MAN was established in 1997 and incorporated in 2000. It is a not-for-profit non-government organisation that receives financial support from the WA Department of Health.

The primary role that MAN plays is supporting service providers, organisations and professionals from various disciplines, who work with men and boys. In addition, MAN provides information to individuals about appropriate services and professionals, plus provides general community education and raises awareness of the issues affecting men and boys. Further information is available on the website: [www.man.org.au](http://www.man.org.au)

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