



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.

The estimate is for the funds required to conduct the two pilot projects for one year. The attached worksheet is an estimate prepared by Lifeline WA.

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 dedicated 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 pilot programs, 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 was 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 were undertaken, as well as a survey of service providers. The results of the study have been published in the research report which was launched in May 2010. The report will provide valuable information for service providers. The report may be viewed at <http://www.man.org.au/News/tabid/55/Default.aspx>

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

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Intimate Partner Abuse of Men Pilot Project

These estimates have been prepared by Lifeline WA

1: Male DV victims counselling and support service (crisis intervention could be or become part of this)

Staffing: Admin support P/T, 2 group facilitators P/T, counsellor P/T, project manager P/T.

Open group max 12 men, 2 hourly group session 1x p/w, individual counselling available as needed 5 sessions p/w average for clients; all group assessments, facilitation, counselling, group notes/admin services to be undertaken on 2 days p/w equivalent, admin/reception available 5 days p/w, project management 1 day p/w equivalent. Total: up to 2.0 FTE.

Equipment: Use of existing equipment, IT, admin systems, new equipment, power, extra insurance, group room rent if not at Lifeline, other overheads.

Additional extensive time involvements: program development, preparations, deliberations, reporting, collaborative efforts with stake holders, CEO involvements, internal evaluations, external evaluation with partner (ECU), progressive and final reports.

Promotion costs: brochures and electronic distributions, time involvement, also for MAN.

Total \$ 140K

2: Female DV offenders group program and 1:1 counselling support and couple counselling where appropriate

Details more or less same as above, except that we deal with female clients. Stakeholders such as Police, Dept of Corrective Services and Family Violence Court have a definite interest in referring nominated clients. This requires additional networking time.

Total \$ 140K