

From the ED



I recently returned from a 2 ½ week trip to the USA and Canada. During my trip I attended the 17th Annual Family Justice Center Conference in Milwaukee. The conference was inspiring and proved to be a great learning opportunity.

Whilst in the USA I was fortunate to attend a CUT IT OUT® training session. These sessions are attended by hairdressers and focus on identifying and responding to clients experiencing family violence. EDVOS has just received a Community Partnerships for Primary Prevention grant from the Department of Premier and Cabinet to deliver our HaiR project across the eastern metropolitan region.

We are also very excited to have received funding from the Ian Potter International Learning and Development fund for our Business Development Manager to travel to the USA and Canada to undertake research around global best practice in family violence prevention and intervention.

EDVOS has had a busy few months launching our new website on International Women's Day and partnering with the Nunawading Lions Club who held a fundraising dinner on International Women's Day. Funds raised are being used to provide counselling sessions for children who have experienced family violence. A huge number of gifts for women and children were also donated.

The Universal Services team is now fully operational and actively engaging with hospitals, maternal and child health, schools and other mainstream services. We're looking forward to sharing more soon.

As the financial year draws to a close, we acknowledge and thank our partners, funders and stakeholders for combined efforts to respond to, and eliminate family violence.

Jenny

Jenny Jackson
Executive Director

Our Vision

A community free from family violence, where everyone feels safe.



EDVOS Website refreshed

EDVOS launched its new, refreshed website to coincide with International Women's Day on 8th March.

Our website has a new fresh look to match EDVOS' branding. The layout is much more user friendly and is receiving positive feedback from staff, clients and stakeholders.

The website now provides information relevant to women experiencing family violence, friends / family supporting a woman and children experiencing family violence and for professionals working in the field.

The website is compatible for viewing on mobile devices as well as PCs as we recognise our client group needs to be able to access information at anytime, anywhere and by any means.

To be able to launch the site on International Women's Day was our small way of empowering women experiencing family violence and a true reflection of our values.

We acknowledge and commend Renée at 2dog creative for her amazing passion and creative work with EDVOS.



International Women’s Day Dinner

EDVOS was pleased to join with Lions Club of Nunawading for a fundraising dinner to celebrate International Women’s Day.

The dinner aimed to raise fund for EDVOS’ children’s counselling program – and that it did!

Over 100 women attended the function and heard from inspiring author Jenny Yates (‘The Vine Bleeds’). Jenny spoke of her personal experience of family violence as a child and the impact this has had on her life.

In addition to receiving the funds raised from the function, attendees also provided donations for the EDVOS Gifts for Women program. This program accepts donations of new items (cosmetic, beauty, stationery etc) that women need. Some women use these items for special occasions (Mother’s day, birthdays etc) and other make use of them immediately (women in temporary accommodation who have had to leave their personal belongings behind).

EDVOS is extremely thankful to the **Lions Club of Nunawading** for organising this event and nominating EDVOS as the benefactor.



Jeni Franklin - Nunawading Lions Club presenting EDVOS ED Jenny Jackson with a cheque.

Assistance Fund

EDVOS has established an Assistance Fund specifically to help families impacted by family violence tragedies.

We hope the Assistance Fund is never needed. However, in the event of a family violence tragedy, EDVOS aims to be able to provide modest support to victims families where their need is unable to be met by other forms of funding.

Perhaps you could consider having a fundraising activity at your workplace – maybe a morning tea, raffle, staff luncheon, cake stall etc and donate the proceeds to our Assistance Fund? We would be most grateful. Please feel free to call me on **9259 4200** to discuss further.

Extended hours

As announced in our last newsletter EDVOS has increased its hours of operation. The EDVOS office is now open between 9am and 8pm on weekdays and 9am and 5pm on Saturdays.

Many benefits have arisen as a result of these changes. Women are waiting less time for intake and case management appointments, women now have greater access to services and EDVOS staff have more flexibility with their working arrangements.

We are truly delighted that the extension of our hours has been beneficial in so many ways to both clients and staff. We are really proud that EDVOS has taken this important step towards greater accessibility for clients.



EDVOS Provides Specialist Family Violence Support for Eastern Health

An EDVOS specialist family violence advocate is now co-located at Maroondah Hospital providing direct and timely support to those experiencing family violence.

Support and referral is available for Eastern Health staff seeking confidential support and assistance with family violence concerns.

This position is fully funded by EDVOS and demonstrates leadership and a commitment to ensuring those responding to family violence receive a timely and accessible specialist response focussed on safety and wellbeing for themselves and their children.

This partnership will include EDVOS providing Eastern Health Human Resources and OH&S staff with training so they can confidently and appropriately recognise family violence, respond and refer to EDVOS.



Women Supporting Women

Therapeutic Interventions for 'Women Supporting Women' Group

EDVOS has received funding through the Victorian Government Therapeutic Interventions Demonstration Projects grants.

EDVOS will provide women who have experienced family violence a range of therapeutic interventions through our Women Supporting Women group. The women will be able to access this via monthly structured therapeutic groups, an online closed group for peer to peer support and individual therapeutic support of choice. Therapeutic support can range from art therapy, mentoring, massage and sporting activities amongst others.

EDVOS Education and Training

EDVOS Education and Training has provided 14 training sessions so far this year to over 300 attendees. Training is available to workers and members of the community to build awareness and understanding of family violence and build confidence and support to respond to disclosures and make appropriate referrals.

Our training packages include a 3 hour interactive workshop for up to 20 participants at a venue of your choice. Training is provided by experienced and qualified trainers using case studies based on women's lived experiences. For further information regarding EDVOS Education and Training please contact **Youna Kim** or **Mandy Hudson**.



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Volunteers significantly boost the capacity of EDVOS to deliver much-needed services,
so if you or someone you know has time to spare, why not consider volunteering?
Please email us at edvos@edvos.org.au or call Natasha on **03 9259 4200** for more information.







New Funding for HaiR Project

EDVOS has welcomed new funding for an innovative program to promote gender equality, and the protection of women and children.

Victoria's Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence, Fiona Richardson, announced up to \$135,000 over 1 year for EDVOS to deliver the HaiR project.

The project aims to educate hairdressers to understand the link between gender inequality and family violence and build their confidence to talk to clients who might be experiencing violence or abuse and encourage them to seek help. EDVOS is collaborating with Professional Beauty Association in the USA, the National CUT IT OUT® program provider in the USA and the Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women and Children at the University of Ontario in Canada. National and local providers including Box Hill TAFE, the Yarra Ranges City Council, Australian Hairdressing Council (AHC) and Hair & Beauty Industry Association (HBIA) have already expressed interest in collaborating in the HaiR project.

-  EDVOS acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this land and we pay our respect to Elders past, present and future.
-  EDVOS respect the many women and children who have been responding and continue to respond to the multiplicity of gendered acts of violence in their lives and their pets and animals.
-  EDVOS is a child-focused and child safe organisation.
-  EDVOS is a not-for-profit organisation, primarily funded by the State Government of Victoria. EDVOS also receives grants and donations from other sources.

