



# I Don't Wanna Be Educated



Family Violence Prevention Legal Service – Albany

Auspiced by the Southern Aboriginal Corporation

Specialist Community Legal Centre

We assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of all gender identities and ages, their partners, children and carers who are victims/survivors of family and domestic violence





We are located in the Great Southern region of Western Australia

We cover an area of 39,000 square kilometres

Total Population of 54,000 people

Approximate 1300 of whom identify as Aboriginal

We cover 13 local government areas





The Great Southern region within the Wagyl Kaip and Southern Noongar region which refers to the Noongar dialect groups, Ganeang, Goreng and Minang

The approximate size of the Wagyl Kaip Region is 52,246 sq kms





FVPLS Services provide:

- Free **legal assistance**, advice , casework and court support in areas of:
  - Family violence restraining orders;
  - Child protection;
  - Criminal injuries compensation; and
  - Family law where the matter relates to family violence.
- Information**, support and referral to support services and agencies
- Counselling** for victims and survivors of family violence and sexual assault
- Education** for community groups and supporting agencies and stakeholders





## Statistics

54,000 people

1300 Aboriginal people 2.4% of the total population

FDV statistics Jan 2013- Feb 2014

Total number of offences reported	1309
Total DV offences charged	567 (43.3%)
Total number of DV incidents attended	1836
Total DV incidents – no criminal offences	1019 (55.5%)
Involved alcohol	690 (37.5%)
Involved drugs	95 (5.1%)
Total Aboriginal victims	567 (30.9%)
Total Aboriginal perpetrators	604 (32.9%)
Total number of children exposed	2407





FVPLS has been working in the Great Southern since 2007

The statistics are getting worse  
Over the 13 month period the monthly stats grew

Why?

More reporting which is a good thing

More methamphetamine and alcohol which is bad





Education is our only way to effect long term change

- Previously we had attended yarning circles with another Southern Aboriginal Corporation program
- Unfortunately the groups attending were getting smaller
- The same people/family group was attending
- Not getting to the younger people
- Not engaging with men
- We were no longer delivering education to the wider community
- We needed to take a new approach





## What did we do?

Accessed funding through the Royal Commission's Knowmore organisation

Organised two performances of Tammy Anderson's one-woman performance **I Don't Wanna Play House**



I Don't Wanna Be Educated





In total 240 people attended



We had a panel discussion with Knowmore, Anglicare WA and Relationships Australia





We followed up with

5 days of performance workshops lead by Tammy

2 days women only

1 day at the Albany prison

1 day for stakeholders and staff

1 day for anyone who wanted to engage





In the workshops people told their stories.

Participants played games, role played, sang, danced, talked, listened, drew pictures and worked through issues.







## Visit to the Albany Prison

Albany is a maximum security prison which houses men from all over the State.

Tammy performed to 17 inmates who would soon be eligible for release. They were all in prison for assault, grievous bodily harm or drug related offences combined with family violence.

Their reactions to the performance were surprising. Two men left in tears, although both returned after a few minutes and the audience all showed signs of being impacted by what they were seeing. Tammy was warmly applauded at the end of the performance, she was encouraged to carry on the work that she does.



## What came afterwards?

A weekly writing group

A healing retreat

A wellness retreat





## The writing group

The group runs for 4 hours each week and includes lunch

Lead by a community Elder

With engagement from SAC staff and Elders

The age range from 20 to 73

Stories are written, recorded and illustrated





## A Healing Retreat

Three night, two day retreat in Denmark at a facility called The Cove.

This facility sleeps 12 people in shared accommodation with cooking, dining and lounge room facilities.

The retreat included, massages, aromatherapy, health food and time to talk, read, reflect and enjoy the surrounding bush.

There were a variety of facilitated wellness sessions and discussions using trained counsellors and facilitators.







Since arriving I am enjoying the peaceful area. It's just so calming and relaxing so good.

I have heard and shared so many stories. It's so good to be around strong positive women. It also give opportunities to take skills home to help my situation.

Also learning I am important and I need to take time out to nurture myself and take time out for myself. Bianka







Making friends is beautiful  
doing things like artwork,  
yarning, laughing enjoying each  
others company. Nellie

*Loved writing the song last night – all of  
us together. Sisters who have never met  
creating something lasting and healing. I  
can take this song anywhere and I can  
connect with sisters even if we are not  
together.*







## Where to from here?

The **Wellness Retreat** is planned for September and will there will be a greater emphasis on music.

Restarting our **Songlines** group with a new time

Continuing with the **Writing** group

More **group work** with counselling clients

Applying for funding this year to run performance workshops again, another prison visit.

Running healing and wellness retreats for men.



Thank you. Any questions