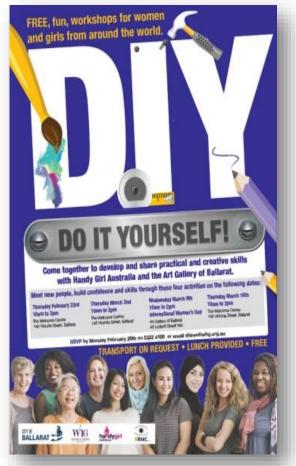


# 'Strengthening the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Community by Preventing Violence Against Women



HAPPY

# **HEALTHY**

HOMES







### Background

• City of Ballarat Community Charter for the Prevention of Violence against Women







#### **Ballarat CaLD Communities**

- Ballarat has significant populations of people from India, China, Filipins, Sri Lanka, Iran, Pakistan, Africa and South East Asia
- While most immigrants and refugees live in metropolitan areas of Victoria the population of new migrants living in rural areas of Victoria is growing
- The RCFV found that the experience of family violence by people in CaLD communities in rural, regional and remote areas presents various difficulties, including the availability of services and appropriate interpreters

# Steering Group:

- Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council
- Ballarat Islamic Society
- Centre for Multicultural Youth
- Child and Family Services
- Ballarat Community Health
- WRISC Family Violence Support
- Vic Police
- City of Ballarat
- Womens Health Grampians

### **Project Co-ordination:**

Shiree Pilkinton, Women's Health Grampians and City of Ballarat

### **Project supporters:**

- Handy Girl Australia
- Art Gallery of Ballarat
- Pauline O'Shannessy-Dowling, Community Artist
- Ballarat Islamic Society
- Abe Nouk, Performer
- Mitre 10
- InTouch



# DIY with Handy Girl Australia Workshops – Women & Girls

Handy Girl Australia were engaged to provide 3 sessions to women and girls:

- Introduction to maintenance and repair opportunities
- Use of tools
- Assist participant to build 'story boxes'
- 16 women representing 12 cultures











### Art class at Art Gallery of Ballarat International Women's Day



*"There was song, dance, laughter and tears"* – Shiree Pilkinton – Project Worker.



# "It Takes Courage" public art exhibition March 26, 2017 @ The Welcome Centre community day

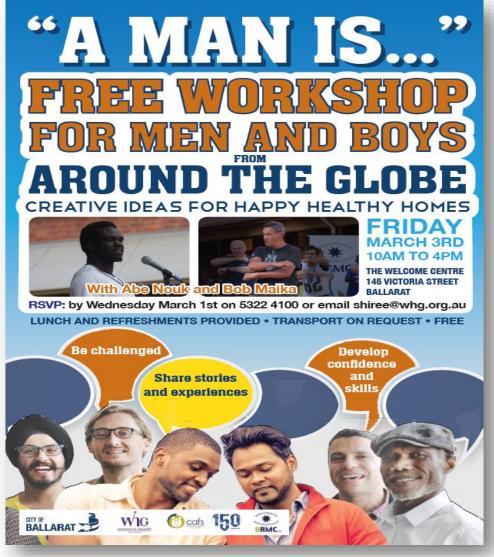




"...it was one of the proudest moments of my life. There was the exhibition of our works"







#### Workshop – Men & Boys

- Presented by Abe Nouk and Bob Maika
- Intergenerational teenagers and older men
- 14 participants from 8 cultures
- Exploring the cause of violence against women and respectful relationships



#### Impact

Empowerment and Agency:

- Two women reported domestic violence during this project
- One woman requested information on where to get more legal advice
- One woman took action in her workplace to report a superior who had been bullying her for more than three years.
- One of the women has become involved with a group of other migrant women to set up social activities





### Impact cont'd

Self Esteem:

- Women finding other women in the group who are going through very similar challenges, and helping each other to be strong, assertive and optimistic about the future
- "I suffer from social anxiety. Sometimes I can't even get on a bus because there are too many people. Through this project, my confidence has grown. It took a lot of courage for me to sign up for this"

Other Outcomes:

 Fifteen Trees (Ballarat organisation) was moved by one of the women's artworks and her story. They have offered to plant 15 trees as a tribute to her



#### Learnings

- Factor in sufficient time to develop an innovative and engaging program that builds skills
- This will provide an opportunity for discussions about gender equity and preventing violence
- Realistic timelines
- Early work on an evaluation plan will pay off at the end
- We didn't have enough time or money to provide a comprehensive program for men

### Sustainability

Short and longer term influence:

- For many of the projects participants, their increased empowerment has lead to agency and advocacy for themselves, their families, networks and communities
- The project has also influenced partner organisations by raising awareness and building the capacity of those organisations to address the drivers of violence against women and children
- The project partners are forming stronger partnerships, coordinating and implementing other PVAW activities



## Sustainability cont'd

- The City of Ballarat has been declared an 'Intercultural City' and aims to elevate CaLD community participation and leadership
- WHG have received State Govt funding to continue to progress
  PVAW work with the Ballarat
  CaLD community



 Council has applied for funding to extend and expand the work achieved in this project



#### Happy Healthy Homes Project More information:

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