



# 'FAMILIES MATTER' – in Greater Shepparton

**Edition 3  
June 2006**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Meeting the Needs of our Community   | 1     |
| Kindergarten Enrolments for 2007   | 1     |
| Agency Profile - Women's Health Goulburn North East  | 2     |
| Kiwanis Special Needs Playgroup  | 3     |
| Early Childhood Literature   | 3     |
| Grants and Funding Opportunities   | 4     |
| Family Centred Practice Training   | 4     |
| Conference, Workshops and Training Calendar  | 5 - 7 |
| Newsletter Information and Contacts  | 7     |
| 'Cross cultural skills development training workshop for family violence registration form | 8     |

## MEETING THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY

A warm welcome to you all, yes we certainly need that with some of these mornings.

I had the pleasure to open the annual early childhood conference here in Shepparton last week. We had some 170 early childhood staff from both Shepparton and the wider region. Judging from the reaction of participants the day went really well with many stimulating presentations.

I can remember some 20 years ago addressing a similar forum. Back then we had kindergarten sessions of 2 ½ hours, childcare centres that tended to be small, run by local government and community groups and maternal and child health nurses that sat in their centres waiting for families to come to them.

How things have changed?

We certainly have changed. The childcare sector is large and competitive. Kindergarten sessions are flexible to meet the needs of the local community and the clear direction for maternal and child health services is flexibility, outreach and engaging families in their own community.

We must ensure that we don't take things for granted nor stand still, we need to be in tune with our local community, think outside the box and sell the message to all at every opportunity we can get.

Steve Dawkins  
Manage Family and Children's Services

## KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS FOR 2007 OPEN

Greater Shepparton City Council co-ordinates central enrolment for all kindergartens in the municipality. Enrolments for the 2007 kinder year are now open.

Enrolment forms have been sent to every kindergarten, childcare centre and Maternal and Child Health centre, as well as a number of other early childhood services/centres. If working with clients with a child eligible for kindergarten next year please encourage them to enrol by obtaining a form from their local centre or contacting the Family and Children's Services Department at Council on 58 329 782. Early enrolment is encouraged.

If any organisation would like some copies of the 2007 kindergarten enrolment form to hand out to clients or families accessing their service please contact Sandy Clough on 58 329 782. Closing date for enrolments is July 31<sup>st</sup> 2006.





Women's Health Goulburn North East is the government funded specialist women's health service for the Goulburn Valley and North-East Victoria, the Hume region. Hume region comprises 18% of Victoria in area, some 40,427 square kilometres. It covers 12 local government areas and includes major towns of Wodonga, Wangaratta, Shepparton, Seymour, Mansfield and Benalla.

We are dedicated to promoting the health and well being of all women and to improving the delivery of health and community services for women in our local community, particularly those who live in isolated rural areas, are disadvantaged, or are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. WHGNE was established under the Associations Incorporation Act in 2000. Between 1993 and 2000, we operated as NEWomen, a program of Ovens and King Community Health Service.

### Statement of Purpose

As a dynamic, feminist organisation our purpose is to work in partnership with women, communities and organisations to improve the health, safety and well-being of women by:

Identifying, prioritising, and responding to the health needs of women, focusing on those who are most disadvantaged.

- Raising awareness and influencing behaviour, choices, and sustainable change through health promotion.
- Changing attitudes and service delivery to women through research and evaluation.
- Providing community education and professional training.
- Providing accessible and relevant health information and referral to women.
- Creating opportunities for women to participate in decision-making.

Our work is underpinned by a social model of health which recognises that a complex array of factors influence a woman's sense of self, health, safety and well-being. We acknowledge that many women have limited access to social and economic resources. We respect and affirm diversity among women

WHGNE is the primary provider of training services on gender and health in the Hume region. We assist professionals and communities to better recognise and understand the ways that gender impacts on people's lives. We have contributed to the research, evaluation and planning processes of a number of other organisations seeking to respond better to gender issues in their work and/or enhance their research or health promotion roles. Within a community development framework, we offer women skills training, support advocacy, and assistance to build networks. Our women's specialist library is available for use by women and workers in the Hume region. The catalogue is on our website [www.whealth.com.au](http://www.whealth.com.au) and resources can be posted.

For individual women, we provide free information and resources on all aspects of women's health, and refer women to agencies that can meet their other needs. We hold the Family Violence Networker position for the Hume region. We have a strong emphasis on family violence as a health issue for women, our work includes research, training and project work such as A Powerful Journey, Real Life and Integration project. Our partners are women, service providers, local organisations, and local communities. We try to model collaborative approaches and resource sharing, and to facilitate the development of lasting and positive relationships. Local women are actively involved in the management of all our projects. Examples of our current work include two research projects - Teenage Pregnancy in Seymour and Benalla and Intimate Partner Rape research, in partnership with UMCASA.

An important and ongoing undertaking is **Project: Equity** is a practical approach to recognising and responding to inequity and exclusion. It seeks to alert health professionals to the possibility that their practices may unintentionally exclude certain groups within the community. Equity is a term which describes fairness and justice in outcomes. It is not about the equal delivery of services, or distribution of resources, it is about recognising diversity and disadvantage, and directing resources and services towards those most in need, to ensure equal outcomes for all. We welcome women and service providers to visit or phone us about any of our services. Staff are happy to come to your organisation as a guest speaker about a specific topic or generally about our services.

## **KIWANIS SPECIAL NEEDS PLAYGROUP**

The Kiwanis Special Needs Centre playgroup for parents of children with special needs is starting up again thanks to funding from the Best Start Supported Playgroup and Parent Group initiative. The playgroup is set to start in third term with a priority of linking mums/dads together and for the children to just have FUN! The playgroup does not involve therapy however guest speakers will be engaged on a regular basis. There will be freshly brewed coffee, lots of activities for the children, and uplifting, friendly company.

**Date: Commencing Tuesday 11 July 2006**

**Time: 10.30 am to 11.30 pm**

**Location: Kiwanis House, 38 Packham Street, Shepparton 3630**

**Cost: Gold Coin Donation**

**Contact: Elyse Graham, Coordinator – Kiwanis House – 58 221230**



## **EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERATURE**

### ***Book title: Young children as active learners***

How do young children learn? How can they be encouraged to become *lifelong learners*?

*Young children as active learners* is written to stimulate reflection upon issues related to how children learn and to encourage those working with young children to provide a range of opportunities for them to actively direct their own learning.

Authors and early childhood educators Andrea Nolan, Anna Kilderry and Roslyn O'Grady have used their experiences of working with young children to explore how the starting point of children being actively involved in their own learning can enhance outcomes in early childhood settings.

They cite a range of examples where an initial stimulus was extended by the children through skills such as research, problem-solving and teamwork. The authors also challenge early childhood practitioners to more effectively engage children through a combination of play, teaching and learning.

This book will provide a very useful tool for all early childhood practitioners to enhance the learning potential of the children in their care and extend their own creativity.

### ***Book title: Everyday learning about healthy bodies***

What do parents need to know to develop a healthy lifestyle in young children? *Everyday learning about healthy bodies* is a terrific starting point for encouraging children to develop sound habits that will ensure their future wellbeing.

With an emphasis on healthy eating and lots of physical activity, experienced author and early childhood practitioner Nadine McCrea provides expert guidance in a simple and effective way for parents and carers of babies, toddlers and preschoolers.

'We need to encourage parents, carers, grandparents and educators to come back to the basics of helping children understand more about their bodies and our everyday lifestyle patterns and habits', says Ms McCrea. 'Helping children have healthier bodies is a responsibility of families and also of the whole community. The community needs to take some responsibility as well as families because many of the things that affect children's lifestyles are outside the family.'

With the current awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle for all children, this book will be valuable for all those who are involved in caring for young children.

For further information, please contact:

Ms Sue Wales, Publishing & Marketing Manager

T: 02 6242 1800, E: [swales@earlychildhood.org.au](mailto:swales@earlychildhood.org.au)

## **GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

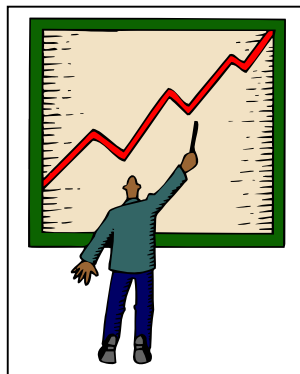
### ***Commonwealth Bank Foundation Grants for Schools***

The Commonwealth Bank Foundation is once again inviting all Australian schools to apply for a grant to improve the literacy, numeracy and financial literacy of their students.

Primary schools are invited to apply for one of 70 **Commonwealth Bank Foundation e-Learning Grants** of \$5000 to develop the literacy, numeracy and financial literacy of students through use of technology. Applications opened 1 May and close on 14 June 2006. Winning schools will be announced as part of National Literacy and Numeracy Week on 25 August.

Since the launch of the e-Learning Grants in 2002, the program has contributed \$1.4 million towards supporting e-Learning initiatives in 280 primary schools around Australia. For more information about the program, including summaries of e-Learning Grant initiatives, please visit our website [commbank.com.au/grants](http://commbank.com.au/grants)

If you would like further information about the Commonwealth Bank Foundation Grants program or the other programs supported by the Commonwealth Bank Foundation, please feel free to contact Wendy Mason, Programs Manager on (02) 9378 5324.



## **FAMILY CENTRED PRACTICE TRAINING**

The third Best Start Family Centred Practice Training is commencing in July for early childhood professionals working in the southern area of Shepparton. Invitations have been sent to Maternal and Child Health nurses, kindergarten teachers, childcare co-ordinators, primary school welfare officers, youth officers and playgroup leaders. To date 31 early childhood professionals have participated in the 5 day training with the feedback from the first two training programs very positive. The details for the third training program is as follows.

**At:** The Billabong Complex  
Wanganui Road  
Shepparton

**Dates:** Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September

**From:** 9.00am – 3.30pm

Ten modules are presented in total, exploring a range of topics and issues such as attachment, engaging families, understanding and exploring vulnerability and family diversity. Networking and learning about other early childhood services is also an important part of the training. For more information on Family Centred Practice training please contact Sally Wright on 0407 542 253.

## **CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING CALENDAR**

### **Cross-Cultural Skills Development Training Workshop for Family Violence Within a Rural Context**

Brought to you by the Immigrant Women's Domestic Violence Service Vic Inc.

**Thursday June 15<sup>th</sup> & Friday June 16<sup>th</sup> 2006**

9:30am – 4:30pm

**IT IS ESSENTIAL TO ATTEND BOTH DAYS**

**Venue: Makabys  
7291 Midland Highway  
Peter Ross Edwards Causeway  
SHEPPARTON**

Cost \$33.00 (GST inclusive) for two days. It is essential to attend both days.

The Immigrant Women's Domestic Violence Service (IWDVS) is a statewide service, which provides support and crisis intervention to women and children of culturally, and linguistically diverse backgrounds who experience domestic violence. Currently linguistic support is provided with the following languages: Vietnamese, Mandarin, Cantonese, Turkish, Dari, Pushtu, Farsi, Kurdish, Persian, Amharic, Tigree, Tigrenyan Sudanese (Arabic, Dinka, Nure and Shilluk), Russian, Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Bel Russian, Greek, Serbian, Macedonian, Bosnian, Croatian, Slovenian, Spanish (covering more than 20 Spanish speaking countries) and Arabic (covering more than 20 Arabic speaking countries). We work with interpreters when we do not have a caseworker who speaks the client's language.

We are coming to Shepparton to present the findings of the Research report "The Right to be Safe From Domestic Violence: Immigrant and Refugee Women in Rural Victoria", which was published in May. All participants will be given a copy of this report free of charge.

We offer training on how to engage women from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) background affected by domestic violence, and for engaging CALD communities in prevention activities. The Domestic Violence Outreach service at the Goulburn Valley Community Health Service has kindly provided us with support and assistance to organise these workshops. The workshops are supported by the Victorian Multicultural Commission.

A registration form for this workshop is attached to the newsletter.

---

### **Goulburn Valley Family Care - Caring 4 Kids**

Feel like you're constantly walking that tightrope of life, balancing kids, relationships and the stresses of parenting? Don't have enough hands to do everything? Then Caring 4 Kids is for you!

#### **Group times and dates:**

- 1. Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July, 10am to 12.30pm**
- 2. Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August, 10am to 12.30pm**
- 3. No group 8<sup>th</sup> August**
- 4. Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August, 10am to 12.30pm**
- 5. Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 10am to 12.30pm**

*Bookings are required. Please contact the Intake worker on 5823 7000.*

*Group sessions will be at Villa Maria, 94 Wyndham Street, Shepparton.*

A fun, relaxed way of learning about kids and their development, building positive relationships, behaviour management and coping with the stresses of parenting. Caring 4 Kids is a short term program incorporating home visits and group sessions tailored to meet the needs of your family. If you'd like to find out more about this program, call Melissa at Goulburn Valley Family Care on 5823 7000.

## **CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING CALENDAR CONTINUED.....**

### **Goulburn Valley Family Care - Hey, Dad!**

Men's Parenting Course  
Term 3, 2006

***Hey, Dad!* is an eight session program designed especially for men to explore the challenges of fathering.**

#### **Topics include:**

- men as parents in today's world
- understanding your children as they grow
- relationships and our children
- effective communication between fathers and children
- dealing with strong emotions
- new directions in discipline

**When: Tuesday nights July 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Where: Goulburn Valley Family Care**

**Cost: FREE**

To enrol please telephone the Intake Worker on 5823 7000.

---

### **Playgroup Victoria Inaugural Supported Playgroup Conference**

**9 August 2006**

**9.30am to 4pm**

**Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre  
Cnr Bell Street and St Georges Rd, Preston**

*Keynote Speaker: Dr Don Edgar*

Cost: \$55 Playgroup Victoria members (\$40 earlybird before 9 June 2006)  
\$75 Non-members (\$60 earlybird before 9 June 2006)

Tea/coffee on arrival, morning tea and lunch included

All delegates will receive a copy of Playgroup Victoria's Supported Playgroup Manual that will be launched at the conference.

#### **Who should attend:**

- supported playgroup leaders
- agencies and organisations running supported playgroups
- anyone interested in starting a supported playgroup
- local government workers
- maternal and child health nurses

#### **Conference themes:**

- value of supported playgroups
- empowering parents
- quality of playgroup experiences
- early intervention for vulnerable parents and children through supported playgroups
- community connectedness
- access and equity

**Enquiries:** Jane Bezzina, Events Manager, Playgroup Victoria  
1800 171 882 ext 110  
[jane@playgroup.org.au](mailto:jane@playgroup.org.au)

## **CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING CALENDAR CONTINUED.....**

### **Regional Information and Advocacy Council Inc. - MANAGING CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

#### *Playgroup Leader training*

This interactive workshop will provide participants with cross-cultural training, explore culture, address cross-cultural issues and how to deal with them short-term as well as provide helpful tips regarding cross-cultural communication. At the conclusion of the workshop, participants will be able to define culture and be able to effectively overcome cross-cultural issues.

The workshop will also provide an opportunity to discuss the Muslim culture.

**Date: Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August**

**Time: 9.30am to 12 noon**

**Venue: Board Room**

**Greater Shepparton City Council, Welsford Street, Shepparton**

**Cost: Free**

**Facilitator: Sigrid van Fondern**

For bookings please contact Belinda Whitelaw on 58 329 790 by Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2006.

---

### **PADA National Anxiety and Depression Conference: Options and Opportunities**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2006

This exciting conference is supported by *beyondblue* and will focus on treatment and interventions for anxiety and depression. For more information please call 03 9886 0649.

---

### **Greater Shepparton Best Start Forum**

Put this date in your diary

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August**

**Function Room 2 – Eastbank Centre**

Time to be confirmed

**Keynote Speaker – Sharon Goldfeld**

Learnings from the Greater Shepparton Best Start Demonstration Project will be presented and discussed.

More information to follow shortly.

---

## **NEWSLETTER INFORMATION AND CONTACTS**

Do you have information to contribute to the Greater Shepparton Family & Children's Services Newsletter? It could be an upcoming conference, staff movements, funding opportunity or anything to do with family and children's services. If so please send it through to the contact person listed below. Every edition of the newsletter will include a cut off date for information to be included in the next edition.

Contact person – Belinda Whitelaw, Best Start Service Development & Resource Officer  
58 329 790 or email [belinda.whitelaw@shepparton.vic.gov.au](mailto:belinda.whitelaw@shepparton.vic.gov.au)

Next edition due – June 2006  
Due date for articles – 19 May 2006



# Cross-Cultural Skills Development Training Workshop for Family Violence Within a Rural Context

Thursday June 15<sup>th</sup> & Friday June 16<sup>th</sup> 2006  
9:30am – 4:30pm

**IT IS ESSENTIAL TO ATTEND BOTH DAYS**

**Venue: Makabys  
7291 Midland Highway  
Peter Ross Edwards Causeway  
SHEPPARTON**

## **Registration Form/Tax Invoice\***

Please complete one form per participant

**Name of Organisation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of participant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Position Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postcode:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone No.:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax No.:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Cost Payable: \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$33.00 (GST inclusive)** *Costs are per person for two days.*

\* This registration form will only be a **TAX INVOICE** when fully completed and where you make a payment. Once completed, please retain a copy for your records.

### *Additional Assistance:*

Please indicate if you require any additional assistance and the assistance required (access, prayer room etc):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### *Payment Options:*

-Cheque to be made payable to IWDVS, GPO Box 2905, Melbourne Vic 3001

-Credit Card Type (Please Tick):  VISA  MASTERCARD  BANKCARD

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Card Number: 

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|

Please complete the registration form and return to IWDVS by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2006

By: Email [iwdvs@infoxchange.net.au](mailto:iwdvs@infoxchange.net.au) or Fax to IWDVS: (03) 9898 1049

**Registration and Cancellation Policy: No registration can be confirmed without payment. There can be no refund of registration fee for cancellations with less than 72 hours notice (3 working days) prior to the event.**

|  |                     |                   |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| Immigrant Women's Domestic Violence Service Vic Incorp | ABN: 65 571 761 399 | Reg No. A0007596Y |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|