

## Original Domestic Violence Project brief - 2003

This community-based education project will address some of the needs of newly arrived refugee women and children from the "Off Shore" refugee and humanitarian program who are experiencing domestic/ family violence. The project is a partnership between the Centre for Refugee Research UNSW and the NSW Department for Women.

### Background to Project

" In 2002, community workers in New South Wales reported extremely high levels of domestic/ family violence in newly arrived refugee communities from the Australian offshore program.

"The workers stated that it was sometimes difficult to determine how to address this issue when it arose, from both a cultural awareness perspective, and also from identifying or having access to the specific services required by their clients at that time.

" There currently appeared to be few models of practice and limited training in this area available in New South Wales.

### Project Objectives

the overall objectives of this Education project are:

#### - Identify Extent of Domestic Violence

" To determine the extent of domestic violence in families from a refugee background residing in New South Wales and the reasons for the high reported incidence in the designated communities;

#### - Models of Best Practice

" to identify models of best practice for working with refugee women and their families living with domestic/family violence and design innovative and culturally acceptable models of program delivery to address this issue in refugee communities.

#### - Develop training resources

" to trial new models of training with a "Train the Trainer" course for service providers working with refugee communities and provide a range of training materials for workers in the field which can be adapted and used for current and future refugee intakes;

" to trial training modules of new and innovative models of service provision with the target group;

#### - Research

" to provide information on domestic violence in refugee camps, to identify the background from which the families came immediately prior to arriving in Australia

#### Outcomes

1. A Training kit will be produced that is targeted at workers who come into contact with refugee families who are either experiencing or at risk of experiencing domestic and family violence. The kit will contain a training video, overhead project slides, presenter's notes and materials for course participants.
2. A web page will be developed that will include the database of current relevant programs and sources of information.
3. The project has a strong community development focus, with representatives from the identified communities contributing to the implementation of the project

### Key Actions

During the course of the project the following actions will take place:

" Establishment of an advisory committee to oversee the entire project, including representatives from the designated communities

" Initial general briefings - one in Western Sydney and one in Wollongong

" Recruitment and training of bi-lingual community workers who will facilitate women's and men's focus groups

" Focus groups with each of the 9 identified recently arrived communities, to identify the extent of domestic violence. The proposed communities are Serbian, Croatian, Bosnian, Afghan, Iranian, Iraqi, Sudanese, Somali and Sierra Leonean.

" Focus groups with more established communities to assess their current experience of domestic violence\*

" Undertaking a literature survey to evaluate a link between the occurrence of domestic violence in refugee communities, pre- and post-resettlement

" Interviews with IHSS service providers and relevant government agencies to provide data on their experience of extent of domestic violence in the designated communities

" Data collection and analysis as part of a mapping process to analyse current policies, practice and available services

" Development of a video and training kit for service providers, based on information from the focus groups, literature search and data collection and analysis

" Piloting and launch of the training kit

Staffing of the project

The project will be staffed by:

- " A community liaison and training officer from Centre for Refugee Research
- " A project researcher and trainer from Centre for Refugee Research
- " A project officer from the Department for Women
- " A social work student from UNSW
- " Sessional bi-lingual workers from each of the identified communities

The project will be overseen by Eileen Pittaway, Centre for Refugee Research with support from Department for Women.