



HEALTH CONSUMERS'
COUNCIL
YOUR VOICE ON HEALTH

Responding to Interpersonal Violence

24th March 2017

Pip Brennan

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

We acknowledge the Whadjuk Noongar people who are the Traditional Owners of this Land and pay respect to all Elders past, present and future. We extend our respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures.



Reality of the sector

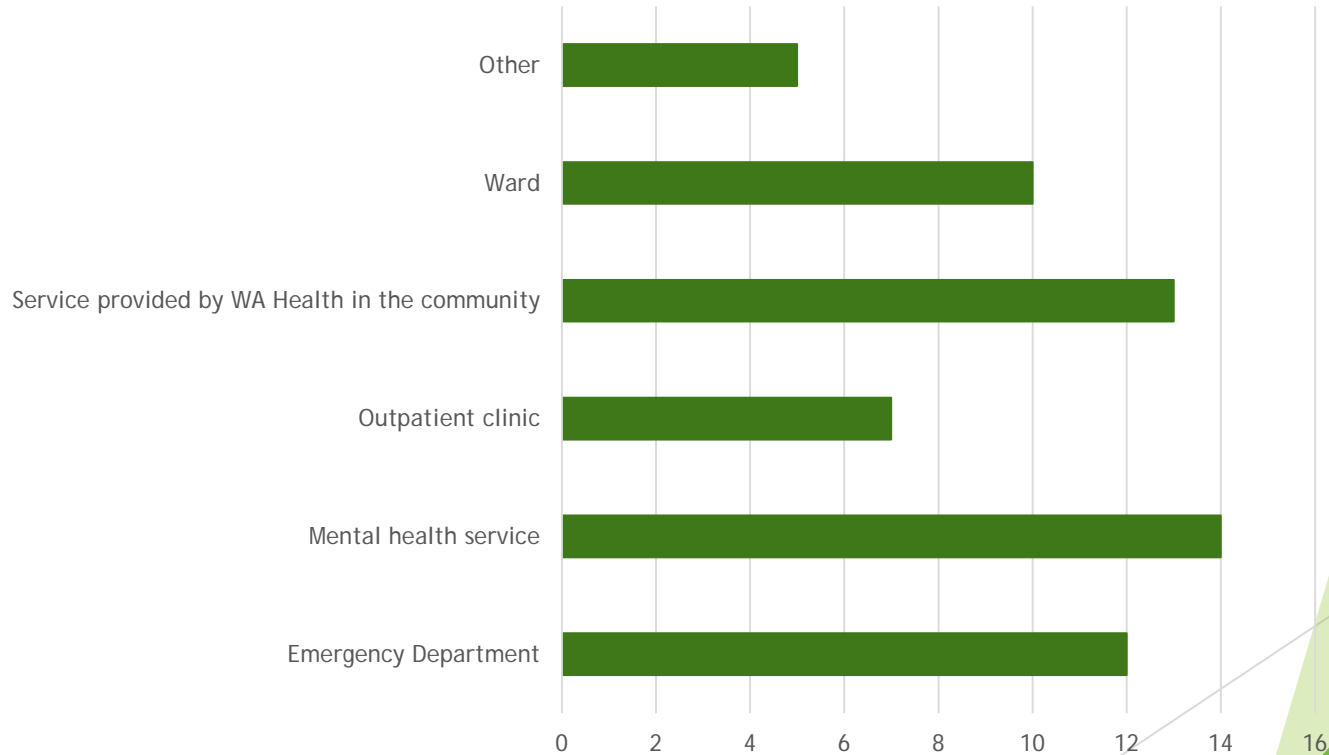


Survey Question

What is the one thing you would like our state's public health services to do better to support women and children affected by family and domestic violence?

Which area you are providing feedback on?

Tell us which area you are providing feedback on (tick all that apply)



Key themes

- ▶ Holistic care (9 mentions)
- ▶ Co-ordination of services (9 mentions)
- ▶ Staff Training (5 mentions)
- ▶ Funding (5 mentions)
- ▶ Culturally Competent Care (4 mentions)
- ▶ FDV as a health issue, routine screening (4 mentions)
- ▶ Access to mental health services (2 mentions)
- ▶ Awareness raising (2 mentions)
- ▶ Data Collection (2 mentions)
- ▶ More timely response (2 mentions)
- ▶ Accommodation (1 mention)

Holistic Care - Acquired Brain Injury

“There is a gap in services for women, usually presenting alone, with mental health and/or drug and alcohol disorders. Many have had repetitive head/face trauma and may have ABI. They generally have either not been diagnosed or treated, are currently not receiving treatment, or are sporadic in their treatment...As community service organisations we assist when these women are in crisis, but this does not address clinical issues which may be contributing to the cycle.”

What can be done to better support women with ABI?

Holistic Care - Story

“In a recent incident, refuge staff had to accompany a seriously injured woman to hospital along with her children and it was unknown if they had also been injured. When refuge staff asked the hospital to check the children as well, they were advised they would need to go to PMH. This brought up issues of consent, as the mother couldn't accompany her children and also further trauma to the children in having to be separated from their mother.

Acknowledging in an assault incident, if the woman and her children could be treated as one unit so they don't have to go elsewhere for the treatment for the children would be helpful.”

What would happen if we put women and families at the centre of service planning?

Access to Mental Health Services


"Our service supports girls of 14-18 years of age and they are suffering from mental health issues due to FDV they've witnessed and they are a homeless because of this FDV. Our service is not a mental health service, and there are no vacancies and long waiting lists for mental health supported accommodation for this age group."

How can we keep young people at the centre?

Culturally competent care

“To make any pathways to 'close the gap' or improve individual families, it needs more than money and micro-management from the top level down. It requires local input from clients themselves, ground level workers and families who are dealing with issues affecting health and wellbeing and heads of department to acknowledge support being given through 'cultural guidance' and empathy.”

What could happen if Aboriginal women, families and communities affected by domestic violence could co-design services?



**I DON'T HAVE ANY
SOLUTION, BUT I
CERTAINLY ADMIRE
THE PROBLEM**

ASHLEIGH BRILLIANT

PICTUREQUOTES.com

Co-ordination

“It would be helpful if the Hospital Social Workers had access to the Bed count website run by Child Protection and Family Services to improve efficiency and to reduce time wasting. Then they can access immediately which refuges have availability and don't waste time calling around.”

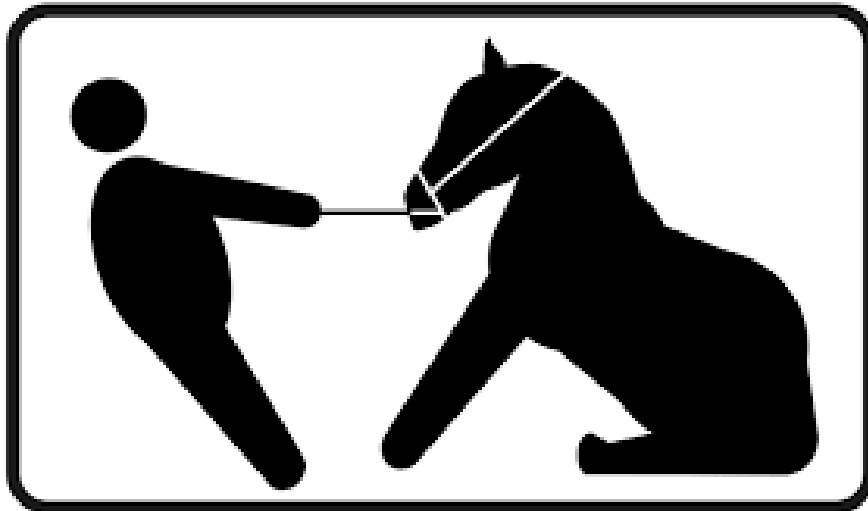
Is this an easy win?

Co-ordination

“An independent reference group that is inclusive and well informed about better integration (similar to the East Coast) instead of a focus on Child Protection and high risk thresholds will provide scope for innovative practice, better workforce development and high level trust between the invisible (and fantastic) work being done that is never recognised or known about.”

Is this another easy win?

What would happen if we
could work together more
effectively? Honestly?
Collaboratively?





Partnership Forum

“The Western Australian Partnership Forum brings together leaders from State Government agencies and the not-for-profit community sector, and consumer advocates, to improve outcomes for all Western Australians... The Forum's goal is to create a strong and genuine partnership built on respect and a shared responsibility to improve the policy, planning, design and delivery of community services in Western Australia.

Is this another easy win?

Last week at the offices of White Ribbon Day.

This year we need to change the focus of our campaign from Stopping Violence Against Women to simply Raising Awareness of our Awareness Raising.

The main reason for this is that the politicians and businesses that so enthusiastically support us are often involved in cutting services that save the lives of women and even actively cover up violence against women so it's a bit awkward to draw attention to it.



This year people will wear a ribbon, and come along to one of our breakfasts and enjoy some of those awareness raising delicious tiny pastries. And no one will hit any women the whole time!

Ooh I love the little awareness raising danishes they are adorable.

It is so great that by having breakfast I'm doing more than just eating a teeny weeny chocolate croissant.

