



Keeping Shellharbour Safe

Domestic Violence
Management Plan



SHELLHARBOUR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Shellharbour City Council is committed to addressing the issues surrounding domestic violence in our community. As domestic violence is a complex social issue it requires a collaboration between Government agencies, service providers, community groups and residents. Council's role is to advocate for change, support local initiatives and events and promote healthy relationships and information relating to domestic violence and homelessness.

ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Australians recognise that violence against women is a serious issue. Domestic violence is a crime and must be reported to Police to ensure the safety of women and children.

Domestic violence can have significant physical and psychological effects on both women and children which can lead to isolation, unemployment, homelessness, permanent injury and even death.

Domestic violence is an abuse of power and control over another person mainly (but not only) by men against women both in relationships and after separation. It occurs when one partner attempts physically or psychologically dominate the other using a pattern of abusive behaviours.

Domestic violence takes a number of forms, including:

- physical assault (punching, pushing, kicking, spitting, slapping)
- Psychological, emotional abuse and verbal abuse (including threats, put-downs, insults)
- Sexual assault and abuse such as forced sex
- Financial or economic abuse such as controlling finances or resources
- Social abuse such as isolating the woman from family and friends
- Stalking, harassment and intimidation
- damaging property
- children witnessing any of the above. **

Domestic violence can be between people who are in many different relationships including those who are married or de facto (including same sex), between family and kinship members, within carer relationships, between housemates and residents of facilities such as aged care facilities.

“One third of all Australian women have experienced violence by someone that is known to them since the age of 15.”

On average one Australian woman is killed each week by their current or former partner. ** However, this figure closer to two each week.

**AIC 2015 – Violence Against Women and Their Children Formative Research.

SHELLHARBOUR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS

64/152

Shellharbour Local Government Area has a high rate of domestic violence and is ranked 64th out of 152 NSW Local Government Areas.

64	SHELLHARBOUR
67	SHOALHAVEN
82	WOLLONGONG
100	WINGECARRIBEE
118	KIAMA

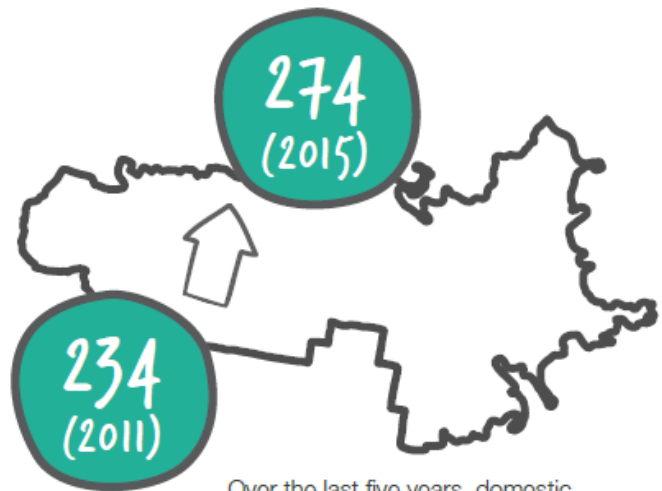
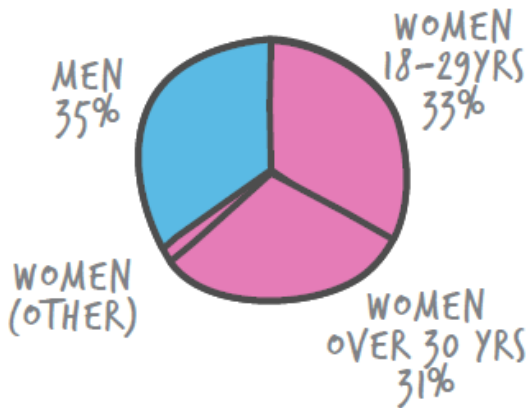
Lake Illawarra Local Area Command is ranked in the top 10 of the State for domestic violence.



The Shellharbour rate of domestic violence is higher than the state average and is ranked higher than Wollongong (82nd), Kiama (118th), Wingecarribee (100th) and Shoalhaven (67th).



The majority of victims are women (65%), with women aged between 18 – 29 making up 33% and women aged between 30-39 and women 40+ making up 31%.



Over the last five years, domestic violence has risen from 234 incidents in 2011 to 274 incidents in 2015 within the Shellharbour Local Government Area.

COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT TO STAND UP AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is an ongoing issue within the Shellharbour LGA and it is important for Council to work closely with key stakeholders to ensure the needs of the Shellharbour community are met. Council has an ongoing commitment to raising awareness to reduce domestic violence through collaboration and partnership and promoting healthy relationships. Shellharbour City Council has taken a stand to say no to violence in Shellharbour.

The *Shellharbour Domestic Violence Management Plan* highlights Council's commitment to addressing the issues surrounding domestic violence in our community. The long term goal of *the Management Plan* is to reduce the rate of domestic violence assaults in Shellharbour, increase awareness of domestic violence and encourage the Shellharbour community to take a stand and say no to violence in Shellharbour.

As domestic violence is a complex social issue it requires collaboration between Government agencies, service providers, community groups and residents. Council's role is to advocate for change, support local initiatives and events to promote healthy relationships and provide information relating to domestic violence and homelessness.

Council is a member of the steering committee for the Illawarra Committee Against Domestic Violence and are actively involved in coordinating White Ribbon Day events, training and education to advocate and support local services in our region. In 2015, Council installed "Shellharbour says no to violence against women" at all entrances into Shellharbour to show support and commitment to raise awareness and reduce violence against women.

In 2010 Council implemented a Domestic Violence Strategies Coordinator Project funded by NSW Attorney General's Department Crime Prevention Division. The project aimed at identifying service gaps and developed a Domestic Violence Report.



ILLAWARRA COMMITTEE AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Vision

The purpose of the ICADV is to facilitate an alliance of all services and agencies within the Illawarra working in domestic violence to share information, network, and connect and be involved in action planning.

ICADV strategies aim are to:

- Raise awareness in the community about domestic and family violence
- Focus on resources by identifying service gaps and barriers to accessing services
- Keep a watching brief on policy affecting domestic and family violence.
- Identify new trends and training opportunities.

White Ribbon Day Walk

White Ribbon Day is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Join hundreds of people on 25 November for the annual Walk Against Violence Against Women and say no to violence. For more information go to www.facebook.com/IllawarraCommitteeAgainstDomesticViolence

White Ribbon Day BBQ

Each year the ICADV organises two fundraising BBQs to raise awareness of White Ribbon and to help support local services and victims of domestic violence. These are held annually in Shellharbour and Wollongong and rely on members of the public to come and buy a sausage sandwich and wear a White Ribbon to show your support!

DV Services Booklet

In 2015 the Illawarra Committee Against Domestic Violence launched the first ever Domestic Violence Services Directory booklet. The full booklet can be found on Council's website at www.shellharbour.nsw.gov.au.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MANAGEMENT PLAN ACTIONS

The long term goal of *Shellharbour Domestic Violence Management Plan* is to reduce the rate of domestic violence assaults in Shellharbour, increase awareness of domestic violence and encourage the Shellharbour community to take a stand and say no to violence in Shellharbour.

Action	Timeframe
Coordinate an annual White Ribbon Day Fundraising event at Bunnings Shellharbour on behalf of the ICADV	Ongoing
Actively participate in Illawarra Committee Against Domestic Violence steering committee and relevant working parties to deliver domestic violence awareness programs to the community	Ongoing
Maintain "Shellharbour says no to violence" White Ribbon Day signs at city entrances	Ongoing
Support and advocate for community organisations who work directly with victims to share stories to raise awareness about domestic violence	Ongoing
Hold a White Ribbon Day Walk in Shellharbour	Short Term
Partner with key services to build community awareness and understanding of issues surrounding domestic violence and homelessness.	Short Term
Distribute and make available the ICADV's <i>Domestic violence: We can Do something about it services</i> booklet.	Short Term
Develop and update a 'Help at Hand' Domestic Violence Information Card that provides quick contact details to Accommodation, housing, counselling and family support services.	Medium Term
Coordinate and participate in a range of initiatives and campaigns during the 16 Days of Activism including collating a program of events for Shellharbour	Medium Term
Promote White Ribbon Day principles to Shellharbour City Council staff	Medium Term
Promote awareness of domestic violence information through Council's networks and social media to highlight domestic violence information and services	Medium Term
Develop Domestic Violence factsheets for Shellharbour City Council's webpage	Medium Term
Assist local community and sporting organisations to seek funding under the Community Action Grant Scheme and other funding avenues to encourage primary prevention.	Medium Term

Work in partnership with Shellharbour's Youth Services to implement Youth engagement projects that encourage healthy relationships and grow the number of young White Ribbon Ambassadors and White Ribbon Advocates in the local area	Medium Term
Promote and support education opportunities on health relationships within the community and local schools including encouraging local schools to participate in the White Ribbon's 'Breaking the Silence' Schools program	Long Term
Advocate for leaders in local governments, community organisations, workplaces and sporting clubs to promote equal and respectful relationships between women and men.	Long Term
Redevelop the 1800 RESPECT Bathroom Campaign that promotes the service on the back of amenity doors in public facilities	Long Term
Investigate opportunities for Council to develop a Workplace Family Violence Policy which provides staff with a range of support, including family violence leave and referral to local family violence services. This could then be extended and encouraged in other organisations.	Long Term
Strive to become an accredited White Ribbon Workplace under White Ribbon's internationally recognised Workplace Accreditation program - http://www.whiteribbon.org.au/workplaces	Long Term
Under the white Ribbon Diversity Program, extend our White Ribbon campaigns to encourage men from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander & culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to become White Ribbon Advocates	Long Term

Appendix 1

An overview of Shellharbour LGA's 2015 crime statistics

Offence Type	Number of Incidents in 2015	60-month trend	2015 LGA Rank
Murder	0	nc**	
Assault - domestic violence related	275	Stable	64
Assault - non-domestic violence related	233	Stable	76
Sexual assault	59	Stable	66
Indecent assault, act of indecency and other sexual offences	69	16.9%	
Robbery without a weapon	10	nc**	28
Robbery with a firearm	1	nc**	
Robbery with a weapon not a firearm	13	nc**	
Break and enter dwelling	265	-10.4%	65
Break and enter non-dwelling	104	-8.1%	86
Motor vehicle theft	144	-10.1%	47
Steal from motor vehicle	376	-8.0%	49
Steal from retail store	256	11.4%	27
Steal from dwelling	158	Stable	98
Steal from person	26	Stable	58
Fraud	292	12.9%	64
Malicious damage to property	572	-6.9%	71

Please note that according to the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research:

nc** Information not calculated if at least one 12-month period in the selected timeframe had less than 20 incidents.

* Rates are only calculated for the major offences. Ranks are not calculated for murder due to the low number of recorded victims per LGA.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

