



ZONTA CLUB OF GAWLER

SAYING NO TO VIOLENCE

WORDS INTO ACTIONS

Zonta Club of Gawler (ZCG) Domestic Violence Strategy.

This project has a number of components, which aim to provide immediate benefit for women experiencing or leaving violent relationships. The project also has an educational component aimed at addressing the importance of respectful relationships with the aim of reducing future incidents of domestic violence. Through the project elements, ZCG have increased engagement with the community, resulting in higher visibility of Zonta.

SERVICE

Boxes of Love

Providing essential toiletries to women who have left their homes, sometimes without the opportunity to pack. ZCG purchases supplies through fundraising, grants and donations of supplies from the community and local businesses.

Expect Respect

In 2016, ZCG provided funding for the Gawler East Primary School to conduct interactive training for Year 7 students, focussed on the importance of effective communication and respectful relationships. The students then made posters as part of the Zonta Says No to Violence campaign, which were displayed in the front window of the local MP during the 16 Days of Activism campaign. The window is in a prominent position on the main street of Gawler, passed by many people throughout the day.

The Project Leader also met with students at the Gawler and District College to discuss possible actions to address respect in the school environment.

ADVOCACY

Furniture Storage

The Northern Domestic Violence Service (NDVS) has a group of furnished houses for high-risk clients in the Gawler area. While residing there the women store their furniture in commercial storage at their own cost. ZCG approached the Apex Club of Gawler to consider the possibility of working together to utilise vacant Apex storage space for the women's furniture, free of charge. The Apex Club is now working with NDVS staff to ensure it meets the women's needs.

The Gawler Domestic Violence Network (GDVN) is led by ZCG who provide the Chair and one member and has been operating since mid 2015. The network has representatives from the Town of Gawler, the office of the Member for Light, Gawler and District R – 12 College, NDVS and the Hewett Centre. The local White Ribbon Ambassador has recently joined the network.

Recent meetings with the Mayor and Council CEO as well as the elected local state and federal members have addressed the lack of appropriate community housing in the Gawler area. These meetings have provided lobbying contacts within state and federal departments and the Council are now taking steps to source additional appropriate housing. The Council has gained a broader understanding of the community housing issues in the town and has formed a working party with the network, which will also include community housing NGOs. It is the council's intention that through the working party they will have prepared a strong application for social and emergency housing in time for the next funding cycle.

By using multiple initiatives, ZCG is able to provide practical resources, support NGOs working with families, advocate to provide practical support and increased resources, and educate the next generation.

Patricia Dent OAM
President
Zonta Club of Gawler