

**Safe at home**



staying home, leaving violence

# Western Integrated Family Violence Partnership – Women and Children

- Women's Health West
- McAuley Community Services for Women
- Molly's House
- Elizabeth Hoffman House
- Western Region Health Service
- MacKillop Family Services

# New Policy Old Idea

## Family Violence and Homelessness

In 1995 Cate Nunan stated that most women and children who are escaping family violence and who attend homelessness service do have a dwelling, but cannot live there because of the violence, and this is due to the inability of society to prevent men's violence .

Chung and others (2000) found that a key issue arising from their research was that if rigorous and enforced sanctions were in place women and children would be able to remain in their own home and the removal of the perpetrator would prevent some homelessness

# Safe at home

## Early Pilots/Schemes

- **Australia**

- In 1998 a South Australian service was funded to provide alarms, change locks and up grade window security.
- In 2002 EDVOS received a grant to support women to remain in their own homes after the perpetrator had been removed. This challenged the myth that Magistrates would not grant IO with exclusion conditions.
- Tasmania launched Safe at Home in May 2004
- New South Wales – In 2002 funding of three pilot areas including Bega Safe @ Home

- **UK – Sanctuary Schemes**

- Conceived in 1998
- Funded 2002

# Enablers

- National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness – 4 year funding until 2013
- Police Code of Conduct – pro arrest and introduction safety notices.
- Family Violence Protection Act 2008 and subsequent Amendments to the Residential Tenancy Act 1997.
- Increased in the number of IO applications with exclusion conditions being granted
- Funding men's crisis accommodation and case management.

# Safe at Home - Response

- Early identification of women – e.g. court and faxback
- Part of integrated service response
  - police, family violence services and other support services need to be involved
  - linked to other responses e.g. Client High Risk Strategy.
- Risk assessment, safety planning and monitoring is critical – decision is this option realistic
- Access to brokerage assist in making the property safer e.g. lock changes, security lights and doors etc.
- Access interim accommodation through McAuley - women and children safe at the time of the highest risk

# Community Campaign

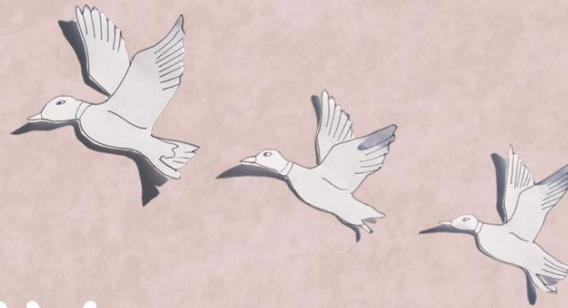
- Poster distributed to the general community and community organisations and services
- My Safety Plan – booklet distributed throughout western region to community services and organisations
- Pen – distributed to all police in the western region
- Website – specifically targeting women  
[www.safeathome.org.au](http://www.safeathome.org.au)

## Family violence is a crime

The law says the violent person should leave so you can stay safely in your home







# MY SAFETY PLAN





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## Are you being hurt by a partner or someone you live with?

If your partner or a family member is hurting you, it's not your fault. This website helps you to know what you can do about it.

You have the right to stay in your home and have the violent person leave.

The law says if a person is violent to their partner or a family member, they can be removed from the family home.

[Family violence services](#) can support you to become safer, regardless of whether you decide to separate or stay in the relationship.

You can also download our booklet [My Safety Plan](#) for a detailed guide to the steps you can take.

*This site is provided by the [Western Integrated Family Violence Partnership](#)*

Family violence is a crime.



'I am very happy with myself now. I've got my confidence back. I feel safe in my home as I didn't have to leave it behind and start somewhere else.'

### Safety Alert

If you think someone is monitoring what you do online, be careful visiting this site. Use a safer computer - see [protecting yourself online](#). To exit this site quickly, click the red bar above labeled 'exit site', it goes straight to Google.

For help in Victoria contact [Women's Health West](#) on 9689 9588 or [Women's Domestic Violence Crisis Service](#) after hours on 1800 015 188. If you're elsewhere in Australia call [1800RESPECT](#) on 1800 737 732.

### Plan for your safety

For a detailed guide to becoming safer, download our booklet [My Safety Plan](#) [pdf]

# Future Directions

- Regional Workshop November 2011
- Longitudinal Evaluation Partnership with Safer Team Melbourne University
- Funding Beyond 2013 ?