

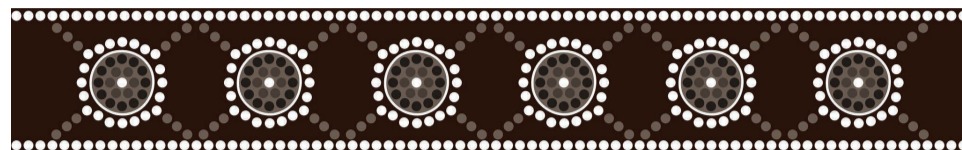
Rosie's Place Inc.



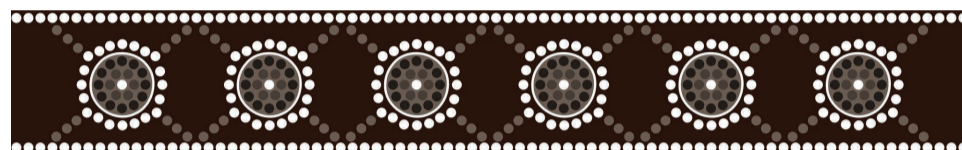
2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Rosie's Place is a support service for children, young people and families who have been impacted by the trauma of violence, including sexual assault and/or domestic and family violence.

Rosie's Place Incorporated
PO Box 40 Rooty Hill NSW 2766
Phone: 0296252599 Fax: 0298320376
Email: rosiesplace@bigpond.com
Web: www.rosiesplace.com.au
ABN: 67028901946
Inc Number: Y08937-46
Charity Number: CFN/22667



Rosie's Place workers and collective members wish to acknowledge the traditional owners, past and present, the Dharug people, on whose land this service stands.



-
- Rosie's Place receives its core funding from Department of Human Services NSW, Family and Community Services, Early Intervention and Placement Prevention (EIPP) funding.
 - Rosie's Place is able to extend the work of the service through additional grants and donations. We would especially like to acknowledge West Tradies Mt Druitt (ClubGRANTS), Rooty Hill RSL Club (ClubGRANTS), UBS Asset Management Australia, Law and Justice Foundation of NSW, Department of Infrastructure NSW (Community Development Grants), and Community Building Partnership grants.
 - We wish to acknowledge Aneeta Menon and her extended family and friends, who raised an abundance of money for Rosie's Place in 2016/2017 and continues to support the organisation in so many ways. Words can not express our gratitude, we thank you for your tireless support and friendship of Rosie's Place.
 - Our special thanks to the Education Centre Against Violence, Sydney West Area Health Service. Our thanks to the entire team for their ongoing, unwavering support of our service.
 - Rosie's Place would like to thank Marnel LaGarde for her continuing support of the organisation. We thank her for her wisdom, professionalism and unwavering support of the service and all the staff.
 - We wish to acknowledge our bookkeeper Linda Marsonet who spends hours supporting the organisation. Rosie's Place is forever in her debt for her patience, wisdom, expertise and integrity.
 - In 2017 we began a partnership with the Domestic Violence Service Management (DVSM) team which includes two local refuges Pam's Place and Essie's Refuge. This partnership has allowed us to support mothers and their children as they leave the violence of their past. We acknowledge the workers for their commitment to their clients and for allowing us to work with them supporting mothers and children.
 - We wish to acknowledge many of the local services who we continue to work closely with. They include: WASH House, Family Violence Service, Parramatta Holroyd Family Support, CatholicCare (Catherine Villa), Wesley Mission, and Department of Education NSW.

Buffy continues to be the most popular member of staff at Rosie's. Buffy has been at Rosie's Place as a therapy dog for nearly 7 years and throughout her time she has come into contact with and given her love to hundreds of children. I don't think we will ever truly know the impact she has had on clients attending the service. Many children say they only come to Rosie's Place to see her. Buffy is without doubt a special dog and has definitely earned her place as a calming, kind, comforting and playful soul who continues to give day after day.

On most days Buffy is joined by Ruby who is a cavoodle and whilst she will never take the place of Buffy, her spirit and cuteness has also had a positive impact on the clients.

Front Cover: Buffy and children in the sensory garden at Rosie's Place.

Photograph: Allira Fontana Photography

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

COLLECTIVE MANAGEMENT

The link between feminist principles and violence against women and children is historically bound, as is the principle of collective management structures. This structure stays at Rosie's Place as a philosophical commitment to non-hierarchical management which emphasise the power of collective bargaining, group decision making, open debate, sharing information and valuing the contributions of all members. To this end Rosie's Place continues to be managed by a collective, comprising of women in the community who have devoted hours of support to the ongoing running of the service.

On behalf of all the staff at Rosie's Place we wish to thank the following collective members who have contributed so much to the organisation over the past year. Their wisdom in regards to the challenges of working both as a community based organisation but also in the child protection field has been greatly appreciated. Their ongoing advice and availability are truly valued and remain integral to the ongoing work of the service.

ALISON BECROFT
HELENA CARTY
KRYSTAL EVANS
DANIELLE HOLMES
MARNEL LAGARDE
PAULINE MCRAE

SARAH MILLER
ROBYN PEARSON
FRANCES PEGREM
DILSAT SEYIS
DEBORAH SPENCE



THE TEAM

The strength of Rosie's Place has always been entwined in the highly skilled professional and dedicated staff. It would not be an overstatement to say that in the past year the wealth of innovative, respectful and proudly held work practices of this organisation could not have occurred without our staff. We recognise their names below as a small but inspiring team that would be the envy of any organisation in this field.

JEANNETTE CHALMERS
MAGGIE ESCARTIN
MY GAGO
CLAIRE GALLAGHER
CHRIS KULYK
LINDA MARSONET
NICOLE MILLER
REBECA NASSIF
JOSENE PERRI
BEN THOMPSON
JESSICA URBINA
CATHERINE WANT

STUDENTS

This year we have had the pleasure to have a number of hard working and dedicated students join our team. The students were studying in various fields such as counselling, social work and community services.

We are very grateful for the contributions of the students as much of our work would not be possible without them.

Over the year the students have contributed to group work preparation and facilitation, resource development, research projects, counselling and case management.

DANIELLE BRAGG
KARA DUBOIS
PHILLIPA FRASER
LISA HARRIS
JOE MCLEOD
TRACEY MARTIN
ATIU MAWIEN
DANIELLE RAYNOR
STEPHANIE SAAD



Staff

This year has been an increasing struggle to maintain staffing hours and keep our small team as stable as possible. In this endeavor we have been able to continue to provide a solid service to the families referred for counselling and have also been able to continue to facilitate groups for parents, children and young people.

For the first time in many years Rosie's Place made the difficult decision to close our books for a period of two months. This enabled us to deplete our waiting list and try and reduce our large current client work to a manageable size. Although successful in both aims the staff felt that it was not the preferred option.

Given the community we work in resembles in many ways a country town our wonderful Collective members were telling us that they had heard stories of Rosie's Place closing as a service. It also felt difficult to have conversations with people ringing us to say that our books were closed with no notice of when we may be able to see them. In response to this the staff decided to return to keeping our books open but maintaining a waiting list. We also returned to our practice model of streaming our current clients into groups and moving to extended appointment periods for those clients who we considered were now less reliant on our service.

During this year the groups held at the service have included Mighty Me (dealing with problems), Four Ingredients (cooking and sensory based group for children and mothers), Infant Massage (mothers and babies) and Stepping Stones (children and self esteem).

Rosie's Place continues to deliver services from both a highly competent and committed team. The diversity in terms of years of experience, ways of working and specialist skills enables Rosie's Place to provide both a qualitatively and quantitatively high standard of practice. This year also saw our first male worker step into a counselling role at the service which, as a feminist based organisation, was a huge step. However the addition of a male worker, both in counselling and group work, has been an extremely valuable addition to our service, particularly working with boys and young men impacted by the trauma of interpersonal violence.



Professional Development Work

Members of the team continue to provide training and professional supervision to workers in the field of interpersonal violence. In this work we are strongly supported by the Education Centre Against Violence, NSW Health. We continue to work in close partnership with them, not only providing training across the state but also developing resources and programs. Words cannot express our gratitude to this amazing organisation and Rosie's Place remains committed to ongoing work for them and with them.

Training was also provided to school counsellors in both the Mount Druitt and Wollongong areas, the Family Referral Service in Wollongong and specialist counsellors who were interested in sand tray therapy, NSW Health.

Partnership with Domestic Violence Service Management

In late 2016 Rosie's Place was approached by DVSM to work in partnership in providing both counselling and groupwork services to their families. This has been a most valuable collaboration and the workers from our service who are involved in this work have learnt a great deal, not only from the families we work with, but a most dedicated collection of workers from DVSM.

Fire can warm or consume,
water can quench or drown,
wind can caress or cut.

And so it is with human relationships;
we can both create and destroy,
nurture and terrorize,
traumatize and heal each other"

Bruce Perry, *The Boy Who was Raised as a Dog.*

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Resources

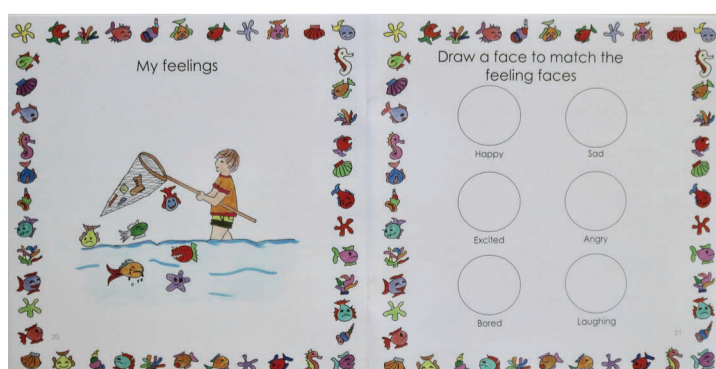
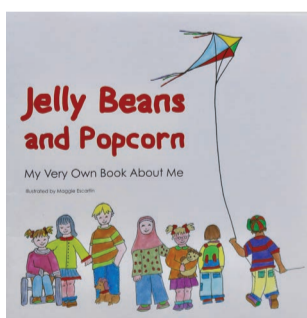
Rosie's Place has always maintained a commitment to developing resources for both families and also workers in the field. The main focus in this last year has been the finalisation of a resource in collaboration with the Education Centre Against Violence. This resource has literally been "years in the making" but at the time of writing this report the final product has been taken to the printers. The resource, Finding A Way, concerns the sexual abuse of children and young people with intellectual disability, providing both an information booklet and train-the-trainer manual.

A children's book has been written by one of our counsellors, Chris Kulyk, concerning children and their need to have a place which they belong to. The illustrations for "Finding Home" are currently being completed by a local artist, a small grant was gained from Blacktown Council to help finance her work.

This year saw the launch of a wonderful resource by the Department of Family and Community services (See, Understand and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse). Rosie's Place consulted on this project and we are extremely proud that two of our resources (My Place, My Story & Inside Out) are included in this kit. We hope that this partnership continues to thrive and be built upon as we learn about the needs of the families and how we can best respond to those needs.

Jelly Beans and Popcorn

At the end of 2016 we launched our 23rd publication, Jelly Beans and Popcorn. This activity book has been created to provide opportunities for children to think about who they are and people and places who are important to them. With beautiful illustrations by Maggie Escartin this book has been our most popular publication this year.



Consultation

During this past year Rosie's Place was invited and attended consultation meetings with several key committees including the Royal Commission into Institutional Response to Child Sexual Abuse, NSW Family and Community Services (resource development) and the NSW Sexual Assault Strategy, Women NSW.

The staff at Rosie's Place provide consultation on a daily basis to other workers and services in the field who ring regarding advice or information regarding sexual abuse and/or domestic violence. Workers have also attended interagency meetings, and provided in-house training to several organisations including family support services, school counsellors and domestic violence workers.

Final Say

As this financial year closes and another opens just as quickly Rosie's Place continues to undertake the primary purpose of our work: To challenge the secrecy surrounding child sexual abuse and domestic and family violence, to provide a place of safety for our clients and to work with other services to provide a community voice against all forms of violence that continue to be perpetrated against women and children.



The calming chair – The chair was built by a 13 year old boy who attended the service. During a counselling session the young man decided that he would like to make something for other children that come to Rosie's Place. He loved being outside and in the sensory garden and he liked the idea of using tools to build. He stated that he had never had the opportunity to use a hammer, saw or drill and that he would very much like to have a try of these tools. He brought his interests of the garden and building together and came up the idea to design and build a piece of outdoor furniture for the garden. He started with the location of where he wanted to place the piece, then he drew a design of the project and drew a list of the tools and equipment that he needed. Over the next few sessions he learnt how to work from a design plan, measure, saw timber and then construct the piece using a drill, screws, hammer and nails. The project was completed and placed under the branch Tee-pee in the sensory garden. The young man looked at his work with a big smile on his face and said "I like it. I think it will make other children feel calm. They can sit on the chair in the quiet to help them feel calm when they are upset".

GROUP WORK

'My Hero is my mum because from the day I was born she has loved me cared for me.'

The above quote is from an 11 year old boy who experiences domestic violence. During the group children were asked to think about who their hero is and why. The boy replied with the above quote. This quote is significant because he was able to clearly identify who his hero and safe person is and that regardless of the domestic violence perpetrated against him, his mother and brother he knows that his mother has loved and cared for him and will always care for him and love him. At Rosie's we use quotes like these in our work to build on and to help continue to support the strengthening of the mother/child relationship.

ROSIE'S PLACE AND DVSM

The Rainbow Connections group was also run at Rosie's Place with both children from Rosie's and from DVSM attending the group. It was the first time that children from DVSM had attended a group at Rosie's Place. The decision to invite both groups of children was jointly made by DVSM and Rosie's with the intention to allow the children from DVSM to have a safe space away from the refuge and for them to meet other children in their community. The focus of the group was similar to that run with the Mt Druitt Family Violence Service. The feedback from the children was that they enjoyed making friends, being creative and spending time at Rosie's Place.



YOUNG WOMEN GROUP

A group for young women was held at the end of school term 1. The group focused on self-care and looking after oneself physically, mentally and emotionally. The young women participated in producing 'home-made' do-it-yourself remedies such as face masks and lip scrubs and trialled it on themselves and each other. The group allowed a space and time for the young women to focus and reflect on themselves while doing things that made them feel good about themselves. The young women enjoyed lunch in each other's company and the conversations were led and directed by them.

Six young women attended and expressed they enjoyed the relaxed nature of the group and the opportunities to connect with other young women in a safe and comfortable atmosphere. They expressed fearing they would be judged prior to coming to the group and meeting the other young women and unanimously stated they soon felt safe in the company of the others upon entering the group space. The young women expressed the value in connecting with each other in a group setting and stated they would come to future groups at Rosie's Place.

SAFECARE

Rosie's Place has now been involved with the SafeCare program for just over 2 years. This year the program was supported by Wesley Mission through their Brighter Futures program Nepean. SafeCare is an evidence based intensive parenting support program which focuses on the prevention of physical and emotional harm to children.



The program consists of three modules. Parent-child interaction; focusing on skills to use while engaging with children to reduce difficult behaviour and increase attachment and development. Health; giving parents information about what to do in the event their child is sick or injured. Safety; allowing parents to identify potential hazards in the home giving them the skills to remove or reduce those risks.

Parents involved with the program, to date, have found it extremely useful as it allows them, with the worker, to practise, revise and implement the skills and information provided. Because the SafeCare Program is conducted in the home, families become more confident using these skills during their day to day life. Rosie's Place is looking forward to some exciting new partnerships in the near future which will enable us to continue providing this program to our community. Nicole Miller

CONNECTION TO SERVICE:

Earlier this year a young aboriginal woman re-engaged with Rosie's Place after not having any contact for over two years. The young woman re-referred herself to Rosie's as she felt the need for support. When she visited she drew this picture and wrote about why she wanted to come back to Rosie's Place.



MAKING SPACE

Earlier this year Ben attended a conference in Melbourne - Child Centred Approaches to Ending Family Violence. Ben spoke on behalf of Rosie's Place about our work with mothers and their children and what our practice model looks like.

This is an extract from that presentation

Our model of practice is centred on creating a safe therapeutic space for mothers and their children who have experienced DV. The main purpose of this space is to strengthen the mother-child relationship. We strongly focus on this relationship for several reasons which include:

- Children have a right to be safe. They need safe, consistent adults, such as parents or carers in their lives to protect them. Mothers are often the protective parent and children often identify their mothers as their safe person.
- Humphreys, Horton & Ellis (2008) indicate that there are many instances where the best approach to securing a child's welfare, has been to recognise that, protecting the mother may be the best way to protect the child. And that 'The attack on the mother-child relationship in domestic violence highlights the need to link the protection and support of women with the protection and support of children.' (Humphreys & Houghton & Ellis, 2008)
- Laing & Humphreys (2013) argue that 'strengthening or recovering the mother-child relationship should be a priority of post-crisis work'. They argue this because 'one of the most devastating tactics of power and control employed by perpetrators of DV is the deliberate targeting of the woman's mothering.' Humphreys, Ravi, Sharp & Jones (2015) add to this with their statement that 'the recovery for both women and children is promoted by joint work rather than through individual work alone.'
- Also children and young people must have the opportunity to participate in and have a voice about the violence they have been subjected to. Children must be supported in the counselling process as they cannot be expected to do it alone. Therefore engaging with mothers and providing ways for children to feel a more secure attachment to them is critical to their recovery.

This quote sums up why we think mother's are vital to their child's recovery. "As the goal of our work is to strengthen the mother-child relationship we must ensure that the therapeutic space supports the mother. This is so she can feel ready to communicate with her children." Humphreys & Stanley (2015) outline that 'several factors are required to facilitate women's readiness to strengthen the communication with their children.' These include 'having a safe place to live away from abuse, a period of stability, a relationship of trust with support workers, the ability to confront and name the effects of DV on children and having the opportunity to receive support for their own needs.'

In the initial phase of our work we assess safety including housing and assess the appropriateness of the timing of the counselling. Our current partnership with our local refuges ensures that women and their children have safe housing and the caseworkers refer families when they are in a period of stability. We endeavour to build a trusting working relationship with the mothers so that they feel safe and empowered. Laing & Humphreys (2013) state that an empowering approach with women is to position them as the expert of their own life. We take this to include that mothers hold expert knowledge regarding their mothering and their children. We work to show this is by including and working alongside the mother throughout the counselling process. We always plan the initial consultation with the mother, without her child being present and include her in joint work throughout the counselling process. This is done to show mothers that they are the key person in supporting their children in the recovery process.



One of the main child-centred reasons we include mothers from the outset is because we want to model safety to children. We want children to know that there will always be a safe adult who assesses places before they visit them. This follows social norms such as parents visiting and meeting with educational spaces like schools before children attend and by continuing to be responsible for their child's educational outcomes. What we see when women are empowered as mothers is that they are more likely to engage in the joint work with their children. Also we observe that mothers often feel more comfortable with our service once they know their children will be safe at Rosie's. Children too, feel more comfortable once they know that their mothers know and trust the service.

The development of the safe working relationship allows mothers to feel comfortable to discuss the impact of the DV on their children and what they want for their children in the future. Coupled with the counselling we offer the group work program Balancing the See-Saw, which focuses on the impact of the DV on themselves and their children. This aspect of the work is critical as it is often the part where mothers begin to shift their view of their children's experience of the DV which opens space for their children to start communicating with them.

As our primary goal is to support the mother-child relationship we do not provide individual counselling for the needs of the mother. However we do work closely with the WASH House so that mothers can receive individualised support that is still connected with Rosie's Place.

When children identify Rosie's as a safe space we see that they are more likely to express their voice and agency to counsellors, mothers and other significant safe people. This is counter to the experiences of children who are seen but not heard. To not be heard disregards and ignores the lived experience of the violence. The following beliefs held by significant adults, service providers and the community continue to contribute to the silencing of children. They include:

- Children don't know what is happening, so don't ask them
- Children don't need to know what is happening, so don't tell them
- Children can't understand what is happening, so don't ask them what they think
- If children did know what was happening they wouldn't be able cope, so don't allow to them know.

These beliefs deem children helpless and invisible. Because they are seen as helpless their knowledge, values, skills and resources are ignored. What we know now is that if children are kept invisible and not assisted to integrate the impact of the violence, they can remain disconnected from the acute nature of their experiences. Resulting often in an ability to remember events but not describe their own feelings, thoughts and understandings. Without support the chances increase for them to carry a list of legacies that significantly effect both their day to day living as well as interpersonal relationships.

The reality is that children do know and they have coped. In fact they have done more than cope; they have actively resisted the violence, so let's find out how they have done this.

FOR CHILDREN

Through listening to children we have learnt that they have been active in resisting the violence. They have ethics, knowledge, opinions, skills and resources that they harnessed to resist the violence, and these same attributes can be used in their recovery.

The acknowledgment of agency assists professionals and family to shift from seeing children as passive victims to active agents of change, who seek protection, safety and stability, for themselves and others, with whatever resources are available to them.

In conversations children have told us that they have been active agents. Some of their actions have been:

- Trying to appease the parent who is perpetrating the violence
- By seeking some safety by removing themselves away from the violence or by calling someone else to come over and help.
- By staying away from home or coming home late
- By staying at home, often to protect siblings or mothers.
- By having silent understandings with their siblings about who should do what when
- And even by keeping up a normal existence with friendships and other activities that help them to “just be normal”.

Such responses can naively be viewed as children just trying to cope with what is happening as best as they can. However this ignores the very real active stance they take in regard to their views of the violence and what they can do about it. They know it hurts, they know it causes distress to all involved. They don't like it and they want it to stop.

These active responses to the violence, described by Allan Wade and Kathy Richardson as acts of resistance, deserve recognition. It is most critical that this occurs within the family and primarily with the parental figures. In our approach we work with the mother and child to identify their acts of resistance, and how their strengths can be used to support the ongoing recovery of the family. We can't expect that children will just take on the role of naming and exposing their agency themselves. There are too many barriers for them just because they are children. They must be supported and encouraged into the space where they sit beside their mothers, face to face, and share their wisdom, thoughts, and hopes about where to from here. The naming of these acts empowers the child as the mother not only sees that the child has been impacted by the violence, but also that the child has acted to protect themselves and their family. This understanding between the mother and child, as well as other siblings, shifts the way they view each other and strengthens their relationship. They see, often for the first time, that they are on the same team; supporting each other through and beyond the violence.

This shift is highly significant for practitioners and families as it shows that children actively support their mothers, just as mothers do the same for their children. This two way flow of support and knowledge is what Emma Katz labels as the “Bilateral model” of support. Katz (2013) argues that ‘some children actively support their mother and siblings and wish to play direct roles in decision-making about the domestic violence’. The bilateral flow is a remodelling of the traditional unilateral model where the “flow of power” is passed down from the parent to the child. The bilateral model recognises that children are active agents of change.

It is important to mention that the use of the bilateral model is only appropriate when there is safety and a genuine desire to allow a flow of power. It would be harmful to bring the child into a situation to share their thoughts where there is no safety.

A further approach in our work which also replicates the bilateral exchange advocated by Katz is when children have a role as agents of change within an organisation. To shift their position from being a client to one of a consultant for the service exemplifies the idea of knowledge and power being held by children. At Rosie's Place children are continually giving input to guide and improve our practice.

In August 2017, Maggie Escartin ran a Sand Tray Therapy workshop in Wollongong. As a student I was asked to assist her with this workshop.

One thing I took away from the event was that all the attendees, who already worked with children and welfare agencies, had a moving experience when practicing the technique. We let each attendee take turns being the client in a sand tray exercise. Without any intention to bring up issues within their own life, the sheer structure and processes involved in the sand tray approach had all of them experience a moment of clarity when they realised they had set up a story from their lives represented by the objects and miniatures they had chosen.

It demonstrated to me how powerful the sand tray approach can be as both a counselling tool for practitioners and as a resource to have available to clients of all ages especially children.

We're also in the early stages of putting together our own Sand Tray Therapy tutorial video to help guide practitioners. It will provide a bit of history about Sand Tray and some useful techniques to further develop practice skills with the technique. Kara Dubois



ECONOMIC ABUSE RESEARCH

The Price They Pay

A research project concerning women's lived experiences of economic abuse in the context of domestic violence by an intimate partner.

This research project is now in its final stages. The purpose of the project is to broaden an understanding of the many struggles facing women and their families who have lived through economic abuse in the context of intimate partner violence. Domestic violence research and documentation can often focus on physical and sexual violence, particularly in regards to police and court responses. This therefore misconstrues the major impacts of domestic violence as physical injury only and keeps invisible the use of power and control by other forms of abuse, including emotional, social and economic.

There appears to be gaps in research specifically surrounding the dynamics and legacies of economic abuse experienced by women within the domestic violence context.

Three organisations within the Mt Druitt community has supported the project, all working with women and children who have experienced domestic violence. Our organisation, Rosie's Place, gained collaboration from both the Mt Druitt Family Violence Team and the W.A.S. H. and in total, 18 women were interviewed as participants for the project. The research project has also had three students from Charles Sturt University heavily involved in the analysis and development of the report.

The research is now being turned into an e-book/report. The e-book will be a summary of the findings from the qualitative research project, and will endeavour to share the lived experiences of women suffering economic abuse in the context of domestic abuse. The researchers in the study used semi structured interviews, guided by a series of questions sourced from the Scale of Economic Abuse (Adams, Sullivan, Bybee & Greeson, 2008). These interviews were transcribed verbatim to insure the accuracy of the womens' stories. We then performed thematic analysis of the interview transcripts to determine key words and themes.

Through that analysis, we developed four key themes that were evident in many of the participants lived experiences of economic abuse. They are: Entrapment, Survival, Resistance, and Escape/Ongoing legacy.

While many of the women shared comparable experiences there were moments within their stories that perfectly exemplified their journey through domestic violence and the economic abuse that formed a major part of it. Here is a snippet of their voices within each theme:

Entrapment:

"It is hard to just pack up a bag and move 'cause you've worked so hard to get what you've got"

"I think the financial aspect of it was one of the hardest because it stopped any kind of... ..escape... ..any... ..any way out"

"In a way... it was easier to stand there and cop that... ..than have my kids sleep in a cardboard box or god knows where... and not have any food or not be able to get to school"

"Even when he goes out and he buys her, uh, some chips for \$2, I need to come and return the money (to him)"

"It is exhausting... [pause]... a lot of people say... 'why don't you get up and go?'... [pause]... 'well, hang on, I tried that / once and nobody could help me'"

Survival:

"I'd think 'all right, well I'll give them noodles', and count how many packets of noodles I would have to maybe do two meals that week and then try and mix it up a bit... or do a spaghetti bolognese, but may be able to get two dinners and a half... out of that"

"I'd buy shampoo and conditioner and so we'd... wash the clothes and do the dishes and wash ourselves with that"

"my ex-husband let the kids come and see me that day... um... but I had no food to feed them, so... and it was my son's birthday [emotional/shaky voice]... and I couldn't buy him a present... um... [pause]... and I just felt bad... [emotional] felt like I let them down"

"So he took... all the grocery money and, um, because I had a 10 month... old walking around, just... I was too stressed to even breastfeed, so I couldn't feed her, but I had no money for maternity pads for myself, nappies for her... and had to get my daughter, who had a friend who lived up the road... her mum had to go and... bring me some groceries, and I had to put the baby on formula because I was too stressed out to even feed her, she was 3 days old, and... a 10 month old walking around."

Resistance:

"I remember one year... he wouldn't give me a cent for, and I was struggling so hard, and I thought 'screw you' and I took all the Christmas tags off with his... 'mum and dad' on them... I ripped them up and I threw them in the bin and then I thought... 'I can't do that to my kids'... ..I cannot do that to them... I rewrote them all out again"

"I placed her in care... um, because of the domestic violence"

"I used to walk up behind the shed, so he'd beat the shit out of me out of there... just so my kids wouldn't see it... ..and come down and go 'yeah, yeah, I'm fine... come on, let's do dinner'"

"I'd try to feed the kids, but I would have maybe a cup of tea and a piece of toast... ..The... for breakfast, lunch or dinner, it didn't matter because I wasn't a priority, I need to feed... feed them"

"I am the most strongest woman you will ever meet. Physically and mentally..."

"He (her son) keeps me going, definitely, sometimes I think 'oh gee I don't want to get out of bed today, I don't want to even leave the room', but then I think, you know... I've got, I've got him and I have to, I have to get motivated 'cause if I crumble then he's going to... be very worried, so... um... yeah, we kind of... keep each other... strong"

Escape & On-going legacy:

"it gets embarrassing, 'cause you know, like, especially with footy and that, like, you know... the mums... and dads... they'll organise something on the weekend... and you don't want to go, because you've got no money"

"I thought I'll go and see a financial advisor to see if there were... there was any other way I could possibly... cut any other bills... in half. And I couldn't do any more than I was doing and had to, it was so bad, I had to file for bankruptcy"

"It also has... an ongoing effect now because I think to myself 'how am I ever going to pay this off?'"

STATISTICS

ROSIES PLACE STATISTICS 2016-2017

125 NO. FAMILIES WHO EXITED THE PROGRAM

60 NO. YOUNG PEOPLE WHO EXITED THE PROGRAM

121 NO. CHILDREN WHO EXITED THE PROGRAM

163 NO. PARENTS WHO EXITED THE PROGRAM

43% PERCENTAGE OF ATSI CLIENTS

19% PERCENTAGE OF CALD CLIENTS

50% PERCENTAGE OF CLIENTS WITH DISABILITY

141 NO. FAMILIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE STILL IN THE PROGRAM

Rates of Violence Against Women Since the age of 15

1 IN 5

Australian women had experienced sexual violence.

1 IN 6

Australian women had experienced physical or sexual violence from a current or former partner.

1 IN 4

Australian women had experienced emotional abuse by a current or former partner.

1 IN 3

Australian women had experienced physical violence.

89 women were killed by their current or former partner between 2008 -10.
This equates to nearly one woman every week.

It is more likely for a person to experience violence from a male rather than a female perpetrator.

Over 3 times as many people experienced violence from a male.

**Research taken from the 2012
ABS Personal Safety Survey and
Australian Institute of Criminology.
copyright ANROWS
www.anrows.org.au**



