



Rosie's Place Inc Annual Report 2017/2018



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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.

Acknowledgment of Country

Rosie's Place workers and collective members wish to acknowledge the Dharug people as the traditional custodians of the land on which our service stands.

We pay our respects to the Dharug elders past and present and recognise the continuing connection Aboriginal people have to the land in this region.

Service Acknowledgments

- Rosie's Place receives its core funding from Department of Human Services NSW, Family and Community Services, Targeted Early Intervention Program (TEI).
- 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 Drutt (ClubGRANTS), UBS Asset Management Australia, Westpac Community Grants, Department of Infrastructure NSW (Community Development Grants), Ability Links, & Street Smart.
- 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.
- Our partnership has continued this year 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 families 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: Parramatta Holroyd Family Support, WASH House, Family Violence Service, CatholicCare (Catherine Villa), and Department of Education NSW.

Personal Acknowledgments

- Rosie's Place wishes to thank our wonderful supporter Aneeta Menon. Aneeta has been fundraising for Rosie's Place for many years. Along with her mother Sarita and extended family they have raised more than \$30000 for the service. It's been wonderful getting to know and work with Aneeta and her family, they are some of the most selfless people we have ever meet and we are so honoured they are part of the Rosie's family.
- Rosie's Place wishes to acknowledge the wonderful support of Sharon Peach and her children Brittany, Ebony and Dean. Each year the family have a Christmas light display at their home and people attending their light display donate money to Rosie's Place. Sharon and her children have been supporting Rosie's in this manner for many years raising ground \$2500 each Christmas. To put this light display up every year takes hours of time and money, they are an amazing family and we are so grateful for their support.
- Special thanks to Marnel LaGarde for her continued support of the service and supervision of staff. We thank her for her wisdom, respect, integrity and dedication to supporting our work with children, young people and families.
- We wish to acknowledge the hard work of our bookkeeper Linda Marsonet. Our complex accounting system made up of many grants, donations and funding makes her job extremely difficult. Linda works over and above for Rosie's Place and we simply could not do the work we do without her support.

Thank you

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 emphasises 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.



Thank you to the following members who have supported Rosie's Place through the last financial year:

Alison Becroft, Debra Coulson, Krystal Evans, Marnel LaGarde, Pauline McRae, 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.

MAGGIE ESCARTIN
MY GAGO
LINDA MARSONET
NICOLE MILLER
REBECA NASSIF
JOSENE PERRI
BEN THOMPSON
SARAH TRACY
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. We also wish to acknowledge Ben Thompson who supervises all the students. His dedication and support for the students is unwavering. We know they are all very grateful for his ongoing commitment to their education.

DANIELLE BRAGG
KELLY DORLER
KARA DUBOIS
LISA HARRIS
AIDAN PALACIOS
JAHEADA QAZIZADA
HAYLEE SHAKESPEARE

The most important team members...

My name is Buffy and I have been part of the Rosie's team for 7 years. I love coming to work everyday with Ruby. I especially love it when kids come to visit. Sometimes they ask me to spend time with them, which I love to do. When we have groups its my favourite time, all the kids throw the ball or rock for me and I can play with them for hours. I love all my co-workers and I hope I can work at Rosie's Place forever.



The Year In Review

Welcome to another year of history from Rosie's Place. As we enter our 33rd year we find ongoing funding for all positions continues to be tight and is reviewed usually at 6 monthly intervals under the guise of our amazing bookkeeper, External Consultant and Management Collective.

We lost two full time workers this year with Chris Kulyk and Claire Gallagher both leaving. Chris in particular gave many years of service to Rosie's Place but both workers contributed tremendous knowledge and experience to their positions. They gave everything they had to the work and especially to their clients.

Our current staff however have more than fulfilled the gap left by their departure and their commitment to the service and of course to the families they see remains strong and determined.

Referrals remain a constant responsibility for the service in terms of responding to those families where there is significant immediate need and trying to prioritise those who may not have some form of support.

At one stage in this last year we did close our referrals for approximately three months but this really created some confusion in the community with rumours circulating that our service was in fact closing, not our referrals. We therefore made the decision to not close referrals but have continued to respond as best as we can and accommodate a waiting list.

All counsellors hold quite significant caseloads but manage somehow to juggle clients and continue to provide consistently solid responses to the families we meet with.

Cathy and Maggie continue to be contracted by ECAV for both curriculum development and training.

Our partnership with ECAV brought to finalisation our long awaited resource, Finding A Way. This information booklet and train the trainer manual focuses on responding to child sexual abuse of children and young people with intellectual disability.

We continue our contract with DVSM/ ROAR to provide counselling to women and children staying at both Essie's refuge and Pam's Place as well as families living in the community who are supported on an outreach basis by ROAR caseworkers. We provide both counselling and opportunities for groups for both children and mothers connected with this service.

Cathy is also working on a resource for DVSM caseworkers regarding meeting with and having conversations with mothers about their children. This is due to be finished by the end of the year.

Parramatta Holroyd Family Support also contracted our service to run therapeutic groups for women who experienced domestic violence.

Cathy co-facilitated two groups this year and is now developing a group work training manual to be complemented by a one day training program. The resource will be finalised by December and the training held in February 2019.



Rosie's Place were contracted with the Mt Druitt Family Violence team to run two children's groups. Following the completion of one group we still held funds and in consultation with the Family Violence team agreed to support a one day forum regarding domestic violence across the life span from children to elder abuse. This forum will be held at the Mt Druitt Hub in October this year.

Group work has been at capacity this last year and the following groups have been held at the service:

- A group for young girls
- Young women's group
- Lullaby music group
- The Incredible Years parenting group
- Boys Lego group
- Holiday programs

Special thanks to Maggie Escartin who is our contracted group worker. She continues to bring unbelievable energy and commitment to this work and it would not be possible to hold the groups we do without her support. Also thank you to the WASH House for having Nancy Bannerman come and run a group with Maggie for mothers called The Incredible Years.

Thank you to Parramatta Holroyd Family Support who held the training for this program which enabled two of our workers to attend. This was a most successful group and there are plans to extend this work in the new year.

Rosie's Place relies on Social Work students to help buffer the demands on our service delivery, especially in helping to facilitate our groups. This last year we had on average 2-3 students for each placement timeslot. Apart from group work they also did both direct counselling roles and indirect research based work. A special thank you to Ben and Jo who provided the daily support to our students with Ben providing the supervision they required and Jo giving the day to day support they need when being in such a hectic and at times overwhelming placement.

We look forward to another year of working in this wonderful community, with local organisations and taking a stance against the violence that is inflicted upon so many children, young people, and the violations of their human rights to safety, dignity and protection.

'We never talk about what happened. I feel when my daughter is ready or wants to talk about it she will. I feel she is at a good place in her life at the moment and I am happy with the way she is going. But if one day in the future she decides to talk or we need help I will definitely call Rosie's Place to help. I do want to say thank you so much for your support during our hard time as without you and Rosie's Place we would have struggled.'

Quote from a mother whose daughter accessed Rosie's Place for sexual assault counselling.

The Year In Review

Coming together:

A partnership between DVSM ROAR & Rosie's Place.

There has been a long-term relationship between Rosie's Place and ROAR, starting when both Essie's refuge and Pam's Place operated as independent entities before being incorporated under the one umbrella of DVSM. When Rosie's Place was first established in 1986 it was auspiced by Essie's Refuge and worked from its premises. Both organisations have a long history of working collaboratively with each other as well as other services in the Western Sydney and have been involved in key interagency work including the Outer West Domestic Violence interagency and the Mt Druitt Domestic Violence Leadership Group.

In 2017 Rosie's Place was approached by DVSM ROAR to provide counselling support to families connected with their services. This partnership aimed to provide therapeutic services to parents and their children both when staying at the women's refuge and also to continue therapeutic support when they leave by extending to an outreach approach, either home visiting or enabling families to continue therapeutic services by attending Rosie's Place.

This solution sought to respond to the therapeutic needs of mothers and their children who access accommodation and outreach support from the Refuge Outreach Action Response service (ROAR). ROAR is located in the Blacktown and Hills districts of Western Sydney. It is managed by Domestic Violence Service Management. The two refuges we work with are Essie's and Pam's Place, both located in the Blacktown LGA. The outreach part of the project is extended to wider areas of Western Sydney as needed.

Our work adheres to a model of practice that focuses on what more current research identifies as a triangulation of repair and recovery: of the mother, the child and the mother-child relationship (Katz, 2015). This shifts from a unilateral model of understanding the relationship between mothers and children (parent to child) to a bi-lateral model where parents influence children and children influence parents.

This project draws on trauma theory but also an ecological model of intervention placing the individual within a broader system which includes family and community.

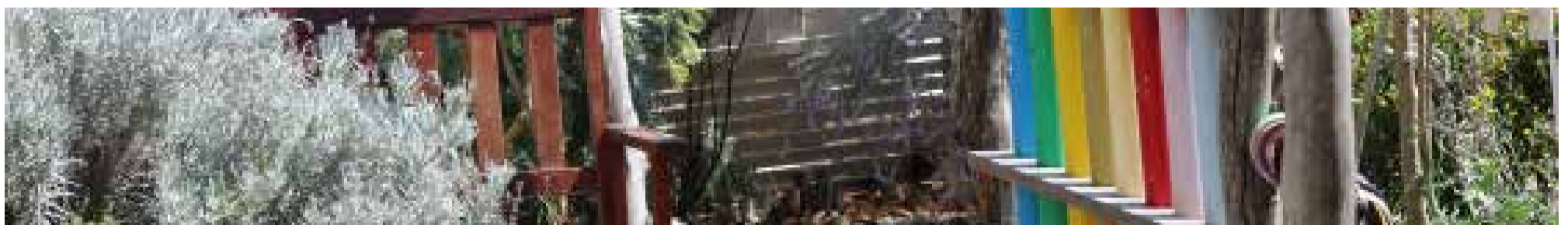
Such a model recognises that a key to healing for families who have been subjected to domestic violence is to build their sense of connection to themselves (who I am, what I believe, what I need), between mothers and children (who we are, what we believe, what we need, who we belong to) and to broader supports within the community (how we get those needs met).

The primary purpose of our work is to increase the safety, empowerment and wellbeing of both mothers and their children by:

- collaborative practice between the ROAR caseworkers and therapeutic interventions provided by the clinical team at Rosies
- implementing a therapeutic model which has a strong evidence base;
- focuses intervention on strengthening the relationships between mothers and children and
- holds a child centred focus which seeks to empower children as agents of change and mutually involved with their mothers in
- supporting recovery from the violence.

At the time of initial contact with the refuges women are in a state of great crisis and emotional turmoil. The key response of the refuge is to provide both them and their children with immediate safety and "refuge" from the violence they have fled. The impact of the trauma families have experienced and the ongoing disruptions to their daily lives persist (emotionally, physically and psychologically), and can be left unattended due to the pressing demands of ongoing housing and accommodation, financial management and other practical safeguards needed to ensure future safety.

This partnership solution is focused on providing an immediate and ongoing therapeutic response to women and their children who access the refuges and can continue with the program should they leave the refuge and gain accommodation in the wider community. Such continued access can occur via an outreach approach to the work or by families being assisted to continue contact by attending Rosie's Place. The solution is family focused and considers both mothers and children having the same rights to a therapeutic response, recognising that often mothers and their children are seen separately by a siloed approach to service delivery or may not be able to access therapeutic services at all.



Finding A Way

At the end of 2017 we published our 24th resource Finding A Way. This resource made up of two separate kits, Finding A Way Information Booklets and factsheets and Finding A Way kit 2 training manual. These kits, years in the making, address the gaps in resources available for children and young people with intellectual disabilities who have been impacted by the trauma of sexual assault.

The aim of these resources is to ensure that workers in the disability field and welfare fields notice the children and young people with disabilities, respond appropriately to them and ensure protective actions then occur.

The other main focus was to develop a framework for practice across all disciplines which upholds key principles including children's rights, trauma informed care and a holistic response to the ongoing wellbeing of children and young people in all aspects of their lives: physically, developmentally, psychologically, emotionally, socially and spiritually.

It Just Makes Sense

In 2018 Rosie's Place published its 25th publication - **It Just Makes Sense: Sensory play with your child.**

This resource is a partnership between Rosie's Place and Parramatta Holroyd Family Support.

About the book: There are lots of ways we can encourage children to explore their senses in their play. This book provides a range of simple ways you can encourage your child's sensory play which will assist with their creative and social development. From birth on children learn to use all their senses to connect with the world and the people around them. As adults it is important to have engagement with children's sensory play activities to facilitate their growth and development.

Groups

Rosie's Place has always incorporated group work into our core work with children, young people and their families. There are many benefits of working with children and young people in groups. The main advantages are connection to service and peers, intellectual and practical understanding of set skills, communication skills extended, cooperative and team work skills, confidence and self awareness, problem solving and peer support. Each year Rosie's Place places great emphasis on our group work and throughout the year the groups change and evolve to offer best possible opportunities for the clients of Rosie's Place.

The following are just some samples of the groups we ran in this last financial year.

Young Girls Blanket Group

We held a young girls blanket group which ran for 5 weeks. The idea of the group was to give the young girls a chance to meet other girls that attend Rosie's that are around their age and be able to do something creative at the same time.

Each week we started the group off with a game where the girls were able to get to know each other better and were able to build on their social skills. They were showing positive skills of sharing, taking turns, being kind and friendly to each other.

Over the weeks the girls were able to pick out what items they wanted on their blankets and design how they wanted to decorate their blankets. Some wanted to learn how to hand sew items and buttons onto their blankets and some preferred to be creative with paints and ribbons.

Some of the positive things I saw from the girls was the way they interacted with each other. They were always respectful of each other, always welcoming of everyone and every girl felt able to participate in the group.

On some weeks when some of the girls had a bad day at school the others rallied around and supported them to make them feel better and comforted. The feedback we received from the girls was positive, many of the girls looked forward to the group and seeing their new friends. On the last week the girls decided to have a vote that they wanted the group to continue on forever and they were disappointed they did not get to come back next week.



Boys Lego Group



We held a young boys Lego group which ran for 5 weeks. The aim of the group was to encourage the young boys to develop key social skills by providing them with the chance to meet children of similar ages attending Rosie's Place. Each week the boys were faced with a different Lego challenge in which they had to use positive social skills to free the Lego characters for the evil Lord Business.

Over the five weeks the boys displayed positive skills of sharing, being kind to each other and taking turns. Overall, the group received great feedback from the boys and their families. In particular, it was great to see the boys grow and develop each week and become more comfortable engaging with each other and working together to achieve a common goal. The boys were very welcoming of each other and actively encouraged the participation of new comers to the group. At the end of the group, the boys expressed they would like to attend the group again as they liked the different Lego activities they were provided each week.



'What I love about Rosie's Place is that we play and talk together and that helps me. Rosie's is a nice place and I like doing cooking at. Thank you so much.'

Quote from 8 year old client who lives in OOH



*'I love it here. I want to come back every day and live here'
'I feel comfortable and safe here'
'My birthday is next week. Can I come back and have my birthday here'*

*'I like that there is lots of space here'
Quotes from 4 siblings aged 13, 10, 8 and 8 at their initial

Groups

Lullaby Project

We were lucky enough to run the Lullaby Group this year with six lovely mums and their gorgeous young babies over 8 weeks. This was made possible with ClubGRANTS funding. We had the pleasure of collaborating with Chanelle Henderson, a music therapist from Nordoff Robbins, who was contracted to help us run the program.

Available research supports the positive benefits of music in child development. Music builds brain and bodies, strengthens relationships between babies and caregivers, supports the development of communication, the sharing and regulation of feelings, increases sense of connection and belonging and brings such joy. "Making music is one of the most intense, multi-sensory, and physically involving activities in which young children engage.... all this builds important connections across the many regions of his brain needed to carry out the complex actions and interactions humans require in order to thrive (Dennis Wolf, WolfBrown in partnership with Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute)".

The mums surprised themselves with the beautiful lullabies they had come up with for their babies. They expressed it felt like a big task initially, however when asked to write their babies a letter with messages from their heart, the mums expressed how easy it was to let their emotions and feelings flow onto paper. Chanelle worked respectfully with the mums, and assisted them with developing a tune and beat to accompany the lyrics, and supported them to create their own unique, special lullaby with influences from their own culture. Singing nursery rhymes, experimenting with different age-appropriate instruments, baby massage, as well as discussing the positive impacts music has on brain and overall development was also incorporated into the group.

As a recording of their lullabies were being played back to them, the mums held their babies and gently rocked. The babies appeared relaxed and content gazing at their mums and enjoying the connection. According to Dennis Wolf, "music can support these intimate exchanges [between parent and child]. As parents soothe their children to sleep they share the sounds of their first languages, the intimate moment at the border of sleeping and waking, and the kinds of rocking and talking that calms a wakeful infant. In that moment, babies experience the lifelong skill of changing states: going from alert to relaxed, upset to calm."

It was such an honour to be a part of such a powerful and strong group, and to be witness to the love these mums had for their babies, which was truly reflected through the lullabies they had created and the interactions and bond they shared. We had such positive feedback from the mums who participated in the group. We felt it was a lovely, interactive group and allowed time for the mums to take some time out of their busy lives to connect with their babies, themselves and with each other.

These are some of the feedback from the participants:
"Nice to be with other mums talking about children".
"First time ever doing something like this".
"I'll always have this lullaby for my baby"



Lullaby Lyrics by Jess

Air bubbles pop!
At night you come alive
When I try to sleep,
you remind me you are there
Mummy, don't go to sleep
I still can't believe
That you're with me
You're always on my mind, 24/7
When I feel sad I think of you
I don't want you to feel sad
You'll always be safe with me
I will protect you.

Lullaby Lyrics by Zoan

I want you to have a good heart
and be good people too
If you are good to others they will be good
to you
I'm very happy, we are together
We are best friends forever
We are together on your journey
I am with you always
I am always holding your hand
I am with you always

Lullaby Lyrics by Shirley

Since I knew that you are in me , Te Amo
I start loving my belly growing
My body changing and my soul just in you
Now you are the reason for my life, Te Amo
I love your breath, you skin your eyes,
Your little hands, your strong legs ☺ tiny feet
Every morning you wake up with a smile
Te Amo, my day starts happy because of you
Emiliano you're the best gift of my life
I say thank you to god everyday
Te Amo

'I am for you and you are for me'. Mum said this to highlight that her sole focus is on her child and that their future is together.

Quote from Mum whose son was referred for DV counselling



About Our Work

Incredible Years Group Partnership between Rosie's Place, WASH House, and Parramatta Holroyd Family Support

Women's therapy/support groups are excellent settings for women to break isolation and loneliness; it gives them the opportunity to share their stories, experiences, pain and sadness. Often women feel relieved in these settings as they find themselves in the company of other women going through similar struggles.

One of the biggest challenges when working with groups is that 'what we plan is not the same as what we deliver'. When workers safely, respectfully and responsively allow groups to create changes to the initial program, they may often be surprised with the outcomes. This freedom and trust can guide women, in a way, to take control of their own journeys of self-discovery, self-awareness, creativity and strengths; they may also feel free and safe to explore their traumatic experiences further.

At the beginning of this year, WASH House and Rosie's Place got together to run a mother's group focusing on strengths and positive parenting, with an input on strengthening mother-child relationships. The main idea was to share and teach different activities to do, such as games, arts, crafts and anything that would allow mums and children to play together.

From the beginning of this six-session program we realised that most of the participants had already have attended many 'parenting groups', and that the themes presented were quite repetitive. When we moved to the section where mothers were introduced to 'making things', we noticed amazing changes in the dynamics of the group.

Using different craft materials, women began to make toys, dolls, key rings and weaving small bags; while using their hands they began to laugh, tell stories, share deeper feelings and gave each other strategies to solve problems. They reassured themselves that it was normal to make mistakes, feel sad and to accept what they were going through. As most participants were from different cultural backgrounds they shared cultural beliefs and practices, different ways to raise children, women's roles in families and food recipes.

As we allowed the group structure to change, we decided to go along with observing how these women were using art as a medium to transport themselves to a younger time, to work as children do, feeling free to explore their lives and to construct new stories. As workers we provided the safe space to allow the group to change the program and the women responded positively by discovering their own ways to deal with difficult situations.



Poem written by Caylee for Rosie's Place

Rosies Place

A garden full of young women waiting to bloom
Being watered and nurtured by the many florists,
Who appreciate their garden and wear a smile everyday
Each girl a little bruised but nonetheless they are
Beautiful than the rest
For when you shine inside its your true colours that ignite
Having risen up from the dirty ground
We sprout into beautiful young flowers

Reflections on friendship' from a 10 year old
girl who has lived with extensive DV:

A good friend is you can keep a secret
A good friend is you can trust them
A good friend is you can treat them nice
A good friend is when they treat you nice
A good friend is to stick up for them
A good friend is you can help them when they need it
A good friend is you can rely on them
A good friend is they do not judge you about what you
wear or have
A good friend never gives up on them
A good friend feels bad after an argument
A good friend doesn't pick on you about your
skin colour.'

It is with great pleasure to report that Rosie's Place has been invited to collaborate with the RISE Learning Network, to share our experiences, practice and programs and assist children around the world in their trauma recovery.

RISE Learning Network brings together organisations from 32 countries from Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa and South and Central China that provide direct services to children that have been the victims of sexual violence through connecting organisations, building communities of practice and helping member organisations share knowledge, new approaches and tools in order to make a real difference to both organisations and the children they service. RISE members work with children that have been trafficked, exploited, neglected and harmed in more than one way.

Rosie's Place is grateful for the opportunity to participate in a global community of practitioners, teach our cutting-edge programs to an international community and learn from others how we can continue to improve our practice. Maggie will be working with RISE to develop a webinar in the first instance, and then we will explore other ways for Rosie's Place to assist RISE and their member organisations.

About Our Work

Bridges Over Troubled Water When services work together

“The attack on the mother-child relationship as an aspect of domestic violence highlights the need to link the protection and support of women with the protection and support of children (Humphreys & Houghton 2008)”.

Research has solidly linked the occurrence of domestic violence against women with the physical and emotional harm caused to children who also live with that violence in their lives. Traditionally, services may respond with a focus on the safety and wellbeing of women and others with a focus on the safety and wellbeing of children but this may have sometimes unwittingly exaggerated the presumed divide between the protection and wellbeing of children and the protection and wellbeing of the mother.

Defining effective intervention from the position that safety and support of the mother is critical to the ongoing protection of children naturally brings the work together.

The following story highlights how important this collaborative approach is in the area of child protection concerns.

Jenny is a thirty three year old mother referred with her four children, to our service in regard to the impact of the domestic violence they had experienced. Jenny was attending a group held collaboratively between Rosie's Place and the WASH House as well as she and her children receiving counselling.

Jenny's husband was charged and an AVO issued following an incident where he had physically abused Jenny in front of the children. The oldest girl had tried to intervene and was pushed against the wall by her father. The local Department of Family and Community services thereby became involved and Jenny was asked to agree with undertakings that her husband not be at the home if her children were there. Jenny was made aware that if she breached the orders it was possible that her children would be removed.

Jenny was determined to adhere to the orders, her greatest fear being that she would lose her children. She continued to attend the group and also some individual counselling as well as joint work with her children.



Despite the AVO contact with her husband continued by his constant ringing and texting her phone. He would leave messages on the front door and parcels of groceries and toys for the children. When the children were at school he started coming over to the house, initially saying he had to pick up things and then increased his stay by fixing things around the house. During those visits he was constantly speaking to Jenny about how much he missed her and the children and had really changed. He said that he knew Jenny couldn't cope without him and he just wanted then to be a family again.

Although Jenny was continuing to come to the service she did not tell anyone about these ongoing visits. She kept hoping he would get the idea that she wanted their relationship to end and would eventually leave her alone but as time went on he continued to increase his contact. At least she felt she had some control in that he only came when the children were at school until one afternoon when he stayed.

Jenny was now starting to realise that the old ways used by her partner were re-emerging: making promises but then gradually breaking them, using his voice to make her feel intimidated and then also using the “indifference” to how other people were feeling as long as he was “comfortable” and an ability to act as everything was normal despite the years of abuse she and the children had experienced.



The next day Jenny brought the two younger children to the group held at our service. She was notably distressed and asked to speak to one of the counsellors. She broke down in tears and said she was in a “real mess”. She pleaded with the counsellor not to ring FaCS as she would lose the children. She told the counsellor about what had been happening with her husband coming to the house and how he had stayed last night. She said that she knew he had her caught in what had been happening and now she was trying to have him leave he had threatened to tell FaCS what had been happening. She didn't know what to do as her greatest fear was losing her children. She thought if she just waited he may give up.



The counsellor said she had to notify the situation but would first speak to the caseworker and let her know what had happened. Jenny pleaded again and again for this not to happen, fearing that her children would be removed. She said that the caseworker had told her strongly that she had to keep her children safe and Jenny knew that she had also let her children down. Although the children had not even spoken to her about their father being at the home Jenny knew, particularly her oldest two children, that they were unsettled and worried.

The counsellor spoke with Jenny and helped her realise how her partner had once again trapped her into a situation that she could not get out of unless she “broke his rules”.

The counsellor rang the caseworker who arranged for an appointment to see Jenny the next day. At the meeting it was made clear to Jenny that breaching the orders was serious but would not result in her children being removed. The caseworker also spoke to Jenny's husband about being at the house which he denied, saying Jenny had made up more lies to make him “look bad” and “keep him from his children”.

Following this crisis for Jenny things did change. Most importantly, her trust in “the system” shifted from one of feeling “watched” to feeling supported. She believed that she could have difficult conversations with the caseworker for the children without judgement or retribution. She felt she could have her own point of view and people would listen. She felt that her worth as a mother was validated rather than negated and this made her more determined to keep herself strong and her children safe.

Since that time Jenny and her children have continued to grow together. Jenny is now working part time and the family have moved into another house as they felt it was time to leave some of the memories of the past. The children have resumed some contact with their father and Jenny also speaks to him occasionally but she says this contact is about the children and there are no longer any conversations about their relationship.

Jenny says she will never forget that day she told the truth of what had been happening. If she had lost her children, even for a time, she believes she would have also stayed with her now ex-husband. She knows that in gaining her safety, wellbeing and strength, her children are also receiving so much more from her and so much more for themselves.

Rosie's Place Statistics 2017-2018

94 NO. FAMILIES WHO EXITED THE PROGRAM

38 NO. YOUNG PEOPLE WHO EXITED THE PROGRAM

81 NO. CHILDREN WHO EXITED THE PROGRAM

102 NO. PARENTS WHO EXITED THE PROGRAM

34% PERCENTAGE OF ATSI CLIENTS

28% PERCENTAGE OF CALD CLIENTS

49% PERCENTAGE OF CLIENTS WITH DISABILITY

141 NO. FAMILIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE STILL IN THE PROGRAM

Donations

During the year Rosie's place has been supported by several organisations who donate goods and services to the community.

Wet'n'Wild - Community Fun day.

In Sept 2017 Wet'n'Wild put on a family day for people living in the local community. The day was free for all our clients to attend, include free transport and free lunch. Our clients had the most magical day and made so many family memories they would not have normally experienced.

Arthritis Foundation Movie Event

In November 2017 the Arthritis Foundation offered free movie tickets to our clients to attend a family day at Penrith Hoyts. The day provided all family members with free entry to a children's movie, free drinks and free popcorn, giving a fun family day out for everyone.

Good 360

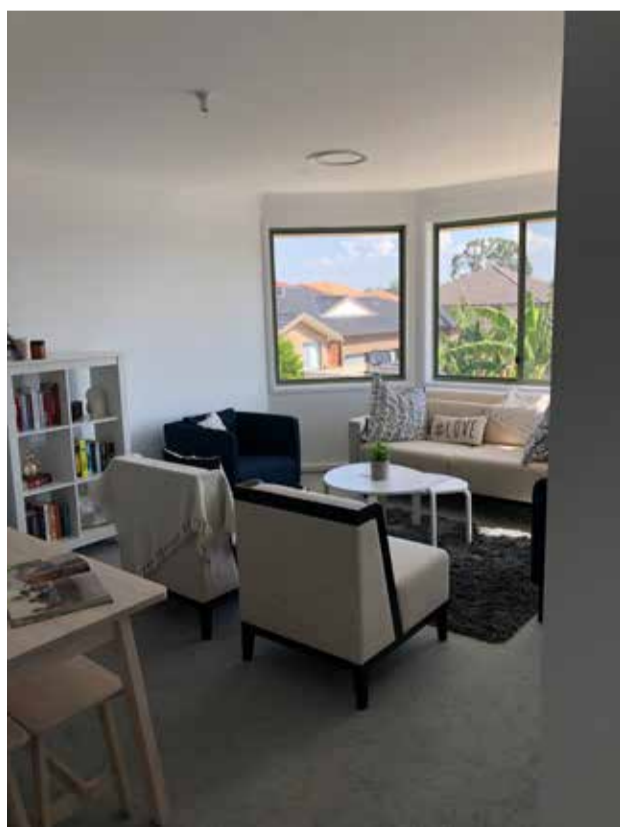
Rosie's Place is a member of a charity distribution company called Good 360. Good 360 receives donated goods from companies and then distributes those goods to charities who can pass items onto families. Last year we receive some amazing children's gifts for our clients including Lego sets, Shopkins, make up and skin care for young women.

Body Shop

For over 10 years now Rosie's Place has been in receipt of products from the Body Shop each year. Those body products have been great gifts for our young women and mothers. We are very appreciative of their continuing support.

Hillsong CityCare

Last year at Christmas Hillsong CityCare donated several Christmas hampers to our service as well as many children's gifts. Those hampers and gifts were distributed to our families who greatly appreciated them.

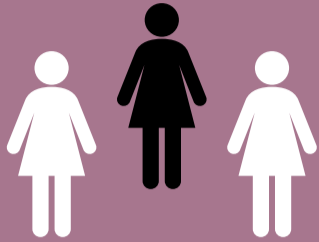


Rosie's Place has had a slight revamp this year, especially in the upstairs space. The counselling rooms have been redecorated and looking refreshed. It is important to our service to continue to maintain our space. Our clients deserve a comfortable, inviting space where their rights to be treated with dignity and respect are met.

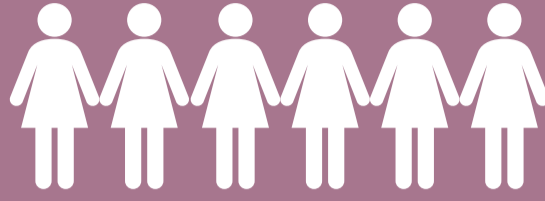
The young women of our service, along with their counsellors have worked hard to create an area named "the young women space" upstairs. It has served the purpose of providing a safe, comfortable area for the young women of Rosie's Place to meet and connect, for individual counselling and for group work. It has also been a great place for workers to meet with families. We have received positive feedback from all about the appearance of our new space, and it's been delightful to hear clients continue to feel safe and comfortable at Rosie's Place.



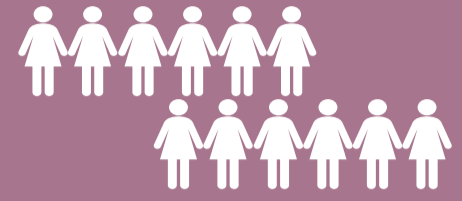
Facts and Statistics on Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence



Globally 1 in 3 women experience partner violence



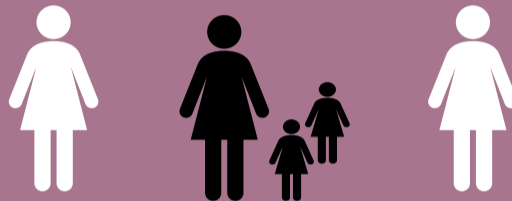
17% of women in Australia have reported experiencing sexual assault before the age of 15



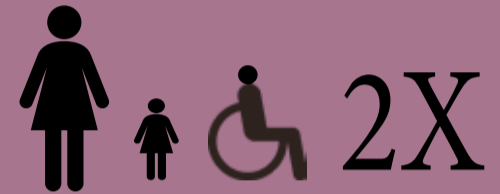
Young girls aged 10-15 years have the highest reported incidents of sexual assault of any age group

1	2	3	4	X	6	7
8	X	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	X	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	X	28

1 woman is killed nearly every week in Australia by an intimate partner



Children are present in 1 out of every 3 family violence reports to police



Women and girls with disabilities are twice as likely to experience violence than those without disabilities



Aboriginal women are 35x more likely to be hospitalised by family violence than other women

intimate partner violence is the top risk factor for death, disability & illness in Australian women aged 15-44



Only 1 in every 7 reports of child sexual assault results in further prosecution by police



1 in 3 young people aged 16-19 have reported an experience of image-based abuse (naked images distributed via internet)



Of all the reports of child sexual assault in 2016, the average age for the children was 9.3 years



A woman faces an increased risk of being killed or seriously injured when she leaves or is separating from an abusive partner

3489

institutions were named at the royal commission into institutional child sexual abuse

types of abuse that make up domestic violence

- physical abuse
- financial abuse
- emotional abuse
- verbal abuse
- social abuse
- sexual abuse
- stalking
- spiritual abuse
- image-based abuse

\$22 Billion

Violence against women is estimated to cost the Australian economy \$22 billion a year

Facts and Statistics Sources

Victorian Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA Forum)2018, The Guardian, G Hutchens, Rates of Sexual Violence Against Women 2017, World Health Organisation 2013, NSW Police Crime Statistics 2015, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Report 2012, Women with Disabilities Victoria 2014, Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victorian 2014, Take Action Today Bravehearts Report Qld 2012, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2013, White Ribbon Australia 2017, NSW Sexual Assault Strategy NSW, Health 2016.

