



Family violence intervention — program funding

Glen Eira City Council is seeking \$210,000 in funding to support a unique family violence intervention program to ensure early intervention and prompt legal advice for families.

FAMILY VIOLENCE — IMPROVING RESPONSES AND SERVICES

Reducing and preventing family violence and gender inequality is a priority of Glen Eira City Council. We are working hard to help build a safer community in collaboration with our local and regional partners and our community.

Council has successfully trialled a new family violence initiative that provides vulnerable families with access to free legal support services.

Ensuring shared responsibility and developing a more responsive and comprehensive service system that delivers primary prevention, early intervention and response, is imperative for change to occur where we become a society free from violence.

Maternal and child health nurses support infants and young children at 10 key stages:

- at home after birth;
- two, four and eight weeks;
- four, eight, 12 and 18 months;
- two and three-and-a-half years of age.

Maternal and child health nurses are highly skilled at supporting families. They use their clinical judgement in assessing for family violence risk and referring women to specialist supports. However, those experiencing family violence require both legal and support services to navigate their way through the complexity of domestic violence orders, child support, child protection and practical problems like Centrelink and housing.

The Orange Door safety hub is the entry point for all Victorians to access child and family services, and family violence services, including services working with perpetrators of family violence. *The Orange Door* safety hub closest to Glen Eira is located in Frankston, a distance of approximately 30 kilometres.

FACTS

Evidence and research confirm family violence is a gendered issue in which women and children are predominantly the victims. On average, 4.8 women in Glen Eira experienced a recorded incident of intimate partner family violence (where violence was perpetrated by a current or former partner) for every one male in 2017–18.

The Royal Commission into family violence observed that pregnancy and the early post-natal period is a time of heightened family violence risk. In Glen Eira, 927 family violence incidents were reported to police in 2017–18 and 107 intervention orders were applied in the same year.

THE ASK

Council is seeking an investment of \$210,000 over a three year period from the State Government to provide legal support resources to enhance the role of maternal and child health nurses in identifying and referring cases for legal support.

Council will contribute to this program through additional maternal and child health staffing resources and office accommodation for legal support services to deliver this innovative program.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Families will have access to free local legal support to assist families with: domestic violence orders (known as family violence intervention orders); property after separation; divorce; child safety; and applying for legal aid.

Families will also be provided with support to help plan for: their safety; connections with Family Courts; help with Centrelink; housing; and client advocacy with services like the police.

MORE INFORMATION

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