

Family Violence Program



Loddon Campaspe CLC's Family Violence Prevention and Child Protection services helped steer 520 people towards safety via court applications for Intervention Orders (IVOs).

Loddon Campaspe CLC continues to offer free legal advice and support to people experiencing family violence when they appear at Bendigo, Maryborough, Echuca, Castlemaine and Kyneton magistrates' courts. We provide high-quality, respectful and specialist information, referrals, advice and casework for some of the region's most vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

The continuation of these services is especially important in the aftermath of the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

Following the completion of the 'Why Didn't You Ask?' Family Violence project in 2014, the Victorian Government provided additional and much-needed funding to ensure that we were able to continue to assist clients at the Castlemaine and Kyneton courts.

It has been nearly 10 years since we began family violence outreach to Maryborough, one of the most disadvantaged communities in the state. In 2016 we successfully sought funding from the Legal Services Board and Commissioner to develop a collaborative project with Go Goldfields to address family violence in that community.

We work holistically and in partnership with other services to ensure that clients experiencing family violence are supported. In 2015-16 we started to collaborate with Bendigo Family & Financial Services (BFFS) who now attend our Family Violence Prevention Legal Service outreach to Bendigo Magistrates' Court to provide advice and referrals for vulnerable clients whose family violence includes financial abuse. We thank BFFS for their support and for helping us to better appreciate the impact of financial abuse.

We continue to engage with family violence networks in our region, including the Bendigo White Ribbon initiative and the Loddon Campaspe Family Violence Advisory Committee.

While the Royal Commission into Family Violence has shone a light on the issue, a great deal of work needs to be done to ensure that its recommendations are implemented. Our role will be to ensure that vulnerable and disadvantaged clients experiencing family violence continue to get the help they need when they need it. We will continue to work with local MPs and other community organisations to ensure that we continue to provide a robust voice in this space.

