



WHITTLESEA COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

FAMILY VIOLENCE MONITOR

DATA FROM PERIOD

October 1 – December 31 2015

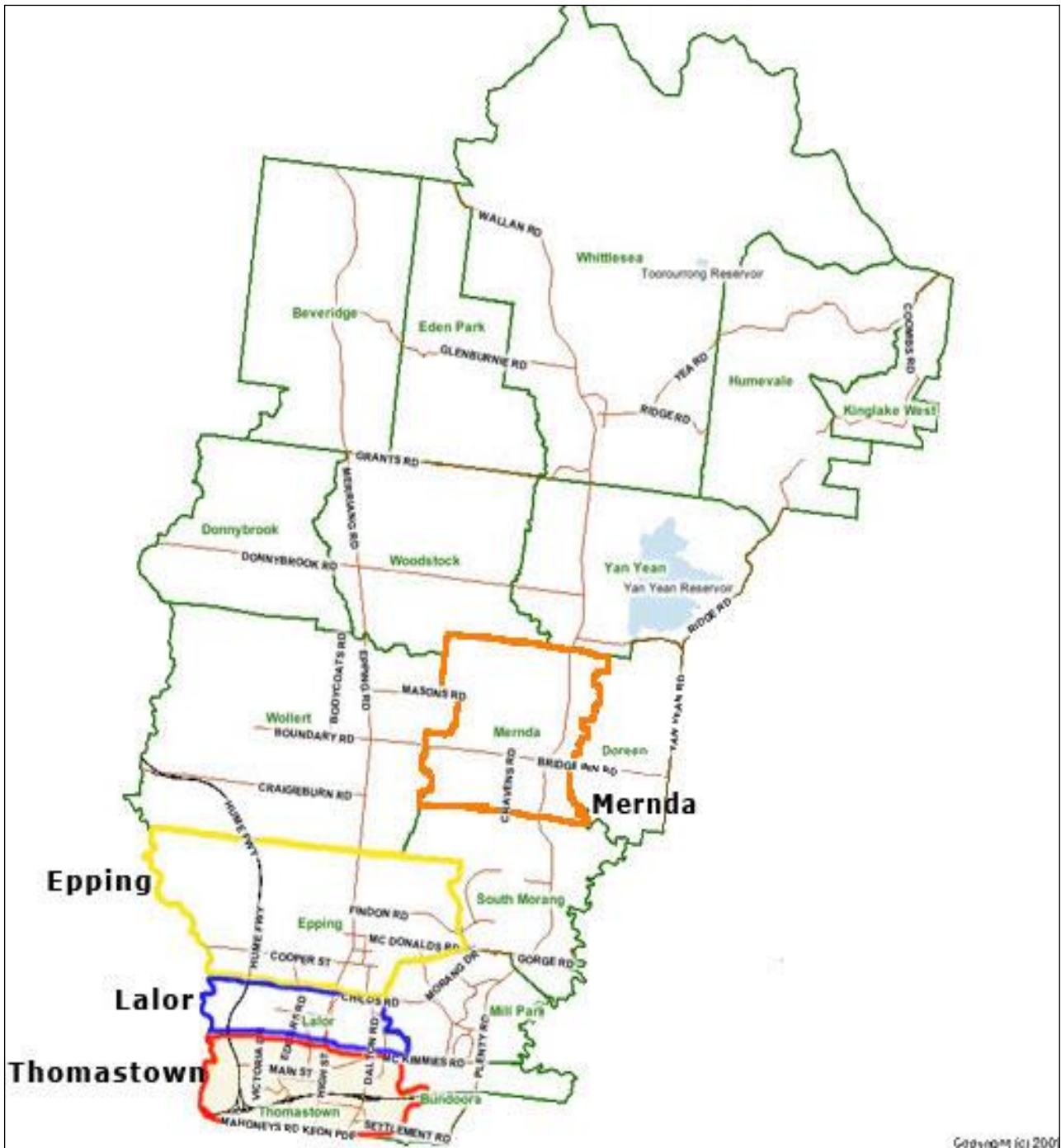
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THIS EDITION

Quarter 2 (Q2)	October 1 – December 31 2015
Quarter 1 (Q1)	July 1 – September 30 2015
Quarter 4 (Q4)	April 1 – June 30 2015
Quarter 3 (Q3)	January 1 – March 31 2015

THIS EDITION		
Summary and key information	page 4	<p>About this report series:</p> <p>Whittlesea is a municipality in Victoria with one of the highest recorded incidence of family violence. It is an acute issue for Whittlesea as a whole.</p> <p>In 2011, all major Whittlesea Community Connections (WCC) program areas identified family violence (FV) as a major issue. As such, FV was included within WCC’s priority plan 2011-2012 year. In response to the increasing incidence of individuals presenting to the agency with family violence disclosures, WCC endeavoured to collect data on all who presented to the agency and reported incidents of family violence as a way of measuring the rate of increase in incidents over a period of time. FV is again one of three service priorities in WCC’s 2014-15 Priority Plan.</p> <p>A data collection template was developed to capture information about each time FV was reported to the agency. Guidelines for doing this were set so that each individual’s case was only recorded once and not duplicated between internal referrals and each time they came to the agency. This form will continue to change as needed to best record information.</p> <p>The data maps the number of incidents reported, including the client’s suburb, their cultural background, the type of violence being experienced, and the types of services they are accessing. This data will help to identify local experiences of FV and will assist our responses to the issue both at an individual level and through broader advocacy.</p>
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City of Whittlesea



Summary

This fourteenth report focuses on family violence (FV) incidents reported at Whittlesea Community Connections (WCC) during October to December 2015 (Q2). Included is data collected over a 12 month period from January 1st 2015 to December 31st 2015. Data considers clients seen by WCC staff and a FV worker from Salvation Army Crossroads who attends WCC offices one half-day per week. In cases where a client is first seen briefly by a WCC staff member before referral to the FV worker, this client is only recorded once as part of the FV worker stats. Previous quarters have been adjusted to reflect the inclusion of FV worker stats in the total.

KEY INFORMATION THIS QUARTER

- This quarter, 87 new people presented to WCC for family violence.
- There were 59 working days this quarter. This equates to 1.4 cases presenting at WCC per working day.
- Whittlesea Community Legal Service (70 cases) continues to receive the highest number of incidents (80%), followed by emergency relief (7) and the family violence worker (5)
- In 35 of the 87 cases this was the first contact with a support agency.
- 54% of the cases (47) had contacted police and in 54% (47 cases) an intervention order had been applied for or was already in place.
- A majority of cases (80% or 70 cases) involved multiple forms of abuse. Each client disclosed an average of 2.6 types of abuse.
- Half of cases reported that children had witnessed the violence.
- Overwhelmingly, perpetrators were recorded to be ex-partners. This quarter 71% of cases involved ex-partners. 17% of cases involved current partners.
- 72% of cases reported that the violence occurred during their relationship
- 33% of cases involved people who were born outside of Australia. Of those born outside of Australia, 62% spoke a language other than English at home
- 1 case required an interpreter.
- 100% of females identified as victim. 68% of these women identified their ex partner as the perpetrator and 20% their current partner
- 13 men identified as victims, 14 men identified as perpetrator and 4 men identified as both victim and perpetrator.
- No females identified as perpetrator.
- The 26-40 age group had the highest representation with more than half of all incidents (48 cases).
- The majority of people – 65% – live within the City of Whittlesea.
- Epping, south Morang and Mernda represented the largest proportion of contacts within the Whittlesea LGA at 23%, 21% and 17% respectively.
- Co-occurring factors were present in 48% of cases.
 - Substance abuse was present in 26 cases (30%), or 1 in 3 cases
 - Technology was used to stalk/harass in 23 cases (26%), or 1 in 4 cases
 - Problem gambling was present in 2 cases (2%)

SUMMARY SALVATION ARMY CROSSROADS WORKER

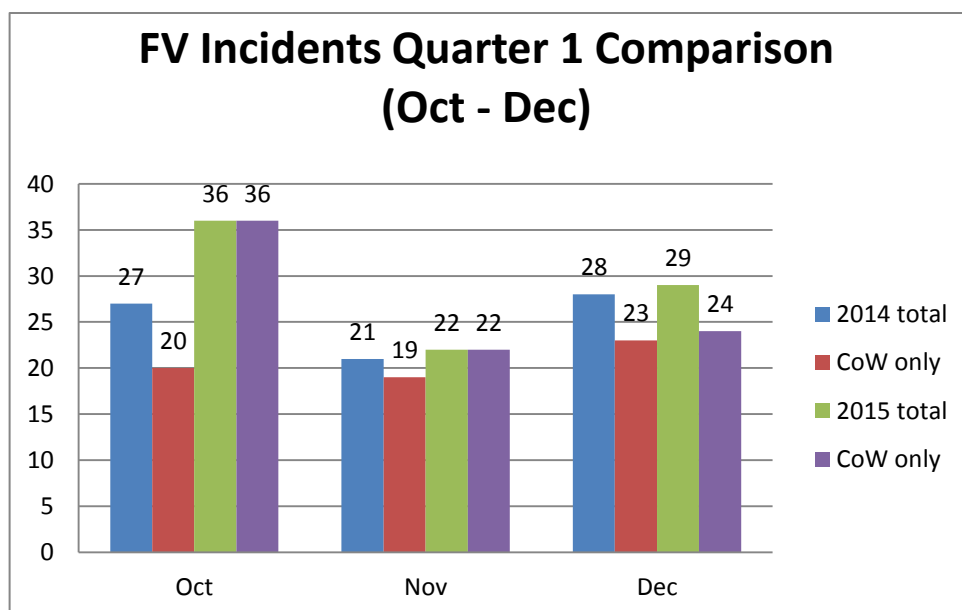
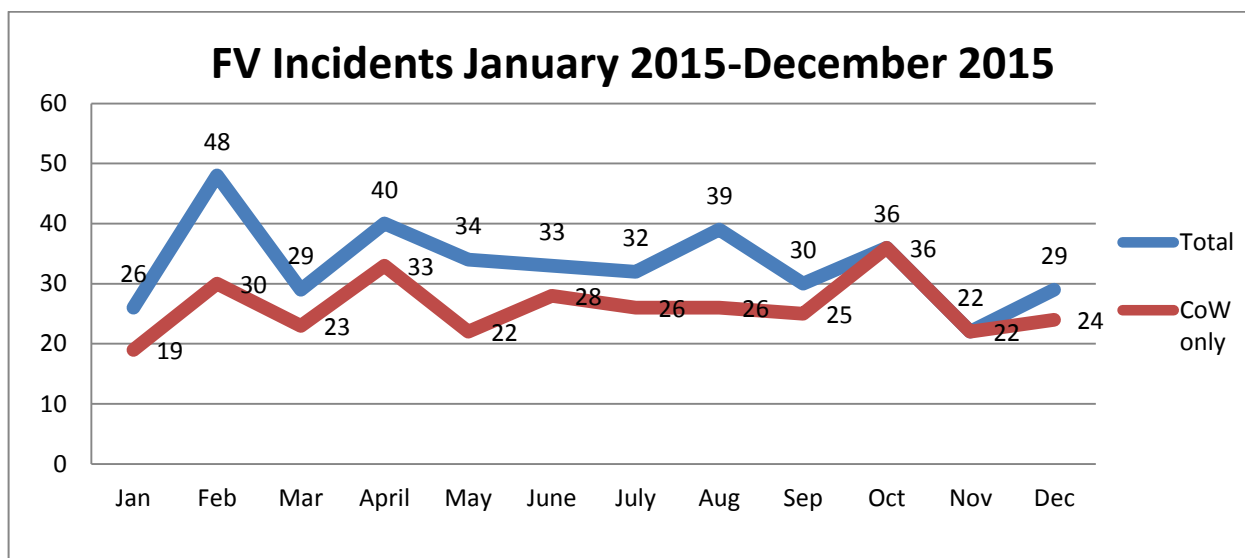
A worker from Salvation Army Crossroads has been providing specialist family violence support at Whittlesea Community Connections (WCC) since November 2013. The worker attends WCC each Tuesday from 9:30am-1:30pm, providing support to clients who are referred through the various programs and projects based at WCC, as well as secondary consult to staff. These include emergency relief/social work case management, legal, and settlement services, as well as through the CALD Communities FV Project community information sessions. Originally attending from 9:30am-12:30pm, the time was extended by an hour following a reflection meeting in March 2014.

FV Outreach worker:	Quarter (Oct – December 2015)	Year (January 2015- December 2015)
Half-days attended	6	31
Consultations provided	5	15
New clients	5	15
Follow up	0	0
Number of female clients	5	15 (100%)
Number of female clients identifying as victim	5	15 (100%)
Violence still occurring	5	12 (20%)
Clients from outside of Australia	3	9(40%)
Interpreters required	0	1
Largest proportion of clients came from	South Morang	Epping (13%)

There were 5 new clients in this quarter and no follow up appointments. In this quarter the FV worker provided multiple secondary consults to WCC staff and had multiple clients referred by other WCC workers. Due to staff changes at Salvation Army, no FV worker attended WCC in August, September or October.

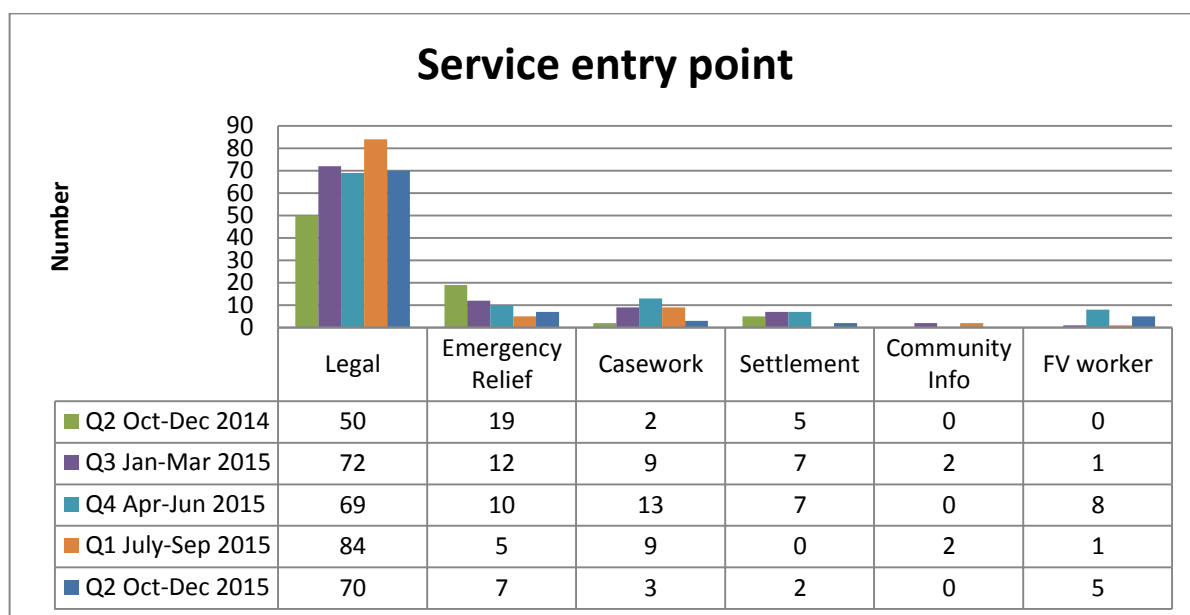
ABUSE PROFILE

FV INCIDENTS



- This quarter, 87 new people presented to WCC for family violence. This is a decrease of 14 incidents since the last quarter and a 12% increase compared with the equivalent 2014 quarter (76).
- In 2015 (January - December) 398 new people presented to WCC for family violence; more than one per working day. This is a 9 % increase from 2014 (361).
- This quarter there was an average of 29 clients per month.
- There were 59 working days this quarter. This equates to 1.4 cases presenting at WCC per working day. October had the highest number of reported cases (36), more than 1.5 cases per working day.

SERVICE ENTRY POINT



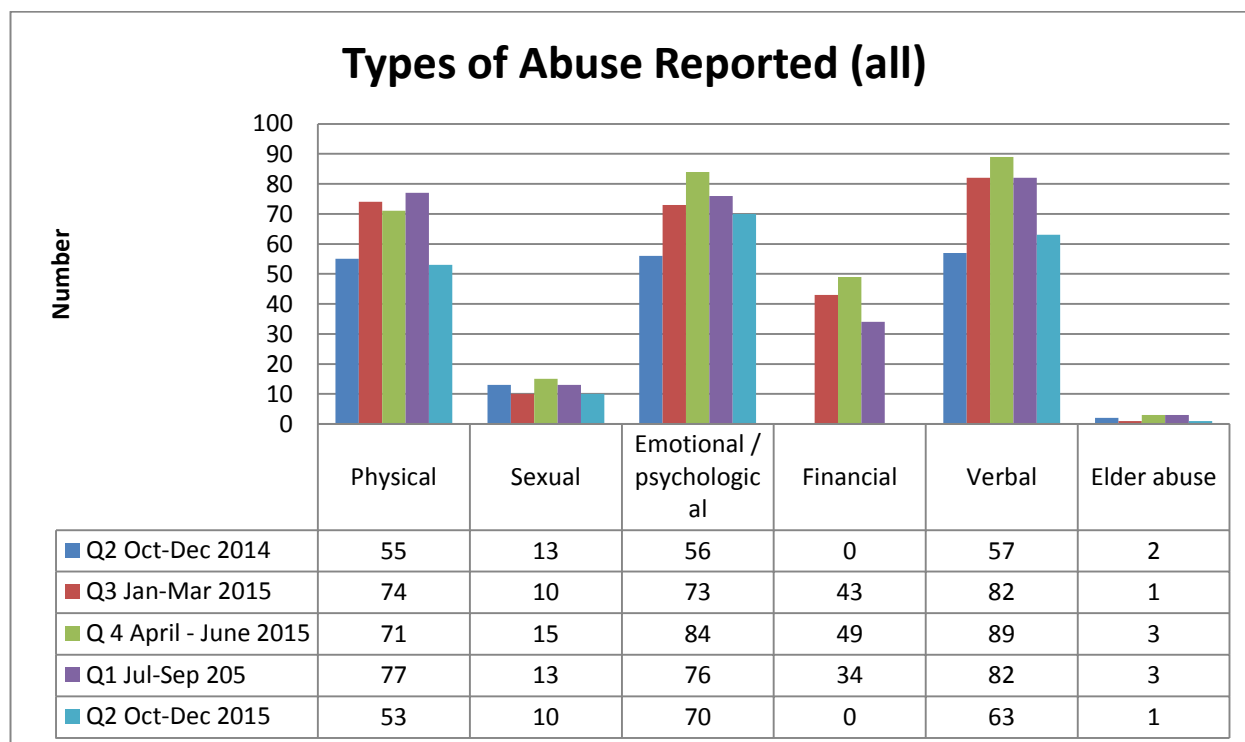
	Oct-Dec 2015	July-Sep 2015	Apr – Jun 2015	Jan- Mar 2015	Oct- Dec 2014
	Q2	Q1	Q4	Q3	Q2
Legal	80%	83%	65%	70%	66%
Casework	4%	9%	12%	9%	3%
Emergency Relief	8%	5%	9%	12%	25%
Community Info	0%	2%	0%	1%	0%
FV worker	6%	1%	7%	2%	0%
Settlement	2%	0%	7%	6%	7%

- Whittlesea Community Legal Service (70 cases) continues to receive the highest number of incidents, followed by emergency relief (7) and the Family Violence worker (5).
- In 35 of the 87 cases (40%), this was the first contact with a support agency.
- 83% of clients (72 cases) had experienced repeated incidents of family violence before contacting our service. Of these, 64% (4 cases) had previously sought support from another service. Our data does not capture which services or when they were contacted, or the reason for moving to our service. We also do not capture if the client has sought FV or other support from WCC before.
- There were 40 self-referrals (46%) and 40 external referrals (46%), compared with 52% self-referrals and 34% external referrals for the previous quarter. This quarter 2% were internally referred, compared with 14% last quarter, and 5% left blank.
- The 40 external referrals were made up of:
 - 21 referrals from Greensborough Family Relationship Centre (where WCC has an outreach lawyer)

- 4 referrals from WCC to Salvation Army
 - 2 referrals from Victorian Legal Aid
 - 2 referrals from Broadmeadows CLC
 - 1 referrals from Berry Street Northern Family and Domestic Violence Service
 - 1 referral from Countrywide Community Missions
 - 1 referral from Jindi Kinder
 - 1 referral from Kildonan
 - 1 referral from Maternal Health
 - 1 referral from Westpac
 - 1 referral from City of Whittlesea Council
 - 1 unknown
- 75% of self-referrals had experienced multiple incidents of violence, and 35% of self-referrals were approaching a support service for the first time.
 - WCC also tracks which agencies we refer clients to. In this quarter referrals were provided for*:
 - Police (29)
 - Victoria Legal Aid (10)
 - Women's Legal Service (8)
 - Private solicitor (5)
 - Berry Street (4)
 - Greensborough Family Relationship Centre (2)
 - Child First (1)
 - Community Leader (1)
 - Counsellor (1)
 - Darebin CLC (1)
 - Relationships Australia (1)
 - Safe Steps (1)

*Does not include referrals made to Salvation Army Crossroads FV worker

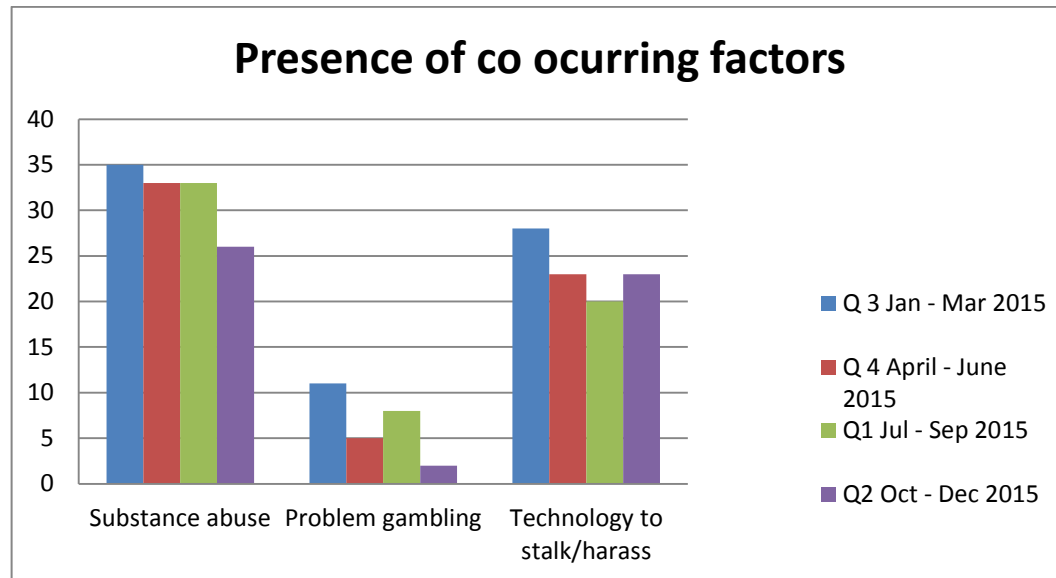
TYPE OF ABUSE REPORTED



- 80% of cases (70) involved multiple forms of abuse. Each client disclosed an average of 2.6 types of abuse. In one case the client did not disclose the forms of violence present.
- This quarter emotional/psychological abuse was present in 80% of cases. Verbal abuse was present in 72% of cases and physical abuse in 60% of cases. There were no reports of financial abuse in this quarter.
- Of the cases involving only a single type of abuse (19%), physical was the most prevalent (47% or 9 cases), followed by emotional/psychological (7 cases) and 1 case of verbal abuse.
- 54% of the cases (47) had previously contacted police and 54% (47 cases) had applied for an intervention order. Of those that had reported to police, 87% (41) had sought an intervention order. Intervention orders were sought in 6% of cases (6) without prior police involvement.
- Over half (52%) of cases reported that children had witnessed the violence (46).

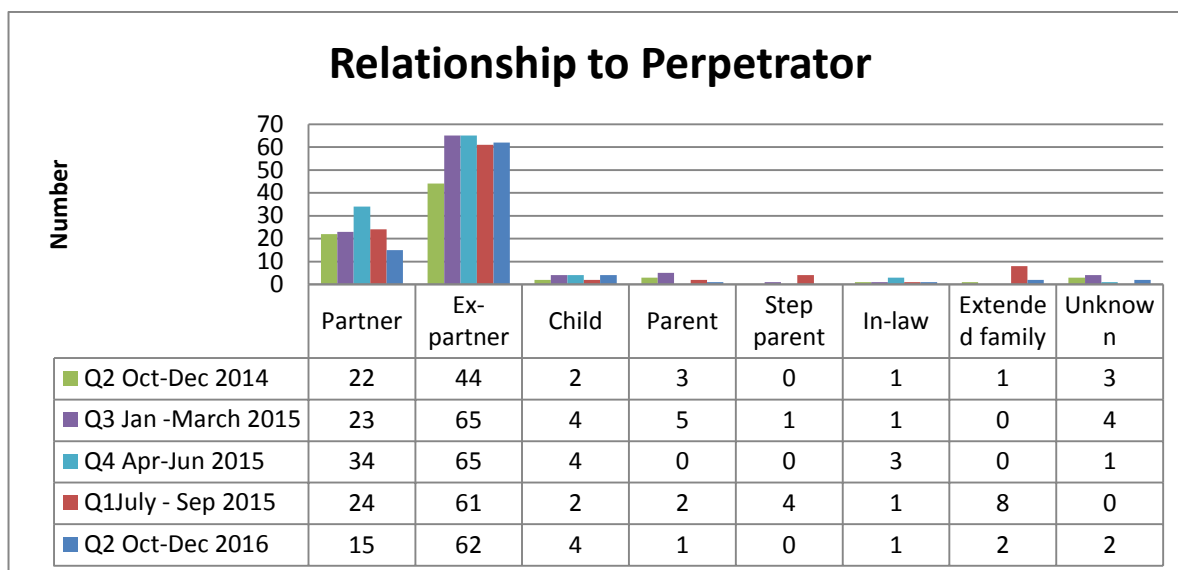
PREVALENCE OF CO OCCURRING FACTORS

Midway through Q2 (2014), data collection forms were adjusted to include whether substance abuse, problem gambling, and technology used to stalk/harass were disclosed.



- In this quarter co occurring factors were present in 48% of cases.
 - Substance abuse was present in 26 cases (30%), or 1 in 3 cases
 - Problem gambling was present in 2 cases (2%)
 - Technology was used to stalk/harass in 23 cases (26%), or 1 in 4 cases
- In 10% of cases (9) there were multiple co occurring factors present. In 38% of cases (33) there was one co occurring factor and in 51% of cases (45) there were no co occurring factors disclosed.
- Substance abuse was present in 8 of 9 (89%) cases where there were multiple co-occurring factors.

RELATIONSHIP OF INDIVIDUAL TO PERPETRATOR



	Oct – Dec 2015	July – Sep 2015	Apr – June 2015	Jan-March 2015	Oct-Dec 2014	July-Sep 2014
		Q1	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1
Ex-partner	71%	60%	61%	63%	58%	63%
Partner	17%	24%	32%	22%	29%	23%
Extended family	2%	8%	0%	0%	1%	4%
Step parent	0%	4%	0%	1%	0%	1%
Parent	1%	2%	0%	5%	4%	3%
Child	5%	2%	4%	4%	3%	1%
In-law	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	3%
Not specified	3%	0%	1%	4%	4%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

- Overwhelmingly, perpetrators were recorded to be ex-partners. This quarter 71% of cases involved ex-partners. 17% of cases involved current partners. The number of extended family members decreased this quarter down from 8% to 2%.
- 72% (63) of cases reported that the violence occurred during their relationship.
- 42% of cases reported the violence was still occurring at the time of contact with WCC, on par with the 43% recorded in the previous quarter.
- 16% of cases reported the violence started after the relationship ended.

CLIENT PROFILE

COUNTRY OF BIRTH

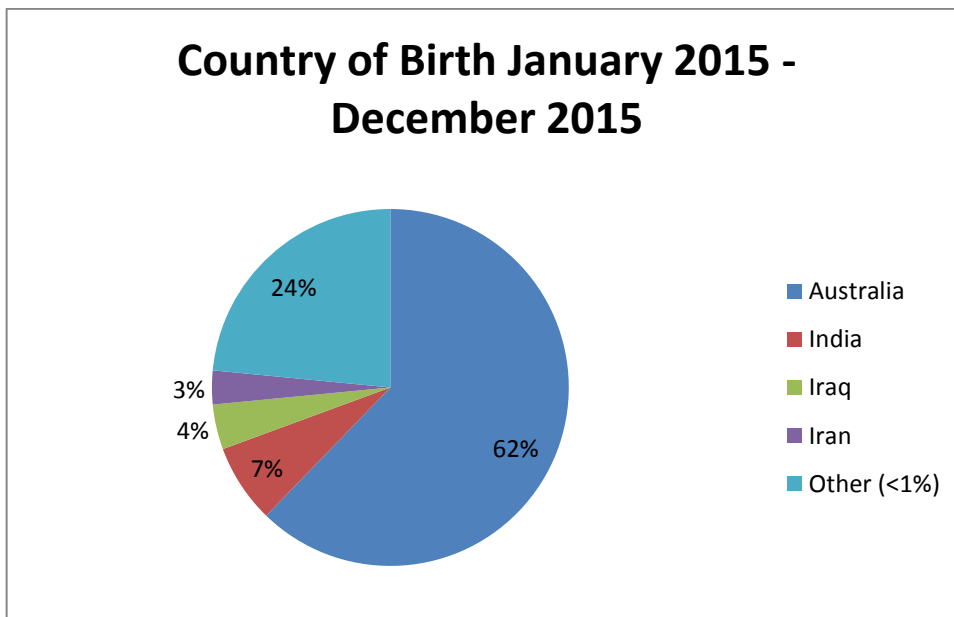
Born in Australia

- This quarter 67% of clients presenting to WCC for family violence assistance were born in Australia.
- This quarter no clients identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

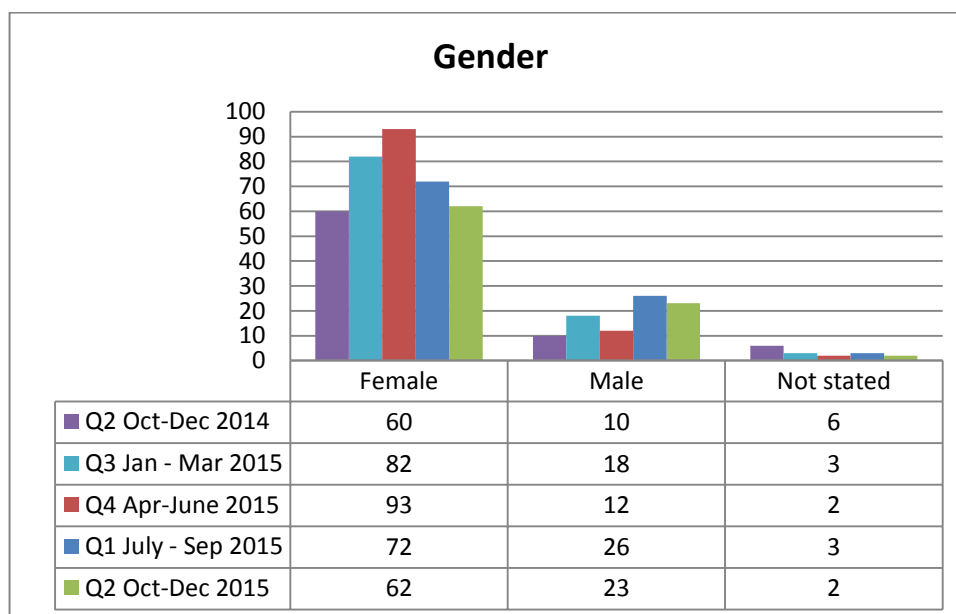
Top 5 Countries by Birth

Q2 Oct – Dec 2015	Q1 July – Sep 2015	Q4 Apr-Jun 2015	Q3 Jan-Mar 2015
Australia (67%)	Australia (65%)	Australia (56%)	Australia (61%)
India (5%)	India (6%)	India (9%)	Iran, Iraq (4%)
Iran, Fiji, Macedonia (3%)	Iran (3%)	Iraq (7%)	India (3%)
Iraq, Greece (2 %)	Iraq, Lebanon, Malaysia and Turkey (all 2%)	Iran (5%)	Macedonia, Lebanon (both 2%)

- 33% of cases (29) involved people who were born outside of Australia.
- Of those born outside of Australia, 62% spoke a language other than English at home.
- In this quarter WCC averaged 6 clients per month who were born outside of Australia and spoke a language other than English at home.
- 1 case required interpreting.

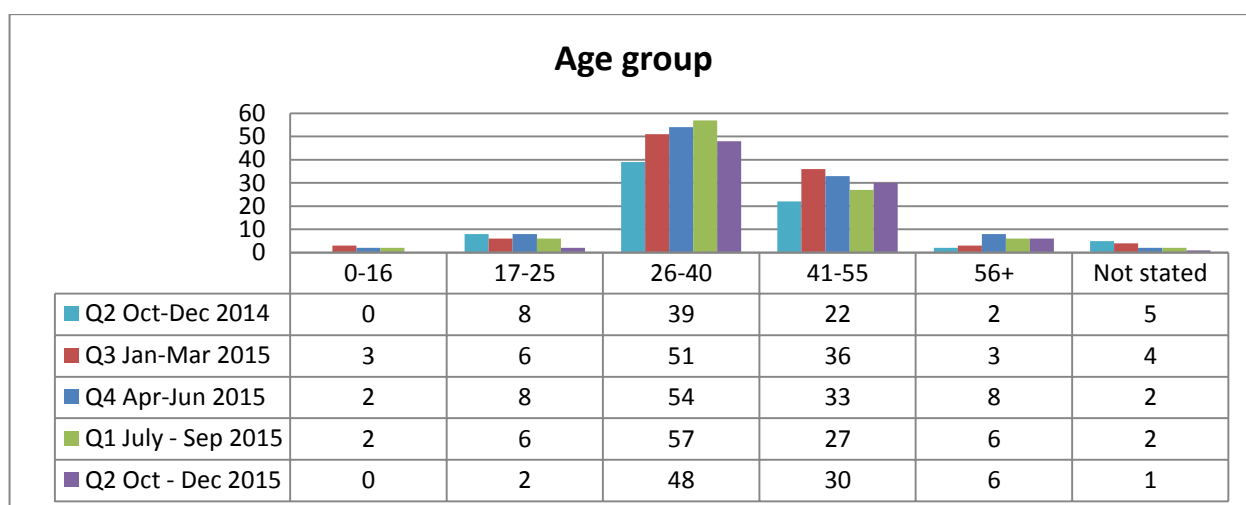


GENDER



- This quarter saw 23 men presenting similar to the 26 men that presented last quarter.
- 100% of 62 females identified as victim. 68% of these women identified their ex partner as the perpetrator and 20% their current partner.
- 9 men identified as victims, 10 men identified as perpetrators and 4 men identified as victim and perpetrator.
- Of the men who identified as victim, perpetrators included ex partners (7), extended family (1), and child (2).
- No females identified as perpetrator.

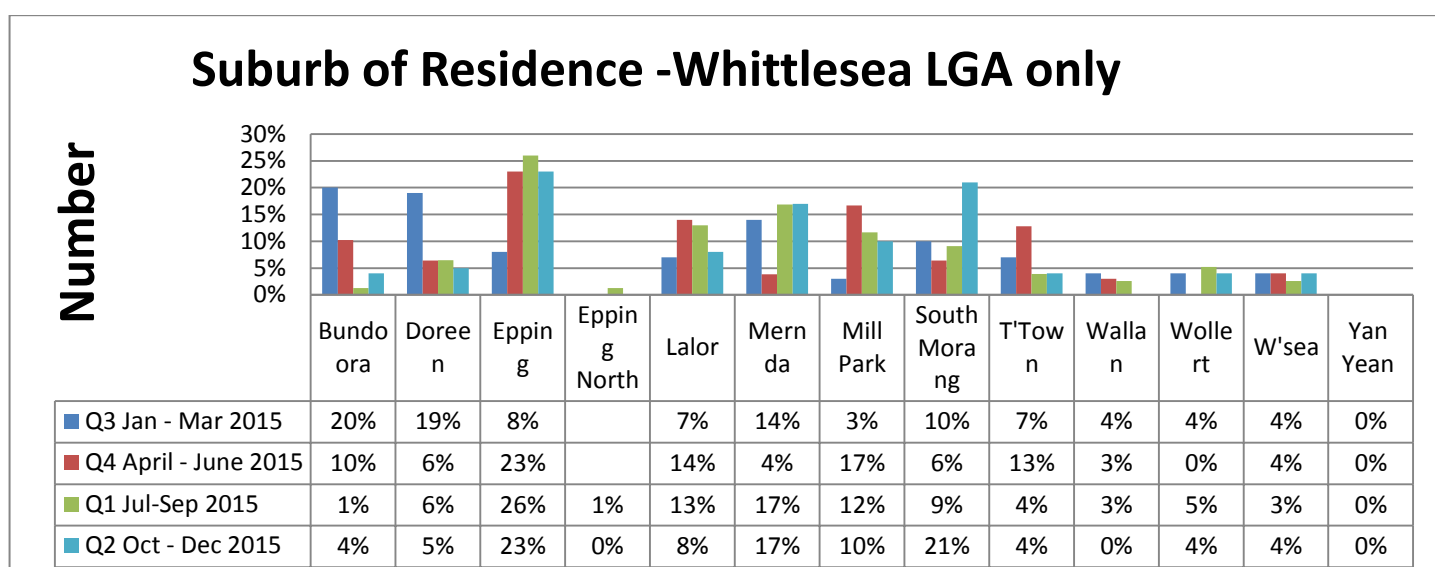
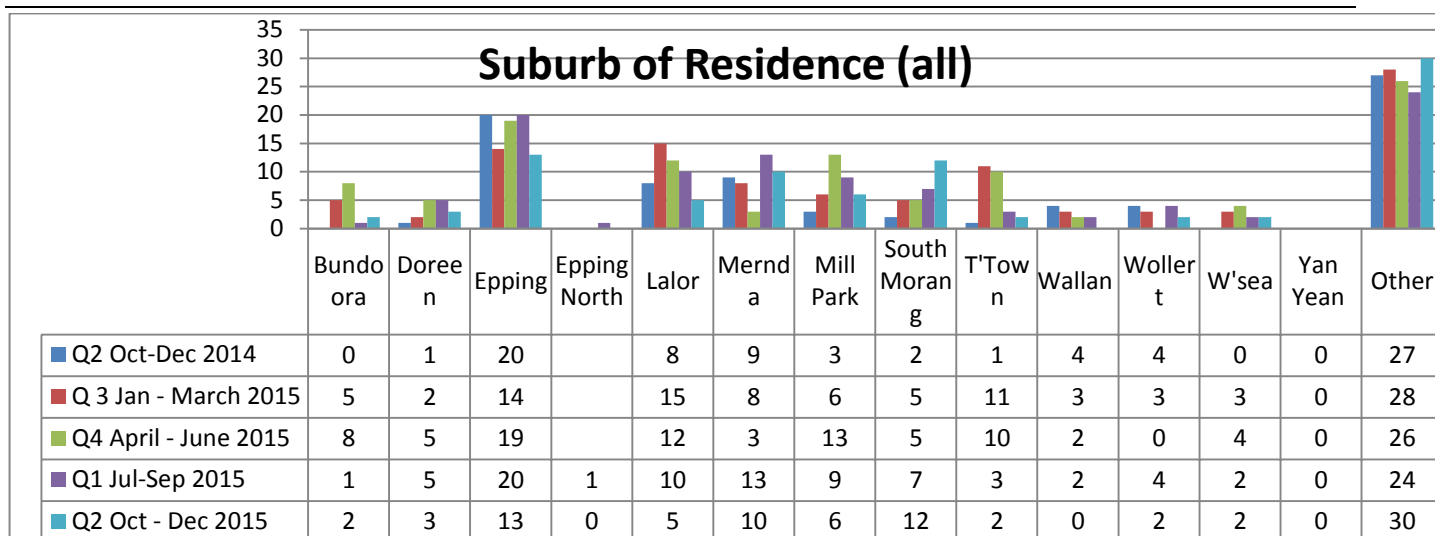
AGE GROUP



	Oct – Dec 2015	July – Sep 2015	Apr-June 2015	Jan-Mar 2015	Oct-Dec 2014
	Q2	Q1	Q4	Q3	Q2
0-16	0%	2%	2%	3%	0%
17-25	2%	6%	8%	6%	11%
26-40	56%	57%	52%	49%	51%
41-55	34%	27%	32%	35%	29%
56+	6%	6%	8%	3%	3%
Not stated	1%	2%	2%	4%	7%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

- The 26-40 age group had the highest representation with more than half of all incidents (48 cases).
- 6% of clients had no means of financial support.
- 64% of clients were dependent on a pension or benefit.
- 29% of clients had a wage.
- Information about financial situation was unavailable in 2% of cases.

SUBURB OF RESIDENCE



- The majority of people – 65% – live within the City of Whittlesea.
- 34% came from outside Whittlesea, including Greensborough, Preston and Diamond Creek.
- Epping, South Morang and Mernda represented the largest proportion of contacts within the Whittlesea LGA at 23%, 21% and 17% respectively.
- The suburbs of South Morang, Doreen and Mernda make up approximately 30% of the Whittlesea population. 29% of cases within the Whittlesea LGA were from these areas.
- The suburbs of Lalor, Epping, Epping North, Thomastown and Mill Park make up 56% of the Whittlesea population. 30% of cases were from these areas.

Discussion:

This quarter 87 people reported family violence to WCC. This is a decrease (14 cases) from the previous quarter, however continues the overall upward trend seen since reporting began. In the previous three quarters rates have remained consistently above 100 reports per quarter. The sudden decrease may reflect the fact no FV outreach worker attended WCC across October and in the rest of the quarter attended only 5 half days for appointments. We will monitor this in the next quarter.

This quarter saw a marked drop in the number of people experiencing financial abuse (zero cases). In the previous quarter 34 cases of financial abuse were reported. Consultation with staff suggests this may be due to human error or that this particular type of abuse may be less likely to be disclosed during appointments. We will follow this up in the next few quarters.

This quarter saw a marked increase (34%) in the number of cases that reside outside of the Whittlesea LGA. While WCLS often receives (and makes) referrals for clients when there is a conflict (ie the other party has already seen the legal service), there may be other factors influencing this:

- The recent merging – and relocation – of Moreland Community Legal Centre and Broadmeadows Community Legal Service into one legal service now known as the Northern Community Legal Centre.
- Referrals from West Heidelberg CLC who do not handle family law cases
- Casework guidelines at many of the surrounding CLCs have tightened whereas this has not happened at WCLS. This may have resulted in other CLCs referring on more clients to WCLS.

Discussion from previous quarter:

- Last quarter there was a jump in clients from Mernda (13). This quarter, the number stayed consistent at 10. In the future we expect to see a rise in cases from Mernda as WCLS commences outreach at the Jindi community centre in Mernda from June 2016.
- This quarter saw a consistent number of men reporting family violence to the service (23 compared to 26 last quarter). Of the 23 male clients who reported family violence to WCC this quarter, 9 identified as victims, 10 as perpetrator, and 4 as both.