



WHITTLESEA COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

FAMILY VIOLENCE MONITOR

DATA FROM PERIOD

January 1 – March 31 2016

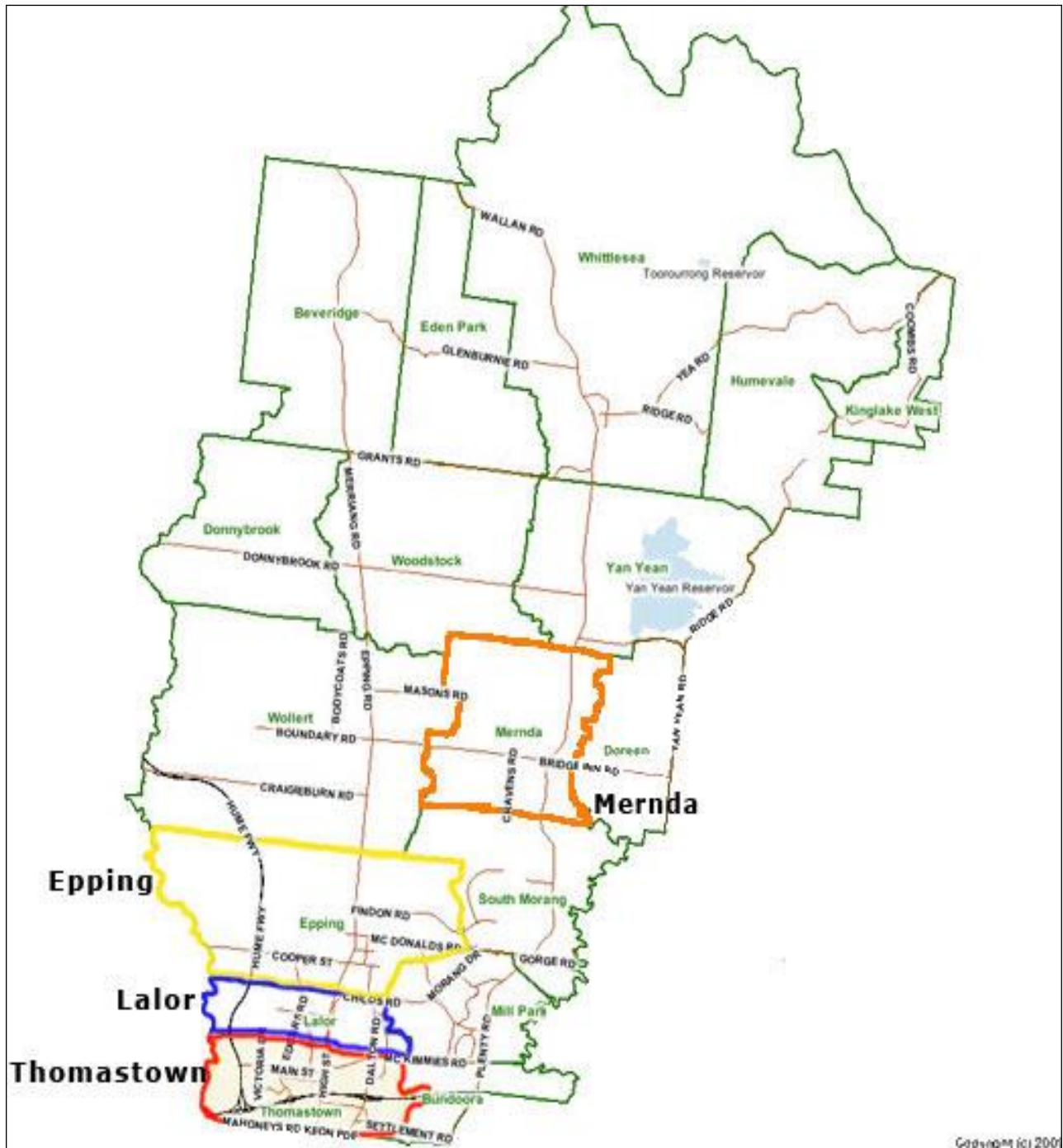
Contents

THIS EDITION

Quarter 3 (Q3)	January 1 – March 31 2016
Quarter 2 (Q2)	October 1 – December 31 2014
Quarter 1 (Q1)	July 1 – September 31 2015
Quarter 4 (Q4)	April 1 – June 30 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 fifteenth report focuses on family violence (FV) incidents reported at Whittlesea Community Connections (WCC) during January 1 – March 31 2016 (Q3). Included is data collected over a 12 month period from April 1st 2015 – March 31st 2016. 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 128 new people presented to WCC for family violence.
- There were 60 working days this quarter. This equates to 2.1 cases presenting at WCC per working day.
- Whittlesea Community Legal Service (105 cases) continues to receive the highest number of incidents (80%), followed by the FV outreach worker (7), casework (7), emergency relief (6), community information (2) and settlement (1).
- In nearly half of all cases (61) this was the first contact with a support agency.
- 55% of the cases (71) had contacted police and 56% (73 cases) had applied for an intervention order.
- A majority of cases, 88% (115) involved multiple forms of abuse. Each client disclosed an average of 2.9 types of abuse.
- In 48% of cases it was reported that children had witnessed the violence.
- Overwhelmingly, perpetrators were recorded to be ex-partners. This quarter 66% of cases involved ex-partners. 24% of cases involved current partners.
- 80% of cases reported that the violence occurred during their relationship
- 32% of cases involved people who were born outside of Australia. Of those born outside of Australia, 63% spoke a language other than English at home
- 9 cases required interpreters.
- 98% of females identified as victim. 68% of these women identified their ex partner as the perpetrator and 24% their current partner
- 6 men identified as victims, 11 men identified as perpetrator and 3 men identified as both victim and perpetrator.
- 4 females identified as perpetrator, 2 of whom identified as both victim and perpetrator.
- The 26-40 age group had the highest representation with more than half of all incidents (75 cases).
- The majority of people – 73% – live within the City of Whittlesea.
- Epping, Thomastown, Mernda and Mill Park represented the largest proportion of contacts within the Whittlesea LGA at 26%, 17%, 15% and 14% respectively.
- Co-occurring factors were present in nearly half (45%) of all cases.
 - Substance abuse was present in 48 cases (37%), or 1 in 3 cases
 - Technology was used to stalk/harass in 20 cases (15%), or 1 in 7 cases
 - Problem gambling was present in 9 cases (7%)

SUMMARY SALVATION ARMY CROSSROADS WORKER

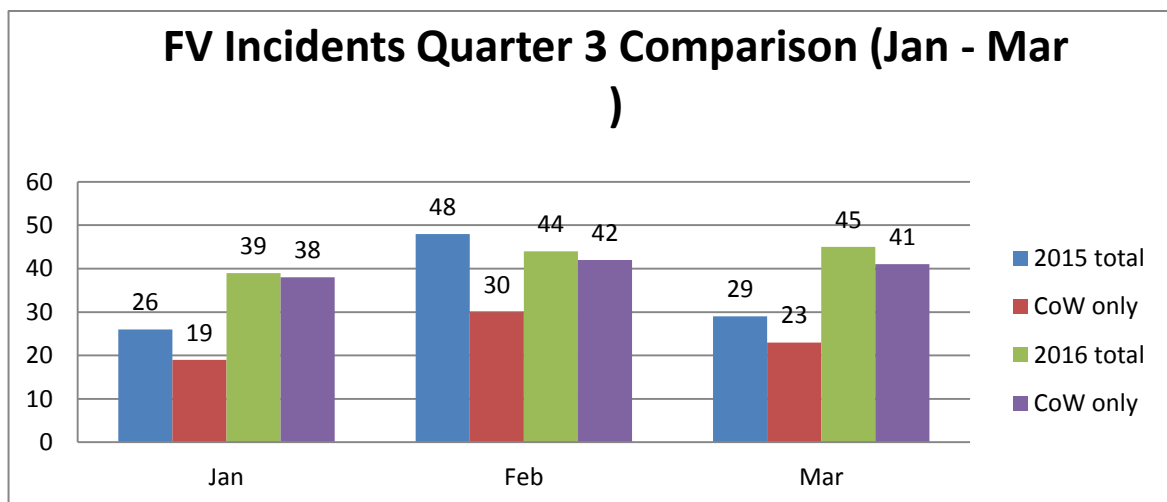
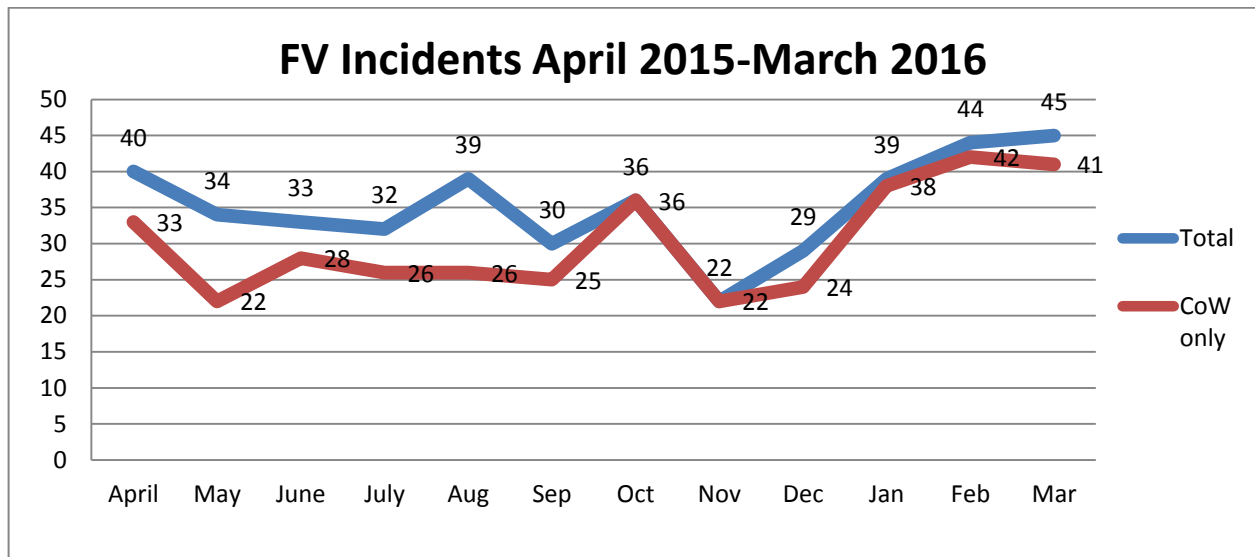
A worker from Salvation Army Crossroads has been providing specialist family violence support at Whittlesea Community Connections (WCC) since November 2013. The worker attends WCC each Tuesday from 9:30am-1:30pm, providing support to clients who are referred through the various programs and projects 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 (January – March 2016)	Year (April 2015 - March 2016)
Half-days attended	12	31
Consultations provided	9	23
New clients	7	21
Follow up	2	2
Number of female clients	7 (100%)	23 (100%)
Number of female clients identifying as victim	7 (100%)	23(100%)
Violence still occurring	6	19 (82%)
Clients from outside of Australia	1	10 (43%) Including: Iran (8%) India (8%)
Interpreters required	0	1
Largest proportion of clients came from	Epping	Epping (22%)

There were seven new clients in this quarter and 2 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 who could not attend their scheduled appointments.

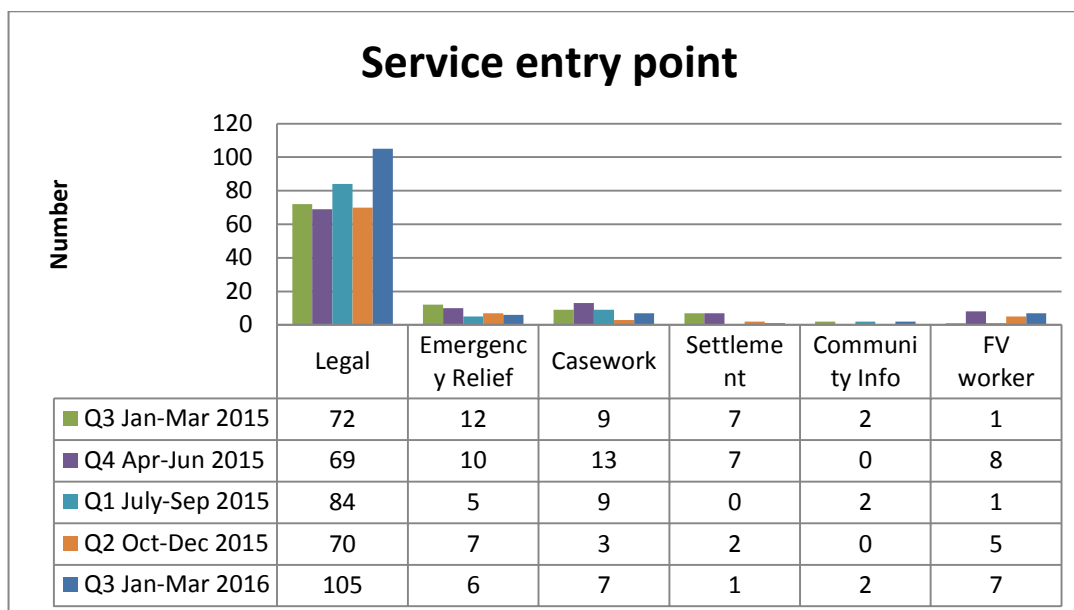
ABUSE PROFILE

FV INCIDENTS



- This quarter, 128 new people presented to WCC for family violence. This is an increase of 41 incidents since the last quarter – a 50% increase. It was a 21% increase compared with the equivalent 2015 quarter (103).
- In 2015-2016 (April - Mar) 423 new people presented to WCC for family violence; more than one per working day. This is a 15% increase from 2014/2015 (April - Mar) (361).
- This quarter there was an average of 41 clients per month.
- There were 60 working days this quarter. This equates to 2 cases presenting at WCC per working day. March had the highest number of reported cases (45), with over 2 cases per working day (2.1).

SERVICE ENTRY POINT



	Jan-Mar 2016	Oct-Dec 2015	July-Sep 2015	Apr – Jun 2015	Jan- Mar 2015
	Q3	Q2	Q1	Q4	Q3
Legal	82%	80%	83%	65%	70%
Casework	5%	4%	9%	12%	9%
Emergency Relief	5%	8%	5%	9%	12%
Community Info	2%	0%	2%	0%	1%
FV worker	5%	6%	1%	7%	2%
Settlement	1%	2%	0%	7%	6%

- Whittlesea Community Legal Service (105 cases) continues to receive the highest number of incidents, followed by the FV worker (7), casework (7), emergency relief (6), community information (2) and settlement (1).
- In more than half of all cases (61) this was the first contact with a support agency.
- 82% of clients (106 cases) had experienced repeated incidents of family violence before contacting our service. Of these, over half (67 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 64 self-referrals (49%) and 41 external referrals (32%), compared with 46% self-referrals and 46% external referrals for the previous quarter. This quarter 11% were internally referred, compared with 14% last quarter, and 7% left blank.

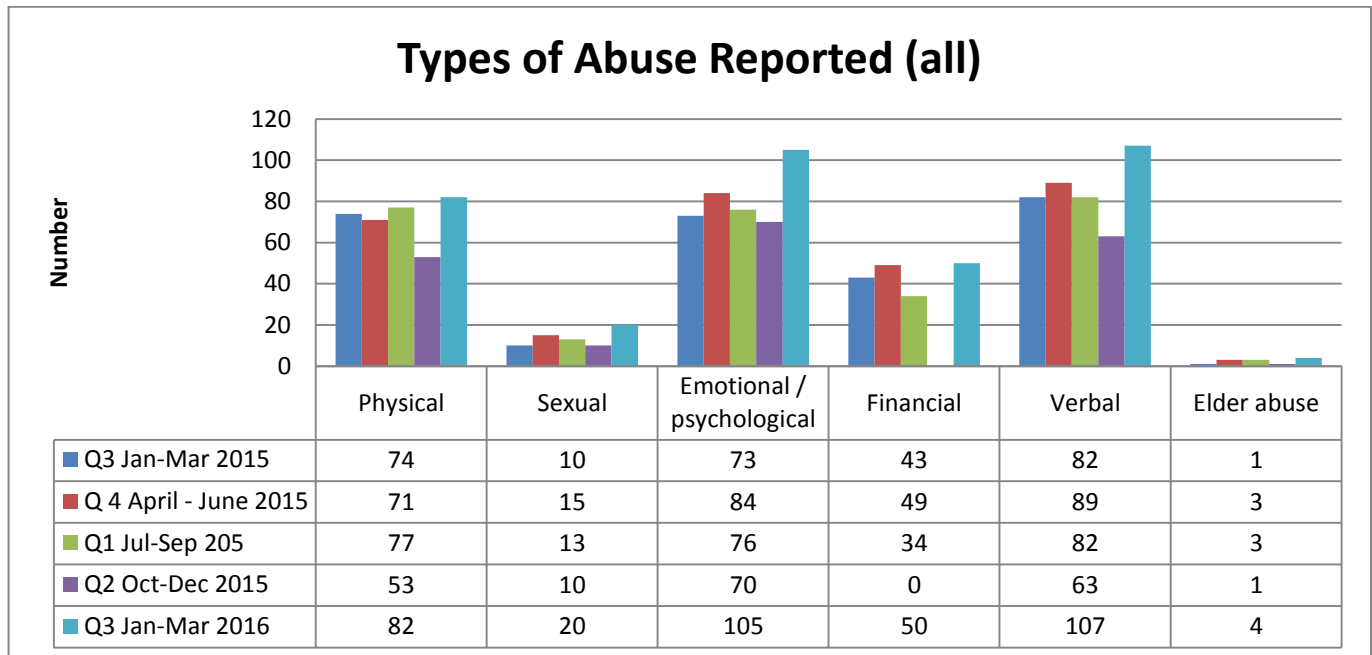
- The 41 external referrals were made up of:
 - 19 referrals from Greensborough Family Relationship Centre (where WCC has an outreach lawyer)
 - 4 referrals from Centrelink
 - 3 referrals from Police
 - 2 referrals from Berry Street Northern Family and Domestic Violence Service
 - 1 referral Anglicare
 - 1 referrals from Catholic Care
 - 1 referral from court
 - 1 referral from City of Whittlesea
 - 1 referral from Department of Justice
 - 1 referral from Kildonan
 - 1 referral from Laurimar Community Centre
 - 1 referrals from Victoria Legal Aid
 - 1 referral from private lawyers
 - 1 referral from West Heidelberg CLC
 - 1 referral from Women's Legal Service

- 83% of self-referrals had experienced multiple incidents of violence, and 43% 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)
 - Berry Street (12)
 - Womens Legal Service (9)
 - Private solicitor (9)
 - Victoria Legal Aid (4)
 - Darebin CLC (3)
 - Greensborough Family Relationship Centre (2)
 - InTouch (2)
 - HHS (1)
 - St Vincent DePaul / Good Shephard (1)
 - Senior Rights (1)
 - North East Housing (1)
 - Kildonan Uniting Care (1)
 - Anglicare (1)

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

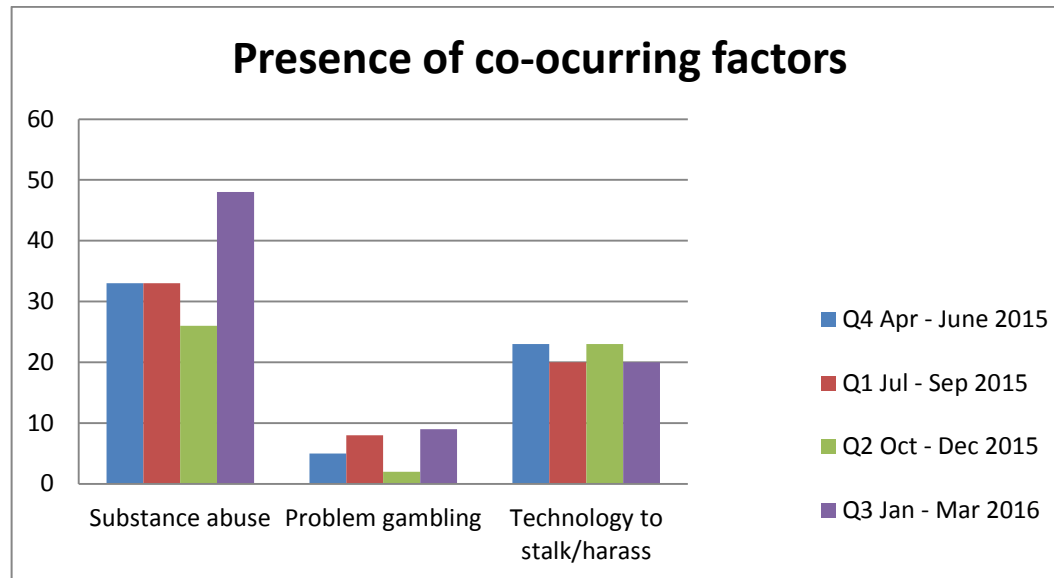
TYPE OF ABUSE REPORTED



- 88% of cases (114) involved multiple forms of abuse. Each client disclosed an average of 2.9 types of abuse.
- In two cases the client did not disclose the forms of violence present.
- This quarter verbal abuse was present in 84% of cases. Emotional/psychological abuse was present in 82% of cases and physical abuse in 64% of cases. Financial abuse was present in 40% of cases.
- Of the cases involving only a single type of abuse (10%), physical was the most prevalent (38% or 5 cases), followed by verbal (4 cases) and emotional/psychological abuse (3 cases) and financial abuse present in (1 case).
- 55% of the cases (71) had contacted police and 56% (73 cases) had applied for an intervention order. Of those that reported to police, 86% (62) sought an intervention order. Intervention orders were sought in 15% of cases (11) without prior police involvement.
- One in two cases reported that children had witnessed the violence (62).

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.

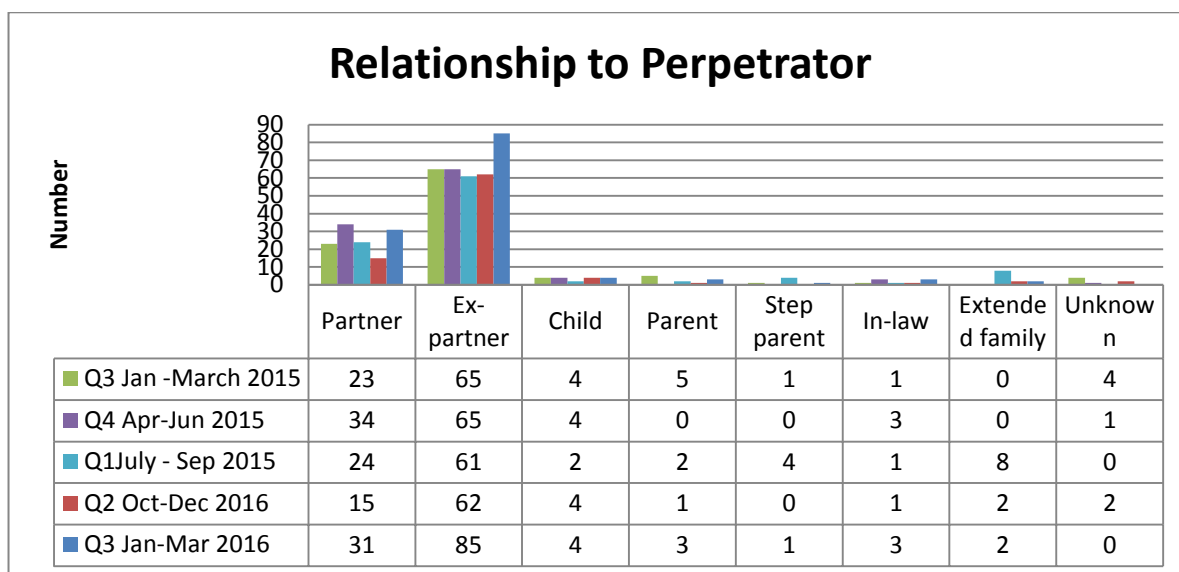


- In this quarter co occurring factors were present in 45% of cases.
 - Substance abuse was present in 48 cases (37%), or 1 in 3 cases
 - Technology was used to stalk/harass in 20 cases (15%), or 1 in 7 cases
 - Problem gambling was present in 9 cases (7%)

- In 11% of cases (14) there were multiple co occurring factors present. In 34% of cases (45) there was one co occurring factor and in 54% of cases (71) there were no co occurring factors disclosed.

- Substance abuse was present in 13 of 14 (93%) cases where there were multiple co-occurring factors.

RELATIONSHIP OF INDIVIDUAL TO PERPETRATOR



	Jan – Mar 2016	Oct – Dec 2015	July – Sep 2015	Apr – June 2015	Jan-March 2015	Oct-Dec 2014
	Q3	Q2	Q1	Q4	Q3	Q2
Ex-partner	66%	71%	60%	61%	63%	58%
Partner	24%	17%	24%	32%	22%	29%
Extended family	2%	2%	8%	0%	0%	1%
Step parent	1%	0%	4%	0%	1%	0%
Parent	2%	1%	2%	0%	5%	4%
Child	3%	5%	2%	4%	4%	3%
In-law	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%
Not specified	0%	3%	0%	1%	4%	4%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

- Overwhelmingly, perpetrators were recorded to be ex-partners. This quarter 66% of cases involved ex-partners. 24% of cases involved current partners. We also saw a decrease in the number of child perpetrators this quarter down from 5% last quarter to 3% in this quarter.
- 80% (102) of cases reported that the violence occurred during their relationship.
- 52% of cases reported the violence was still occurring at the time of contact with WCC, an increase from 42% in the previous quarter.
- 11% reported the violence started after the relationship ended.

CLIENT PROFILE

COUNTRY OF BIRTH

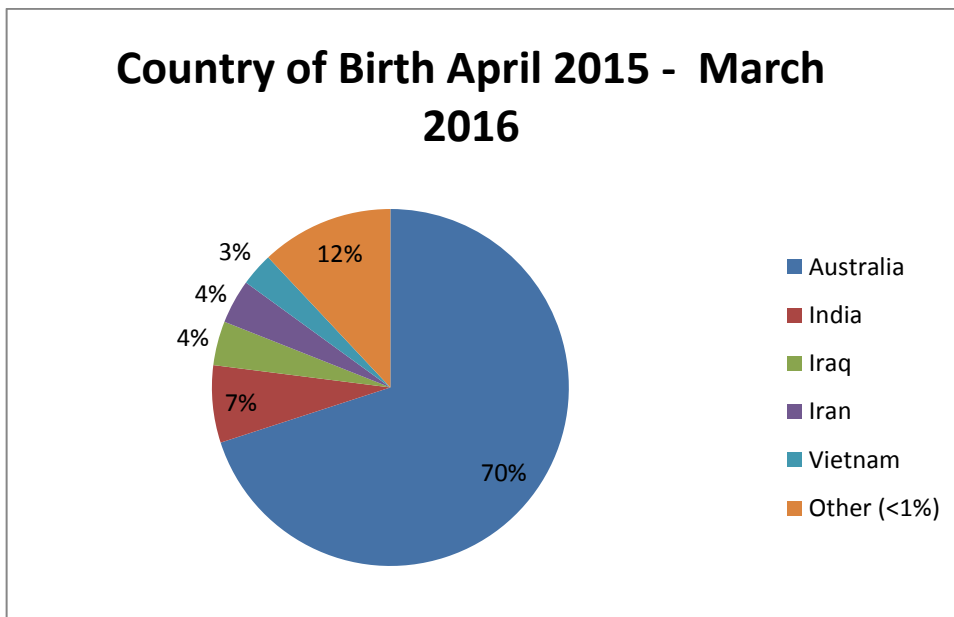
Born in Australia

- This quarter 68% of clients presenting to WCC for family violence assistance were born in Australia.
- This quarter no clients identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

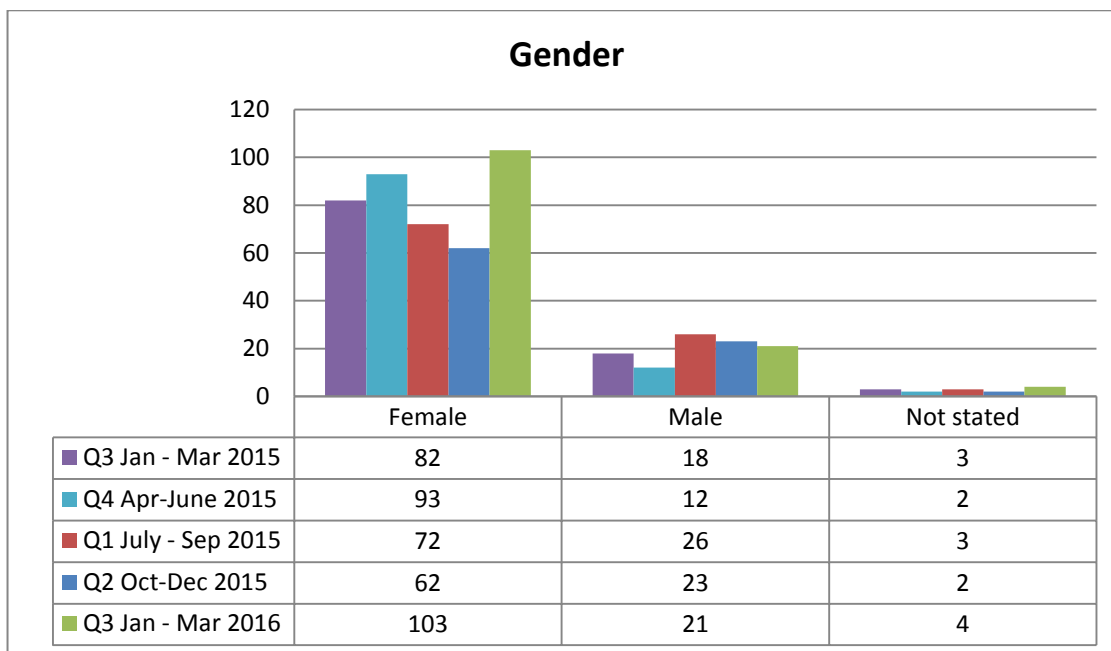
Top 5 Countries by Birth

Q3 Jan – Mar 2016	Q2 Oct – Dec 2015	Q1 July – Sep 2015	Q4 Apr-Jun 2015
Australia (68%)	Australia (67%)	Australia (65%)	Australia (56%)
India (5%)	India (6%)	India (6%)	India (9%)
Iran and Iraq (4%)	Iran (3%)	Iran (3%)	Iraq (7%)
Vietnam (3%)	Iraq, Lebanon, Malaysia and Turkey all (2%)	Iraq, Lebanon, Malaysia and Turkey (all 2%)	Iran (5%)

- 32% of cases (41) involved people who were born outside of Australia.
- Of those born outside of Australia, 63% spoke a language other than English at home.
- In this quarter WCC averaged 8 clients per month who were born outside of Australia and spoke a language other than English at home.
- 9 cases required interpreting.

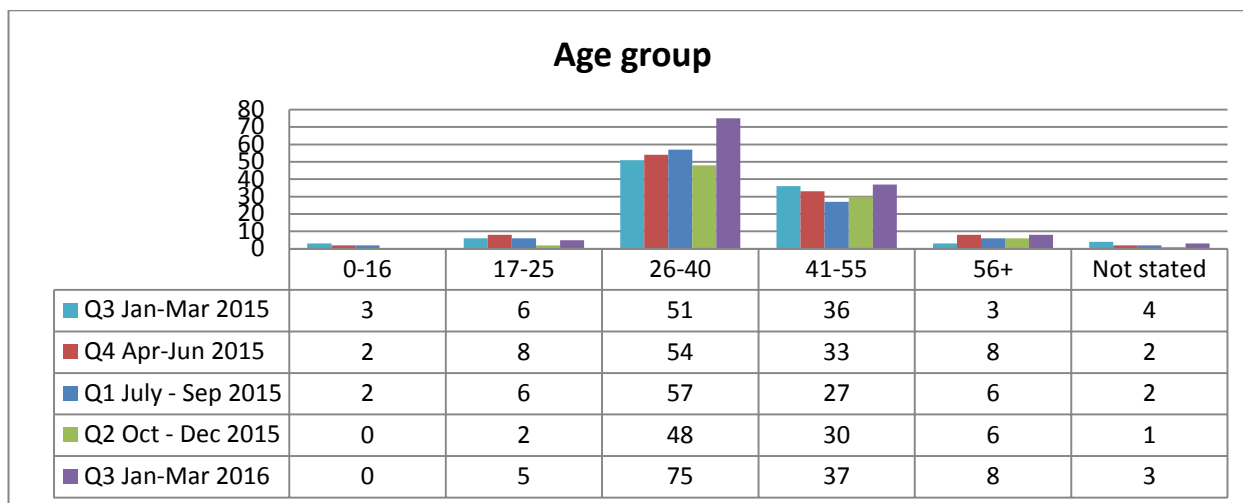


GENDER



- 98% of females identified as victim. 68% of these women identified their ex partner as the perpetrator and 1% their current partner.
- This quarter saw 21 men presenting similar to the 23 men that presented last quarter.
- 6 men identified as victims, 11 men identified as perpetrators, 3 men identified as victim and perpetrator and one man didn't identify as either. .
- Of the men who identified as victim, perpetrators included ex partners (4), extended family (1), and partners (1).
- 4 females identified as perpetrator, 2 of these women identifying as both victim and perpetrator.

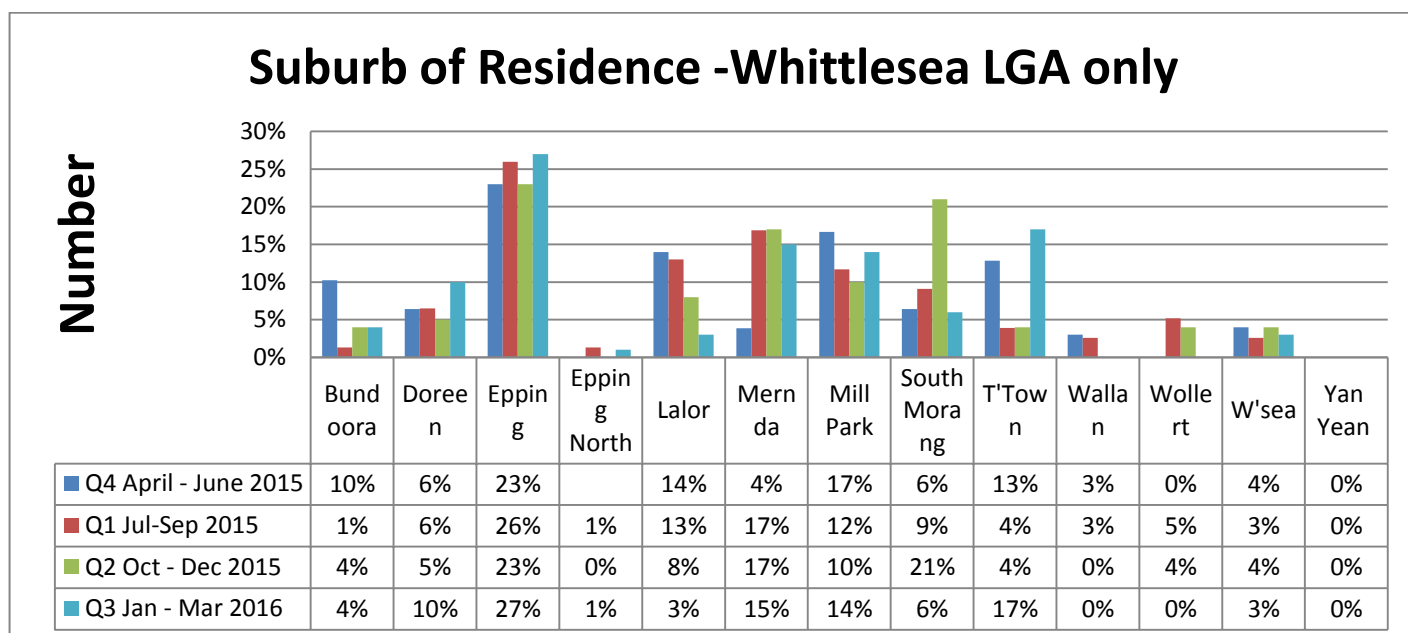
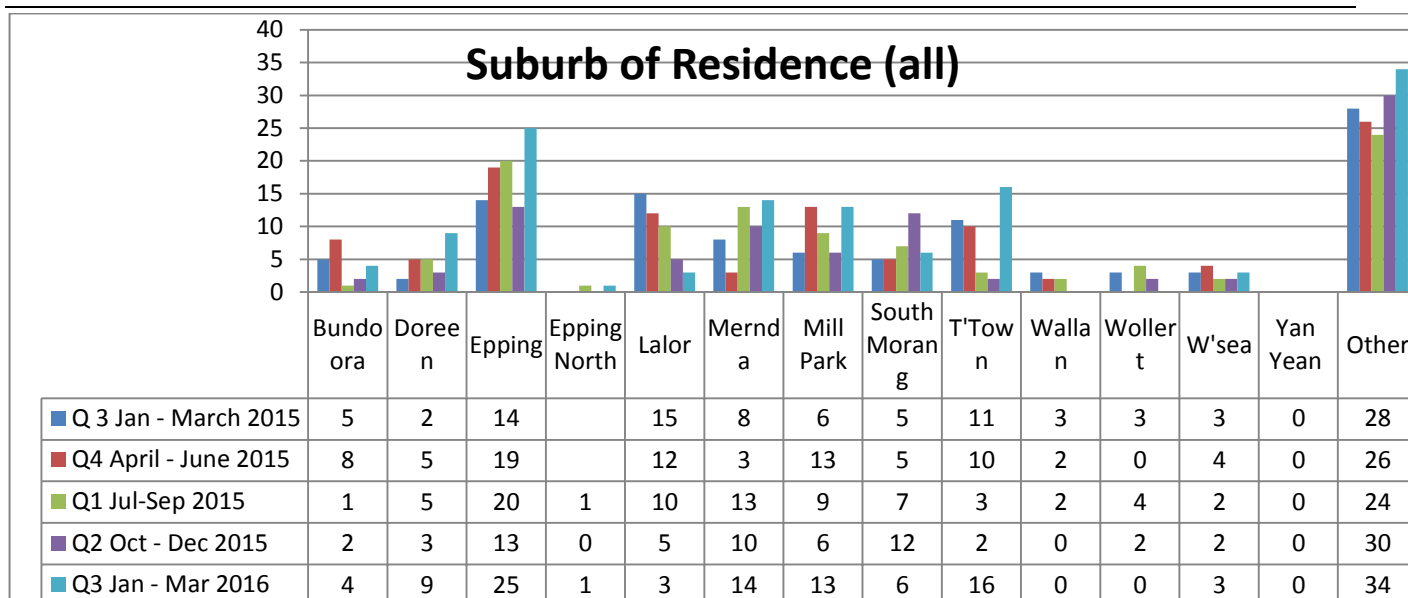
AGE GROUP



	Jan – Mar 2016	Oct – Dec 2015	July – Sep 2015	Apr-June 2015	Jan-Mar 2015
	Q3	Q2	Q1	Q4	Q3
0-16	0%	0%	2%	2%	3%
17-25	4%	2%	6%	8%	6%
26-40	59%	56%	57%	52%	49%
41-55	29%	34%	27%	32%	35%
56+	6%	6%	6%	8%	3%
Not stated	2%	1%	2%	2%	4%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

- The 26-40 age group had the highest representation with more than half of all incidents (75 cases).
- 8% of clients had no means of financial support.
- 67% of clients were dependent on a pension or benefit.
- 20% of clients had a wage.
- Information about financial situation was unavailable in 2% of cases.

SUBURB OF RESIDENCE



- The majority of people – 73% – live within the City of Whittlesea.
- 27% came from outside Whittlesea, including Greensborough, Reservoir Cragieburn and Yallambie
- Epping, Thomastown, Mernda and Mill Park represented the largest proportion of contacts within the Whittlesea LGA at 26%, 17%, 15% and 14% respectively.
- The suburbs of South Morang, Doreen and Mernda make up approximately 30% of the Whittlesea population. 28% 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. 59% of cases were from these areas.

Discussion:

This quarter 128 people reported family violence to WCC. This is nearly a 50% increase the previous quarter (87 cases). This increase is likely due to the establishment of a FV Unit within the legal service in December 2015. In the previous quarter, the FV Unit saw 31% of legal clients while this quarter it increased to 41%. Early this quarter a media release/article in the local paper advertised the service and there has been an increase in approaches to the legal service. Additionally, there was an increase in clients from our outreach lawyer this quarter (3% to 11%). A proportion of these clients were from the growth areas and the lawyer suggested increased awareness of the outreach positions may mean more people are accessing support.

There has also been an increase in cases where substance abuse has been a co-occurring factor from 26 reports last quarter to 48 reports this quarter. This quarter substance abuse was present in 13 of the 14 cases (93%) cases where multiple co occurring factors. Discussion with staff indicate there had been a noticeable spike this quarter in people reporting alcohol as a co-occurring factor.

Discussion from previous quarter:

The previous quarter saw a marked decrease in identification of financial abuse (zero cases). This quarter financial abuse cases returned to similar levels from previous quarters (50 cases). This suggests that human error could be responsible for the previous quarterly statistic.

The number of people from outside the Whittlesea LGA continues to remain high (27% this quarter, 34% last quarter). This supports earlier indications that an increase in referrals from other community legal centres due to changes in casework guidelines may be behind this.