



WHITTLESEA COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

FAMILY VIOLENCE MONITOR

DATA FROM PERIOD

January 1 – March 31 2015

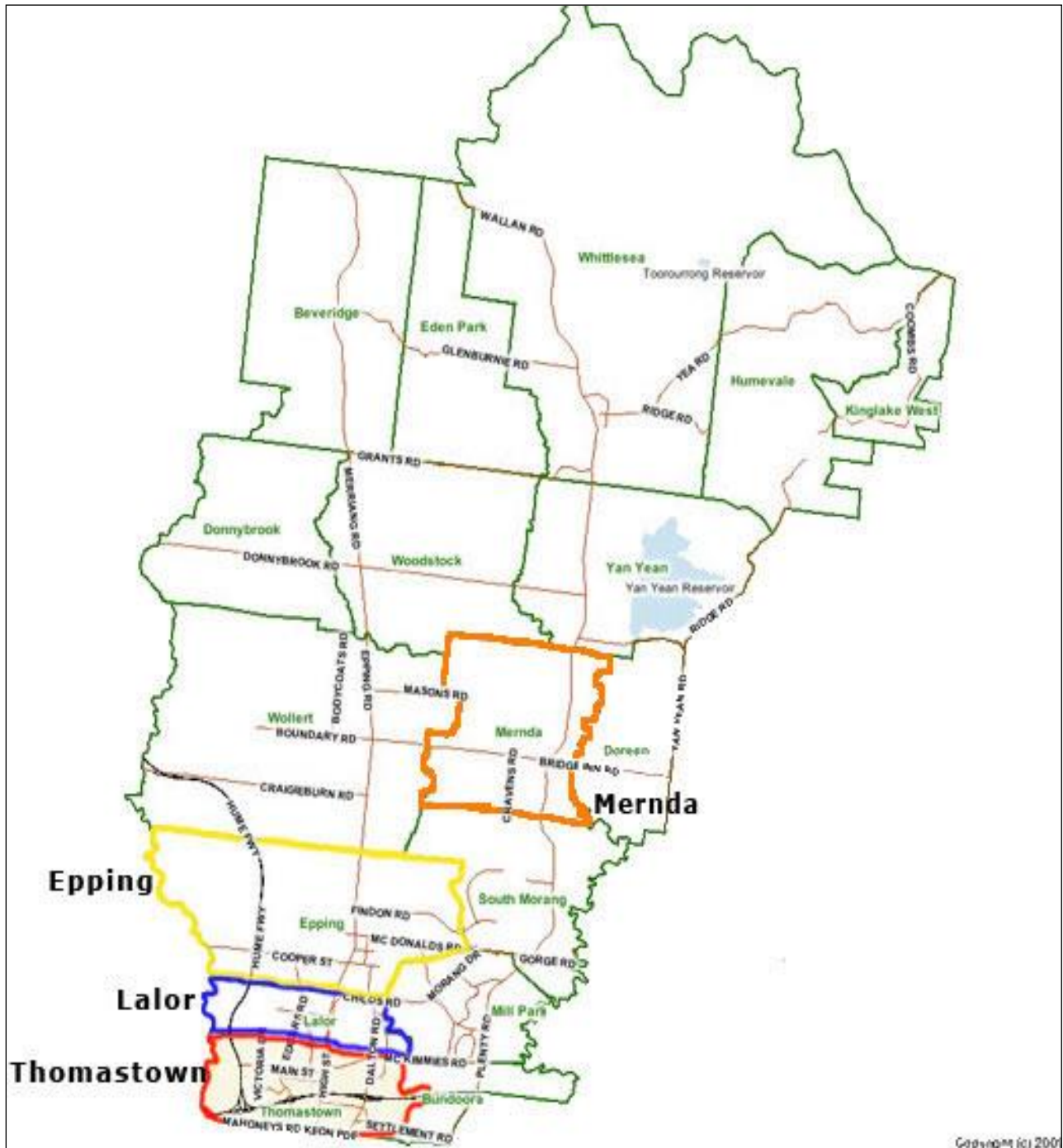
Contents

THIS EDITION

Quarter 1 (Q1)	January 1 – March 31 2015
Quarter 4 (Q4)	April 1 – June 30 2014
Quarter 3 (Q3)	July 1 – September 31 2014
Quarter 2 (Q2)	October 1 – December 31 2014

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>
Outreach Worker	page 5	
<i>Abuse profile</i>		
FV incidents	page 6	
Service entry point	page 7	
Type of abuse	page 9	
Prevalence of co occurring factors	Page 10	
Relationship of individual to perpetrator	page 11	
<i>Client profile</i>		
Country of birth	page 12	
Gender	page 13	
Age	page 14	
Suburb of residence	page 15	
<i>Discussion</i>		
Discussion from this quarter	page 16	
Discussion from previous quarter	page 17	

City of Whittlesea



Summary

This eleventh report focuses on family violence (FV) incidents reported at Whittlesea Community Connections (WCC) during January to March 2015 (Q3). Included is data collected over a 12 month period from April 1st 2014 to March 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, 103 new people presented to WCC for family violence.
- There were 59 working days. This equates to close to 2 cases presenting at WCC per working day.
- February had the highest number of reported cases (48).
- Whittlesea Community Legal Service (72 cases) continues to receive the highest number of incidents, followed by emergency relief (12), casework (9) and settlement (7).
- In 47% of cases (48) this was the first contact with a support agency.
- 44% of the cases (45) had contacted police and 42% (43 cases) had applied for an intervention order.
- A majority of cases (85%) involved multiple forms of abuse. Each client disclosed an average of 2.7 types of abuse.
- 38 cases reported that children had witnessed the violence (37%).
- Overwhelmingly, perpetrators were recorded to be ex-partners. This quarter 63% of cases involved ex-partners. 22% of cases involved current partners.
- 80% of cases reported that the violence occurred during their relationship.
- 42% of cases (43) involved people who were born outside of Australia.
- Of those born outside of Australia, 50% spoke a language other than English at home.
- 4 cases required interpreting.
- 100% of females identified as victim. 67% of these women identified their ex partner as the perpetrator and 26% their current partner.
- 8 men identified as victims and 10 as perpetrator. 1 man identified as victim and perpetrator.
- No females identified as perpetrator.
- The 26-40 age group had the highest representation with 49% of incidents (51 cases).
- The majority of people – 73% – live within the City of Whittlesea.
- Lalor and Epping represented the largest proportion of contacts within the Whittlesea LGA at 20% and 19% respectively.
- Co-occurring factors were present in 50% of cases.
 - Substance abuse was present in 35 cases (34%)
 - Problem gambling was present in 11 cases (11%)
 - Technology was used to stalk/harass in 28 cases (27%)

SUMMARY SALVATION ARMY CROSSROADS WORKER

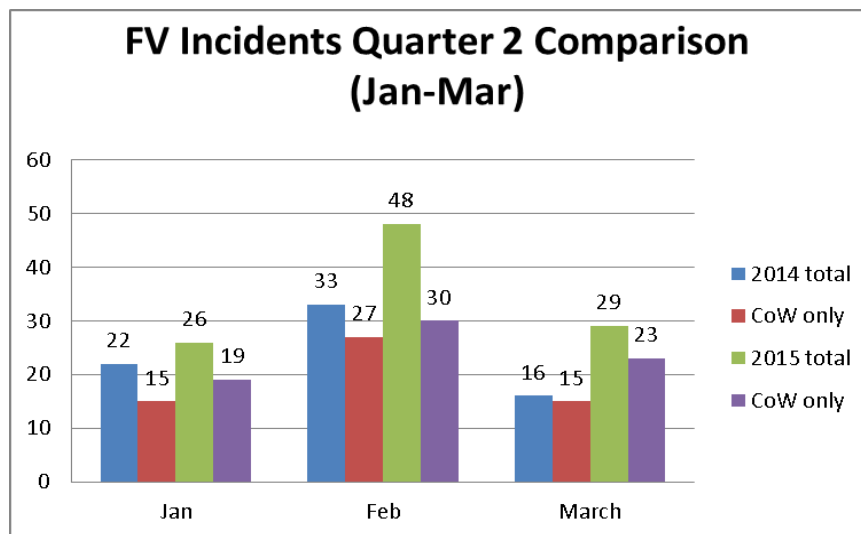
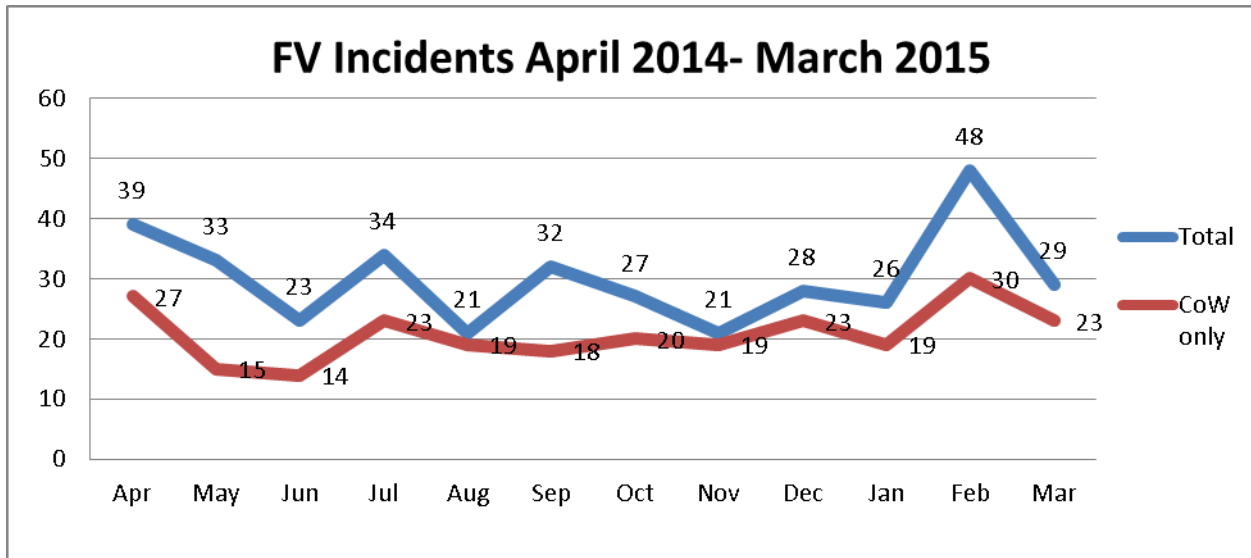
A worker from Salvation Army Crossroads has been providing specialist family violence support at Whittlesea Community Connections (WCC) since November 2013. The worker attends WCC each Tuesday from 9:30am-1:30pm, providing support to clients who are referred through the various programs and projects 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 (Jan-Mar 2015)	Year (Apr 2014-Mar 2015)
Half-days attended	9	41
Consultations provided	1	43
New clients	1	26
Follow up	0	17
Number of female clients	1	42 (98%)
Number of female clients identifying as victim	1	47 (96%)
Violence still occurring	1	35 (81%)
Clients from outside of Australia	1 (Cyprus)	18 (69%) Including: Iran (50%) Other (5% each)
Interpreters required	0	3
Largest proportion of clients came from	Craigieburn (100%)	Epping (30%)

There was only one new client in this quarter and no follow up appointments. However, 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.

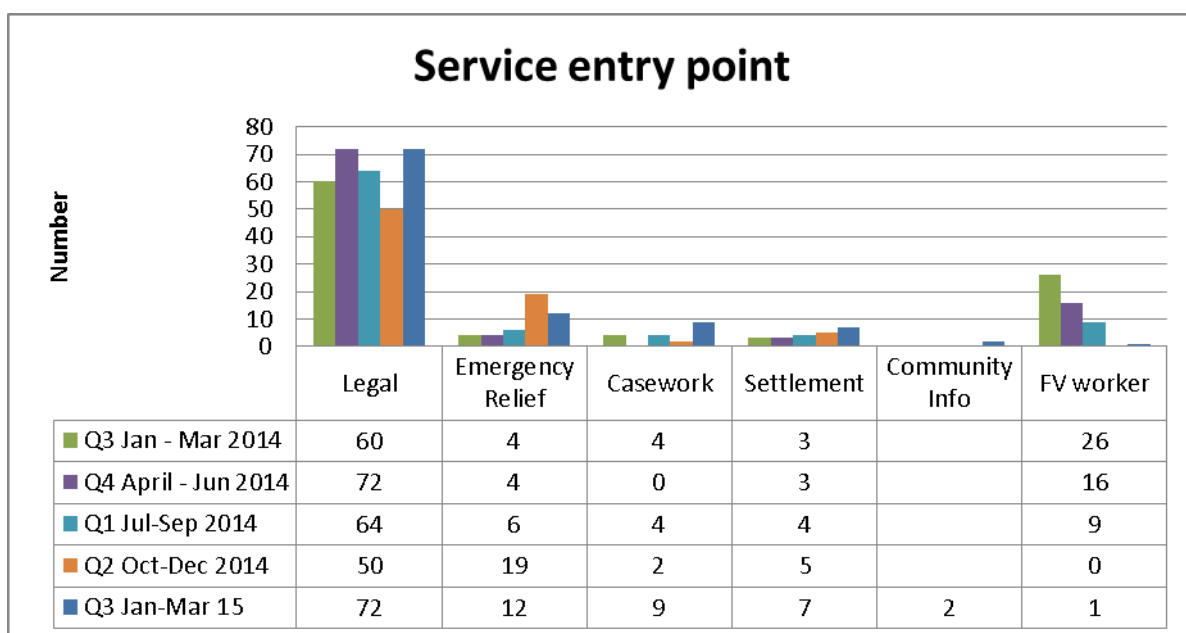
ABUSE PROFILE

FV INCIDENTS



- This quarter, 103 new people presented to WCC for family violence, a 36% increase from the previous quarter. This compares to 76 in the previous quarter) and 71 in the equivalent 2014 Jan-March quarter).
- In 2014/2015 (Apr-Mar) there were 361 new people presenting to WCC for family violence, or more than one per working day. This is a 16% increase from 2013/2014 (Apr-Mar) (311).
- This quarter there was an average of 34 clients per month.
- There were 59 working days. This equates to 1.75 cases presenting at WCC per working day over the quarter. In February there was an average of 2.4 cases presenting to WCC per working day.
- February had the highest number of reported cases (48).

SERVICE ENTRY POINT



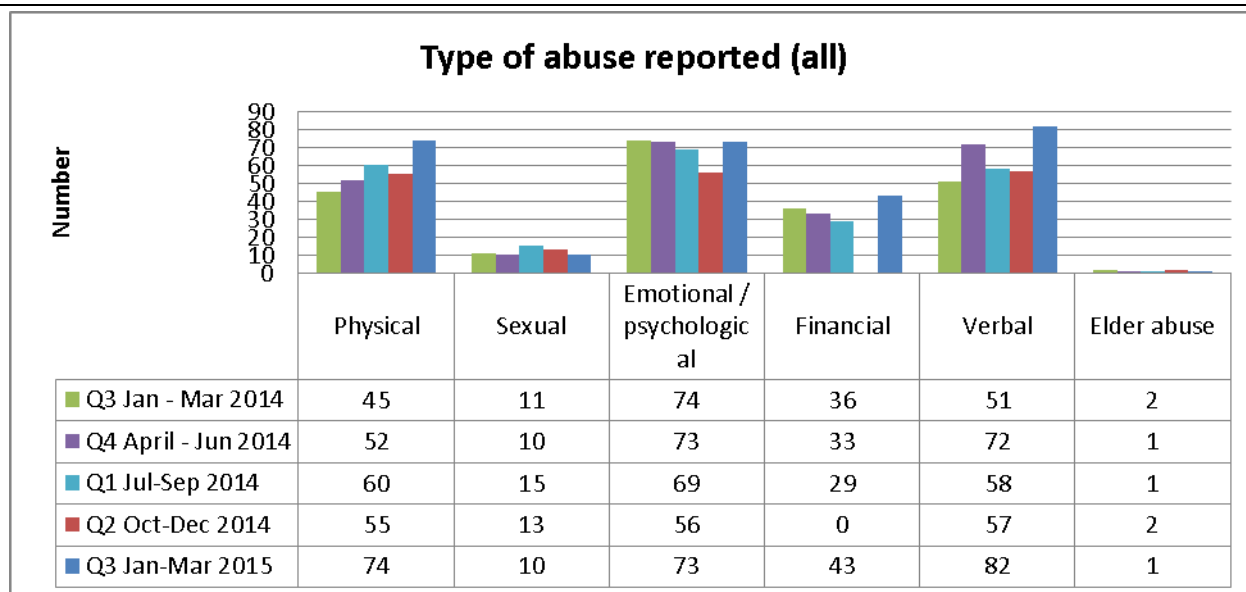
	Jan- Mar 2015	Oct- Dec 2014	July- Sep 2014	April - June 2014	Jan - Dec 2014
	Q3	Q2	Q1	Q4	Q3
Legal	70%	66%	77%	76%	62%
Emergency Relief	12%	25%	7%	4%	4%
Casework	9%	3%	4%	0%	4%
Settlement	6%	7%	4%	3%	3%
FV worker	2%	0%	10%	17%	27%
Community Info	1%	--	--	--	--

- Whittlesea Community Legal Service (72 cases) continues to receive the highest number of incidents, followed by emergency relief (12), casework (9) and settlement (7).
- In 47% of cases (48) this was the first contact with a support agency, a decrease from the previous quarter (55%).
- 74% of clients (76 cases) had experienced repeated incidents of family violence before contacting our service. Of these, 59% (45 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 do not also capture if the client has sought FV or other support from WCC before.
- There were 51 self-referrals (49%) and 45 external referrals (44%), compared with 36% self-referrals and 42% external referrals for the previous quarter. (This quarter 4% were internally referred and 3% left blank.)
- The 45 external referrals were made up of:

- 20 referrals from Greensborough Family Relationship Centre (where WCC has an outreach lawyer)
 - 4 referrals from Berry Street Northern Family and Domestic Violence Service
 - 3 referrals from Legal Aid
 - 2 referrals from Centrelink
 - 2 referrals from South-West Northern/Northern Hospital
 - 2 referrals from Court (Heidelberg Magistrate's Court)
 - 1 referral from Safe Steps (formerly WDVCS)
 - 1 referral from Haven Home Safe
 - 1 referral from Elizabeth Hoffman House
 - 1 referral from Kildonan UnitingCare
 - 1 referral from Victoria Police
 - 1 referral from Whittlesea Council
 - 1 referral from VOCAT
 - 1 referral from Relationship Australia
 - 1 referral from Sarina Russo Job Access
 - 1 referral from a social worker
 - 1 referral through media coverage
 - 1 left blank
- 78% of self-referrals had experienced multiple incidents of FV, and 47% 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 (19)
 - Women's Legal Service (17)
 - Private solicitor (4)
 - Other CLC (4)
 - Safe Steps (formerly WDVCS) (3)
 - Legal Aid (2)
 - InTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence(2)
 - Berry Street Northern Family and Domestic Violence Service (1)
 - Centrelink (1)
 - Kildonan Uniting Care (1)
 - Greensborough Family Relationship Centre (1)
 - International Social Services (1)
 - North East Housing (1)
 - Men's Referral Service (1)

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

TYPE OF ABUSE REPORTED

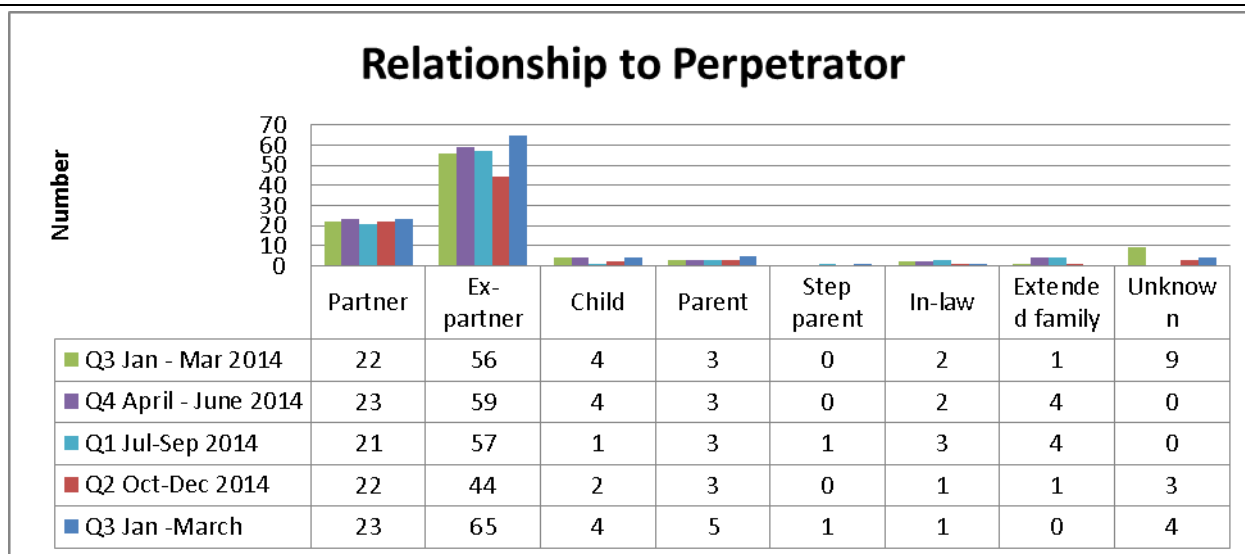


- 85% of cases (88) involved multiple forms of abuse. Each client disclosed an average of 2.7 types of abuse.
- This quarter verbal abuse was present in 80% of cases. Physical abuse was present in 72% of cases and emotional/psychological in 71% of cases. Financial abuse was present in 42% of cases.
- Of the cases involving only a single type of abuse (14%), physical was the most prevalent (50% or 7 cases), followed by verbal (36% or 5 cases) and emotional and financial abuse present in 7% or 1 case respectively.
- 44% of the cases (45) had contacted police and 42% (43 cases) had applied for an intervention order. Of those that reported to police, 82% (37) sought an intervention order. Intervention orders were sought in 6% of cases (6) without prior police involvement.
- 38 cases reported that children had witnessed the violence (37%).

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:
 - Substance abuse was present in 35 cases (34%) or 1 in 3 cases
 - Problem gambling was present in 11 cases (11%), or 1 in 10 cases
 - Technology was used to stalk/harass in 28 cases (27%) or 1 in 4 cases
- In 15% of cases (15) there were multiple co occurring factors present. In 35% of cases (36) there was one co occurring factor and in 50% of cases (52) there were no co occurring factors.
- In all cases where there were multiple co occurring factors, substance abuse was present.

RELATIONSHIP OF INDIVIDUAL TO PERPETRATOR



	Jan-March 2015	Oct-Dec 2014	July-Sep 2014	April – June 2014	Jan – Mar 2014	Oct – Dec 2013
	Q3	Q2	Q1	Q4	Q3	Q2
Ex-partner	63%	58%	63%	62%	58%	58%
Partner	22%	29%	23%	24%	23%	26%
Parent	5%	4%	3%	3%	3%	1%
Child	4%	3%	1%	4%	4%	4%
Extended family	0%	1%	4%	4%	1%	0%
In-law	1%	1%	3%	2%	2%	0%
Step parent	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Not specified	4%	4%	0%	0%	9%	11%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

- Overwhelmingly, perpetrators were recorded to be ex-partners. This quarter 63% of cases involved ex-partners. 22% of cases involved current partners.
- 80% 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.
- 9% reported the violence started after the relationship ended.

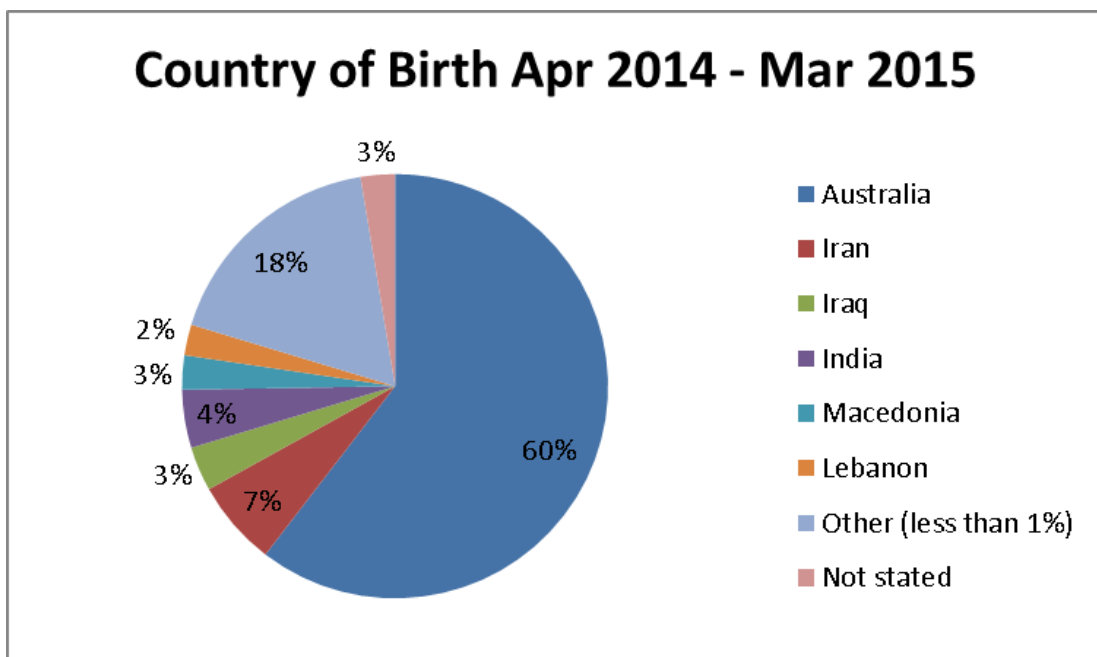
CLIENT PROFILE

COUNTRY OF BIRTH

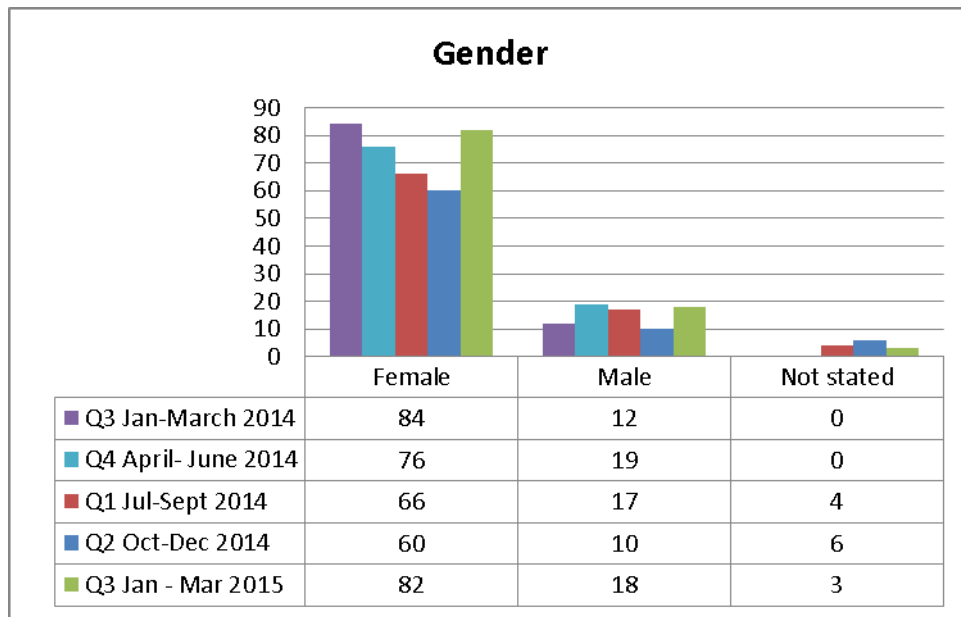
Top 5 Countries by Birth

Q3 Jan-Mar 2015	Q2 Oct-Dec 2014	Q1 Jul-Sep 2014	Q4 April - June 2014
Australia (61%)	Australia (71%)	Australia (58%)	Australia (67%)
Iran, Iraq (4%)	Macedonia (7%)	India, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Lebanon (all 3%)	Iran (9%)
India (3%)	India (5%)		India, Indonesia, Iraq, Macedonia, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam (all 2%)
Macedonia, Lebanon (both 2%)	Iraq, Iran, Turkey (all 3%)		

- 42% of cases (43) involved people who were born outside of Australia.
- Of those born outside of Australia, 50% 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.
- 4 cases required interpreting.

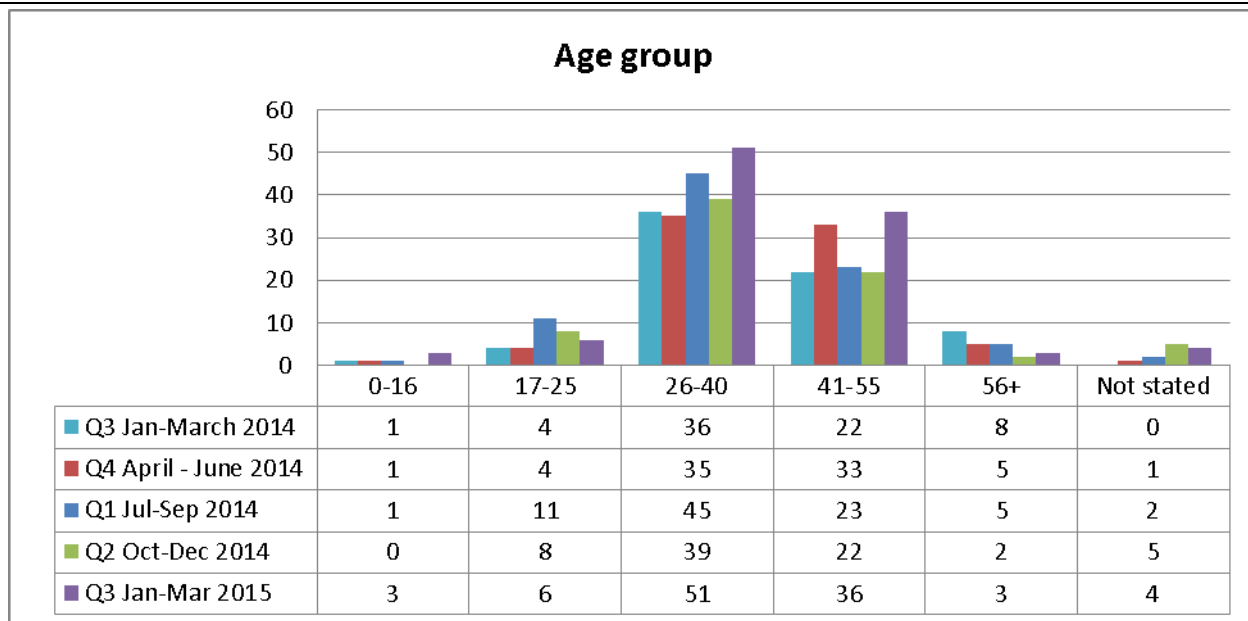


GENDER



- 100% of females identified as victim. 67% of these women identified their ex partner as the perpetrator and 26% their current partner.
- 8 men identified as victims and 10 as perpetrator. 1 man identified as victim and perpetrator.
- Of the men who identified as victim, perpetrators included ex partners, parents, children, step parents, and in-laws.
- 0 females identified as perpetrator.

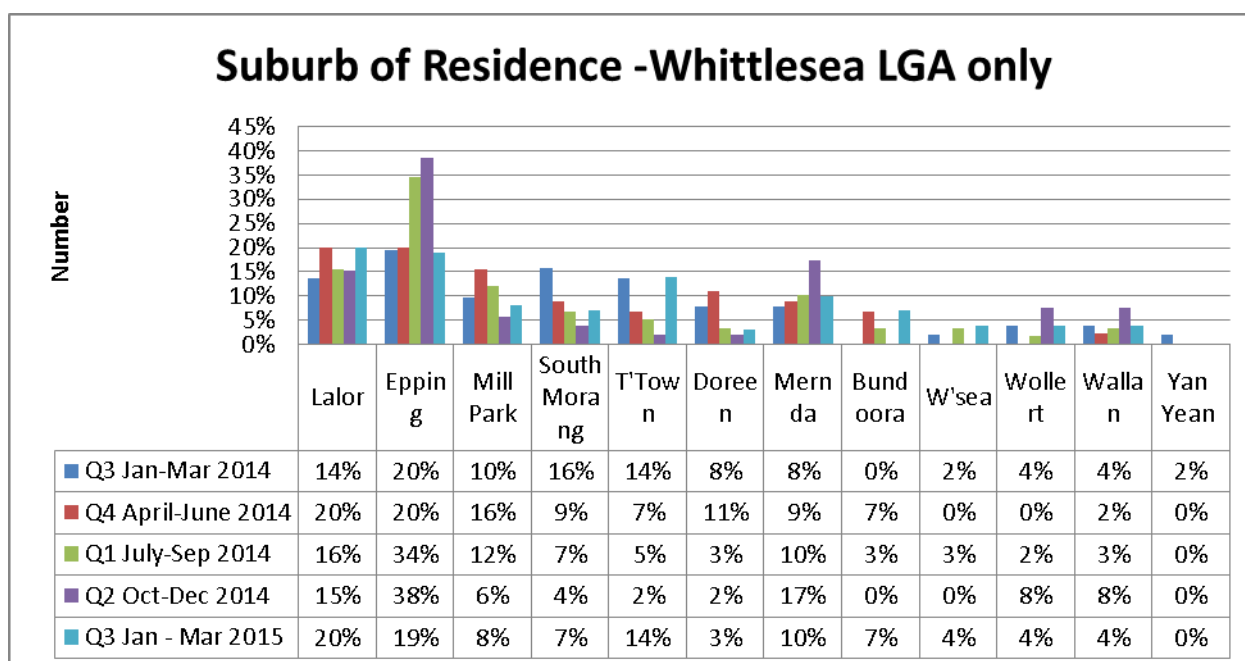
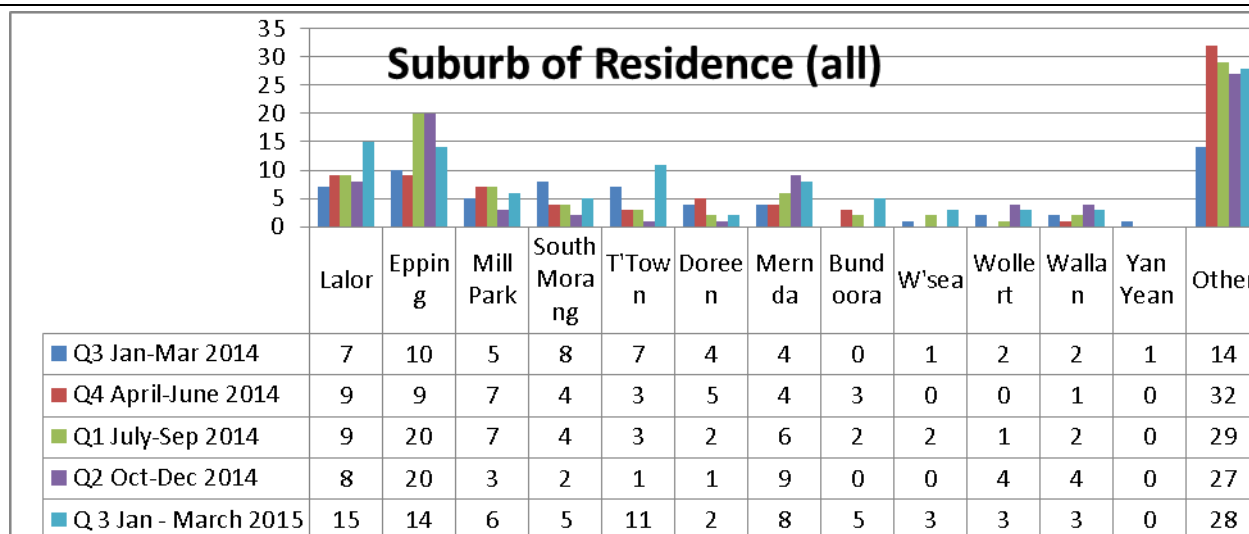
AGE GROUP



	Jan-Mar 2015	Oct-Dec 2014	Jul-Sep 2014	April - June 2014	Jan - Mar 2014
	Q3	Q2	Q1	Q4	Q3
0-16	3%	0%	1%	1%	1%
17-25	6%	11%	13%	5%	6%
26-40	49%	51%	52%	44%	51%
41-55	35%	29%	6%	42%	31%
56+	3%	3%	2%	6%	11%
Not stated	4%	7%	0%	1%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

- The 26-40 age group had the highest representation with 49% of incidents (51 cases).
- 10% of clients had no means of financial support.
- 62% of clients were dependent on a pension or benefit.
- 6% of clients were on a mixed wage/pension.
- 20% of clients had a wage.

SUBURB OF RESIDENCE



- The majority of people – 73% – live within the City of Whittlesea.
- 27% came from outside Whittlesea, including Greensborough, Rosanna and Eltham.
- Lalor and Epping represented the largest proportion of contacts within the Whittlesea LGA at 20% and 19% respectively.
- The suburbs of South Morang, Doreen and Mernda make up approximately 30% of the Whittlesea population. 20% 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. 61% of cases were from these areas.

Discussion:

- This quarter WCC reported its highest number of family violence clients since reporting began. There was a significant increase (36%) in clients since last quarter (103 compared to 76) and compared with the equivalent quarter in 2014 (71). February was the busiest month with 48 cases. It is also the shortest calendar month for the year and WCC saw an average of 2.4 family violence clients per working day. Interestingly, the data reveals that in February WCC saw the highest number of clients from outside the Whittlesea LGA for the month (18 clients, 37%). Legal services tend to see the highest proportion of WCC FV clients and this continued this quarter. Though emergency relief saw fewer clients than in the last quarter (12% compared with 25%), the number of clients is above the average over the last five quarters (10%). This may indicate an increasing trend in the number of clients with family violence issues presenting to emergency relief workers. There were also increases in the number of clients entering through both settlement (a 40% increase) and case work services (a 350% increase). For case work, more than 50% of these clients were referred by external agencies, suggesting more services are utilising WCC as a FV referral point. Some of the increase in casework has been from specialist family violence services referring women to WCC for the extra case work the service can provide. The increase in settlement clients may be due to wider increases in financial hardship, as well as continuing conflict in country of origin that can lead to increased stress for family in Australia and escalations of abuse.
- This quarter data collection continued around substance abuse, problem-gambling and use of technology to facilitate stalking/harassment. Co occurring factors were present in 50% of cases, with multiple co occurring factors present in 35% of cases. The most common factor, and the factor present in all cases where there were multiple co occurring factors, was substance abuse. Technology used to stalk and harass was present in 27% of cases and problem gambling was present in 11% of cases. In more than half of cases where technology was used to stalk and harass, substance abuse was also present. The data suggests that family violence does not occur in a vacuum and providing holistic support and assistance around co occurring factors is required. It also supports calls that more research into the intersection of these co occurring factors take place in order to design prevention and intervention strategies that consider their co occurrence.
- This quarter, the suburb of residence data showed a more even spread of clients from across the Whittlesea LGA. Epping went from having the highest percentage in the last quarter (38%) to 19% in this quarter, second to Lalor with (20%) though this did not reflect a substantial decrease in the number of clients from Epping (20 to 14). Thomastown saw a significant increase from 2% in the previous quarter to 14% this quarter (1 client to 11). The number of clients from Bundoora and Whittlesea went from 0% in the last quarter to 7% and 4% respectively. Wollert and Wallan both saw a decrease from 8% in the last quarter to 4% this quarter, though the actual number of clients seen didn't reduce significantly (4 to 3). This quarter only Yan Yean had no representation in the client base. Overall, it appears that WCC is increasing its reach across the whole LGA though further work needs to be done in this area.
- The family violence contact group this quarter decided to adjust the data collection form to include 'group' in service entry point. This will capture women who have attended one of WCC's groups and sought FV support and referral within group time.

Discussion from previous quarter:

- In the previous quarter it was identified that the largest group outside of those born in Australia were from Iran. This trend has continued this quarter with high representation from Iran and Iraq. Iranians continue to present most frequently when looking at the past 12 months as a whole. This continuing trend is likely explained by the implementation of an Our Watch funded violence prevention project specifically working with the Iranian community. This project builds on the ongoing work of the Whittlesea CALD Communities FV Project and of the Farsi-speaking Salvation Army Crossroads FV Worker out posted at WCC.