



WHITTLESEA COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

FAMILY VIOLENCE MONITOR

DATA FROM PERIOD

July 1 – September 30 2015

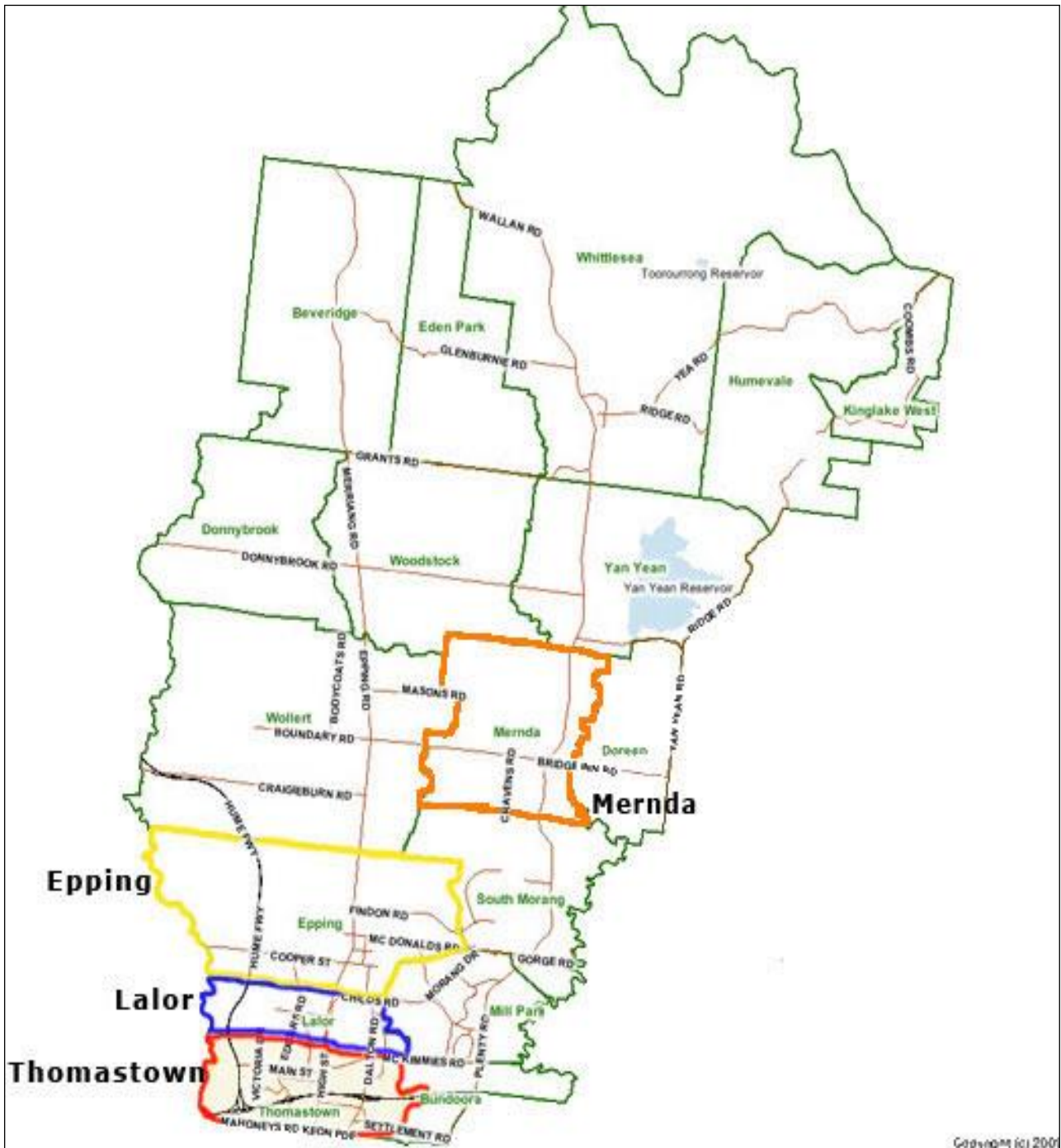
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THIS EDITION

Quarter 1 (Q1)	July 1 – September 31 2015
Quarter 4 (Q4)	April 1 – June 30 2015
Quarter 3 (Q3)	January 1 – March 31 2015
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>
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City of Whittlesea



Summary

This thirteenth report focuses on family violence (FV) incidents reported at Whittlesea Community Connections (WCC) during July to September 2015 (Q1). Included is data collected over a 12 month period from October 1st 2014 to September 30th 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, 101 new people presented to WCC for family violence.
- There were 66 working days this quarter. This equates to 1.5 cases presenting at WCC per working day.
- Whittlesea Community Legal Service (84 cases) continues to receive the highest number of incidents (83%), followed by casework (9) and emergency relief (5).
- In more than half of all cases (52) this was the first contact with a support agency.
- 50% of the cases (50) had contacted police and 44% (44 cases) had applied for an intervention order.
- A majority of cases, 88% (88) involved multiple forms of abuse. Each client disclosed an average of 2.8 types of abuse.
- In 40% of cases it was reported that children had witnessed the violence.
- Overwhelmingly, perpetrators were recorded to be ex-partners. This quarter 60% of cases involved ex-partners. 24% of cases involved current partners.
- 80% of cases reported that the violence occurred during their relationship
- 31% of cases involved people who were born outside of Australia. Of those born outside of Australia, 71% spoke a language other than English at home
- 4 cases required interpreters.
- 94% of females identified as victim. 63% of these women identified their ex partner as the perpetrator and 24% their current partner
- 13 men identified as victims, 15 men identified as perpetrator and 2 men identified as both victim and perpetrator.
- 3 females identified as perpetrator, one of whom identified as both victim and perpetrator.
- The 26-40 age group had the highest representation with more than half of all incidents (57 cases).
- The majority of people – 77% – live within the City of Whittlesea.
- Epping, Mernda and Lalor represented the largest proportion of contacts within the Whittlesea LGA at 20%, 13% and 10% respectively.
- Co-occurring factors were present in 49% of cases.
 - Substance abuse was present in 33 cases (33%), or 1 in 3 cases
 - Technology was used to stalk/harass in 20 cases (20%), or 1 in 5 cases
 - Problem gambling was present in 8 cases (8%) or almost 1 in 10

SUMMARY SALVATION ARMY CROSSROADS WORKER

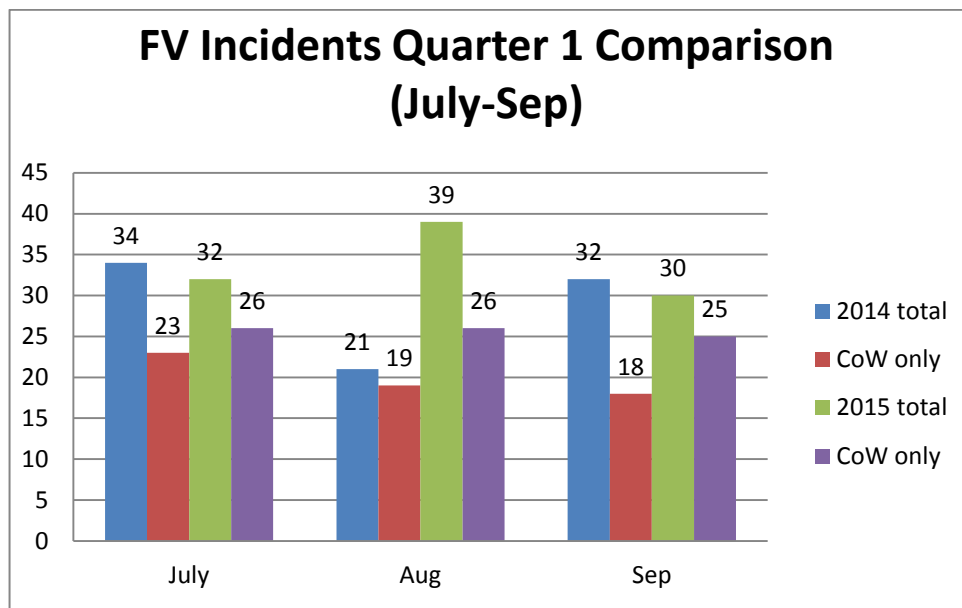
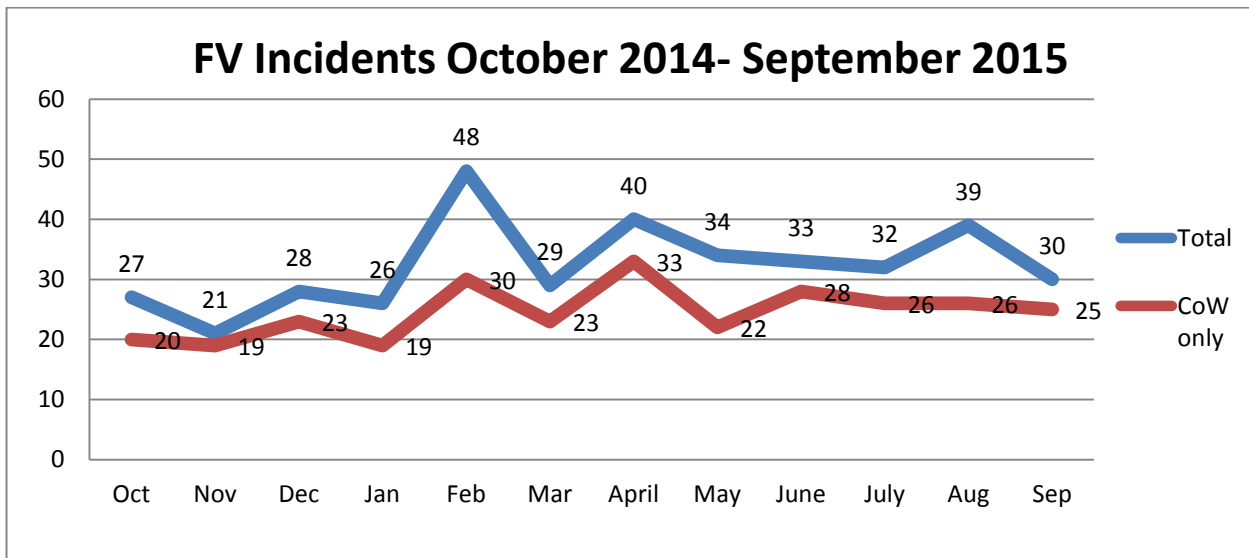
A worker from Salvation Army Crossroads has been providing specialist family violence support at Whittlesea Community Connections (WCC) since November 2013. The worker attends WCC each Tuesday from 9:30am-1:30pm, providing support to clients who are referred through the various programs and projects 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 (July-September 2015)	Year (October 2014- September 2015)
Half-days attended	5	36
Consultations provided	1	13
New clients	1	10
Follow up	0	3
Number of female clients	1	13 (100%)
Number of female clients identifying as victim	1	13 (100%)
Violence still occurring	0	8 (62%)
Clients from outside of Australia	0	7 (54%) Including: Iran (28%) India (28%)
Interpreters required	0	1
Largest proportion of clients came from	Mill Park	Epping (23%)

There was one new client 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 who could not attend their scheduled appointments. Due to staff changes at Salvation Army, no FV worker attended WCC in August or September.

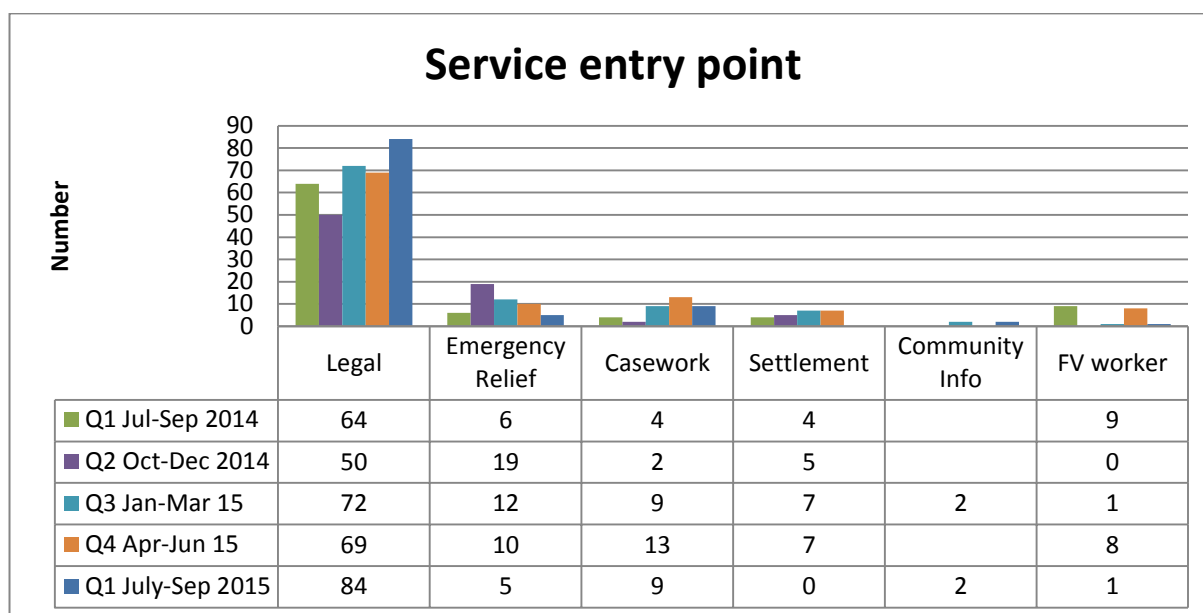
ABUSE PROFILE

FV INCIDENTS



- This quarter, 101 new people presented to WCC for family violence. This is a decrease of 6 incidents since the last quarter and a 14% increase compared with the equivalent 2014 quarter (87).
- In 2014/2015 (October-September) 387 new people presented to WCC for family violence; more than one per working day. This is a 7% increase from 2013/2014 (October- September) (359).
- This quarter there was an average of 34 clients per month.
- There were 66 working days this quarter. This equates to 1.5 cases presenting at WCC per working day. August had the highest number of reported cases (39), close to 2 cases per working day (1.9).

SERVICE ENTRY POINT



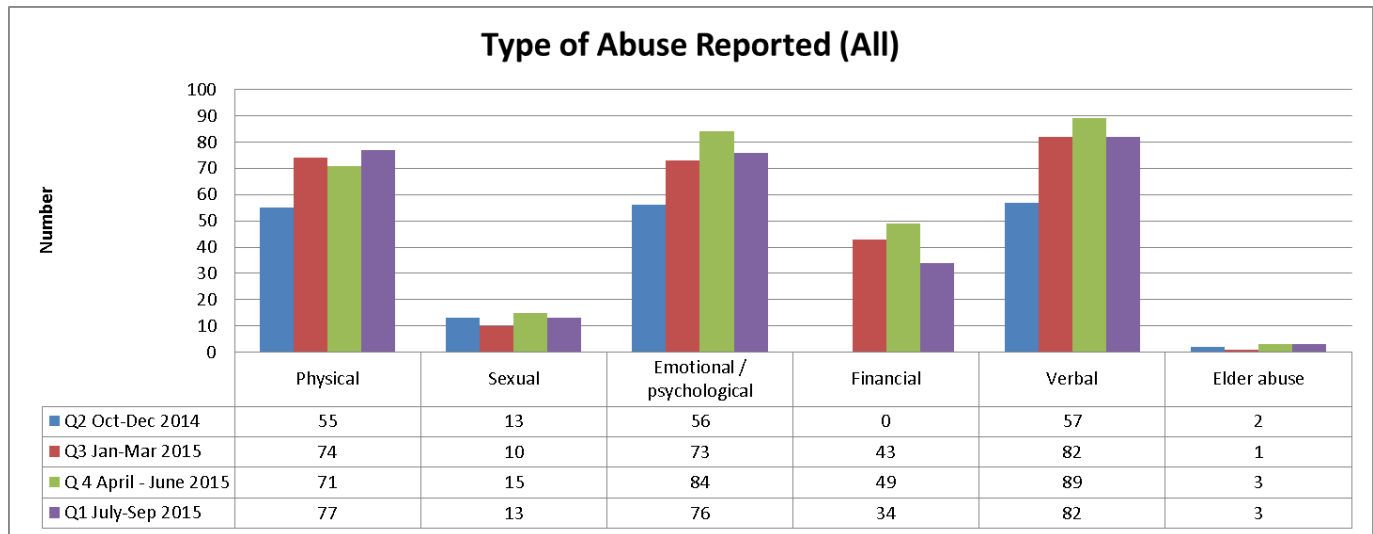
	July-Sep 2015	Apr – Jun 2015	Jan- Mar 2015	Oct- Dec 2014	July- Sep 2014
	Q1	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1
Legal	83%	65%	70%	66%	77%
Casework	9%	12%	9%	3%	4%
Emergency Relief	5%	9%	12%	25%	7%
Community Info	2%	0%	1%	0%	0%
FV worker	1%	7%	2%	0%	10%
Settlement	0%	7%	6%	7%	4%

- Whittlesea Community Legal Service (84 cases) continues to receive the highest number of incidents, followed by casework (9) and emergency relief (5).
- In more than half of all cases (52) this was the first contact with a support agency.
- 86% of clients (86 cases) had experienced repeated incidents of family violence before contacting our service. Of these, almost half (42 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 52 self-referrals (52%) and 34 external referrals (34%), compared with 35% self-referrals and 42% external referrals for the previous quarter. This quarter 14% were internally referred, compared with 4 % last quarter, and 4% left blank.
- The 34 external referrals were made up of:
 - 24 referrals from Greensborough Family Relationship Centre (where WCC has an outreach lawyer)

- 3 referrals from Centrelink
 - 3 referrals from Berry Street Northern Family and Domestic Violence Service
 - 2 referrals from Legal Aid
 - 1 referral from Bubup Wilam for Early Learning (where WCC has an outreach social worker)
 - 1 referral from International Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC)
 - 1 referral from Plenty Valley Community Health
- 77% of self-referrals had experienced multiple incidents of violence, and 54% 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*:
 - Private solicitor (5)
 - Relationships Australia (2)
 - Greensborough Family Relationship Centre (2)
 - Victoria Legal Aid (2)
 - Police (IVO) (2)
 - Safe Steps (1)
 - Counsellor (1)
 - Department of Human Services (1)
 - Fitzroy CLC (1)
 - Kildonan Uniting Care (1)

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

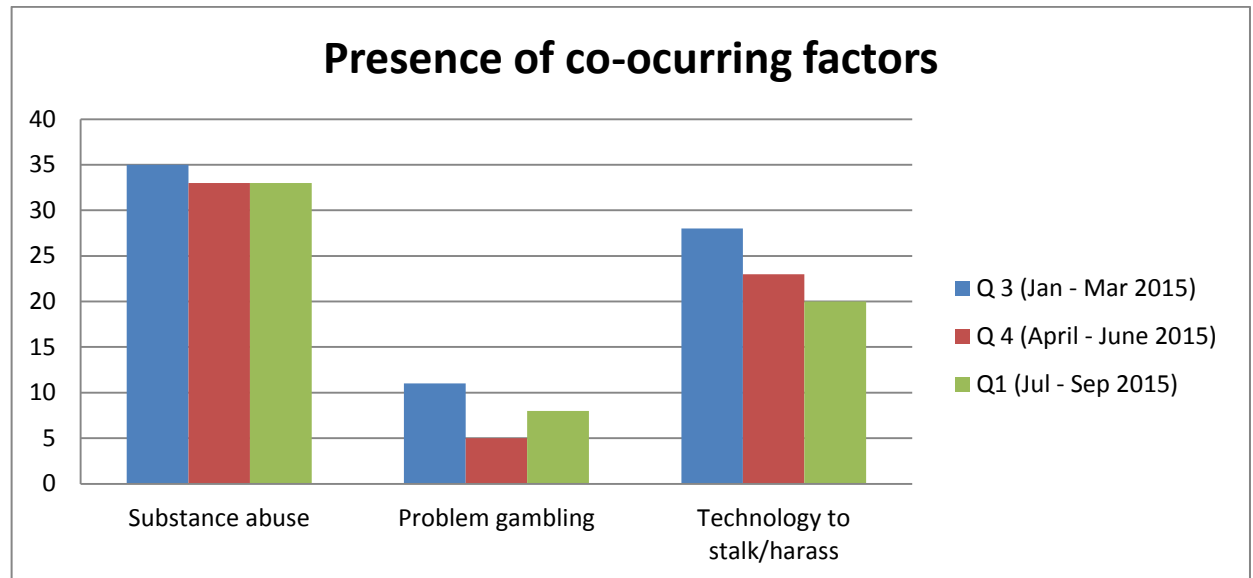
TYPE OF ABUSE REPORTED



- 88% of cases (88) involved multiple forms of abuse. Each client disclosed an average of 2.8 types of abuse.
- In one case the client did not disclose the forms of violence present.
- This quarter verbal abuse was present in 82% of cases. Emotional/psychological abuse was present in 76% of cases and physical abuse in 77% of cases. Financial abuse was present in 34% of cases.
- Of the cases involving only a single type of abuse (12%), physical was the most prevalent (58% or 7 cases), followed by verbal (4 cases) and elder and sexual abuse each present in 1 case.
- 50% of the cases (50) had contacted police and 44% (44 cases) had applied for an intervention order. Of those that reported to police, 74% (37) sought an intervention order. Intervention orders were sought in 7% of cases (7) without prior police involvement.
- One in three cases reported that children had witnessed the violence (41).

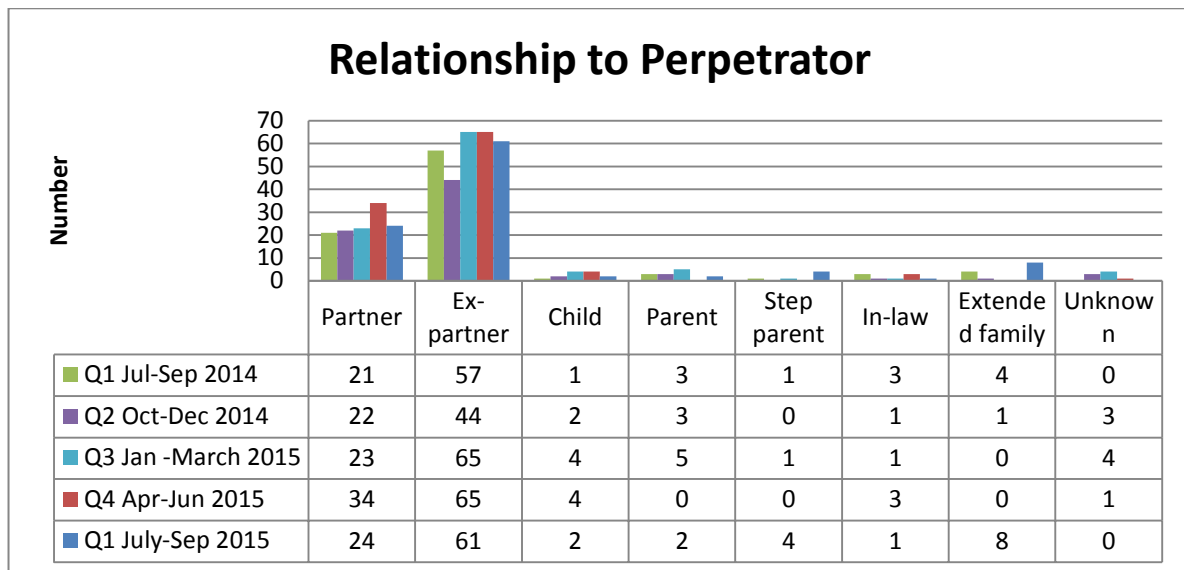
PREVALENCE OF CO OCCURRING FACTORS

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 49% of cases.
 - Substance abuse was present in 33 cases (33%), or 1 in 3 cases
 - Technology was used to stalk/harass in 20 cases (20%), or 1 in 5 cases
 - Problem gambling was present in 8 cases (8%) or almost 1 in 10
- In 10% of cases (10) there were multiple co occurring factors present. In 35% of cases (35) there was one co occurring factor and in 46% of cases (46) there were no co occurring factors disclosed.
- Substance abuse was present in 9 of 10 (90%) cases where there were multiple co-occurring factors.

RELATIONSHIP OF INDIVIDUAL TO PERPETRATOR



	July – Sep 2015	Apr – June 2015	Jan-March 2015	Oct-Dec 2014	July-Sep 2014	April – June 2014
	Q1	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1	Q4
Ex-partner	60%	61%	63%	58%	63%	62%
Partner	24%	32%	22%	29%	23%	24%
Extended family	8%	0%	0%	1%	4%	4%
Step parent	4%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Parent	2%	0%	5%	4%	3%	3%
Child	2%	4%	4%	3%	1%	4%
In-law	1%	2%	1%	1%	3%	2%
Not specified	0%	1%	4%	4%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

- Overwhelmingly, perpetrators were recorded to be ex-partners. This quarter 60% of cases involved ex-partners. 24% of cases involved current partners. We also saw an increase in the number of extended family perpetrators this quarter up from 0% to 8% in the previous two quarters.
- 80% (80) of cases reported that the violence occurred during their relationship.
- 43% of cases reported the violence was still occurring at the time of contact with WCC, an increase from 29% in the previous quarter.
- 6% reported the violence started after the relationship ended.

CLIENT PROFILE

COUNTRY OF BIRTH

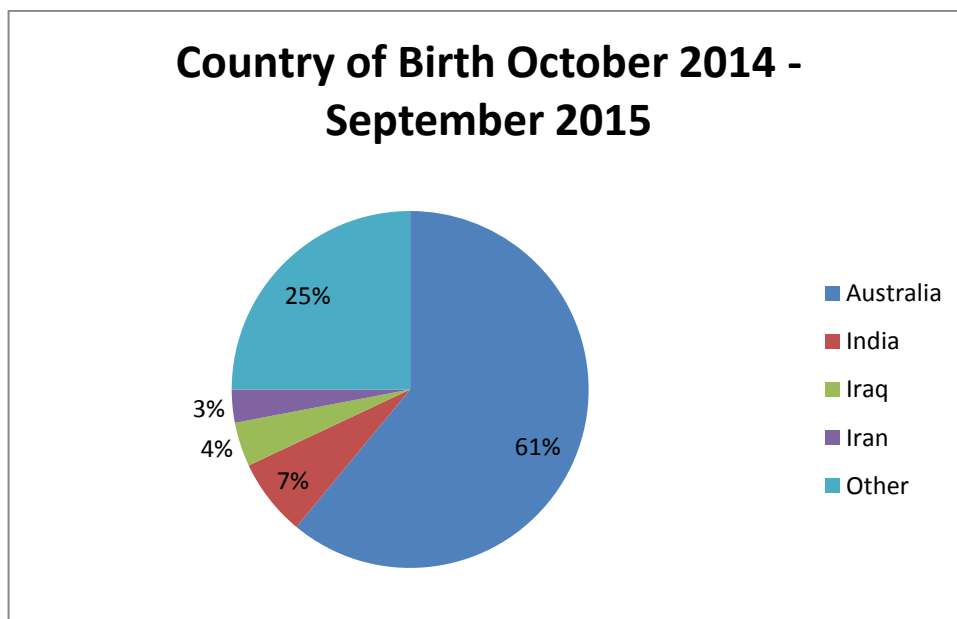
Born in Australia

- This quarter 65% of clients presenting to WCC for family violence assistance were born in Australia.
- This quarter two clients identified as Aboriginal and none as Torres Strait Islander.

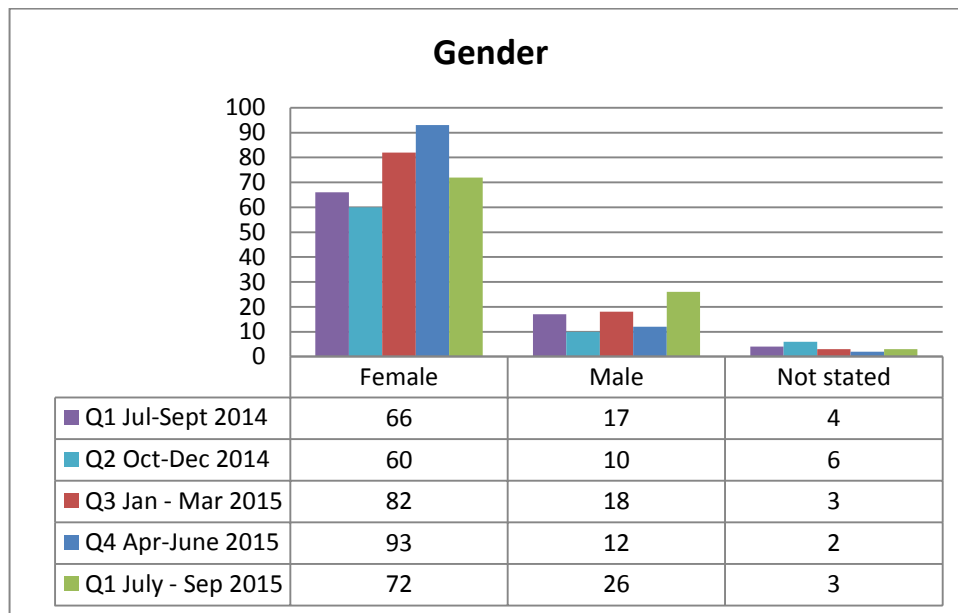
Top 5 Countries by Birth

Q1 July – Sep 2015	Q4 Apr-Jun 2015	Q3 Jan-Mar 2015	Q2 Oct-Dec 2014
Australia (65%)	Australia (56%)	Australia (61%)	Australia (71%)
India (6%)	India (9%)	Iran, Iraq (4%)	Macedonia (7%)
Iran (3%)	Iraq (7%)	India (3%)	India (5%)
Iraq, Lebanon, Malaysia and Turkey (all 2%)	Iran (5%)	Macedonia, Lebanon (both 2%)	Iraq, Iran, Turkey (all 3%)

- 31% of cases (31) involved people who were born outside of Australia.
- Of those born outside of Australia, 71% spoke a language other than English at home.
- In this quarter WCC averaged 7 clients per month who were born outside of Australia and spoke a language other than English at home.
- 4 cases required interpreting.

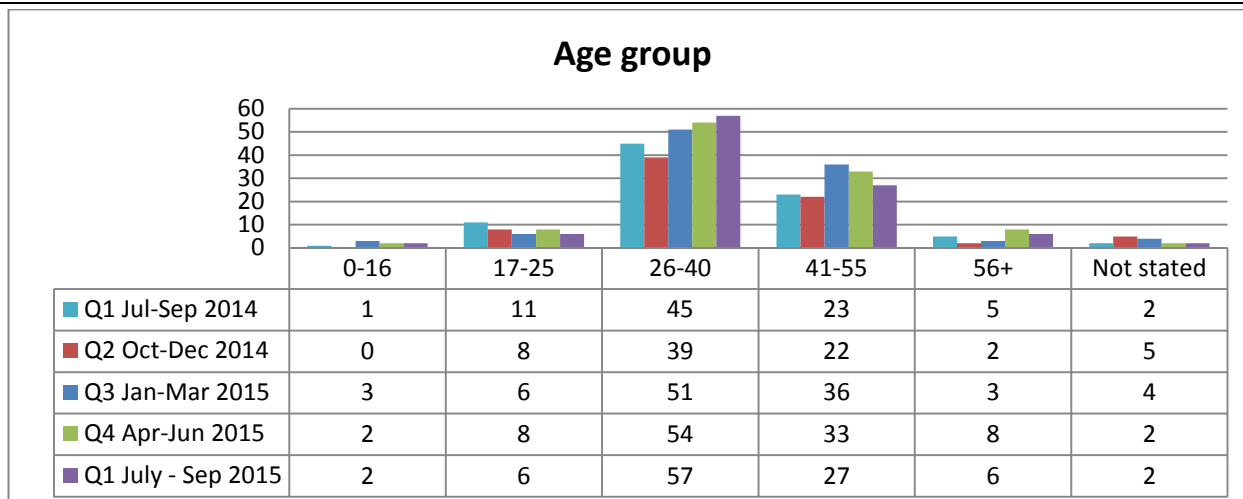


GENDER



- This quarter saw an increase in the number of men presenting with family violence at the services – more than doubling from 12 in the last quarter to 26 this quarter.
- 94% of females identified as victim. 63% of these women identified their ex partner as the perpetrator and 24% their current partner.
- 13 men identified as victims, 15 men identified as perpetrators and 2 men identified as victim and perpetrator.
- Of the men who identified as victim, perpetrators included ex partners (8), extended family (2), in-laws (1) and partners (1).
- 3 females identified as perpetrator, 1 of these women identifying as both victim and perpetrator.

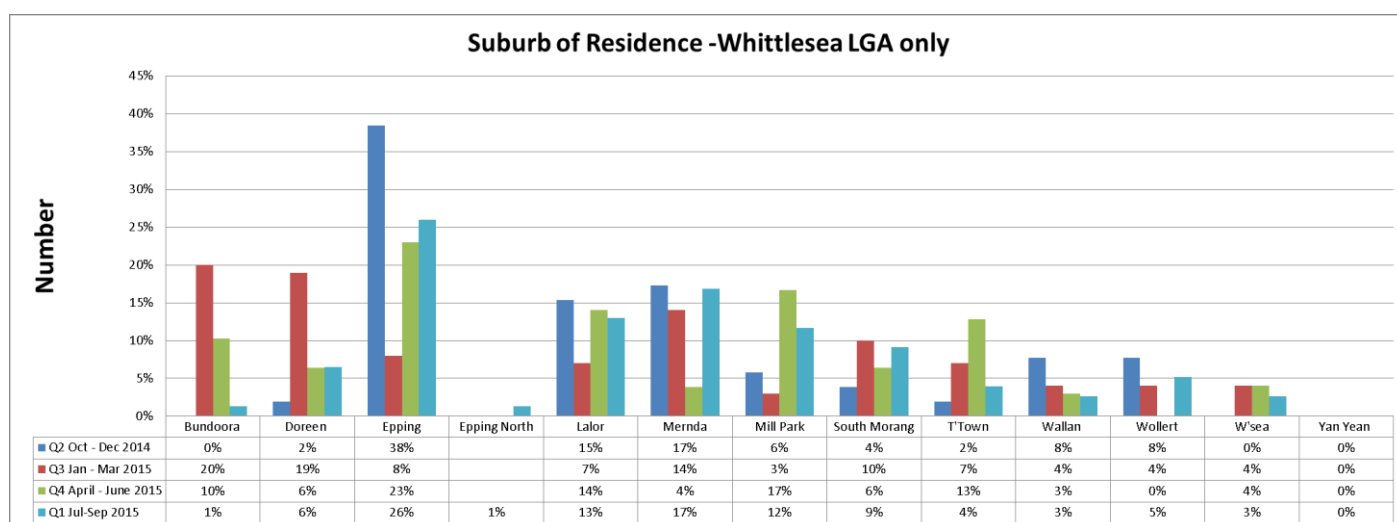
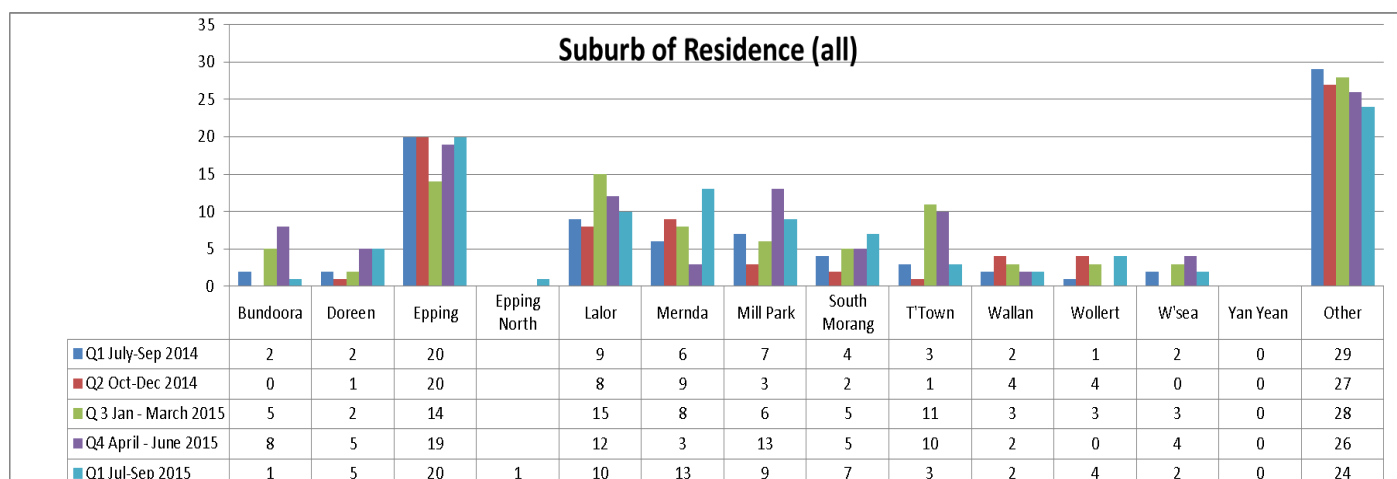
AGE GROUP



	July – Sep 2015 Q1	Apr-June 2015 Q4	Jan-Mar 2015 Q3	Oct-Dec 2014 Q2	Jul-Sep 2014 Q1
0-16	2%	2%	3%	0%	1%
17-25	6%	8%	6%	11%	13%
26-40	57%	52%	49%	51%	52%
41-55	27%	32%	35%	29%	6%
56+	6%	8%	3%	3%	2%
Not stated	2%	2%	4%	7%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

- The 26-40 age group had the highest representation with more than half of all incidents (57 cases).
- 7% of clients had no means of financial support.
- 66% of clients were dependent on a pension or benefit.
- 21% of clients had a wage.
- Information about financial situation was unavailable in 4% of cases.

SUBURB OF RESIDENCE



- The majority of people – 77% – live within the City of Whittlesea.
- 23% came from outside Whittlesea, including Greensborough, Preston and Reservoir.
- Epping, Mernda and Lalor represented the largest proportion of contacts within the Whittlesea LGA at 20%, 13% and 10% respectively.
- The suburbs of South Morang, Doreen and Mernda make up approximately 30% of the Whittlesea population. 25% 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. 43% of cases were from these areas.

Discussion:

- This quarter 101 people reported family violence to WCC. This is a slight decrease (6 cases fewer) from the last quarter, yet continues the overall upward trend seen since reporting began. In the last three quarters rates of family violence reports have remained consistently above 100 reports per period. This could reflect a number of things: firstly, the increase in community awareness of the issue, fueled by public media campaigns and the Royal Commissions; secondly, improved capacity of WCC to both identify and respond to FV cases, particularly those initially presenting with other issues; thirdly, the impact of WCC public advocacy around the issue, including its role in the Whittlesea CALD Communities FV Project, the Hamdel Project, and other related issues.
- In this quarter we saw a jump in the number of clients reporting family violence from Mernda – one of Whittlesea’s fastest growing new suburbs. This quarter 13 Mernda clients presented to WCC, an increase from 3 in the previous quarter and six in the same quarter in 2014. Four of these clients were born overseas or speak a language other than English at home. With few services available to residents in the growth areas it is expected that the number of clients presenting to WCC will continue to grow. During 2015, the Whittlesea CALD Communities Family Violence Project has facilitated a number of family violence information sessions in Mernda and worked to build strong relationships with women in the community. The rise in clients from Mernda may reflect this, with a number of referrals coming directly from those involved in this project.
- This quarter WCC recorded an increase in the number of men reporting family violence to the service. Of the 26 male clients who reported family violence to WCC this quarter, 13 identified as victims, with two of these also identifying as perpetrator. This is the highest number of male victims to report family violence to WCC since reporting began. The majority of male victims identified ex-partners (8) and other family members including in-laws (3) as the perpetrators of violence against them. A majority presented to the legal service, and half reported they had previously sought support elsewhere. Half had previously contacted the police and half had an intervention order (though it is unclear if they were the applicant or respondent to the order). Overwhelmingly however, our data continues to reflect that women are disproportionately victims of family violence. This quarter 72 women reported family violence to the service and 94% of them identified themselves as victims, only three identified as perpetrator and one of those women identified as both victim and perpetrator.
- This quarter also saw a marked increase in the number of extended family members and in-laws identified as perpetrators, up to 9% from 0% in the previous two quarters. The victims of family violence at the hands of extended family members were both male (4) and female (5). Forms of violence were varied in the group and included physical (4), emotional and verbal (5) and elder abuse (2). Victims of abuse by extended family also spanned all age categories from 17-25 to 56+.

Discussion from previous quarter:

- As reporting continues around the prevalence of co-occurring factors, the impact of substance abuse is becoming more pronounced. It continues to be the most common co-occurring factor of the three for which WCC captures data, presenting in 1 in 3 cases of family violence reported since January of this year. It also appears in almost all cases (90% this quarter) where there are multiple co-occurring factors.