



WHITTLESEA COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

FAMILY VIOLENCE MONITOR

DATA FROM PERIOD

October 1 – December 31 2014

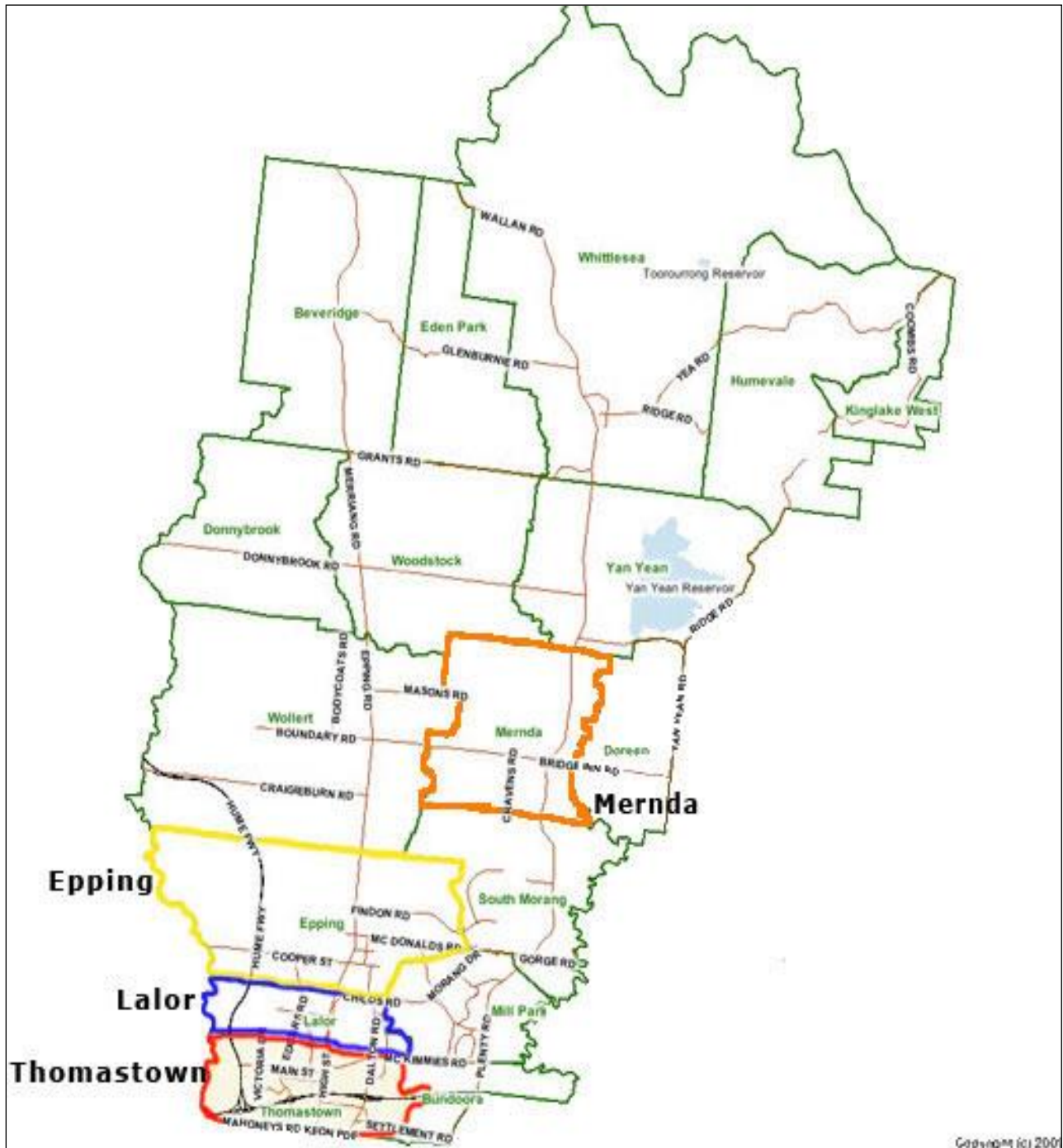
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THIS EDITION

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

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 2013-14 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 tenth report focuses on family violence (FV) incidents reported at Whittlesea Community Connections (WCC) during October to December 2014 (Q2). Included is data collected over a 12 month period from January 1st to December 31st 2014. 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, 76 new people presented to WCC for family violence.
- There were 60 working days. This equates to over 1 case presenting at WCC per working day.
- December had the highest number of reported cases (28).
- Whittlesea Community Legal Service (50 cases) continues to receive the highest number of incidents, followed by emergency relief (19), settlement (5) and social work casework (2).
- In 55% of cases (42) this was the first contact with a support agency.
- 39% of cases (30) had contacted police and 41% (31 cases) had applied for an intervention order.
- 79% of clients (60 cases) had experienced repeated incidents of family violence before contacting our service. Of these, 57% (34 cases) had previously sought support from another service.
- A majority of cases (88%) involved multiple forms of abuse. Each client disclosed an average of 2.7 types of abuse.
- Verbal abuse was present in 75% of cases. Emotional/psychological abuse and physical abuse were each present in 72% of cases.
- 16 cases reported that children had witnessed the violence (21%).
- Overwhelmingly, perpetrators were recorded to be ex-partners (58%). 29% of cases involved current partners.
- 76% of cases reported that the violence occurred during their relationship.
- 30% of cases (23) involved people who were born outside of Australia.
- Of those born outside of Australia, 74% spoke a language other than English at home.
- 2 cases required interpreting.
- 87% of females identified as victim. 60% of these women identified their ex partner as the perpetrator and 30% their current partner.
- 4 men identified as victim and 10 as perpetrator.
- 3 females identified as perpetrator.
- The 26-40 age group had the highest representation with 51% of incidents (39 cases).
- The majority of people – 66% – live within the City of Whittlesea.
- Epping represented the largest proportion of contacts within the Whittlesea LGA at 38%.
- From mid-November – end of December:
 - Substance abuse was present in 30% of cases
 - Problem gambling was present in 9% of cases
 - Technology was used to stalk/harass in 15% of cases

SUMMARY SALVATION ARMY CROSSROADS WORKER

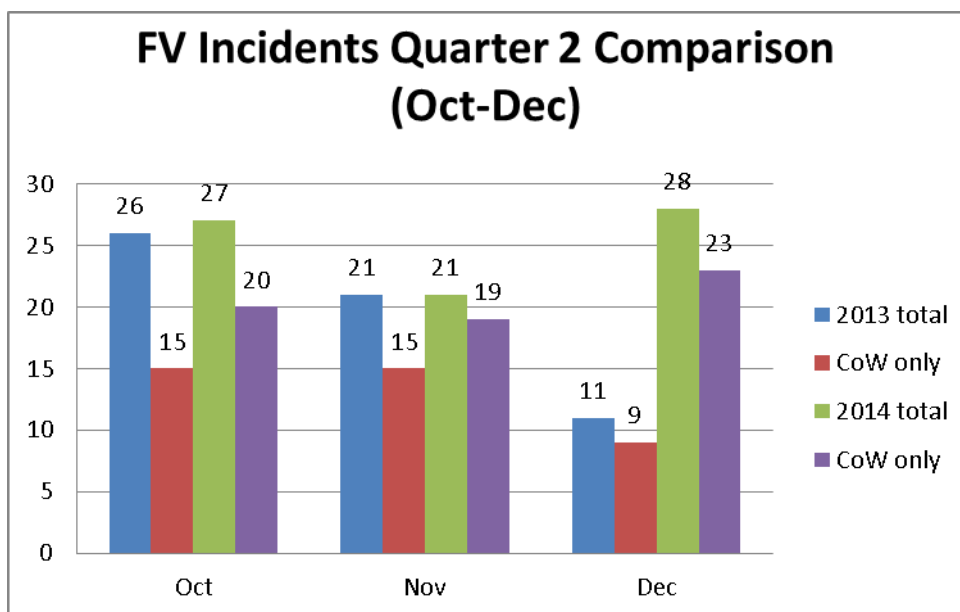
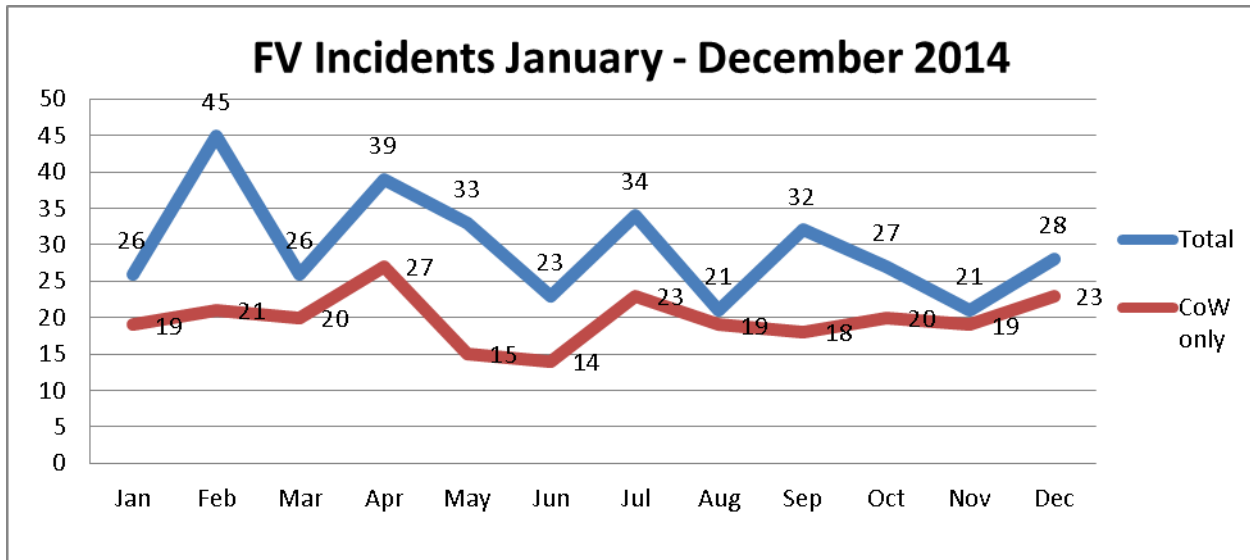
A worker from Salvation Army Crossroads has been providing specialist family violence support at Whittlesea Community Connections (WCC) since November 2013. The worker attends WCC each Tuesday from 9:30am-1:30pm, providing support to clients who are referred through the various programs and projects 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-Dec 2014)	Year (Jan-Dec 2014)
Half-days attended	9	42
Consultations provided	3	68
New clients	0	50
Follow up	3	18
Number of female clients	3	49 (98%)
Number of female clients identifying as victim	3	47 (96%)
Violence still occurring	1	43 (86%)
Clients from outside of Australia	1 (Ghana)	38 (56%) Including: Iran (63%) Iraq (11%)
Interpreters required	0	5
Largest proportion of clients came from	Thomastown (50%) Whittlesea (50%)	Epping (42%)

Whilst there were no new clients in this quarter, 3 clients sought follow up appointments with the FV worker. Additionally, 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.

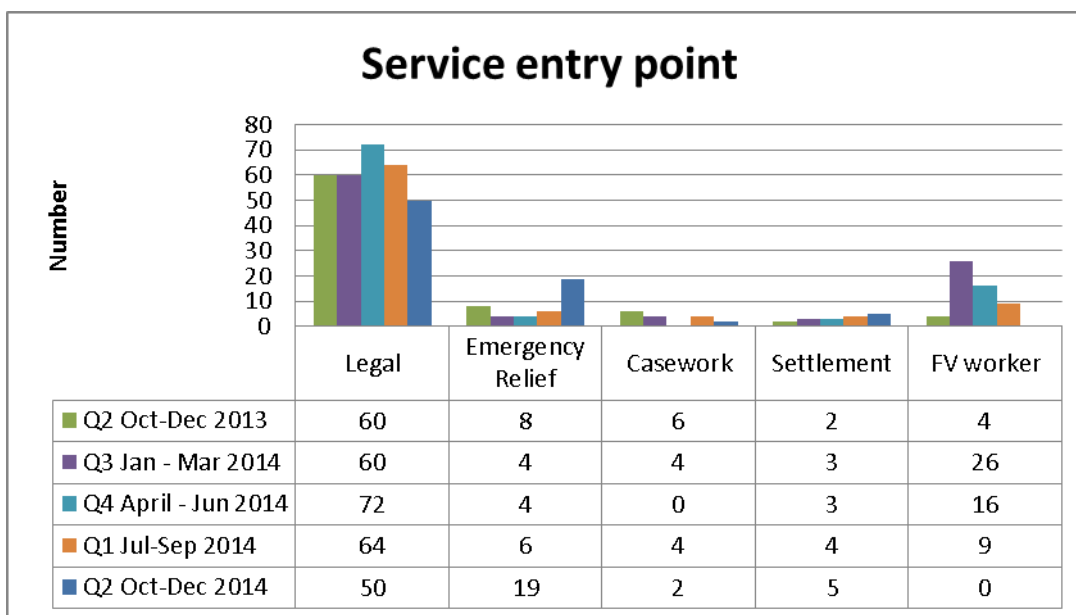
ABUSE PROFILE

FV INCIDENTS



- This quarter, 76 new people presented to WCC for family violence. This compares to 87 in the previous quarter and 58 in the equivalent 2013 Oct-Dec quarter.
- In 2014 (Jan-Dec) there were 361 new people presenting to WCC for family violence, or more than one per working day. This is a 29% increase from 2013 (281).
- This quarter there was an average of 25 clients per month.
- There were 60 working days. This equates to over 1 case presenting at WCC per working day.
- December had the highest number of reported cases (28).

SERVICE ENTRY POINT



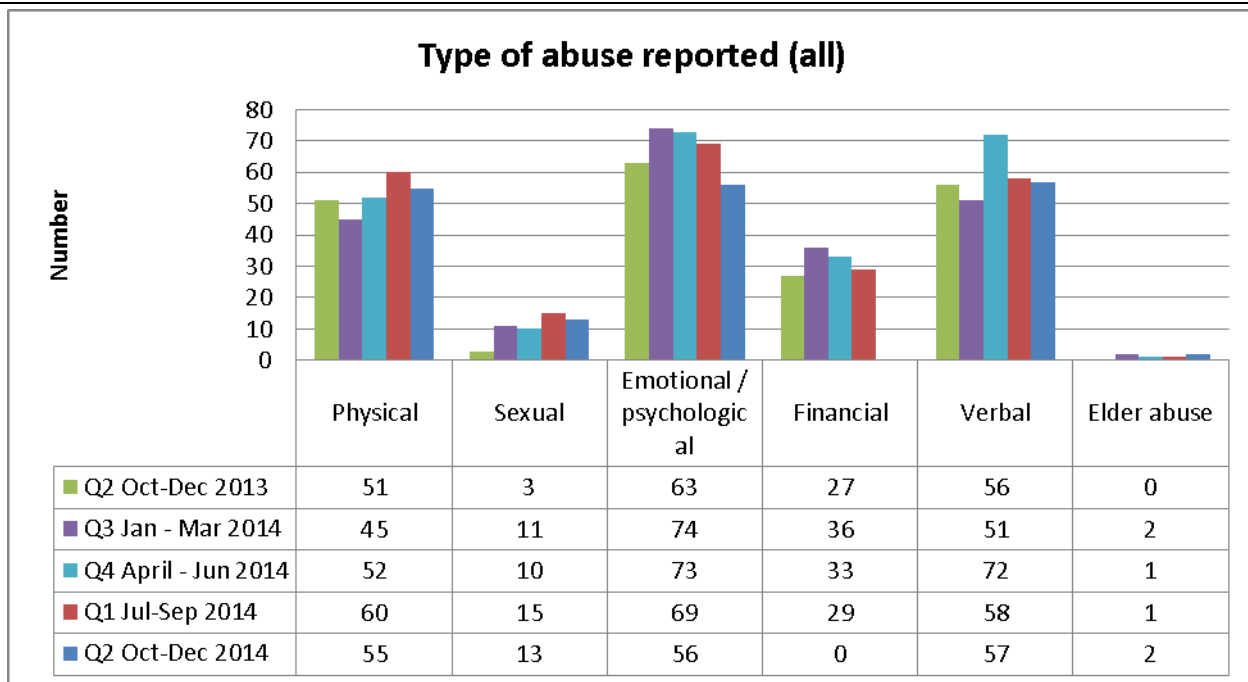
	Oct-Dec 2014	July-Sep 2014	April – June 2014	Jan – Dec 2014	Oct – Dec 2013
	Q2	Q1	Q4	Q3	Q2
Legal	66%	77%	76%	62%	75%
Emergency Relief	25%	7%	4%	4%	10%
Casework	3%	4%	0%	4%	8%
Settlement	7%	4%	3%	3%	3%
FV worker	0%	10%	17%	27%	5%

- Whittlesea Community Legal Service (50 cases) continues to receive the highest number of incidents, followed by emergency relief (19), settlement (5) and casework (2).
- In 55% of cases (42) this was the first contact with a support agency, an increase from the previous quarter (43%).
- 79% of clients (60 cases) had experienced repeated incidents of family violence before contacting our service. Of these, 57% (34 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 27 self-referrals (36%) and 32 external referrals (42%), compared with 44% self-referrals and 44% external referrals for the previous quarter. (This quarter 5% were internally referred and 17% left blank.)
- The 32 external referrals were made up of:
 - 14 referrals from Greensborough Family Relationship Centre (where WCC has an outreach lawyer)

- 6 referrals from Legal Aid
 - 3 referrals from Berry Street Northern Family and Domestic Violence Service
 - 2 referrals from Centrelink
 - 1 referral from Safe Steps (formerly WDVCS)
 - 1 referral from Mary Anderson FV Service
 - 1 referral from DHS
 - 1 referral from Broadmeadows FRC
 - 1 referral from Anglicare
 - 1 referral from Whittlesea Council
 - 1 left blank
- 82% of self-referrals had experienced multiple incidents of FV, and 44% 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*:
 - Women's Legal Service (10)
 - Greensborough Family Relationship Centre (6)
 - Police (4)
 - Legal Aid (3)
 - Private solicitor (2)
 - InTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence(2)
 - Berry Street Northern Family and Domestic Violence Service (1)
 - Fitzroy Legal Service (1)
 - Safe Steps (formerly WDVCS) (1)
 - International Social Services (1)

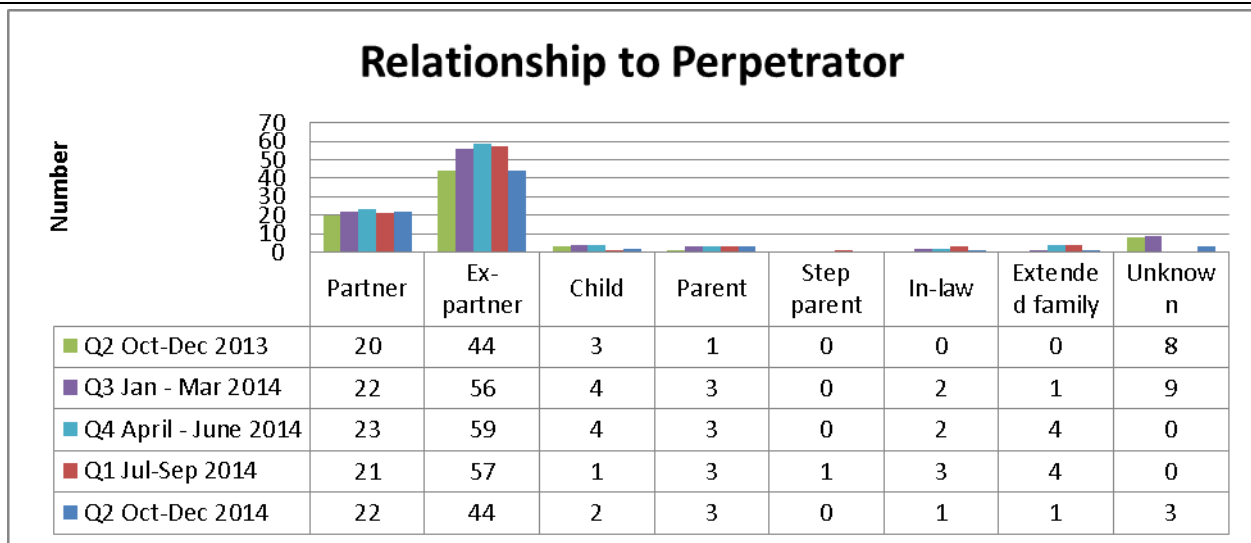
*Does not include referrals made to Salvation Army Crossroads FV worker

TYPE OF ABUSE REPORTED



- 88% of cases (67) involved multiple forms of abuse. Each client disclosed an average of 2.7 types of abuse.
- This quarter verbal abuse was present in 75% of cases. Emotional/psychological abuse and physical abuse were each present in 72% of cases.
- Of the cases involving only a single type of abuse (12%), physical was the most prevalent (67% or 9 cases), followed by emotional/psychological (22% or 2 cases) and verbal (11% or 1 case).
- 39% the cases (30) had contacted police and 41% (31 cases) had applied for an intervention order.
- 16 cases reported that children had witnessed the violence (21%).
- Midway through Q2, data collection forms were adjusted to include whether substance abuse, problem gambling, and technology used to stalk/harass were disclosed. For this period (mid-November – December 31) there were 47 cases:
 - Substance abuse was present in 14 cases (30%)
 - Problem gambling was present in 4 cases (9%)
 - Technology was used to stalk/harass in 7 cases (15%)

RELATIONSHIP OF INDIVIDUAL TO PERPETRATOR



	Oct-Dec 2014	July-Sep 2014	April – June 2014	Jan – Mar 2014	Oct – Dec 2013	July – Sep 2013
	Q2	Q1	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1
Ex-partner	58%	63%	62%	58%	58%	57%
Partner	29%	23%	24%	23%	26%	29%
Parent	4%	3%	3%	3%	1%	2%
Child	3%	1%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Extended family	1%	4%	4%	1%	0%	4%
In-law	1%	3%	2%	2%	0%	4%
Step parent	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%
Not specified	4%	0%	0%	9%	11%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

- Overwhelmingly, perpetrators were recorded to be ex-partners. This quarter 58% of cases involved ex-partners. 29% of cases involved current partners.
- 76% 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.
- 9% reported the violence started after the relationship ended.

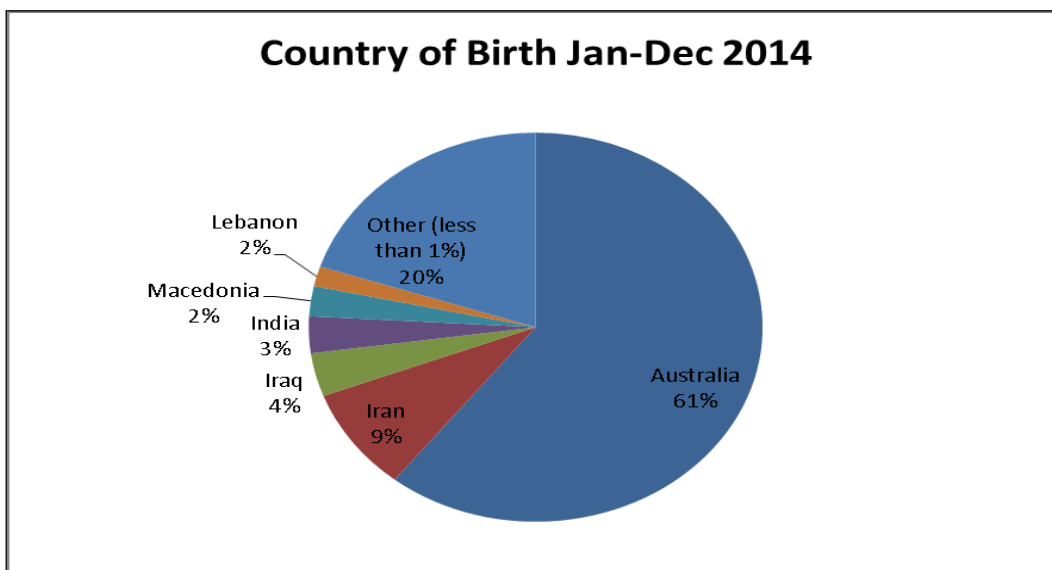
CLIENT PROFILE

COUNTRY OF BIRTH

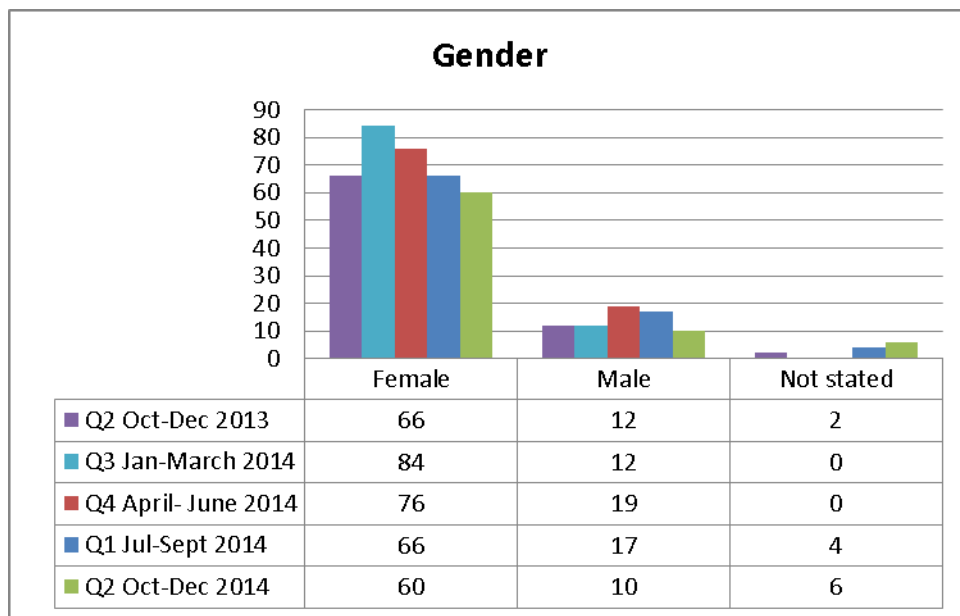
Top 5 Countries by Birth

Q2 Oct-Dec 2014	Q1 Jul-Sep 2014	Q4 April - June 2014	Q3 Jan - Mar 2014
Australia (71%)	Australia (58%)	Australia (67%)	Australia (50%)
Macedonia (7%)	India, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Lebanon (all 3%)	Iran (9%)	Iran (17%)
India (5%)		India, Indonesia, Iraq, Macedonia, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam (all 2%)	Iraq (6%)
Iraq, Iran, Turkey (all 3%)			Phillipines (4%)
			India, New Zealand (2%)

- 30% of cases (23) involved people who were born outside of Australia.
- Of those born outside of Australia, 74% 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.
- 2 cases required interpreting.

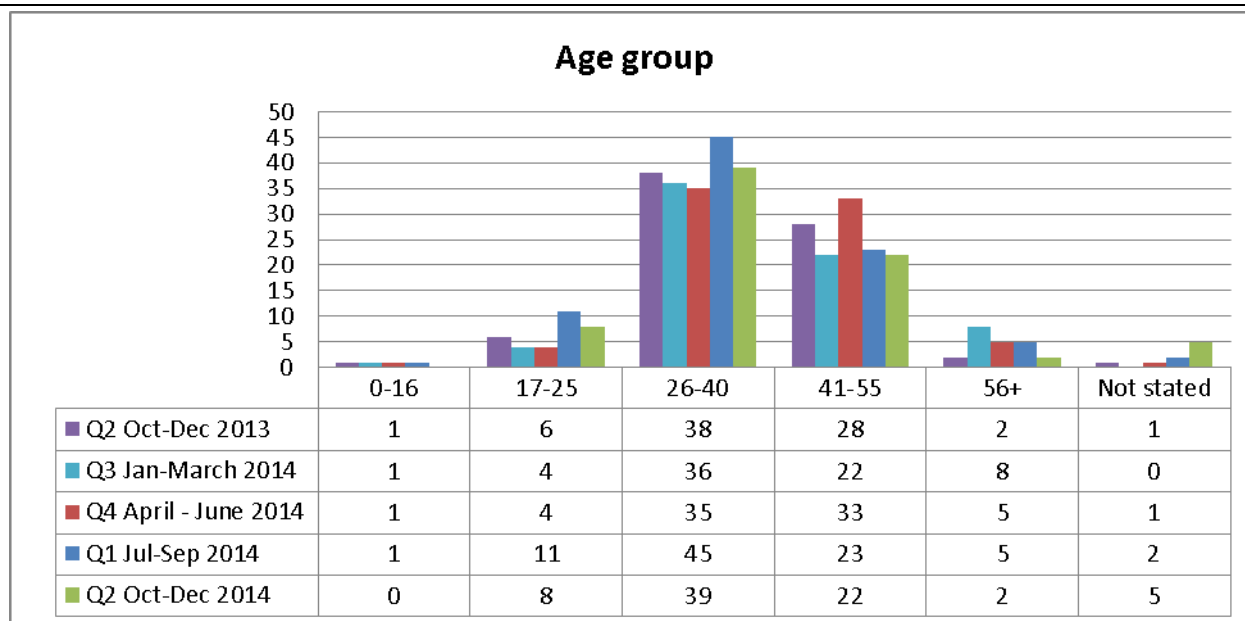


GENDER



- 87% of females identified as victim. 60% of these women identified their ex partner as the perpetrator and 30% their current partner.
- 4 men identified as victims and 10 as perpetrator.
- 3 females identified as perpetrator.

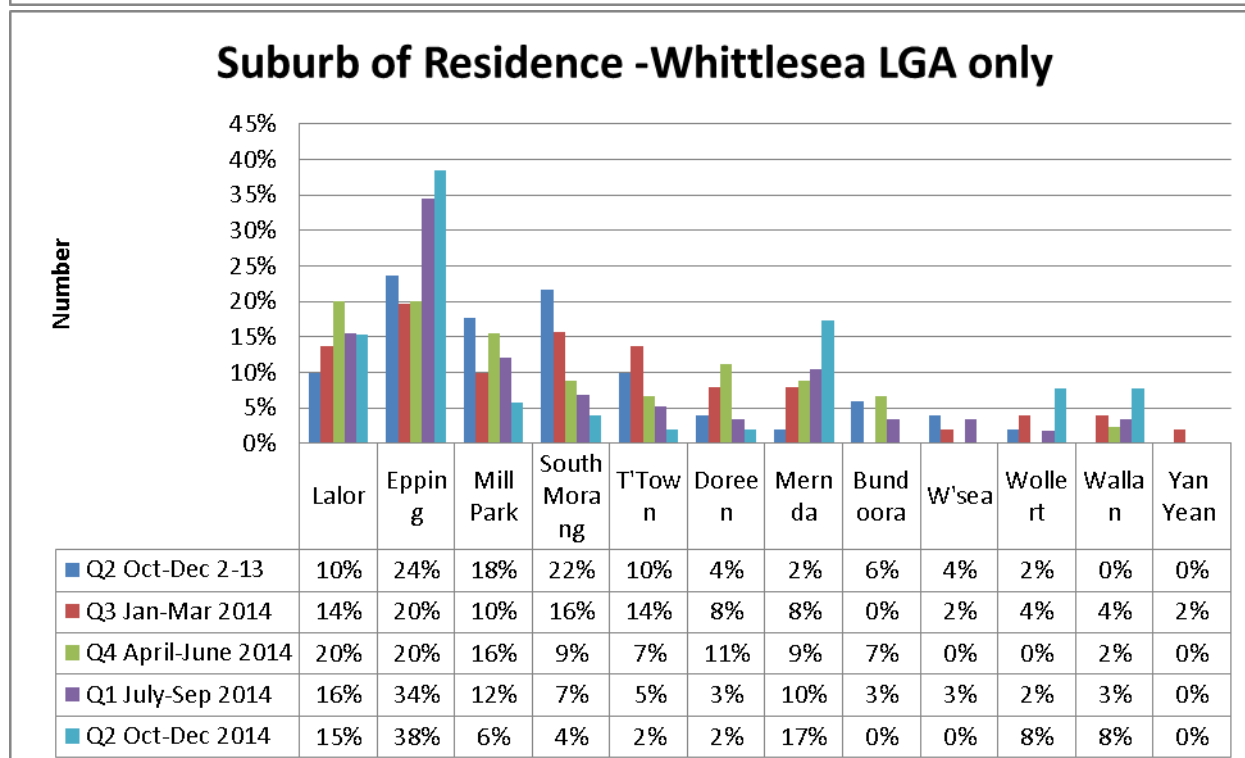
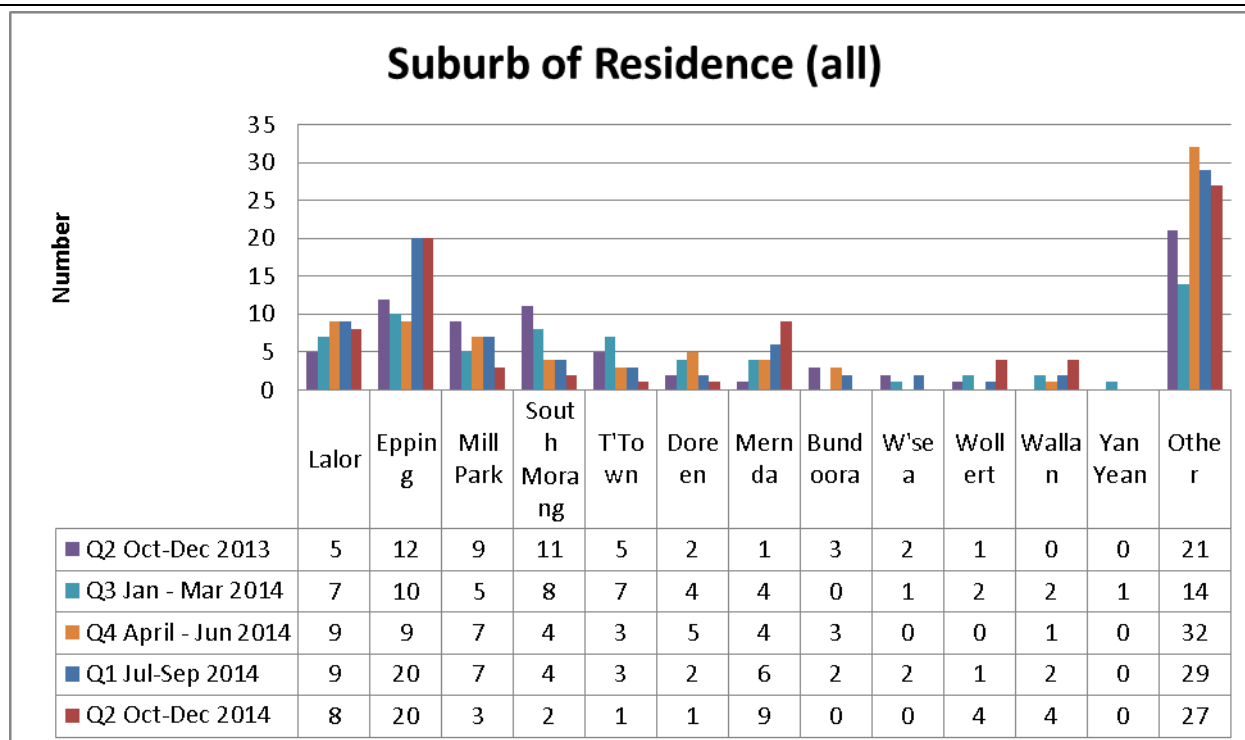
AGE GROUP



	Oct-Dec 2014	Jul-Sep 2014	April – June 2014	Jan – Mar 2014	Oct – Dec 2013
	Q2	Q1	Q4	Q3	Q2
0-16	0%	1%	1%	1%	1.3%
17-25	11%	13%	5%	6%	8%
26-40	51%	52%	44%	51%	50%
41-55	29%	6%	42%	31%	37%
56+	3%	2%	6%	11%	2.6%
Not stated	7%	0%	1%	0%	1.3%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

- The 26-40 age group had the highest representation with 51% of incidents (39 cases).
- 5% of clients had no means of financial support.
- 66% of clients were dependent on a pension or benefit.
- 7% of clients were on a mixed wage/pension.
- 16% of clients had a wage.

SUBURB OF RESIDENCE



- The majority of people – 66% – live within the City of Whittlesea.
- 34% came from outside Whittlesea, including Greensborough, Reservoir and Craigieburn.
- Epping represented the largest proportion of contacts within the Whittlesea LGA at 38%.

- The suburbs of South Morang, Doreen and Mernda make up approximately 30% of the Whittlesea population. 13% 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 FROM THIS QUARTER (OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2014)

- This quarter saw fewer FV clients than the previous quarter (76 compared to 87). However, there were considerably more clients in December when compared to December the previous year (23 compared to 11, or double the number of clients). WCC is closed for approximately a week of December yet had the highest rate for the quarter. This is inline with the experience of other services that see a spike in FV incidents over the holiday period. Legal services tend to see the highest proportion of WCC FV clients, however in December legal saw fewer clients than normal and emergency relief experienced a spike in demand. ER saw more than double the number of FV clients to the equivalent 2013 period (19 compared to 8), and an even greater increase from the previous quarter (19 compared to 6).
- This quarter data collection enquired about substance abuse, problem-gambling and use of technology to facilitate stalking/harassment. Across a 6 week period, or 47 cases, substance abuse was present in 1 in 4 cases (30%); technology facilitated staking/harassment in 15%; and problem-gambling in 9%. These figures may prove significant and will be closely tracked across the next quarter.
- Across 2014, the largest group outside of those born in Australia were from Iran. Iranians are not the largest migrant group in Whittlesea but these figures could be explained by a few points. Firstly, the Whittlesea CALD Communities FV Project provide brokerage funding and FV community legal education to two Iranian women's groups. Secondly, for much of the year a Farsi-speaking Salvation Army Crossroads FV Worker provided was outposted at WCC. This worker facilitated some of the CLE's to the women's groups. This means local Iranian women had multiple avenues for accessing WCC's services. In 2015 WCC will lead implementation of an Our Watch funded violence prevention project specifically working with the Iranian community, and it will be interesting to track this in future reports.
- There has been interesting increases in suburb of residence since the equivalent period in 2013. Mernda grew from representing 2% of City of Whittlesea residents to 17% (1 person to 9) and neighbouring Wollert from 2% to 8% (1 person to 4.) There were noticeable decreases too; Mill Park decreased from 18% to 6% and Thomastown from 22% to 4%. Future data will track whether this rise in clients from the growth areas continues.

DISCUSSION FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER (JULY-SEPTEMBER 2014)

- In the previous quarter the Salvation Army FV worker saw fewer clients than previous months. This decrease continued in the current quarter, with no new clients and three follow ups. Referrals from WCC staff continued to be high but many clients chose not to attend appointments for various reasons. It is anticipated that once the CALD FV Project resumes CLEs and community engagement there will be a rise in clients accessing the FV worker.