

Making a **Difference**

2008/09 plans and actions for Well Wairarapa

Reducing family violence

Working together

- Improve coordination of agencies and groups working together to provide services
- Support the Violence-Free Wairarapa campaign, "Rise Above It" which focuses on raising awareness and community education
- Key community agencies are part of Wairarapa Violence Intervention Steering Group
- Take part in regular meetings of multi-agency steering group to address problems and find solutions together

DHB action

- Treat violence as a health issue
- Update DHB policies and procedures to address violence
- Create two Family Violence Coordinator roles to allow significant resources to be put into staff training together with a communication strategy to underpin the violence intervention programme
- Train all hospital staff to screen women 16 years and over for family violence

Change attitudes

- Encourage the whole community to understand that violence is not an answer to problems



These plans and actions are part of national health targets 5,7 (see summary sheet)

FOR MORE INFORMATION



See the full version of the *District Annual Plan* at: wairarapa.dhb.org.nz

Violence-free Wairarapa

"He was mad, nuts. We were together for six months and it was fine for the first few months. Then the beatings began. Every four days when he was stoned or had been drinking all day while I was working. I would come home and it would start. I never deserved it. It wasn't rational but I kept hoping it would get better. The violence escalated. I was having no sleep because I never knew when the next punch in the dark would come. The time he beat me for six hours continuously was when I decided that was the last beating I was ever going to have."

These words are a direct quote from a Wairarapa woman, used with her permission.

Family Violence is a health issue. The ripple effects spread through the whole community and without intervention can echo down through generations.

Wairarapa DHB is the coordinating body that is helping our community to build on several years of hard work to reduce the incidence and impact of family violence in the Wairarapa.

DHB Family Violence Intervention Coordinator, Gaye Rowberry, is part of a network of community agencies, including CYFS, Police, Women's Refuge, Safe and Healthy Community Council, Whaiora Whanui, WINZ, Violence Free Wairarapa, the District Councils and the DHB.

"We all have a part to play in reducing family violence," says Gaye. "I can talk mostly about what we are doing at the DHB, but we are only one part of the big picture. It's by working together that we'll make a real difference."

The DHB is working towards meeting the national guidelines set by the Ministry of Health for family violence intervention in the hospital setting.

Within the hospital we already have credit card sized information sheets on the back of all public toilet doors – small enough for women to hide in their shoes if necessary. Behind the scenes, a huge amount of work is going on to prepare us for the launch of the programme – all the

policies, procedures, forms and processes must be in place, before we can start the Family Violence Intervention training for front-line staff in all areas.

The plan is to 'train the trainers' in September/October 08, before rolling out the mandatory training to all clinical staff and a few key frontline staff. Once training is completed, screening of all women aged 16 and over will start. Men will be screened when abuse is suspected.

"Already, the wider group have agreed to a charter for collaborating to end family violence. To all be 'singing off the same songsheet' will really help us work together towards our common goal," says Gaye.

