

FAMILY VIOLENCE A FOCUS

YARRIAMBIA CK appropriately to signs of Shire Council's front line, local laws, public health, library and leisure centre staff were taught how to recognise and respond

appropriately to signs of family violence during an identifying Family Violence workshop on Thursday. Hosted by the Municipal

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Association of Victoria, Women's Health Grampians and Grampians Integrated Family Violence Committee, in conjunction with the Shire, the session was aimed at front line Council staff, many of whom are exposed to signs that family violence is occurring in the home, or in public, and may not know how to recognise of respond appropriately in these situations.

Statistics about the prevalence of violence against women in Australia are disturbing, with one in three women experiencing violence since the age of 15, and Victoria Police attending more than 60,000 family violence incidents in the last year alone.

Using the same framework used by police, maternal and child health nurses, and community service organisations, the training was complemented by presentations by Warracknabeal Police Acting Sergeant Pritpal Thandi, Grampians Regional Family Violence coordinator Jeannine le Valliant, WHG health promotion officer Simone Meade and a Casey City Council Local Laws officer.



• RESPOND: Shown at Friday's Identifying Family Violence workshop are (from left) Grampians Regional Family Violence coordinator Jeannine le Valliant, White Ribbon Ambassador Ray Camping, Municipal Association of Victoria policy adviser preventing violence against women Kelle Nagle, Warracknabeal Police Acting Sergeant Pritpal Thandi and Women's Health Grampians health promotion officer Simone Meade.

Some of the topics the speakers discussed included:

- The safety of people experiencing family violence.
- Local Law officer

- Family violence statistics and how the reporting and justice system works.
- Ms le Valliant said Ms Nagle spoke about the

initiatives many Councils were taking on board to combat family violence across the state.

workshop, commenting that the shire has a good picture of what needs to change within the community, and what it means to be remote with regard to access to services," she said.

During the session, a Casey City Council Local Laws officer spoke about the Council's experiences and how family violence can affect pets too, with research showing a link between domestic violence and animal abuse.

"It is one of three Wimmera Councils addressing family violence, and chief executive officer Ray Camping spoke at the

She said the state family violence plan lasts until 2017, with the federal and Indigenous plans in place until 2020.

How To Play Sudoku

• Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every 3 by 3 sub-section of the 9 contains

4	7			2	
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SUDOKU