

Alternatives to Violence Project WA

Annual Report 2008

Chairperson's Report 2008

The life blood of AVP-WA is its facilitators and management committee. Without all of you AVP would not exist. Thank you all, it is your efforts that have enabled AVP-WA to achieve what it has during 2008. It has been a busy year that has seen the expansion of the prison program with workshops continuing in Acacia prison and Wooroloo, Karnet and Casuarina prisons coming on board. Feedback from participating inmates and prison staff has been positive and indicate workshops are highly valued.

There has been an exciting development in the schools program. Two high schools Darling Range Sports College and Warnbro Community High School have hosted workshops and hope to have a core group of student facilitators who will facilitate Peaceful Pathway workshops for their peers. Three students from Warnbro Community High School have achieved facilitator status and facilitated their first highly successful workshop.

Community workshops have continued. Much effort has been put into attracting participants. Feedback from participants has been positive. Most community workshops have been in the Midland area. AVP-WA is committed to making workshops accessible and appropriate to the indigenous community. During 2008 two indigenous women became facilitators. A representative of AVP – WA attended the international conference held in Kenya and participated in the facilitation of workshops while there. AVP-WA sponsored two members to attend the national gathering in Sydney which provided the opportunity for AVP-WA to have a voice at the national level, network and share ideas..

AVP-WA has maintained its commitment to ongoing training in both the community and prison sectors. Two training sessions were held at Acacia prison and 8 were offered in the community. Training provides a key role in supporting the development of facilitation confidence, skills and promotes a sense of belonging. It also fosters the building of relationships between members.

Summary of workshops during 2008

Acacia : 12 workshops, 2 training days and 1 wind up

Karnet: 2 workshops

Wooroloo: 5 workshops

Casuarina: 3 Workshops

Community: 5 workshops

Primary Schools: 2 workshops

High Schools : 8 workshops and 1 wind up

Kenya: 2 workshops

Shane Bailey, Chairperson AVP-WA

2008 PRISON REPORTS FOR AVP AGM MARCH 2009

Staff at all four prisons in which we are working have expressed their appreciation and commendation for our workshops. They find them of great value for the inmates.

ACACIA: We held 12 workshops, 2 Training Days and 1 wind up. All were well attended. Mainstream had 4 Basics, 2 Advanced and 2 combined T4Fs.

Protected had 2 Basics, 2 Advanced and 2 combined T4Fs.

We trained about 12 facilitators, but several moved on.

All workshops ran smoothly with only a small number of behaviour problems. All facilitators have felt that their time and efforts were well appreciated.

The poor food problem has been overcome with input from Acacia Administration.

By the end of the year we had 2 experienced and 3 new Inmate Facilitators, in Protected and 2 experienced and 4 new in Mainstream. The Inmate facilitators are doing an amazing job in organising workshops and protecting the integrity of AVP. They held an Inmate Facilitator's meeting to plan 2009 and decide on management issues. A policy was developed to handle the situation where an inmate facilitator had been involved in un-AVP like behaviour. This worked very well.

The venue has mostly been the Cultural Centre but twice bookings overlapped for a short time and a room was found for us. For one workshop, staff members were short so we functioned in the transportable at Juliet Block.

KARNET: Several inmate facilitators from Acacia moved on to Karnet, but only one helped with one of the two Basic workshops that were held there. The chapel is a good venue and Prison staff are very supportive. The workshops were well attended and appreciated. Other inmate facilitators have promised to help in 2009.

WOOROLOO: We commenced workshops there in March and held 4 Basics and 1 Advanced. A T4F was considered, but the only 3 possible participants were due to leave within a few months. The idea of transporting to do the T4F in Acacia was discussed and approved by Wooroloo, but not agreed to by Acacia authorities. The venues there have been good and the staff very supportive.

CASUARINA: After an approach from the Superintendent, AVP engaged with Casuarina Administration again in 2008 to re-commence our programme in the prison where we first started offering workshops, back in 1995. The interruption occurred due to a major shut-down of all voluntary agencies, following the Christmas Day riots in 1998. However, in those four years we had done many workshops and had a great group in inmate facilitators. So, it was good to begin again.

During 2008 we conducted three BASIC workshops: 14th 15th 16th May, July 30, 31st & August 1st, and 28th, 29th & 30th October. We had hoped to do a set of four, including T4F by the end of the year, but venue problems, and other administrative delays meant that most participants had already moved on between workshops, so we didn't have enough numbers to proceed to an Advanced workshop. The third workshop saw us placed in a very good venue (the original one from the nineties), which was pleasing, and we managed to get a Friday, Saturday, Sunday pattern, which is less intrusive for inmates. 2009 begins (late February) with yet another BASIC, but unfortunately, again, delays in timetabling mean that our next workshops will not be offered until May.

We shall persevere until we get a full round of workshops, because we feel sure that once we have inmate facilitators the process will be streamlined, as far as getting participants registered is concerned.

BORONIA & BANDYUP: In spite of meetings and offering to do the workshops for no charge, we have not been invited into these prisons.

HAKEA: Authorities from this prison did approach us but because most prisoners are only there for a short time and we had insufficient facilitators, we were unable to commence workshops there.

AVP IN SCHOOLS 2008

DARLING RANGE SPORTS COLLEGE: At the request of the school chaplain and the school psychologist, we held the first workshop there with selected Yr 10 students. It was a highly successful and enjoyable workshop with statements made during the final gathering showing that the students, staff members and facilitators had all achieved very high goals. Facilitators were invited back for an end of year luncheon with the students who told of the Peacemaking activities and projects they were going to engage in around the school. Plans were made for 2009 workshops.

HELENA COLLEGE JUNIOR SCHOOL: An Advanced workshop was held with Yr 6 students and a Basic with Yr 5 in first term. Others were planned, but shortage of available facilitators on days that were suitable for the school was a problem. At the end of the year the staff did an In Service course on a program called 'Paths'. This covers all aspects of HIPP and runs weekly from Kindergarten through to Yr 6, so we probably won't do any workshops there in 2009.

WARNBRO COMMUNITY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL: A complete series of workshops has been held and the program has been accredited by the Curriculum Council. The projected ended with a residential camp at which three students became facilitators and will help to carry the workshops forward in 2009. Appreciation was shown to the school by the presentation of a special certificate from AVP during an assembly in February.

THE INTERNATIONAL GATHERING IN KENYA SEPTEMBER 2008

I was privileged to be sponsored for this gathering and to be able to be a team member for a workshop in a Rural Village before the Gathering and in the slums of Nairobi after the Gathering. This has been one of the highlights of my life. Meeting and exchanging ideas with AVP facilitators from all around the World was wonderful. Hearing about the amazing and beneficial workshops that are taking place in war torn areas, confirmed my high opinion of the AVP process. Witnessing and experiencing the quality control that goes on as well seeing the lists of hundreds of workshops being done each year in Kenya. I stayed in two different Centres that had been built and run by Quakers especially for AVP workshops. They need financial donations to be able to continue these projects.

Being one of 4 facilitators for workshops being held for people who had suffered horrifically during the post electoral violence, and seeing the forgiveness and positive attitudes that emanated was humbling. Being the only white amongst so many blacks showed me that when one can't see that he or she is different and everyone is working towards the same goal, apart from accents, one doesn't feel different.

23 countries were represented at the Gathering, many different interest groups held and an International Committee formed. I have reported to an AVP night in Perth, to the National Gathering in Canberra and have shown an album of photos with diary pages interleaved, to participants in prison, community and

school workshops. The next Gathering is to be organised by SW Pacific people and held in either Nepal or Sydney. I have volunteered to be on that organising committee. I hope many other WA people will be able to enjoy the experience of an International Gathering and that of being a team member in a foreign country. Sally Herzfeld Feb. 2009

NATIONAL GATHERING 2009: This was held in Canberra in January and was attended by two facilitators from AVPWA.

REPORT ON COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS 2008

5 Community workshops (3 Basics, 1 Advanced and 1 T4F) were held in the Midland area during the year. As usual, it was difficult to attract a good number of participants, but with advertising around networks, in school & church newsletters and local papers, we achieved reasonable numbers. The first was held in the Church of the Ascension Parish Hall in Midland, the next in St Mary's church hall in Middle Swan, and the rest have been in the Hills Community Support Group Conference Room. All were great venues. 5 new facilitators were trained. The participants came from a wide range of social and educational backgrounds.

A great effort was made to hold a workshop especially for indigenous people through the Moorditj Nyoongar College. One of our new (2007) indigenous facilitators designed a special brochure to attract her people and contact was made with the Cullacabardi community but no registrations were received. We will continue with this project.

There is a need for someone to organise workshops in the Fremantle area as participants are complaining about the distance to Midland.

GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2008

INCOME	2008	2007	2006
Wkshp Fees	10,975.00	8,503.00	5,930.00
Interest	80.96	97.39	89.65
Donation (Note 1)	1,150.72	12,000.00	10,750.00
Subs	-	120.00	160.00
TOTAL INCOME	12,206.68	20,720.39	16,929.65
EXPENSES			
Travel (Note 2)	9,824.16	2,528.26	7,390.55
Publicity	1,743.12	1,637.50	811.00
W'shop Matl	3,209.02	1,093.57	486.97
Food	299.13	405.12	730.78
Rent	2,380.00	2,259.00	2,441.00
Admin	5,050.69	6,315.70	11,401.27
Facilitators Services (Note 3)	1,080.00	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	23,586.12	14,239.15	23,261.57
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	-11,379.44	6,481.24	-6,331.92
Bank Reconciliation			
	2008	2007	
Opening Balance as at 1/1/08	24,148.30	17,667.06	
NET PROFIT/LOSS	- 11,379.44	6,481.24	
Represented by Closing Balance	12,763.86	24,148.30	
as per Bank Statement 31/12/08	12,763.86	24,148.30	

Notes:

1. Unlike previous years, 2008 donation from May Trust was banked in new AVP Gift Fund for donations. WA AVP GIFT FUND, so that donations can be tax deductible.
2. Travel includes expenses for International and National Gatherings.
3. Money paid to facilitators as low honourariums, or those who present invoices with ABN numbers

A Community Solutions Cheque Account was opened July 8th with \$15,000.00 donation from The May Trust. It is still going through the process of becoming a tax deductible gift recipient account.

OPENING BALANCE	5/7/08	\$15,000.00
INTEREST PAID	30/9/08	\$18.04
CLOSING BALANCE	5/11/08	\$15,018.04