



# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2016

2016 has been a great year for AVP WA.

We have been involved in 50 workshops this year in prisons, schools and the community, involving 27 community facilitators, 17 at Acacia, 9 at Wooroloo, 3 at Karnet and 1 at Bunbury RP.

## Prison Workshops

There is always a high demand for AVP workshops in Acacia Prison, and we have facilitated more workshops there than any other facility. We successfully trained a number of inmate facilitators who have already started joining facilitation teams.

Mark has continued to liaise with the Transitional Manager at Karnet Prison. Unfortunately, several planned workshops were cancelled due to poor communication and organisation at the prison.

Sally has been the liaison person at Wooroloo prison, although it has been difficult to schedule workshops due to rooming and staff issues.

We have also commenced AVP workshops in Bunbury Regional Prison and Wandoo Reintegration Facility. One of the five facilitators who were trained at BRP last year co-facilitated his first Basic workshop in February this year.

Men's Outreach in Broome have several trained AVP facilitators. We couldn't have kept AVP going in the West Kimberley Regional Prison (Derby) if it weren't for their support. They helped with community facilitator transport to and from Broome, and the first male inmate facilitators co-facilitated workshops in WKRP.

One AVP WA facilitator help initiate AVP workshops and train inmate facilitators in Darwin prison.

We have been unsuccessful with our approaches to other Western Australian regional prisons.

## Community and School Workshops

We held Basic workshops for the ASeTTS community leaders, Peel Youth Services and allied staff.

A HIPP Basic and Advanced were also held at Helena College during the year, with Year 5 students co-facilitating in the year 4 workshops.

We were disappointed to have to cancel 2 Basics, an Advanced and a T4F scheduled for the general Perth metropolitan community. It's always very frustrating to have to cancel workshops.

Workshops were also facilitated in the Broome Senior High School.

We organised a workshop at St Patricks in Fremantle for street people, but unfortunately, insufficient participants turned up so we reluctantly cancelled the workshop after the first morning.

## Management Committee

In 2016, our management committee consisted of ten committee members. We meet monthly in Mount Lawley, and also exchange emails between meetings in order to make decisions which can't be held off until the following month's meeting.

Our Publicity Committee meet regularly and have developed a strong marketing strategy, including social media guidelines.

## Administration

Mark Newhouse has continued his part-time role as AVP Administrator and we have renewed his contract for 2017. Mark does a wonderful job performing many administrative tasks, including organising community, and Acacia, Bunbury and Karnet prison workshops. He submits a monthly report to the committee.

## National Training Gathering

In April, the 2016 National Training Gathering was held at Silver Wattle Retreat and Conference Centre in New South Wales, with four Perth facilitators attending. During the gathering, all attendees co-facilitated at least one session. When the Perth facilitators returned home, they reported back to AVP WA in the form of a facilitated session at the next monthly training session.

## Newsletters

Four AVP WA newsletters were produced during the year and these were distributed to all community facilitators electronically. Hard copies were also printed and taken to the prisons. All facilitators are encouraged to contribute stories and feedback from recent workshops.

## Training

Monthly training nights continued throughout the year, with pizza and socialising time provided before each session. These training nights are important for facilitator connection, fun and honing of skills. It's very encouraging to see so many facilitators attend these nights.

We also held two training days in Acacia which helps inmate and community facilitators stay connected. The prison facilitators appreciate these days.

Several child facilitators from Helena College co-facilitated a training evening with parents and Perth facilitators at the College early in the year. Many of the children's parents attended the training night and were very impressed with their children's newfound skills and knowledge.

In 2016 we covered a range of topics, including:

National gathering report.

AVP teams.

AVP on the inside.

Youth Workshops.

New Ideas.

## Australian, Regional and International AVP

During 2016, regular Skype meetings were held in order to share happenings and ideas. Information and queries are often then fed back to the AVP WA committee.

## May trust

Once again, we received a considerable sum of money from our anonymous donor, which really helps with ongoing running costs, particularly transport cost for facilitators to attend workshops, and National and International Gatherings.

## Anna Alderson

On a very sad note, we farewelled our very much respected team member and friend Anna Alderson earlier in the year. Those of us who co-facilitated workshops and attended committee meetings and training nights with Anna over the years, appreciated her gentle humour and wisdom. She was an ambassador for peace, and is very much missed in the AVP WA community.

Murray Axford  
AVP WA Chairperson  
March 2017