

Report looks at answers to abuse

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CENTRE PROPOSES SOLUTIONS

SUNBURY Community Health Centre's detailed submission to the Victorian Royal Commission on Family Violence earlier this year is already helping streamline the organisational response to the problem.

Child, youth and family services manager Marcus Bosch said while increasing resources dedicated to family violence was the aim of the 40-page submission in May, the exercise which involved a broad working group had proved just as useful.

"Once we got people involved across the health centre you'd hear lots of stories about how family violence impacts clients across different areas of our work and community," he said.

Mr Bosch said the submission would ensure roles were clarified and would aid future planning.

The need for more family violence resources also became clear while preparing the submission, he said.

Community health centres, with their intimate knowledge of their communities, offered a better way to respond quickly to the incidence of family violence, as oppose to large regional organisations, he said.

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"Sunbury Community Health has an integrated range of services for families, women and men, and strong links with other local services such as police, doctors and other community supports," Mr Bosch said.

Several recommendations around resourcing and priorities in reducing family violence were presented in the service's report.

Key reform recommendations included resourcing a specialist team of family violence workers and the expansion of men's behaviour change programs for males exhibiting violent behaviours.

The expansion of family services programs and introduction of a regionally coordinated, locally deployed, safety response model would also be more effective and efficient, the submission stated.

Also addressed was the urgent need to strengthen healing interventions directed to victims, with both women and children susceptible to long-term trauma and mental illness.

Established by the State Government in February, recommendations from the Royal Commission into Family Violence are due to be handed to the State Government on February 29, 2016.