

**Socialist Women for Justice**

**85 cedar Party Road**

**Taree 2430**

28 January 2016

NSW Ministry of Health

73 Miller Street

North sydney 2060

Dear Minister

Please find enclosed our submission to Blueprint for the domestic and family violence response in NSW.

Attached is a statement regarding the composition and activities of Socialist Women for Justice.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marion Hosking OAM". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'M' at the beginning.

Marion Hosking OAM

enc.

# Socialist Women for Justice

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**Taree 2430**

'phone 65525229 mob 0419311926

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## ***Re DFV-Blueprint-Consultation-Paper 2***

### **Consultation paper Part One: Questions for everyone**

**1. Over-riding cause DFV. The white patriarchy. Until it is acknowledged that only half the population (male) legally, medically, educationally, financially and socially makes the rules, gender inequity and its results will continue.**

#### **In the meantime:**

1. Change is possible, e.g., the successful public education on smoking (dropped to 12% adults), littering, seat belts and slip, slop, slap campaigns. Routine DFV screening at refuges (if any) and antenatal clinics, hospitals, doctors.

If 'change' is the governments' goal we MUST change current language, attitudes and behaviours.

2. Include in the above, a campaign to reduce stigma resulting from DFV.

3. The effect of slogans is very doubtful; it was not examined for unintended consequences. Slogans must not be left to marketing and advertising companies. They must be reviewed by those experienced in dealing with DFV. *Going Home Staying Home* is dangerously unsuccessful. Historically, **home is one of the least safe places for women and children.**

The ABC's Sarah Ferguson's *Hitting Home* program's effect was nullified by the full-screen railway sign, BLACKTOWN. Also, 'action' occurred at Blacktown police station; DFV knows no boundaries. Our proposal : that ALL TV channels must carry government advertisements/ programmes depicting the horrors of violence to women For example, well -documented success of anti-smoking advertisements.

Reinstate secular women's refuges run by women and funded adequately on a recurrent basis as before August 2014. Such refuges MUST have a 24 hour service. It is here that early intervention can occur along with schools, medical practitioners and hospitals. Women and children have a RIGHT to safety. They must NOT be made to feel they are recipients of charity.

3 Refuges play a pivotal role in distributing information and offering one to one conversation. If no refuge available the victim's confidence must be gained followed by offers of assistance (in our experience there are times when the victim fears the resolution more than her current situation.) Brainwashing, the *Stockholm Syndrome* and the development of a slave mentality creates barriers even the most caring support system cannot overcome e.g., a woman murdered in Belbora, NSW (2001) was advised time and time again not to return to her abuser. The local hospital advised her of that possibility after every one of her stays but eventually she was murdered in a most horrific manner.

4. Domestic violence is a crime. Remove the appellation, 'domestic violence' and replace it with criminal assault. Ensure police, magistrates and judges are properly educated in the many aspects of violence to women. It is interesting to compare the amount of press coverage of 'one punch' assaults compared to the almost daily attacks on women.

**Part two...questions for anyone who has accessed DFV services**

not applicable

**Part three n/a**

**Comment;** A number of *Socialist Women* were engaged in women's refuges and women's services for at least forty years but are not currently employed in that area. While any efforts to garner information and/or assistance for victims of DFV are appreciated we feel we must stress that most of us answered these questions many times in the forty years associated with this huge problem. It is amazing, that we are able to keep our equilibrium; this is particularly so when we see Forster NSW beginning as we did forty years ago; asking for hand -outs from the community and small grants from government!

It is important that education and assistance must come from Government; religious bodies, no matter how skilful, are unable to deliver service without the effect of religious dogma or without acting as perpetrators themselves (see recent Royal Commission).

Advantage of women's refuges is the privacy and space provided to a victim while they access skilled responses enabling them to come to the point of reporting to police.. (only 20% of victims contact police)

Yours sincerely



Marion Hosking OAM

cc Fran Hayes Workplace Solutions , Womens' Refuge Coalition

## Socialist Women for Justice

SWFJ is a group of women of like minds connected by email. Members are from all states of Australia, United Kingdom and United States. Their backgrounds are varied including law, writers, commentators, social workers, Members of Parliament, teachers, artists, nurses et al. We are a 'ginger group' writing letters to politicians, business people and opinion makers . The group has been in existence for at least ten years resulting in some disappointments ,some successes but more importantly acting as a conduit for those needing assistance in pressing their case.