

# Safe at Home Services in Western Australia : a work in progress.

National Housing Conference 2017.

# Why doesn't she just leave?

- The question to ask now is not 'Why doesn't she leave?'
- BUT ,
- 'Why should men who use violence be allowed to remain in the home?'

## 2010. Six Safe at Homes services.

- a case management model for up to 12 months
- assist women to obtain a Violence Restraining Order,
- undertake risk assessments of the property and the clients safety,
- provide safety upgrades on the property,
- provide immediate access into refuge accommodation if needed,
- work closely with their local police to enhance safety,
- make relevant referrals as required .

# Evaluation of Safe at Home Services

2010-12

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- SAH clients (569) were unanimous about their high level of satisfaction with the service.
- A significant part of that satisfaction was not just the modifications to their home to make the home safer but the concurrent and ongoing support to the women.
- The evaluation found the SAH services strived to provide an integrated seamless service.
- The SAH model of service delivery suggests that this is an effective model for addressing the underlying causes of homelessness in domestic violence situations.

An outcome of the high rental costs and lack of affordable houses was a massive exit crisis for refugees.

- Safe at Home, a social justice response also became
- Stay at Home and avoid homelessness.

# So where are we now in WA

- The six SAH are still operating.
- Another three SAH have been funded
- The CRAMF is in its second edition.
- In 2017 a Family Violence Restraining Order was introduced.
- Aboriginal pilot called Feeling Safer at Home.

# Feeling Safer at Home.

- case management and support for 18 months,
- only Aboriginal staff employed,
- there is an capacity to provide security upgrades at another house e.g if victim moves in with her family.
- Referrals to the service are coming from a much wider range of community services, less likely to be from police .
- The staff are undertaking a significant Community Education role to raise awareness of the service in the local community.
- Developing an information package for men to provide support and information.
- Developing an older Aboriginal women support system for victims in partnership with local Aboriginal services.

## In conclusion

- tenancy legislation
- women's economic empowerment program
- mandatory 'behaviour change' programs.