



FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING

BACKGROUND

The president and co-founder director of AfriAus iLEAC, conducted a needs analysis with 18 potential participants. They identified the need to better understand the MARAM framework and their legal obligations to respond and manage disclosures. This included developing an organisational procedure for all members and volunteers to follow. After further discussions, it became apparent that AfriAus iLEAC along with their partner organisations (LUV pack partners and Girls Force steering committee) needed further clarification on the role of child protection and to build their confidence to access support services available. SECL were informed that AfriAus iLEAC and members would benefit from learning practical solutions and tools to practice and promote gender equality. This would strengthen their skills and knowledge to deliver community-led primary prevention initiatives.

SOLUTION

South East Community Links carefully tailored and delivered 3 training sessions to the needs and priority areas identified by AfriAus iLEAC with 23 participants in September 2022. The training was held on the weekend across 3 weeks over Zoom. The age of the participants ranged from 30-60 years, with many being working professionals. The participants were representatives of AfriAus iLEAC, LUV pack partners and Girls Force steering committee members. SECL shared their organisational family violence policy and procedure to illustrate an organisation's legal responsibility to respond to disclosures of family violence, the pathways for safe referrals for women and their children including referrals to child protection and Orange Door.

The training focussed on understanding the social context in which violence against women arises, actions to challenge gender inequality and understanding the essentials of designing and delivering primary prevention initiatives with multicultural communities. Some parts of the training were co-facilitated with AfriAus iLEAC members, recognising the expertise within the organisation. Additionally, the training offered a safe space for participants to share their life experiences, stories, and knowledge.

OUTCOMES



Application of learning

AfriAus iLEAC applied their learnings and insights gained from capacity building training program to their "Changing Narrative - Girl force interactive" expo in October 2022.



Policy development

AfriAus iLEAC's child safety standards and policy were developed and shared with their organisation in October 2022 and SECL has provided them with support to develop their MARAM informed disclosures of family violence policy and procedure which will be finalised in the coming months



Improved service access

Information about support and recovery services and programs for women and children affected by family violence was shared more broadly at AfriAus iLEAC. Additionally a successful referral was made to SECL's financial wellbeing program for an elderly single woman.

The problem

- Lack of organisational policies & procedures relating to MARAM framework
- Limited understanding of legal responsibilities and duty of care to respond to family violence disclosures
- Limited knowledge of how to design and deliver primary prevention initiatives
- Lack of awareness about family violence specialist services

Results

- 88% of participants stated their understanding of their MARAM responsibilities had improved.
- 100% of participants felt more confident to design and deliver a primary prevention activity
- 88% of participants felt their understanding of the drivers of family violence improved
- 100% of participants felt more confident to safely refer victims/survivors to support services



"I have a better understanding of what the MARAM framework is and what my responsibility is. I learnt that it is everyone's responsibility to manage disclosures of domestic and family violence and support victims/survivors to access appropriate referrals to ensure they are safe". - Participant