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# Funding Commitment for Family Violence Program

An Australian-first early intervention program to assist Victorian fathers in overcoming the challenges of abuse, violence and trauma has received further funding from a partnership with the Victorian Government and Gandel Philanthropy.

Commenced by CPS in partnership with ReGen drug and alcohol service, an initial trial was conducted in North Eastern Melbourne late last year with a grant of \$575,000. The \$4.6 million boost over three years from the Victorian Government, in addition to \$1 million from Gandel Philanthropy, will allow the 17 week program to expand to Western Melbourne and Inner Gippsland.

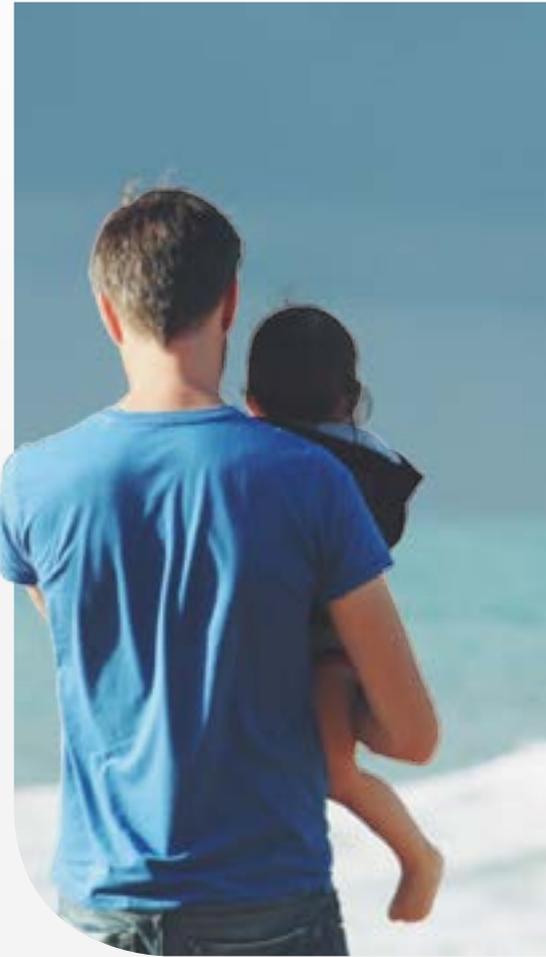
Developed by the Child Development Institute in Toronto and adapted for Australia, the program is targeted towards fathers who are abusive and have substance abuse and mental health issues. The intention is for them to recognise the impact of their behaviours on their children and to develop positive, healthy and safe relationships. The trial will be evaluated by Melbourne University.

“Children are often the silent victims in family violence and there are limited programs that men can access that place an emphasis on this. As a community we need to enhance the scope of services that assists men early on and supports them to build positive relationships with their children. This program will give us that chance.”

**Aileen Ashford**  
CPS CEO

“Family violence is insidious and the whole society has a duty to support programs and activities that address this crisis. Gandel Philanthropy trustees believed that the delivery of a pilot program, based on a very successful overseas model directed specifically at the perpetrators of violence, was worthy of support and had the potential to help tackle this pressing and complex social issue.”

**John Gandel AO**  
CHAIRMAN OF GANDEL PHILANTHROPY



# New Family Violence Hubs to Keep Women Safe



In November the Andrews Labor Government announced the locations of the first Support and Safety Hubs where victim survivors of family violence can access the help they need to stay safe. They will be a visible contact point with access to highly skilled workers that are integrated into the broader social service and justice systems.

A hub will be established in Melbourne’s North East and other locations include Barwon, Bayside Peninsula, Inner Gippsland and Mallee regions.

The Hubs were a key recommendation of the Royal Commission into Family Violence and will prioritise the safety of women and children.

**“**We welcome that one of five of the initial Hubs will be in North-East Melbourne. CPS has been working here for many years with women and children who’ve been victims of family violence through ChildFIRST and our other therapeutic and family services programs. We look forward to the co-design process that will occur to build the hubs.**”**

**Aileen Ashford**  
CPS CEO



## CPS AGM: A celebration of a landmark year

The 'house full' sign was up at the Children's Protection Society's Heidelberg West site in November when staff and guests braved miserable weather to reflect on an outstanding year of achievement.

A changing of the guard was announced at the event with CPS President, Associate Professor Jane Munro AM, passing on the baton to Justice Bernard Murphy after 5 years at the helm. Both Justice Murphy and CEO Aileen Ashford praised

Dr Munro on her truly outstanding tenure where she steered CPS through a tremendous period of growth. Jane, and her great sense of humour and empathy, will be missed.

Special guest speaker Liana Buchanan (Commissioner for Children and Young People) spoke with great clarity on the handling of youth crime. The Commissioner went on to praise CPS as an organisation that is actively addressing the issue by focusing on early intervention programs.



## See Ladies in Black and support CPS in style!

In support of the Children's Protection Society, the Marriner Group will be staging a special charity performance of Tim Finn's award-winning Australian musical Ladies in Black, including an exclusive cocktail party at the Regent Theatre on Thursday night, 2 March.

For \$160\* you can access premium seats which also include pre show drinks and canapes, dessert and an opportunity to meet the cast.

To access tickets enter password: **CHARITY**

[BOOK YOUR TICKET NOW](#)

**Don't miss out on this amazing night out at the theatre – all for a good cause!**

Please note, tickets are limited and subject to availability. Terms and conditions apply. *\*Standard booking fees apply.*

## Professional Training and Development Kick-starts in 2017

Having built a reputation as a respected service provider last year, CPS' Training and Development Unit is set to establish itself as a leader in the field.

A broad range of interactive and engaging workshops will focus on developing knowledge in working with children and young people who have experienced abuse and trauma. The units are typically delivered to professionals such as teachers, community workers and early childhood educators, in addition to volunteers in contact with

children and young people in sport and recreation capacities.

All workshops are evidence-based and delivered by our staff who have significant experience and expertise in the topic areas.

For further information please contact us on **(03) 9450 0900** or email [training@cps.org.au](mailto:training@cps.org.au).

## Melbourne University Presents Research Findings on Sexual Abuse Prevention

Late in 2016 Melbourne University's Gemma McKibbin's presented the findings of her PhD thesis entitled "I knew it was wrong but I couldn't stop it": Young people talk about the prevention of sexually abusive behaviour, supervised by Prof Cathy Humphreys and Dr Bridget Hamilton.

The study aimed to draw upon the insights of 14 young CPS clients who had been sexually abusive and had completed a sexually abusive behaviour treatment program. Semi-structured interviews were also conducted with six CPS treatment-providing workers. Our Therapeutic Services unit saw great benefit in assisting with the study as CPS practice supports progressive, evidence-based prevention.



## CPS's Ron Briggs a HESTA Unsung Hero

Our Senior Aboriginal Cultural Advisor Ron Briggs has been recognised by the HESTA Community Sector Awards as a finalist in the 'Unsung Hero' category.

Ron has led a number of initiatives and programs that provide support services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men whilst fostering better connections with their culture, community and families. Over 25 years of dedicated support has seen Ron work with a number of organisations as a consultant in developing culturally appropriate programs and services.

For five years Ron has assisted Aboriginal men within CPS's 'Fathers and Family Relationship Program'. Through individual and group initiatives fathers have developed skills to better connect and care for their families.

HESTA CEO, Debby Blakey, noted the finalists were selected from an exceptional field of nominations. "These organisations and individuals demonstrate outstanding leadership in developing community programs and initiatives that promote greater equity and social justice for those facing disadvantage."



## CPS supports White Ribbon Day

In late November CPS joined other social welfare agencies and many individuals in support of White Ribbon Day. The march was a great show of community solidarity to say violence against women is unacceptable and preventable.

In practice CPS is committed to ground-breaking programs such as Caring Dads and Mothers in Mind that we anticipate will actively reduce family violence, both in the short term and for future generations.

## Kieser Charity Golf Day for CPS

You can support CPS's services by joining in this terrific annual event on **Friday 24 March**, organised by our great supporters at [Kieser](#). The fun-filled afternoon takes place at the prestigious **Yarra Yarra Golf Club** (567 Warrigal Road, Bentleigh East).

Tickets are \$205 per player and include:

- Welcome drink
- Light lunch & dinner
- Gift bag with t-shirt, drink bottle, golf ball and more...
- Entry to win \$10,000 if you achieve a hole in one!

For more information or to register yourself or team for the event, please contact:

**Rory Alexander**  
Email: [golf@kieser.com.au](mailto:golf@kieser.com.au)

**Don't delay as spaces will fill quickly!**



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