

September 17, 2020

## **Important messaging for refugee communities**

BENDIGO Community Health Services and Centre for Non-Violence have worked together to ensure important messages about family and domestic violence are reaching as many communities as possible during the Coronavirus pandemic.

BCHS has translated key messages provided by the Centre for Non-Violence into video and information sheet resources for the Karen community to detail forms of abuse which may be used by perpetrators, particularly during COVID-19 restrictions.

Translated resources for the Afghan and South Sudanese communities are also being produced.

Centre for Non-Violence chief executive Margaret Augerinos says family and domestic violence affects all communities, and it is critical information is available to all women experiencing abuse.

“We know many women are experiencing abuse for the first time during this pandemic – and for others, the type of abuse they have been experiencing has escalated,” she said.

“There are already many barriers to a woman seeking help when she is living at home with the person abusing her – and some may still be trying to understand the signs and what’s going on for them.

“It is important they have access to information so they know who to call when they are ready to reach out for help.”

Bendigo Community Health Services Cultural Diversity and Relationships manager Kaye Graves said the partnership with the Centre For Non-Violence was important in raising awareness through the refugee communities about family and domestic violence.

“Creating awareness is the best way to bring about change on such an important issue and this partnership has brought together the skills of two great organisations to deliver meaningful and simple messaging to ensure refugee communities understand more about domestic and family violence,” Ms Graves said.

“These resources have good messaging around not only the different types of domestic and family violence but what people should do if they are experiencing this behaviour.

”This work sits perfectly with the information sheets and videos we have been producing since March to keep the Karen, Afghan and South Sudanese communities safe from Coronavirus and updated as restrictions and rules change.

”We urge anyone from the Karen community who has questions around domestic and family violence and wants to talk to one of our Karen-speaking staff to call our free hotline on 5406 1254 or call/text the new mobile number 0437 418 984.”

Watch the first video in Karen language: <http://bit.ly/DomesticViolenceAwarenessKaren>



[Raising awareness of family and domestic violence \(Karen language\)](#)

Bendigo Community Health Services has partnered with the Centre for Non-Violence to produce this video resource for the Karen community to raise awareness ab...

[bit.ly](#)

### Some important contact information

Centre for Non-Violence 1800 884 292 or [www.cnv.org.au/we-are-here-to-help](http://www.cnv.org.au/we-are-here-to-help)

Safe Steps 24-hour statewide family violence response centre crisis response line 1800 015 188

In Touch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence 1800 755 988

In Touch is a statewide specialist family violence response service that works with women from migrant and refugee backgrounds, and their families and communities. [www.intouch.org.au](http://www.intouch.org.au)

If you are in danger, call 000

### Media contacts

#### Centre for Non-Violence

Nicole Ferrie 5430 3000

#### Bendigo Community Health Services

Rod Case 5406 1229 or 0418 147 560