



specialised refuges and housing for women

He Drove Me Mad. Advocacy strategies to address the needs of women driven mad by domestic violence

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Meet Homeworks Trust



specialised refuges and housing for women

Homeworks Trust

Advocating for women who:

- Are homeless
- Experience mental illness and substance abuse problems as a result of domestic violence
- Require women-only settings for a variety of reasons
- Require equity and social justice





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We work with, and on behalf of, vulnerable women to strengthen them so that they can eventually join with others to speak on their own behalf and then to speak out for other women.

Our values include equity, social justice, empowerment, self determination and elimination of discrimination and violence against women

MANY WOMEN GO INTO REFUGE EACH YEAR

In New Zealand, 1 in 3 women experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetimes

- There are 51 affiliated women's refuges and a number of unaffiliated refuges
- Last year refuge provided services for 17,773 women, 12,161 children
- One crisis call every 9 minutes



There are a number of women who find it difficult to access refuge

- Women with mental health problems
- Women who abuse drugs and alcohol
- Women with a physical disability
- Women without dependent children



2006 survey of 39 refuges

Over a 6 month period:

- 79 women with a mental health or drug and alcohol problem were moved out of a refuge
- They had 81 children
- 178 women were denied access to refuge - number of children unknown
- 257 women over 6 months - a minimum of 514 women each year unable to use women's refuge



These women go:

- back to the abuser
- into psychiatric institutions or drug and alcohol services
- into caravan parks
- to back packers or motels
- on to the street
- occasionally into private or state rentals





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“When they leave the refuge they slip through the gap. There is nothing there for them. They end up in the psych ward or on the streets.”

Tara - refuge worker



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A lot end up in caravan parks or cul-de-sacs full of drug addicts and drunks, which women have tried so hard to change and they put them straight back where they come from. Refuge is a safe haven, we see them re-bonding with their children – huge changes, then they move backwards when they have to go into bad housing.” *Huia - refuge worker*

Advocates are:

Representatives of the powerless - clients, poor, disabled- who advocate for their rights, entitlements, information and improved access to services. Tend to speak on their behalf.

Members of a coalition of agencies and individuals, including those directly affected, advocating for rights, changes in conditions of life/ determinants of health. Bottom up.

Professionals or groups advocating directly with the policy makers on the basis of their expertise. Top down.

Best if all these people work together



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Places for action

The organisational response

The problem and solutions are within the structure, processes, actions and responses of organisations and institutions

Focus on organisational change to create more client responsive services and policies

Benefit

Allows individuals more freedom, choices and opportunities

Embeds the changes into organisational structure

Risks

Constrained by legislative context and also by the values and beliefs of the organisational hierarchy



Places for action

The political, institutional, organisational, legal context

The problem and solutions lie within the wider environment

Change comes about by changing the context that people live and work in - by changing paradigms and social norms. Emphasis is on policy and legislation change and strategies that focus on building more equitable environments - organisational, political and legislative

Benefit

Change is embedded in the structure of the system - means everyone benefits. People feel that they have agency - the ability to change their circumstances and conditions

Risks

An oppressive or unresponsive regime



Places for action

The affected community

The problem and solutions lie within the affected community

Change comes about by empowering the affected community to identify their own problems and solutions and to obtain the necessary skills to implement their own solutions

Benefit

Empowerment. People feel that they have agency - the ability to change their circumstances and conditions

Risks

That the people and other resources are withdrawn before the community feels able to function autonomously and so experience failure leading to increased powerlessness.



Places for action

The individual

The problem and solutions rest within the
behaviour and actions of individuals

Concentration on individual behaviour change

Benefit

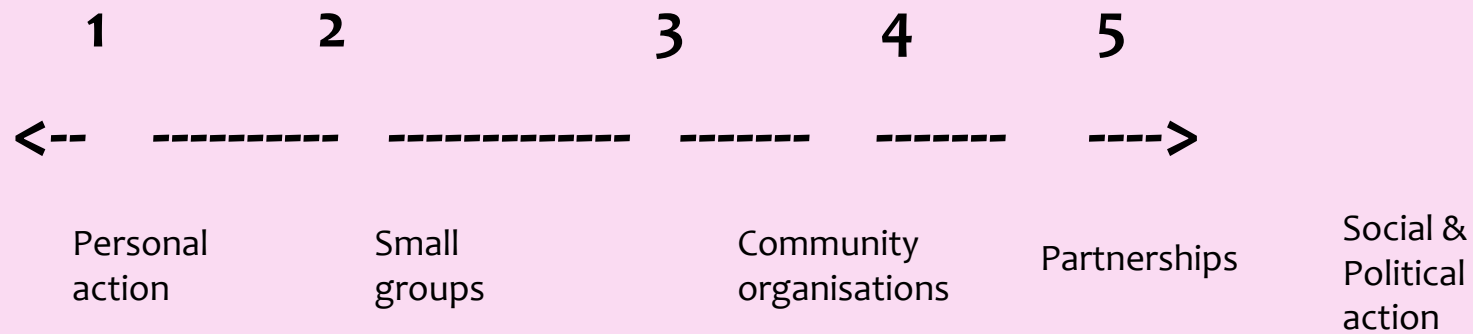
Personal empowerment and motivation to
change

Risks

Victim blaming



The Continuum of Community Empowerment



(Laverack, 2004, P.48).

What we do

- Conduct and disseminate research
- Speak at conferences, seminars, anywhere...
- Write articles
- Make and disseminate resources - websites, our teaching resource
- Write submissions on everything - national legislation, health policy, local council policy.....



What we do

- Try to grab the media
- Talk to everyone of influence that we can
- Write letters to the editor
- Join groups
- Develop partnerships with similar and aligned organisations
- Attend meetings.....





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Welcome to the Homeworks Trust website.

We are a group of women who advocate for specialised services and housing for women who are marginalised, hidden and excluded from existing service provision in New Zealand.

Why are we doing what we're doing?

There are very few services and housing strategies that are gender specific. If a service is not gender specific the needs of women - for safety, for security, for healing from abuse and for environments that develop constructive bonding with children and enable good parenting - are often overlooked. Situations that are mixed gender are frequently developed around the needs of men.

On this site you will find:

- research, a thesis and papers about this subject
- links to further information
- case studies
- CYF approved policy for a specialised refuge for women



- Welcome to the online support group for people who have been traumatised by domestic violence - being abused by an intimate partner.
- This is a safe place that we hope will make you feel that you are not alone, where we can share our experience of “madness” in the aftermath of domestic violence and can heal from our experiences. A portal through which we can support one other as we navigate through the effects of trauma with shared stories, personal experience and information.
- This site offers you a way to
- affirm your experiences
- involve you in conversation with people who have similar experiences
- provide a forum where you can feel listened to
- enable you to share your experience in order to help and support others
- get information and have your questions answered
- help you find support, encouragement and ideas to help you heal
- This website is for all of us - so that we no longer need to feel isolated and unheard. There is often no-where for us to go – refuge have difficulty providing a safe place for people with perceived mental health and substance abuse problems, mental health and drug and alcohol services often ignore the abuse we experience. Although there is nowhere safe to go, this site creates a place to speak freely and share experiences.

Abuse of any sort affects people’s mental health. Domestic violence can make people: drink or abuse drugs, feel crazy, blank out periods of time, feel like they’re losing hold of reality, feel that they can’t carry on, try to kill themselves, feel totally exhausted, get very, very stressed, look for psychiatric help, feel frightened all the time, be very suspicious of people, suffer from a number of ongoing physical and mental health problems including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

He Drove Me Mad

2mm Bleed

He Drove Me Mad is a teaching resource that helps to explain the situation of women who have mental health and/or substance abuse problems as a result of domestic violence.

It will be useful to policy makers, government and social service providers, medical professionals, child care workers, teachers, police, prosecutors, family law lawyers, family court judges, domestic violence services and many others who work with women in a professional or voluntary capacity.

The resource presents the viewers with:

- dramatised experiences of women who have been abused – and who are mentally unwell or drunk – attempting to get help. The dramatisations are generalised scenarios, based on real events, demonstrating a number of the barriers that women in this situation encounter when trying to access help
- information about the size and scope of the problem in New Zealand
- suggestions for a positive and constructive agency response when these women are identified
- a way to help identify the root causes of some women's behaviour and to develop an understanding that it is the result of domestic violence

The resource contains a DVD and written teaching material, a power point presentation and handouts designed to reinforce the learning contained in the DVD.

This material has been developed to enhance the skills and strategies of staff for advocacy and appropriate assistance for women who are identified as having mental health problems as a result of domestic violence, in order to minimise the effects on these women and children's lives.

Running time 26 minutes

 **POINT OF VIEW**
PRODUCTIONS

Printing co.



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he drove me mad

Our traumatic experiences shared

HOMEWORKS
DVD & TEACHING GUIDE

women who have been are being abused very traumatised mad relationship between mental illness substance abuse and domestic violence a hidden cause of poor outcomes for women and children the long term effects of this problem each person can help women become safer and help her start to recover who happened to get the woman to this place mad, at ed, struggling for help and recognition a woman who has been abused mentally unwell or drunk so humiliating my own fast multiple diagnoses bi-polar depression post-traumatic stress disorder depression have to be better times and weather buy their mother's his mother you could his was the usual thing, she's keeps managing it right up sex he says I'm crazy but he help so drunk and crazy once who really want to say is cry for help the person inside completely out of control pissed angry swearing monosyllabic depression articulate very dishevelled slightly grabby hyper-vigilant sterile response keeps being distracted dissociated so many times so many drugs I can hardly talk

he drove me mad

A dramatised documentary, for service providers, that explains mental illness and substance abuse resulting from domestic violence.

This documentary will help to explain how organisations can recognise and respond to this difficult and confusing situation.

With thanks to the Mental Health Media Grant which made the making of this dvd possible



LIKE MINDS, LIKE MINE
Whakaitia te Whānau ki te Tonga

DVD & TEACHING GUIDE



Rugby World Cup Party Central



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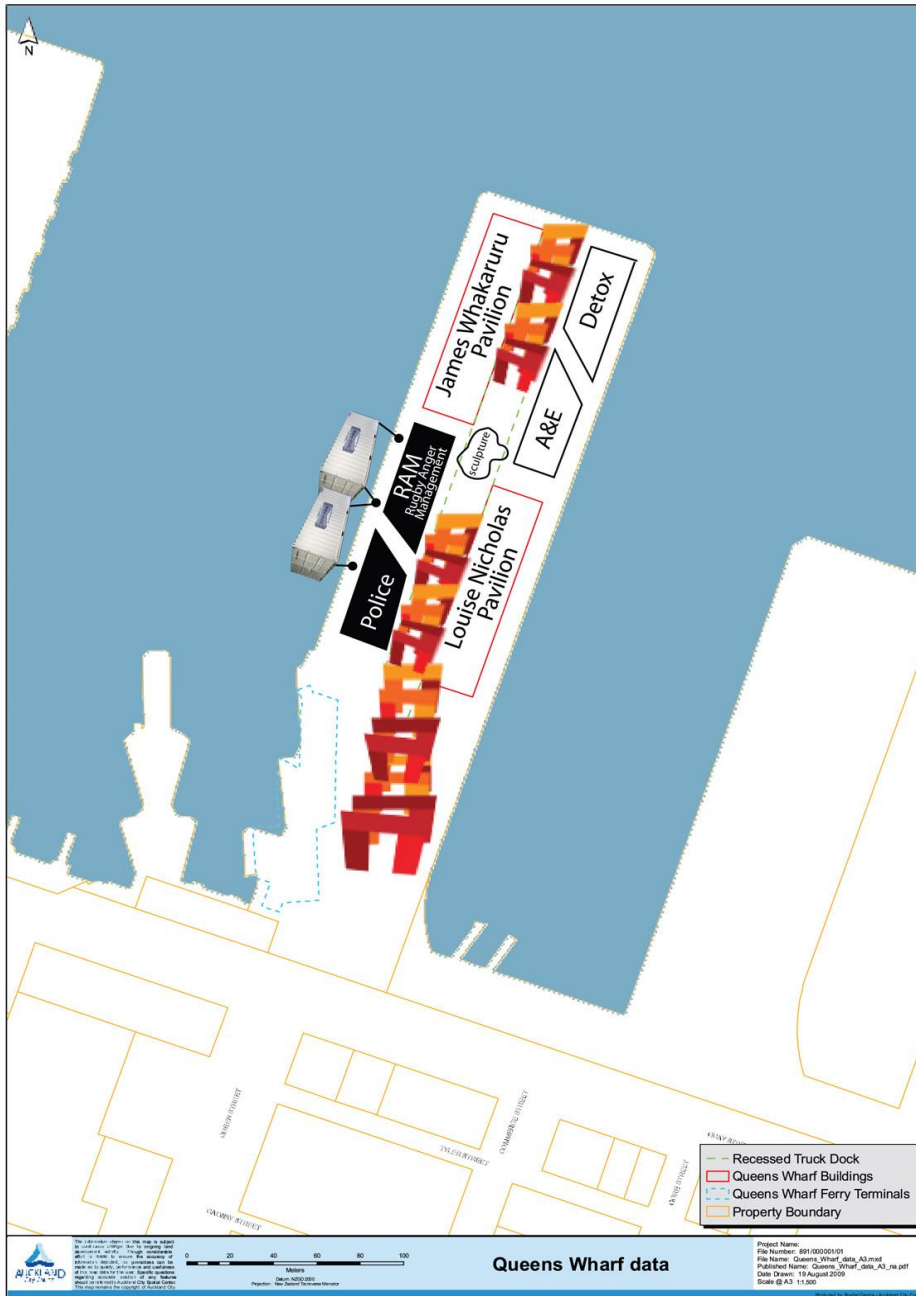
When the Party's Over This proposal highlights the damage caused – especially to women and children - of a major sports tournament such as the Rugby World Cup.

‘When the Party’s Over’ brings together the services required to respond to the after effects of large groups of men and women congregating in one place, drinking and socialising together. We have incorporated services that can respond to:

- ✿ The high number of rapes and sexual assault that occur when large groups of men gather together
- ✿ The number of domestic disputes that will result in physical and sexual violence – domestic violence nearly always increases during major sports games
- ✿ The children who will be abused during these episodes of domestic violence
- ✿ The children who will be neglected or abused during this period as parents focus their energy on partying
- ✿ The sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies that will occur as a result of unplanned and unprotected sex
- ✿ The binge drinking and general heavy drinking that will happen
- ✿ The fights between men, causing injuries
- ✿ The attacks on lesbian, gays, and transgender people as a result of gangs of men roaming the city

When the party's over

A proposal by Homeworks Trust for Queens Wharf



James Whakaruru Pavilion

Children's playing space,
Child Youth and Family,
An abuse counselling service for children

Louise Nicholas Pavilion

Women's Refuge
Rape and Sexual assault forensic and counselling service
Pregnancy testing, morning after pill and abortion counselling
Women's space

Police pavilion

Special investigation unit for crimes against:
Women, gay, lesbian and transsexual people
Ethnic minorities

Floating cells



To the editor, re the arming of police....

Dear Sir,

9 police officers shot in 2 years.

55 women murdered by their male
partners in 4 years.

Should we arm women?



Anyone can change things

You have to be:

- Vocal
- Persistent
- Evidence based
- Innovative

and not wait to be funded or taken seriously -
just do it!

