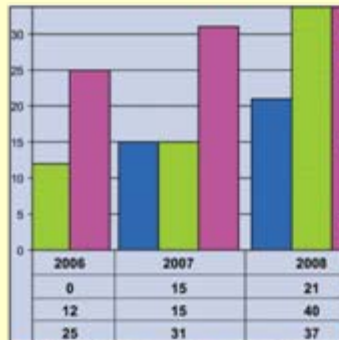


# Hastings Domestic Violence Support Project

Building  
Regional  
Partnerships  
for Health

October 2008




# 2008 NSW Health EXPO



Prepared by Lynne Magni

North Coast Area Health Service

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# Aim

## An Interagency Partnership to:

- Provide planned early intervention inter-agency support to victims of Domestic Violence (DV)
  - To increase the number of women who receive early intervention support and information.
  - To increase the number of referrals to support services
  - To increase referrals to external agencies to provide support for ongoing legal and social issues.
- Reduce the number of repeat events per victim of domestic violence



# Nature and Extent of the Problem

- Domestic Violence (DV) information and support prior to 2005
- 2005 DV Pass Scheme
- DOCS reports harm type
- No specialist service stream for victims of DV
- Intimate partner violence reports
- Medical treatment sought for DV related injuries
- Rates of anxiety, depression, phobias, harmful alcohol/psychoactive drug use in women who reported DV



# Strategic Importance

## Strategic Direction 4: Build regional and other partnerships for health

- Early intervention support at first point of contact
- Localised collaborative interagency:



Port Macquarie Local Area Command, Hastings Women and Children's Refuge, NCAHS, Hastings Domestic Violence Court Assistance scheme (Uniting Care Burnside)



# Planning & Implementing Solutions

- Management support
- Steering Committee
- Partnership Agreement
- Staff resources



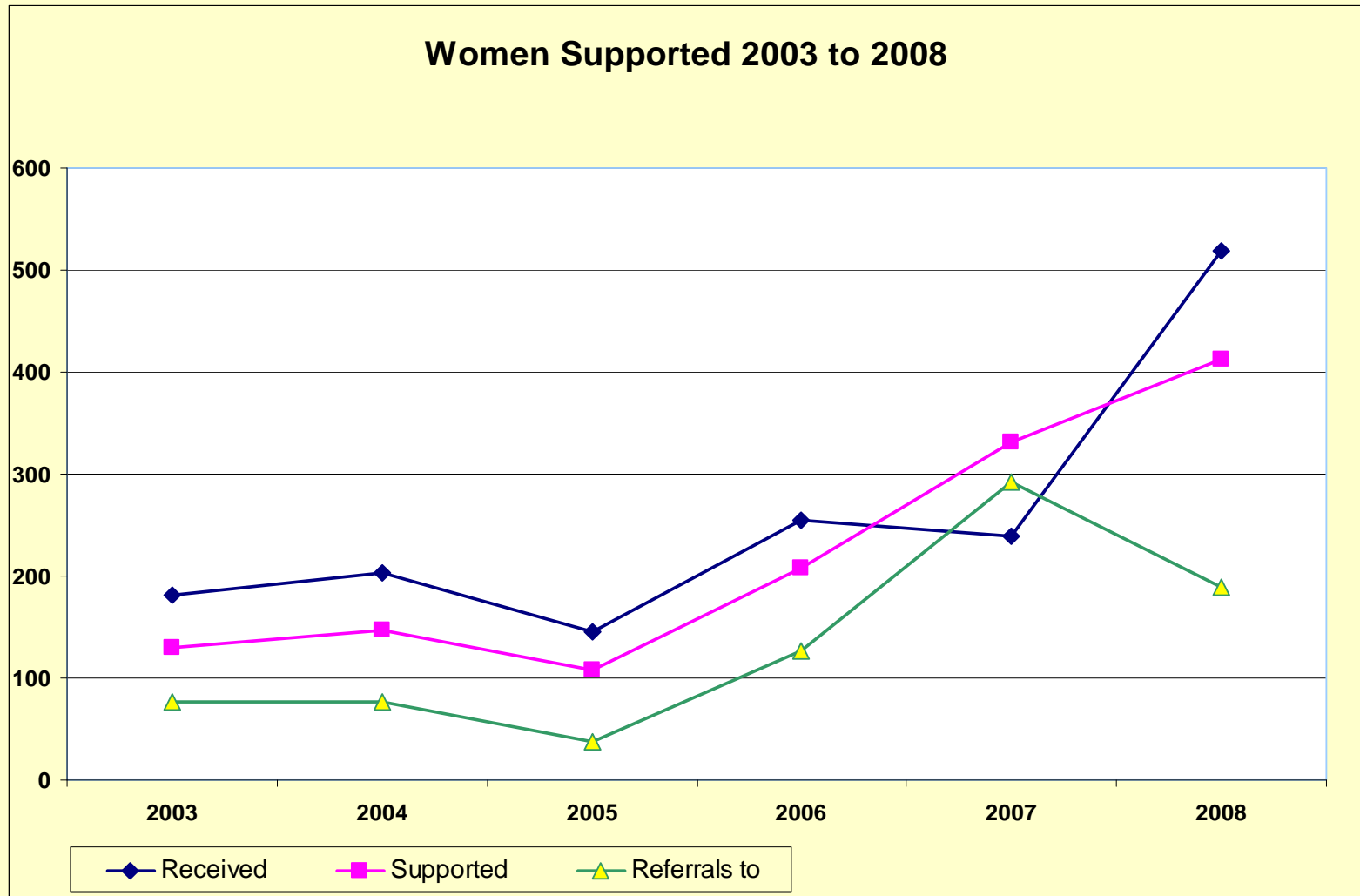
# Planning & Implementing Solutions

- Designated DV Support room
- Process change in referrals from Police
- Physical resources
- Staff training





# Outcomes & Evaluation



# Outcomes and Evaluation

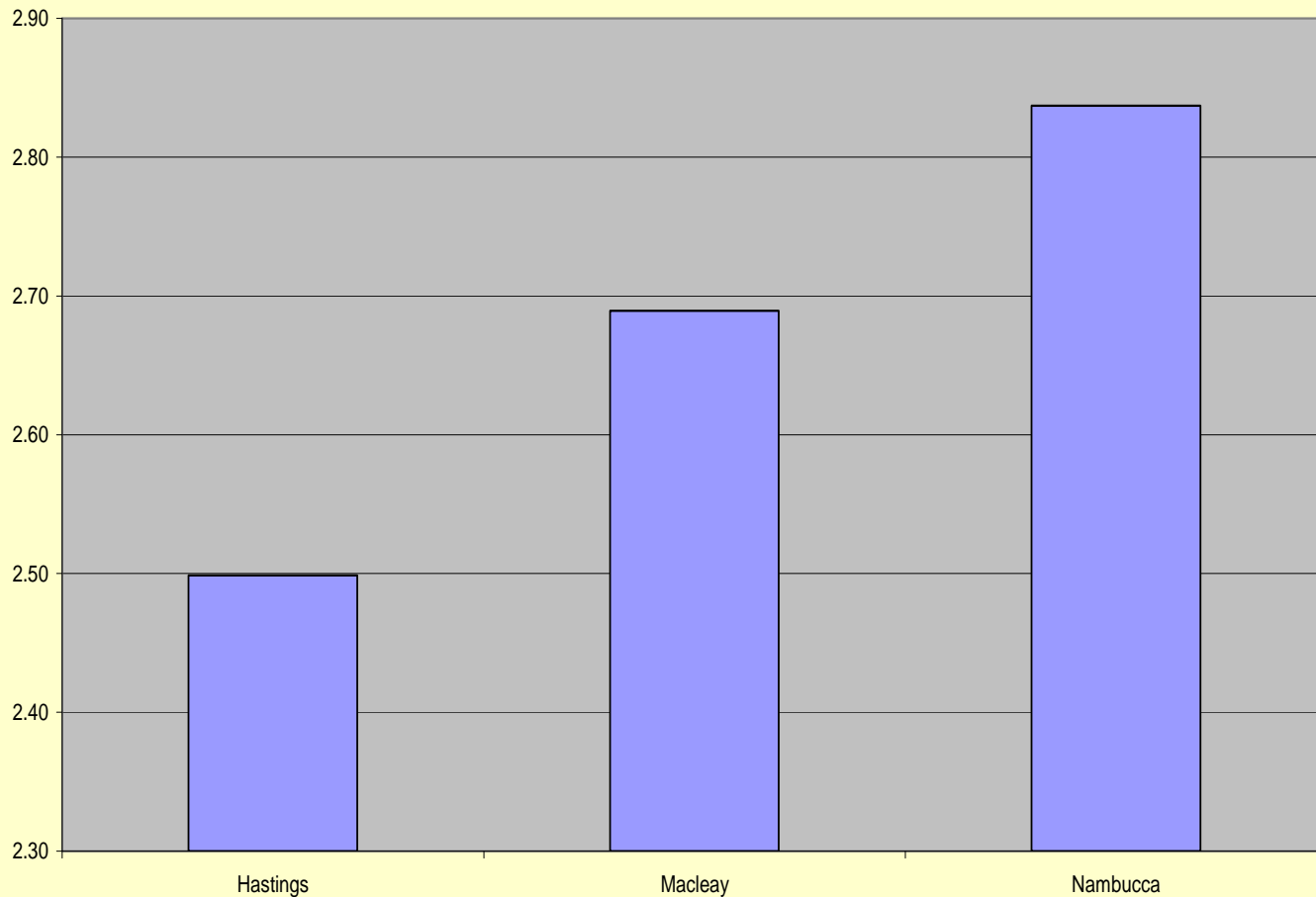
- Police 'Repeat Domestic Violence Victims Hastings Cluster' data for first 12 months of the project indicates:-

A significant reduction in events per repeat victim of domestic violence during this period.



# Average Number of Events Per Repeat Victim Mid North Coast– Sept 2005 to June 2008

Average number of events per repeat victim - Sept 05 to June 08





# Sustaining Change

- Relatively self sustaining in current form:
  - Project partner commitment
  - Improved relationships with local Police
  - Service information
- Funding required to support Hastings DV Project growth
  - Ongoing support worker training
  - Backfill for staff leave and times of primary agency high service workload



# Lessons Learned

## *Linking Safety and Support*

- Improved relationships between local support agencies and police.
- Support worker knowledge of legal processes increased.
- Referrals to other relevant agencies increased.
- The project facilitated contact with women experiencing DV who had not previously sought assistance.
- The project provided a valuable conduit between victims and the Police thus **linking safety and support**.
- Women have self referred to this service since inception of the project



# Future Scope

- Innovation
  - Successful linking of community agencies to provide enhanced and more timely support services for women and children victims of Domestic Violence.
  - Transferrable in other Local Government Areas.
- Effectiveness:
  - Improved DV support service access
  - Increased referral to and from the DV support services
  - Reduced reported DV repeat rates per victim
  - Cost effectiveness



**With thanks to:**

*PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS* 