
AustralAsian Centre for Human Rights and Health Inc

www.achrh.org



ACHRH

Empowering Communities

July 2023
Newsletter

Support for victim survivors of family violence on temporary visas

The group of women who are victim survivors of family violence on temporary visas are the most vulnerable and disadvantaged when they experience family domestic violence. We at ACHRH have been very concerned for their welfare. Because they were not entitled to Centrelink or housing or Medicare. So many women ended up homeless, with no money and no mental health support.

ACHRH has been meeting regularly with the Home Affairs Department to advocate for better services and housing for the women, and to help them obtain permanent residency of Australia. They should not be deported put of the country. Many women have children who are Australian Citizens.

ACHRH also belongs to a national group of key stake holders and service providers. Our aim is to advocate for victims on temporary visas. The group is called National Advocacy Group. We produced a document called A Blueprint to Reform that lays out recommendations for the government to better support the victims on temporary visas. The following link contains a recording of me representing ACHRH at a webinar to launch the National Blueprint for Reform:

<https://awava.org.au/2022/12/06/research-and-reports/the-blueprint-for-reform-2022>



Manjula
O'Connor

We as a group met Minister for Immigration, Minister Andrew Giles and senior members of the Department of Home Affairs and Department of Social Services last week.

I am pleased to say that a number of good changes have been achieved over the last year.

The victims will get \$5000 cash. They have Medicare card, and they have access to housing

Most importantly genuine victims of family violence will have a pathway to getting permanent residency visa

Lot of people don't know that Genuine victims of family violence on partner visa whose sponsorship is withdrawn have a right to residency pathway. They do not need the help of their sponsor.

If you are victimised, please contact a domestic violence service provider (see the list at the end of this newsletter).

Or you can upload evidence of your abuse, IVO and a letter from your doctor or social worker on to the Immigration Department website, on your Immi account:

<https://online.immi.gov.au/lusc/login>

That should get the process rolling. Someone from the Department will get on touch with you.

ACHRH ADVOCACY is producing results.

Wishing you a wonderful July!

Manjula



Orange Door Report

By: Dr Ashima Soni

What is The Orange Door?

The Royal family violence commission confirmed that we needed to redesign the service delivery model for children and families to feel safe and to access the support they need. The commission also reported that anyone experiencing family violence should be able to access the range of supports they need and in a timely manner.

- The Orange Door does not replace the specialist family violence mainstream services but is a new way for women, children, young people to seek support if they are experiencing family violence.
- The Orange Door is a free intake service which helps to put a strong focus on perpetrator accountability, holding them accountable for their actions and changing their behaviour by providing support and linking them with appropriate services. The whole family is kept in view, with support tailored to each family member's individual needs. The Orange door aims to ensure that there is no wrong door to access support.



- The Orange Door will assess risk, respond to people's immediate needs, and connects people to the broader range of services outside of the core services – such as mental health or housing support – thus enabling a network of safety and support.
- The important context is that the orange door practitioners support people to navigate the system and at the same time is useful to clients from having to re-tell their story by providing an integrated service/ model support.
- The Orange Door works in partnership with Aboriginal services to support aboriginal communities and to make sure that culturally safe services are available for everyone.
- The Orange Door also provides support to male adult victims of family violence by linking them with Victims Support Agency.

Principles of The Orange Door

- Safety of the client and wellbeing of children is of paramount importance.
 - The needs and decisions of victim services are believed.
 - The perpetrators are kept accountable for their violent and abusive behaviour.
 - Respecting Aboriginal self-determination, giving a choice to be supported by The Orange Door or referred to an Aboriginal service and working with cultural safety.
 - The Orange Door makes sure that everyone has an equal access and opportunity to access the orange door and feel safe to do so. The clients can walk in anytime between 9 am till 5 pm Monday to Friday to seek support.
 - The practitioners at The Orange Door work from intersectional lens and the needs are not tailored to a single population group and is accessible for clients from diverse backgrounds.
 - The Orange Door recognises that it takes a lot of strength to share lived experiences and empowers the client to make their decisions.
- The voices of clients/ people who have experienced the service system including victim survivors have been critical throughout the

design of The Orange Door. The Orange Door follows an integrated service model wherein several services work together to coordinating and collaborating their support and interventions to people seeking or referred for help. The integrated practice helps the practitioners to apply their specialist knowledge and draw strengths of their specialist colleagues.

The Orange Door can be accessed via telephone, online access, or by visiting a primary site. The Orange Door accepts self-referrals, from friends, family, community members or from other professionals.

The Orange door does not replace existing emergency services or Child Protection.

The Orange Door also has access to address the immediate needs of victim survivors and to enhance their safety and stability and can refer to other services for long term case management support.



The Orange Door locations can be found at <https://www.orangedoor.vic.gov.au/find-a-service-near-you>. The Orange Door welcome people of any age, gender, sex, sexuality, culture, religion, and ability.



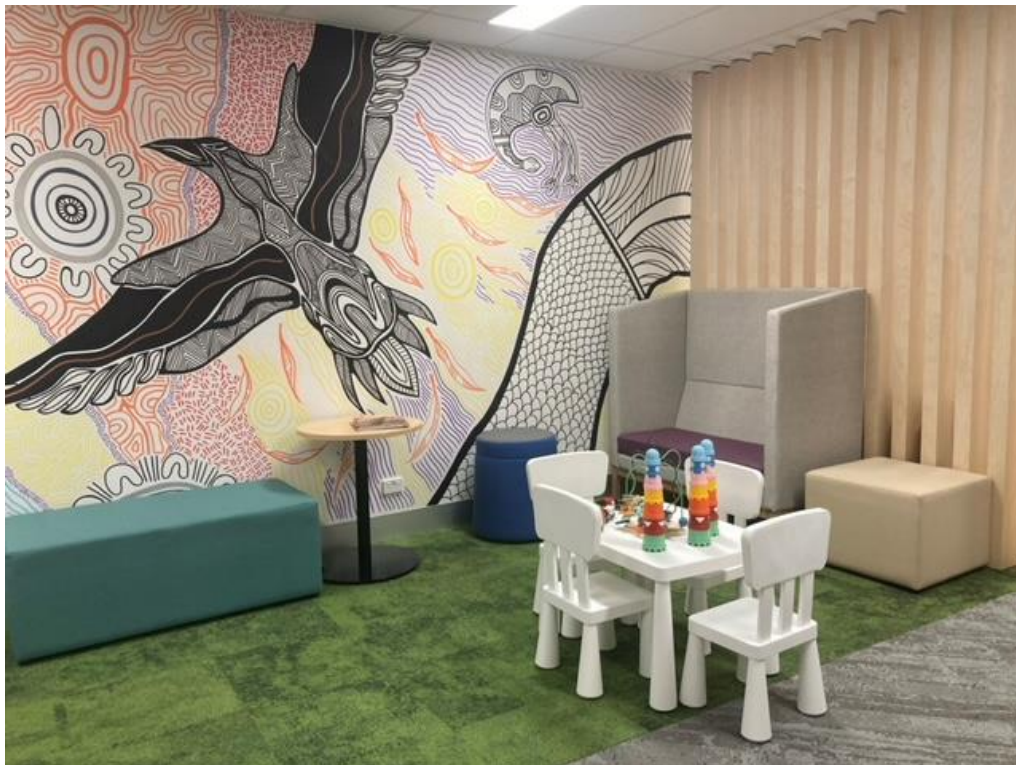
Dr. Ashima Soni (She/Her)

BA (Psych) Hons, Master of Arts (Psych),
Doctorate of Philosophy (Psych)

Registered Psychologist (AHPRA)

Team Leader - The Orange Door- Brimbank
Melton

[orangedoor.vic.gov.au](https://www.orangedoor.vic.gov.au).



SNEH Theatre Project Tickets, Tue 18/07/2023 at 6:30 pm | Eventbrite

THIS PROJECT IS APPROVED BY THE MELBOURNE CLINIC RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE



AustralAsian Centre
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS & HEALTH



PROUDLY PRESENT

SNEH THEATRE PROJECT PERFORMANCE

RSVP via
this [link](#) OR



Tue, 18 Jul 2023



6.30 to 9.30pm



Dosa Hut Function Hall

*209 King Street
Melbourne CBD*

*LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR
COMMUNITY TO BE SAFER AND
STRONGER, TOGETHER*

More information at ACHRH.org/sneh-theatre

Children under 18 years of age must be accompanied by parents or guardians.

Mutual Relational Respect (MRR)

By: Sumimol Sebastian

ACHRH facilitated its first face to face Mutual Relationship Respect Workshop after COVID on 16th May 2023.

This event was organised by VICWISE for international students, held at Dosa hut, CBD.

Event Highlights:

- * Attended by nearly 35 international students and 28 participants responded to the post evaluation survey.
- * Dr. Manjula was the lead facilitator, four ACHRH facilitators discussed three case studies with the participants.



Demographics

Most (71%) of the survey respondents were international students, from countries including Malaysia, China, India, Pakistan, United States and Vietnam.

They came from a wide range of educational institutions, including Monash University, Unimelb, Victoria University, and Federation University.

More than half (57%), of the respondents have been living in Australia over three years.

The survey respondents were both males (13/28) and females (15/28), which indicates that the course is well received by international students regardless of their gender.

What was achieved from the workshop?

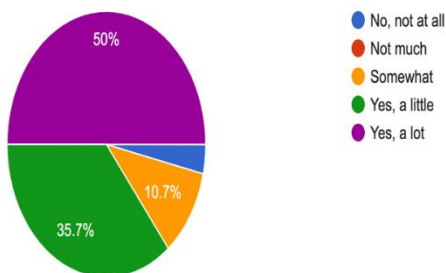
Knowledge gain

Sexual consent and relationship

The session improved the knowledge of sexual consent and law for 26 out of 28 respondents and 27 respondents stated, it gave them a better understanding of unhealthy partner relationships.

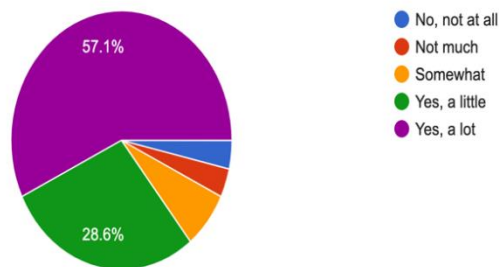
4. Does the course give you a better understanding of unhealthy partner relationship?

28 responses



3. Does the course improve your knowledge of sexual consent and law?

28 responses



Migration

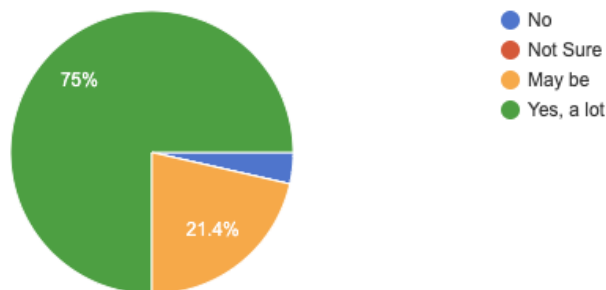
The session helped 92% of respondents to understand the challenges in migration, and the main challenges identified were cultural differences and not having much understanding of Australian law. Few respondents identified migration challenges with exposure to domestic violence and being a potential victim of racism and sexism.

Scope of MRR workshop for Permanent Residency Applicants

Almost all participants recommended this course for everyone applying for Permanent resident in Australia.

7. Would you recommend this course for all people applying for permanent residency in Australia?

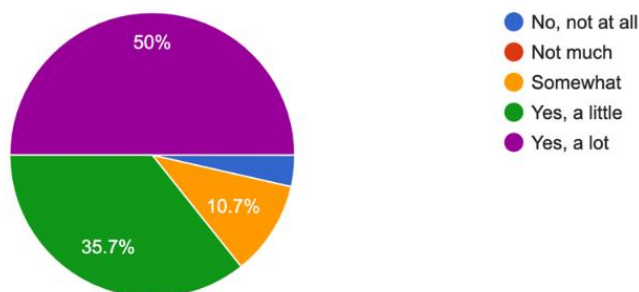
28 responses



Almost all (95%), stated that they enjoyed the workshop, and that they learned something new from the session.

1. Did you enjoy the workshop?

28 responses





In addition, this provided networking opportunities for all the students and organisers, not to mention everyone enjoyed the delicious dinner at Dosa hut.

The Game of Power in Hell

By: Shweta Mishra "shawryaa"

And if you can't do it
I'll do it for you
I'll shout and shut your ears
and dry your eyes
Don't worry

Shall I play the music loud
Louder than you can stand
Louder than you would like
Louder than your habit
Louder than loudness

You seem perturbed? Ha!

Do you find me barbaric
Uncivilized? So define 'civilized'
to me and to the world
if this is not a menagerie
where we stay...

Come let's play and make
A playhouse and name it
"Civilization"
You and I the citizens
Educated, faithful canines

You pounce and I attack
I cut and you bleed
You slit and I writhe in pain
When you rise I pluck your feathers
When I rise you throw me down in hell



Bio Note

Dr Shweta Mishra (M.A., Ph.D.) is an Assistant Professor in English and presently teaches at MBP Government Post-Graduate College, Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) India. A gold medalist in M.A. English, Lucknow University, she has authored several research papers that have been published in various reputed journals. Creative writing is what she passionately loves to do. Her notable works include *What is a Woman: This is Trash. Leave it* (2016) and *Image of Girlhood in the Fiction of African-American Women Writers: Paule Marshall, Anne Moody, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Ntozake Shange* (2011). Her collection of poems *The Most Orange* was published in 2018. Her book *A Smothering Selfless Epitome: Sita* was published in July, 2020, through Kindle Direct Publishing. Her latest book *Lucknow Imprints: A Poetic and Historical Account of the Golden City of the East*, is published by Notion Press, Chennai, in 2021. In the year 2022 she has edited a book titled *The Platinum Threshold: Celebrating 75 years of Indian Independence*

Donations to ACHRH are now tax deductible!

Thank you for considering a gift to ACHRH, which will support our work to create happy and healthier communities; did you know that donations to ACHRH over \$2 can now be claimed as a tax deduction?

Since 2012, ACHRH has delivered a range of programs which tackle issues effecting migrant communities in Australia. If you would like to be a part of making tangible impacts for at risk communities, please contact Kate Grimme on 0400 032 821 or email info@achrh.org We will be pleased to provide you with more information on how you can make a financial contribution and to share details on the programs and projects we run.

Research project on perceptions and experiences of dowry and dowry abuse in Australia

By: Sara Singh

In late 2021, I commenced a research project on perceptions and experiences of dowry and dowry abuse in Indian communities in Australia. The project, which I am conducting as part of my PhD, collects and analyses qualitative data from victim-survivors, service providers and members of Indian communities in Australia, to shed light on this topic.

While recent years have seen growing recognition within Australia around the issue of dowry abuse, research in this area remains limited. This research project aims to contribute to the literature on dowry abuse in the Australian context, and in doing so, develop awareness and understanding of the issue.

Since commencing the project, I have conducted a number of research interviews with victim-survivors, service providers and members of Indian communities in Australia, and am continuing to recruit participants for the research interviews. There is also an anonymous online survey available for victim-survivors to fill out.

The interviews and survey have provided important insights into the practice of dowry and the issue of dowry abuse. I am grateful for the time that participants have taken to sit down and share with me their thoughts and experiences.

In the coming months, I will continue to analyse and write-up the research project's findings. I look forward to being able to share the results of the research project later this year and hope that it will draw attention to this important issue.

If you are interested in learning more about the research project, you can contact Sara Singh at sara.singh@unsw.edu.au or 0423 579 134.

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP

-
- **POLICE IN EMERGENCY -- 000**
 - **YOUR GP -- they will refer you to the right place.**
 - **NATIONAL DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE
1800 RESPECT**
 - **INTOUCH MULTICULTURAL CENTER AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE –
1800 755 988**
 - **Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre, phone
24 Hour statewide line 1800 015 188**
 - **MEN'S 24-HOUR REFERRAL SERVICE
1800 065 973 (FREE CALL VICTORIA ONLY)**
 - **WOMEN'S INFORMATION & REFERRAL AGENCY (WIRE)
03 9348 9416
inforequests@wire.org.au**
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WHY GET HELP?

- ❖ Domestic Violence damages our culture
- ❖ Domestic violence breaks our homes
- ❖ Domestic Violence causes:
 - Anxiety,
 - Depression,
 - Suicide,
 - Homicide in women, men and children

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- ❖ Support those who may be victims
- ❖ Encourage victims to seek help and become survivors
- ❖ Encourage perpetrators to seek help
- ❖ DO NOT BE SILENT ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

[*Say No to Family Domestic
Violence*]