



Newman Women's Shelter



Annual Report 2021



*The Newman Women's Shelter
is a registered charity with over 20 years experience in
supporting women and children escape domestic and family violence in
Newman and surrounding communities.*

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Chair's Report

Catherine Cole



2021 has been a huge year for the Newman Women's Shelter (NWS). Arina Aoina began as our new manager in late 2020 and hit the ground running. Throughout this year she and her team have achieved exceptional growth in service provision.

NWS has expanded its scope in the areas of family support, preventative programs and campaigns while continuing to ensure the shelter remains an accessible, safe option for women in crisis.

Several additional permanent staff have joined our team and therefore increased our capacity to provide support for Newman residents as well as the broader community stretching across the Western Desert.

Highlights include the initiation of a Martu-led Night Patrol, the inaugural Honour our Elders Campaign, a strong presence in remote communities as well as significant growth in the provision of emergency relief and family support.

On behalf of the NWS board, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all staff for their dedication and commitment. In addition, I would like to thank all board members for their contribution to the work of the shelter.



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Communities**



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

Manager's Report

Arina Aoina

Newman is not an easy town and fraught with many complex issues that can damage the overall quality of daily life. If these issues are not attended to with cultural sensitivity, meaningful dialogue and productive action from a whole community approach, then our work is more challenging.

2021 has been an unbelievable year of growth for NWS, particularly with staff being “new” in the job. As the incoming manager I have been fortunate to work from a solid foundation laid by the previous long serving manager, the illustrious and charismatic Maggie Lewis and current Finance Officer extraordinaire, Claudia De-Vitry. I am incredibly grateful to staff who are totally committed and passionate in the work they love and the people they work with. They are an awesome team. I feel fortunate for the support given by the dynamic NWS Board and the strong meaningful partnerships with key stakeholders in the East Pilbara region.

I am pleased with the quality of services we deliver in Newman and surrounding communities and in particular the Martu Night Patrol where we get to work side-by-side with our Martu colleagues.

As the year comes to a close we look forward to what the new year brings and remain hopeful in the generous spirit of the people in the East Pilbara region.



BHP

lotterywest



Shelter

Sylvia Wilson – Support Advocate

The Shelter is accessible 24 hours, 7 days a week providing a safe space for women and children who have experienced and are currently experiencing family domestic violence.

NWS provides help to families in developing their own safety and support plans to maximise the safety and wellbeing of each individual/family in the present moment and into the future.

My personal experience with the shelter since starting in July this year has been very rewarding. As I have a background of working with Federal government departments, this has provided me with a solid knowledge base in my Support Advocacy role. By serving the community of Newman, I am considered a leader and role model for young Aboriginal women.

My hopes for the future include becoming an Elder and to build my own strong connections to Country, Culture and Lore. I want to be a leader for all issues that affect Martu on a regular basis.

Funded by WA Government Department of Communities

Emergency Relief

Claudia De-Vitry – Financial Officer and EPA to Manager

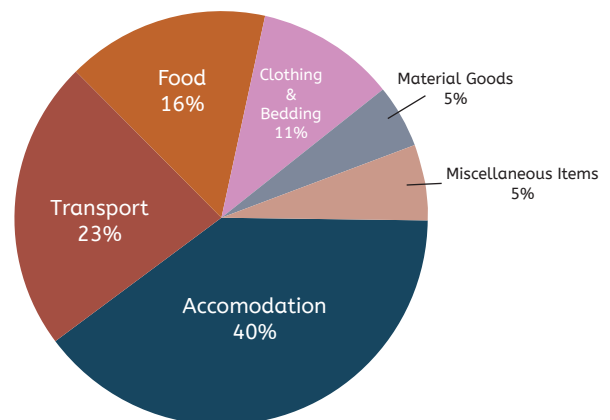
In 20/21 we provided \$88,000 in emergency relief to people in Newman and surrounds. Accommodation is the biggest issue using 40% of this. Chronic housing shortages result in overcrowding, while rising rents make housing unattainable. When relationships dissolve those without housing linked to their employment become homeless and unfortunately these are often women and dependent children. Rental assistance, temporary and transit accommodation are just a few ways we assist these clients.

Transport accounts for 23% of the ER budget and takes the form of urgent flights, bus travel and fuel. Some common reasons for transport assistance are: immediate evacuation due to volatile domestic violence situations; to get access to specialist medical care; move to the location of a support network for the client and to attend to basic family obligations. COVID-19 restrictions have added a degree of complexity and significant additional cost to assisting clients, particularly where interstate travel is the only option.

Food and groceries are the next largest expense at 16%. Many clients rely on government assistance and consequently have low incomes. Poor health, family issues, utility costs, addiction and unemployment push families to crisis point. We are grateful for the support of the Rapid Relief Team who supplied us with 57 food boxes to distribute to clients during the period. The remaining 21% of ER funds were for clothing and bedding, materials goods, utilities, pharmaceuticals and a range of other miscellaneous items.

A big thank you to our partners the Federal Government Department of Social Services, Rapid Relief Team, Lotterywest, Mission Australia and BHP.

NWS ER Program 2021
(\$88,000)



Mobile Outreach Initiative (MOI)

Gemma Aldred – Mobile Outreach Advocate

The MOI program has met an essential gap in services for women and families experiencing, or at risk of, Family and Domestic Violence (FDV). MOI responds to Domestic Violence Incident Reports referrals as well as community self-referrals, meeting the needs of women and families who do not require crisis accommodation but whose safety and wellbeing is nonetheless jeopardised by FDV. In Newman, families often require support with basic family functioning as a preventative measure, for example through ER, assistance to access or navigate services (especially those online), assistance with transport or referrals to other services.



Staff have found it extremely rewarding to have the freedom in the scope of their work to respond to the wide array of requests from clients in the community and to be able to action these. For example, MOI activities might include helping a client with their online banking, relocating personal belongings to a family member's house, offering support for court hearings and undertaking client safety planning. In the remote communities the nature of MOI work is somewhat different because NWS does not have a constant presence. During trips to remote communities MOI staff have focussed on establishing trusting, open relationships with community members, creating strategic interagency alliances and raising awareness of NWS services and referral processes.

The need for NWS services has been evident during these trips, with many community members and services stating they were unaware of the support available to women and children experiencing FDV while MOI staff witnessed first-hand examples of the vulnerability of clients whose geographical and social isolation places them at increased risk. Going forward into 2022, MOI plans to continue offering responsive services to the Newman community and in the remote communities will focus on conducting targeted interagency camps to facilitate educative conversations about FDV-related issues among community.

Funded by WA Government Department of Communities and Lotterywest.

Counselling Services

Gloria Mavhunga – Counsellor

As a Counsellor and social worker, I offer services to clients from diverse backgrounds who are experiencing and/or escaping Family and Domestic Violence.

NWS clients are provided with unlimited counselling sessions, supporting them to explore available resources and recognise their abilities and potential to live a safe and independent life. I work at the client's pace using different modalities depending on the client's presenting issues and goals they want to achieve. I use a combination of approaches in my practice including trauma informed, strength-based, goal setting and person-centred in my practice.

I enjoy being part of NWS team, there is such a good work culture that allows me to offer counselling services face to face and via online platforms such as zoom and telephone. I work in closely with Mobile Outreach Advocates and Shelter Support Advocates assisting the immediate needs of our clients. NWS embraces diversity, inclusion, teamwork, collaboration and transparency.

Funded by WA Government Department of Communities – Safe Accommodation and Counselling grant.



**MINERAL
RESOURCES**



Martu Night Patrol

Jai Newhouse – Community Services and Administration Officer

The Martu Night Patrol (MNP) is a Martu led mobile outreach pilot program developed in collaboration with Newman Futures, Martu Leadership Group, Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa and Newman Police funded by BHP. The service was established in late June as a response to the increase in youth related crimes and sniffing in Newman. MNP currently operates from 9pm – 1am and is soon expanding to 6 nights per week. Hot meals and water is provided to those youth on the street late at night including transport to a safe environment if they are unable to go home.

MNP is more than a patrol, the core is community unity and it is crucial to Newman.

NWS continues to develop strong relationships with Martu staff and support staff in identifying strengths within their culture which can be drawn upon to design and implement programs to strengthen family functioning and reduce anti-social behaviour by youth.

The success of the MNP is the ability to continue to develop relationships with Martu youth and facilitate positive engagements between Martu youth, the rest of the Martu community (especially their caregivers and elders) and other service providers. Undertaking follow-up visits with the families of identified “at risk” youths to establish rapport, increase family resourcing and develop family safety plans is a must!

MNP has been an incredible learning opportunity for all those involved. We are excited that BHP has extended the pilot project till June 2022.

Funded by BHP

Shire of **EAST
Pilbara**
THE HEART OF THE PILBARA





Highlights of the Year

Cultural Compact

Karlka Nyiyaparli Aboriginal Corporation and the Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation in June 2020 developed the Ngaa Ngayunkarnu Kapukurri – This Is Our Dream Cultural Compact. The Cultural Compact was initiated through the Newman Futures project and NWS is a proud signatory of this very important document. NWS saying ‘yes’ to their dream and working out how we connect, how we can work together and commit to making this our journey together.

Newman Local Drug Action Group

We are proud to be part of the first Newman LDAG with the majority of the membership being Indigenous women who want to address what’s happening with young people on the streets.

Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa Elders Celebration

A fantastic opportunity for NWS to support the incredible work KJ do on country. The Elders Celebration held at Parngurr community over 2 days was a momentous occasion.

Honour & Respect our Elders... Stop Elder Abuse 2 year campaign

The Elderly are an important asset to our community, the links between our past histories, creating new stories of our present and developing a strong legacy for our future. The campaign was launched on the 24th of September.

Funded by Roy Hill, Shire of East Pilbara and NWS

Student Cultural Exchange Camp (Newman & Armadale)

10 students from Armadale flew to Newman on 26 September for 7 days to spend time with locals, learn about country and culture and build up their “happy memories bank”. Thanks to Breanne Roy from Australian Wellness Empire who made this happen.

Funded by NWS

IWD Breakfast Seminar

NWS hosted a successful IWD breakfast with keynote speaker the esteemed Professor Donna Chung from Curtin University.



Acknowledgments

To the Traditional Owners (Niyiyaparli) and Custodians (Martu) of this land we work on, thank you for your ongoing support and wisdom generously given to ensure our organisation is “doing the right thing”.

To our NWS Board members, awesome thanks for your strong commitment and advice in supporting staff to achieve the best outcomes for the individuals and families we work with.

To our partnerships (KJ, EPIS, Martumili, Newman Futures, EP Shire, Newman Crushers RLC) we are proud to work alongside you all.

Board Members

Board Chair Catherine Cole *Board Secretary* Karina Hutchison *Board Treasurer* Lindon Mellor
Board Vice Chair Shannon Monday *Members* Emily Morrison Anita Grace Denise Rowe

Sponsors



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Communities**



Australian Government
Department of Social Services



Many thanks to our community members and businesses who have generously donated their time, household goods, clothing and many other useful items.

Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/nws.org.au

You can support the work of the Newman Women's Shelter by donating via our secure payment system on our website

www.nws.org.au/donations.aspx

www.nws.org.au

Newman Women's Shelter's audited financial statements for 2020/2021 are available on request.

Please contact our Financial Officer via nwsfinance@newmannws.org.au or call (08) 9175 5100.