

# Remembrance Quilt Project

## **“Not One More”**

Remembering the women and children killed in domestic violence.

This is a national project engaging women and supporters in the community to work together in the creation of a Remembrance Quilt to honor and remember the women and children who have been killed in domestic violence in their community, in their state.

In each state delegated women’s services have been promoting the Project in their community. From September 2009 women’s groups, community groups, key stakeholder groups were invited to decorate a Quilt Block. The Quilt Block might contain general thoughts or messages about domestic violence deaths of women and children, calls for states to establish Domestic Violence Death Reviews to help us understand why these deaths occur. Some Quilt Blocks have been created by friends or family members of women and children who may have died as a result of domestic violence.

Two State quilts have already been completed in New South Wales and South Australia and have spent some time being displayed in their respective state Parliament Houses. They are now travelling to regional centres for display.

The National Quilt is being constructed. We have had blocks completed in a wide range of regional centres from across Australia.

In the development of this project there have already been many benefits to the raising of awareness and the importance of remembering women and children who have died in the context of domestic violence.

“Doing the quilt provided a valuable means of discussing the impact of domestic violence in the community”

“The women have enjoyed the project immensely and deeply appreciate the importance of remembering women and children who have been killed in domestic violence in the community.”

## **Domestic violence homicide: What we know & what we want...**

Based on current knowledge approximately 76 women are killed each year by a current or former partner (National Homicide Monitoring Program 1989-90, 2002-03)

We also know based on overseas knowledge that many more women deaths are attributed to domestic violence than are currently acknowledged.

The national campaign for each state in Australia to establish an independent Domestic Violence Homicide/Death Review believes the only acceptable model is an evidence based best practice model.

### **THIS MEANS A MODEL MUST INCLUDE:**

- **Transparency**- Team membership that is multi-disciplinary, multi agency, diverse AND inclusive
- **Statutory protections** are put in place to provide confidentiality, compels that all information/evidence/files are provided for the Review, immunity from prosecution
- **Creating time line of events** that conveys a sense of movement and identifies the barriers and challenges victim/offender encountered
- **Accountability**- Recommendations that are made are coupled with a reporting mechanism of implementation and must include follow up. This would include an Annual Report tabled in Parliament
- **Accurate data** collection and analysis
- **Generation of research** to support better understanding of domestic violence homicide, investigate identified trends & emerging issues
- **Builds on learnings** & contributes to a growing body of evidence
- **Inter-disciplinary** conversations about best practice approaches
- **Development** of best practice
- **Informs and stimulates** education, community awareness initiatives

**“Domestic Violence homicides are the most predictable and preventable of homicides”**

*(Jaffe 2009 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Conference on the Prevention of Domestic Homicide)*

