



SUPPORTING TRADITIONAL AFRICAN
MEDIATORS PROJECT

**HEALTH. WESTERN
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CENTRE**

Supporting Traditional African Mediators Project (STAMP)

**Western Region Health Centre, Counselling and Support Services
in partnership with:**

- Western Region Health Centre, Refugee Health Service
- East Africa Women's Foundation
- Ethiopian Community Association
- Afar Community Association
- Eastern and Central Africa Communities of Victoria Inc (EACACOV)
- North West Migrant Resource Centre
- Foundation House – Service Innovation Program
- Sunshine Family Relationships Centre
- Women's Health West
- Members of Equatorial, Dinka and Jieng communities of Southern Sudan

Strengthening Sudanese Families project

Goal: “To identify, plan and implement a sustainable family violence prevention project in consultation with a local, newly arrived community.”

Objective 1

- By October 2007 a local community will be selected as the target group for this project

Objective 2

- By January 2008 relationships will be developed with key community members who will form a reference group to act in a consultative capacity to the project workers

Objective 3

- By July 2008 pilot and evaluate 2 activities to determine their potential as sustainable family violence prevention projects

Objective 4

- In the first 12 months of the project, build staff capacity to plan, implement and evaluate a health promotion project aimed at preventing family violence.

Objective 5

- Plan and implement a project that incorporates the advice of the reference group and the results of the pilot projects.

Supporting Traditional African Mediators Project (*STAMP*)

Goal: “To support traditional African mediators in their conflict resolution role within the cultural and legal context in Australia”

Objective 1

- By September 2008 establish a Steering Committee with representatives from local African-Australian communities and relevant organisations to guide the implementation of the project.

Objective 2

- Steering committee to have decided upon the core strategy to be implemented by the project by March 2009

Objective 3

- To implement the family violence prevention strategy chosen by the steering committee in a culturally appropriate way.

Objective 4

- Using an action research framework, engage in a reflective evaluation process that generates further objectives in light of developments in the project



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Steering Committee

- Chair: The Program Manager of Counselling and Support Services at WRHC
- 7 community members including representatives from;
 - Dinka, Jieng and Equatorial communities of Southern Sudan,
 - The East Africa Women's Foundation,
 - The Ethiopian Community Association,
 - The Afar Community Association
 - Eastern and Central Africa Communities of Victoria Inc (EACACOV)
- 7 organisation members including:
 - WRHC Refugee Health Nurse,
 - Foundation House
 - The Drum African Family Centre,
 - Sunshine Family Relationships Centre,
 - North West Migrant Resource Centre,
 - Women's Health West.
- The steering committee has the responsibility for exploring options and making decisions regarding the direction of the project according to their terms of reference.

Primary Prevention of Family Violence (VicHealth, 2007)

Action theme	STAMP
1. Promoting equal and respectful relations between men and women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■Steering committee includes men and women from a range of communities working together to form a violence prevention strategy ■TAM training to focus on individual and community attitudes, beliefs and practices that promote equity and respect between men and women
2. Promoting non-violent social norms and reducing the effects of prior exposure to violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■TAM training to incorporate learning about the determinants of violence against women ■Educating TAMs regarding the impact of trauma upon children and the impact of war related trauma on people with refugee experiences and where to get help to reduce the effects of prior exposure to violence
3. Promoting access to resources and systems of support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■Steering committee is strengthening links between key community members/ leaders and services involved. ■Demystifying the service system and how services can assist community members ■Education about the legal system and what to expect from police, Courts and other service systems in relation to family violence

VicHealth framework

Desired intermediate outcomes of STAMP:

Individual	Organisational	Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Increasing TAM's skills in implementing and teaching non-violent means of resolving interpersonal conflict and challenging attitudes that are violence-supportive or excusing of violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Creating a partnership between community associations, health and family services to work collaboratively, cross-culturally and across sectors to implement evidence based violence prevention activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Engage the existing and culturally embedded practice of TAM in awareness raising, supporting norms that are non-violent and build respectful and equitable gender relations in communities.