



Project to Prevent Violence Against Women - Engaging Young People Accessing Housing Services

Introducing the *16 Songs for 16 Days of Activism to Stop Violence Against Women* project; a partnership between CASA House (Royal Women's Hospital), Melbourne Citymission and YWCA Victoria with support from Obese Records. The project was funded under a grant from the Australian Government and coincides with the international campaign, *16 Days of Activism to Stop Violence Against Women*.

The project was developed as a means of engaging young people who were accessing housing support services around the issues of violence against women. This engagement was undertaken through group work with young people and culminated in the production of a hip hop CD containing messages against violence and promoting respectful relationships.

Approximately 20 young people participated in the groups and considered the issues relating to violence against women. These groups were co-facilitated by social workers and Australian hip hop artists. Groups ran weekly across 20 weeks.

In partnership with Obese Records, the project team developed and produced a CD for the project. Australian artists linked to the Obese label were keen to show their support for ending violence against women by offering tracks for use on the CD. Following a selection process, tracks were chosen based on their content and relevance to these young people. Young people were encouraged and supported to develop their own hip hop track in relation to the discussions in the groups. 5000 free CDs are being distributed throughout Australia to young people accessing housing support services or who are engaged with sexual assault services

The *16 Songs for 16 Days* CD was launched at Federation Square on the 9th of December, 2011. The launch was designed to not only to draw attention to the CD but also the need to engage young people accessing housing support services in the messages, to publicise the issues of violence against women and actively engage in the 16 Days of Activism campaign.

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