



16 Songs for 16 Days of Activism to Stop Violence Against Women

Ideas for using the CD

The following ideas for using the CD were gleaned from the groupwork undertaken with the young people.

1. If you are working with a young person who is interested in music or hip hop give them a copy of the CD and briefly explain how it came to be. Eg *This was created by workers, young people and hip hop artists to express messages against violence towards women. It has a range of tracks with different themes that relate to this and also acknowledge young people's situations.* Also mention that the booklet has numbers for services in the back and some information about the CD.
2. If you have a group of young people, play a track and ask them what they think. Use a track you think is relevant to an issue for them as a means of opening up a discussion.
3. Run some groups with young people, play relevant tracks, encourage the young people to come up with their own ideas.

Groupwork

Approximately 20 young people accessing housing support services participated in groups to consider issues relating to violence against women. These groups were co-facilitated by social workers and Australian hip hop artists, encouraging young people to develop their own hip hop track in relation to the discussions.

Recruitment

The project workers sent out information to young people accessing housing support services, inviting them to participate in workshops using hip hop as a means of discussing issues of violence against women, some workshops utilising graffiti art were also run. Young people were approached by workers in the field who believed the young person may be interested in either the topic of violence against women or where the young person had an interest in hip hop or graffiti art.

Young people contacted the project worker directly or with the support of a worker. Following this, the young people attended interviews with project workers to discuss the project and any access issues they faced in attending. Young people provided consent for the project workers to discuss any issues regarding access with their support workers.

Structure

Two separate groups (one for young women and one for young men) were run, running weekly for 8 weeks, the sessions ran for 2 hours. The group for young women was first, followed by the group for young men. Following these two groups the young people were offered the opportunity to participate in graffiti workshops. The girls' group ran as a closed group, but due to the changing commitments of the young women it was decided to trial the young men's group as an open group.

The first week of the group was facilitated by social workers only, group guidelines were established and the young people decided on the topics that they wanted to discuss in the following weeks. Six weeks of topics were established. The 8th week was a recording session where the young people could participate in the development of the final track on the CD.

Prior to week 2 the young people were asked if they would like to provide consent for their photos to be taken in relation to the project and to have their voices recorded.

Hip hop artists were selected based on their experience in running workshops for young people and their interest in the topic of preventing violence against women. Each session was structured for approximately 30 minutes of structured discussion on the topics chosen by the young people and the rest of the time focused on learning skills to write rhymes and rap.

Group Topics

1. Different forms of violence against women
2. Use of language against women eg Bitch, hoe, “shake that arse” Misogyny in music, women degraded – inequality
3. Sexual Abuse
4. Rights and Services
5. What’s a healthy/happy relationship
6. Right to Party

Worker Feedback

The groups were extremely successful. Young people were engaged with the topics they chose and participated in discussion which focused on their views around the topics. The most important topics for the young people seemed to be about the use of language and how they felt about this and it’s relation to violence and when they talked about consent which was covered under sexual assault. The young people appreciated having a forum for discussing consent and the law and all said that they had not done this before. Discussions about happy and healthy relationships along with socially expected gender roles were also identified as useful to the participants.

In all of the discussions respect was a key element, this was achieved through the young people developing group agreements.

The young people enjoyed having artists attend. They participated in the groups in a way that indicated they felt comfortable. A resulting outcome of this was that they were able to record a track as a team and produce artwork for the CD.

