

Social Prescribing Initiatives: South West Healthcare

Service: Macarthur Community Health Centre

Main Component: The project completed in Macarthur is the Warm Safe Home. The Warm Safe Home Project was launched in 2019 by the South West Victoria Elder Abuse Prevention Network with the aim of starting conversations about older people's right to feel safe in their homes. The project aims to raise awareness about elder abuse, its causes, and the things that can be done to prevent it. The Warm Safe Home Project uses the icon of the house to talk about older people's right to feel safe and live free from fear. In many cultures the home is the key to our sense of safety. Our homes shelter us from the outside world and provide a space in which to carry out our lives and interact with our loved ones. In elder abuse situations however, the home can become a place of danger.

In 2020 the Warm Safe home was carried out in the community of Macarthur. It provided the community with an opportunity to reconnect after the strict COVID-19 lock down period. The project provided an opportunity for the men's shed to re-engage by building 3 doll house sized houses for the local school, kinder and day care to decorate. The houses will be displayed throughout the community during the 16 days of activism which commences on November 25th and run until December 10th.

Who is this for? Macarthur community, Macarthur men's shed, Macarthur primary school, Macarthur kindergarten

Outcomes: The main outcomes for the project was to create awareness around elder abuse as well as abuse across the life span. It created an opportunity for social connection by re-engaging the men's shed after Covid-19 lockdowns and created a financial benefit by providing a donation to their labour. Intergenerational engagement was achieved within the community as the project involved the men's shed, local school, kinder and day care to be on board with the project. The social support group at the Macarthur community health centre were involved in the project as well making the project a community wide initiative.

Organisations-involved: South West Healthcare & Mpower

Keywords: Social connection, COVID-19, Elder abuse, Community

Link: <https://elderabuseawarenessday.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Warm-Safe-Home-Project.pdf>

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