

## PERSPECTIVES from the Director...

Jannawi has had a busy year and is heading towards the holiday period with an increasing number of referrals to the child protection program. Families experiencing domestic and family violence continue to be the majority of referrals, however Jannawi is also a service that works with children who have experienced child sexual abuse.

Many of the children we work with have had their disclosures believed, but it has not led to any criminal charges being laid and this can create some challenging and unsafe situations later on.

The disconnect between substantiations (where an investigation of a report concludes there is a reason to believe harm was caused) and no criminal charges means that many children (particularly younger children) might fall through the gaps of receiving adequate support and protection.

The numbers of victims in Australia are staggering- it is estimated that up to 1.4 million people experienced sexual abuse before the age of 15 years, with 58% reporting they were abused for the first time before the age of 10 years (ABS 2017). These numbers from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Personal Safety Survey (2017) also note that 11% of women and 5% of men in Australia report having been sexually abused before the age of 15 years.

Whilst the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse highlighted the significant lifelong trauma for children, it also seemed to shift the spotlight away from people who harm that may be family members or have a personal connection to the child.

Intrafamilial abuse and sibling sexual abuse continue to be unthinkable harms which society struggles to identify and respond to- and this needs to change. Even more importantly, during times of COVID-19 restrictions, there were worries about child sexual abuse becoming even more deeply hidden.

Schools, along with extended family members and friends, are important contacts chosen by children to disclose what is happening. It is time that our society starts to recognise and respond to child sexual abuse which is perpetrated in a calculated and planned way by people we know, rather than the 'stranger danger' message which continues to persist and distract.

To support this, Jannawi has been fortunate enough to receive funding from the City of Canterbury Bankstown to run introductory online Child Sexual Abuse workshops for workers and parents to raise awareness - to know the facts and learn more about ways to better support children.

## NURTURING NON-VIOLENCE

Our Director, Biljana Milosevic has had the privilege of facilitating Communities of Practice (COP) groups as part of a Sydney University Research project funded by NSW Health - Sydney Local Health District.

This research project aims to investigate and build the capacity of health and community services professionals in responding to domestic violence. Professionals who have conducted home visiting, particularly in early childhood, are the target group for this study.

This study aims to evaluate current practices in this area and look at how services that work with families have had to adapt to keep women and children safe from violence and hold men accountable for their use of violence in the COVID-19 context.

A co-design method has been used to gather expertise and insight into this complex area in order to shape future practices. These 2 hour groups were facilitated online for the past 6 months and is just one example of Jannawi's contribution to research and new practice in the family violence field.



## News...

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### WEIGHTED BLANKETS

Jannawi has been extremely fortunate to receive a number of weighted therapy blankets donated to the children and families we work with. These blankets which come in a range of weights are designed to reduce stress, increase calmness and assist with sleep by providing a kind of 'whole body hug' which provides a deep touch pressure.

For people who have experienced harmful touch, these blankets are an alternative way to offer comfort and the feeling of being held and supported. We are grateful to our donors for offering these products to our vulnerable families to support their healing and recovery from interpersonal trauma.

### ONLINE INFORMATION SESSIONS

A big thank you goes out to City of Canterbury, Bankstown for funding a series of workshops providing information to local workers and parents. Running over 4 weeks, these sessions will cover the basics of Child Sexual Abuse: Know the Facts & Protecting Children.



### CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY TOY APPEAL

Each year, Jannawi provides much needed toys and gifts to the families we work with. Each year, this task becomes harder and yet the need continues to grow.

Jannawi works with children aged 0-12 years of age and they enjoy gifts such as puzzles, arts and craft, Lego, books and anything that involves imaginative play. We also appreciate any resources for outdoor play and games which encourage team work.

Some of the gifts we distribute are things that many children may take for granted. We ask for gifts not to be wrapped so we can match them to a child's interests. As part of our Christmas Appeal, we also make sure that we include adults and distribute gifts to non-offending parents and carers.

Please donate to allow us to be able to purchase selected gifts for both the children and families attending the Centre, or to donate gifts of new or well loved toys.



## WHY JANNAWI NEEDS YOUR HELP

Jannawi's primary purpose is to protect children who have experienced trauma through violence, neglect, physical, psychological or sexual abuse. The level of child abuse and domestic violence in Australia is appalling and on the increase. The traditional solution to child abuse has meant increasing numbers of children being removed from their homes and families. Jannawi's approach is unique and our philosophy is that children are best cared for by their own families. We aim to establish long-term community support networks and resilience in children, so they have the ability and support to thrive in their community. Our current premises in Lakemba, our staff and program resources are at capacity. We are seeking additional funding to enable us to provide these services to more families in urgent need, rather than turning them away.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donations are always welcome and appreciated as this is the primary way in which we can continue to provide and extend the vital services that Jannawi offers to families in need. We also welcome contacts and introductions to corporate sponsors and property developers who can assist us in locating and securing additional space, even if it is on a short-term or temporary basis.

Contact: Please contact Jannawi Connections Acting Chair, Christine for more information on how you can help 0413 910 210.

## DONATE TO JANNAWI

Online at [www.jannawi.org.au](http://www.jannawi.org.au) or return this form to:

Jannawi  
PO Box 148 Lakemba NSW 2195  
ph: 02 9750 0500 fax: 02 9750 6190  
info@jannawi.org.au

Title:  Mr  Mrs  Miss  Dr  Other

First name/s: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please accept my:

Single gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or Monthly credit card gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT DETAILS

Cheque (make payable to Jannawi Inc)

Credit card:  Visa  MasterCard  Amex  Diners

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_ Cardholder name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your generous support!**

**Gifts over \$2 are tax deductible**

ABN: 45 306 019 085 Charitable Fundraising No: CFN 23846

PRIVACY ASSURANCE: The information you provide on this form is collected by Jannawi to maintain contact and keep you up-to-date with information about Jannawi, its services, events and achievements. Your name may be published in the annual honour roll. If you wish to remain anonymous or do not wish to receive information, please contact us on email [admin@jannawi.org.au](mailto:admin@jannawi.org.au). We abide by the "NSW Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act".