

ANNUAL REPORT

2016



OUR VISION

PROJECT RESPECT'S VISION IS FOR A WORLD WHERE WOMEN ARE FREE FROM TRAFFICKING, PROSTITUTION AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION. WE ARE INFORMED BY WOMEN IN THE SEX INDUSTRY AND AIM TO SEE OUR GOALS ACHIEVED BY:

- supporting women in the sex industry through direct outreach, practical assistance, support stream referrals, ongoing emotional support and social inclusion in a community
- empowering women who have been in the sex industry by using a strengths-based, women-centred approach that facilitates access to genuine options for rebuilding lives and fostering a sense of self-worth and self-esteem
- educating the wider community to bring greater awareness of the impacts of prostitution and trafficking and to prevent the exploitation and enslavement of women by the sex industry
- advocacy and activism that addresses the demand, violence and structural inequalities that maintain the sex industry
- research on the sex industry that will allow us to inform our evidence-based practices and provide us with the tools for social change
- leading the way in Australia as the experts in specialist support for women who have been trafficked into the sex industry

CORE PRINCIPLES

PROJECT RESPECT'S CORE PRINCIPLES ARE:

- feminist; we recognise gender inequality and work to promote women's rights
- women-centred; our outreach is focussed on women's needs and experiences, and our activities are led and informed by the women we support
- respectful; we respect all women and acknowledge diversity and individuality
- proactive; we are committed to being leaders in education, advocacy and research in order to achieve sustainable social change
- compassionate; our work is grounded in compassion and empathy
- human rights; we are here for all women
- non-violence; we reject violence in any form and focus on preventing violence against women

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REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Well, this has been another challenging, exciting and surprising year for Project Respect. This has been a year of highs and lows and a year that has channelled us into focusing on developing a clear and sustainable business plan to enable us to continue the vital work of Project Respect well into the future.

As most of our supporters and friends are well aware, we faced a crisis in the early months of the year. The re-building of Project Respect has continued steadily since this time, and at some stages has not been an easy or a comfortable journey. Thank you to each and every one of you who played a part in ensuring the continuation of this organisation.

We welcomed our new Executive Director, Cindy Smith in January of this year – who took the role on with enormous energy, knowing that our situation was dire! She did an amazing job of steering the COM, the staff and our lovely volunteers through some very anxious moments, directing us in leading a campaign to save Project Respect and in exploring and adopting a more sustainable operation model in terms of our funding and our connections. Cindy now joins us on the COM, working to realize our new vision alongside us, and giving Rachel Reilly the opportunity to step into the ED role to continue this work. Thank you to Rachel for your enthusiasm with this change.

I had the privilege of taking on the role of Chair in March of this year and suffice to say, it has been hard work, steep learning and asking yet again for the members of the COM to give a little more than we all signed up for! We have had to make some hard decisions, commit a huge amount of time to meetings, campaigning and strategizing - and the members of the COM have done this in the most respectful and ethical ways possible.

Change like this is not without heartache. We said goodbye to some very valued and experienced staff during our re-structure. I would like to thank Yumni, Shirley and Kate for their work over the years with Project Respect. Their wisdom and commitment to the women and girls we work with is a huge legacy to live up to. I would like to thank them for this energy and passion and look forward to drawing on their expertise in our future work.

This past year also saw Kathleen Matlzahn (Founding ED) and Valli Mendez (past Chair), move on to pursue other goals. Both Kathleen and Valli stepped into their roles at Project Respect again when they were needed, to keep the organization going and showing the kind of commitment and generosity that is evident in the staff and volunteers of Project Respect – this is what makes this organization so very special. Thank you both for your hard work and the time you took out of your lives to keep things moving.

I would like to thank those whose grants and financial contributions have assisted us in being given this opportunity to rebuild Project Respect, including the Department of Premier and Cabinet, the City of Yarra, The Attorney General's Department, RE Ross Trust, Inner North Community Foundation, Cabrini Linen, Ibis World and other organisations such as Igniting Change, the English Family Foundation, the Cities of Monash, Melbourne and Moreland, and many others have also played a part in our survival.

Most of all, I would like to thank our amazing staff, volunteers and my fellow COM members for being brave enough to see this through and for getting excited alongside us with the possibilities for our future (which means more hard work of course). It is a very exciting time for Project Respect.

We head off into the next year armed with a new and sustainable strategy and a new and sustainable business model. We will keep the important work we do on the State and National agenda; we will work to educate services and agencies to make them more approachable and inclusive for our women and we will ensure that the work we do respects and empowers the women we work with. Our commitment to working towards ending the violence to, and exploitation of, women and young girls in the sex industry is stronger than ever.

Christine Craik
CHAIR PROJECT RESPECT

WE WILL WORK TO EDUCATE SERVICES AND AGENCIES TO MAKE THEM MORE APPROACHABLE AND INCLUSIVE FOR OUR WOMEN AND WE WILL ENSURE THAT THE WORK WE DO RESPECTS AND EMPOWERS THE WOMEN WE WORK WITH

2015-2016 Highlights

WORKING WITH WOMEN

165  TOTAL BROTHEL VISITS

82  INDIVIDUAL BROTHELS VISITED

348  WOMEN MET
> 222 CALD BACKGROUND
> 62 WOMEN SUPPORTED
> 16 TRAFFICKED WOMEN

ORGANISATIONAL

42  VOLUNTEERS

12  STUDENT PLACEMENTS

ADVOCACY & COMMUNICATION

3  PRINT & ONLINE MEDIA

2  RADIO

5  GUEST SPEAKER EVENTS

1471  FACEBOOK LIKES

2067  NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

While it has no doubt been a challenging year, there has also been many exciting initiatives as well as plenty to celebrate on the ground, in the office and with our work with women!

We continued our fortnightly community lunches and weekends away, and implemented new initiatives for women we support. This included art therapy held after the community lunches by our wonderful volunteer Kathryn Reidy and our legal information service run by a team of volunteers on Monday afternoon. We also implemented the Women's Advisory Group (WAG), to ensure we are guided by the voices of women from the industry. This is a key initiative, and we will ensure our WAG remains operational as the organisation begins to move in a new direction. We were also fortunate enough to further develop our Employment and Education Program, ably overseen by Nicole Shuler to assist women in their pursuit of alternative forms of employment.

We implemented our brand new, custom made database and case-noting system which will allow us to streamline our working methods, while capturing more detailed information about the women we meet and support. This will enable us to report in greater depth and detail on the work we do, and provide the opportunity to gather more tangible data to feed up to different bodies to ensure the experiences of women in the sex industry are incorporated into planning and policy at local, state and national levels.

As the financial pressures became apparent at the beginning of 2016, we took the time to reflect and evaluate our working methods, which resulted in redesigning our service delivery model to capture the essence of our service. While a large part of Project Respect's work over the years has been about creating a safe community for women in the sex industry, we identified the core of our work is to ensure women are connected in to the support and services they require, and to make sure women are not discriminated against during this process, while actively working to reduce the stigma women in the sex industry experience.

Our new model will have a large outward focus, relying on integration with existing services. A core element of the service redesign will be to build strong partnerships with community, social and welfare services in order for us to provide warm referrals for women seeking assistance or support. Through these partnerships we aim to increase the capacity of staff to be informed about the sex industry in Victoria as well as the issues women in the sex industry experience, while actively reducing stigma and discrimination associated with the industry. The long-term outcomes of this work will ensure the service system is knowledgeable about, and responsive to, women in the sex industry.

We will continue to conduct outreach to licensed brothels across the Greater Melbourne Region to let women know we are available to them, should they need. We will continue intensive case-management support for women trafficked and for women presenting with complex issues. Through our partnership development with the service sector, we will be able to provide warm referrals to services women require. We will be reducing our community engagement initiatives such as weekends away and material aid deliveries due to the resource intensive nature of those services, however, through developing a strong network of partnerships, we will still be able to link women in to similar services.

We are also connecting in with existing networks locally and nationally to ensure the voices of women in the sex industry are captured at all levels and incorporated into planning and policy development. We are now a member of the Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA) Advisory Group which is a federally funded alliance of women's services and a great space for Project Respect to be. And on a local level, we are members of the Yarra Health Plan Advisory Committee, and plan to continue developing relationships with local governments with the aim to participate in their strategic direction around health, gender equity and family violence planning.

We continue to attend the Human Trafficking National Roundtable in Canberra to ensure we

THE CORE OF OUR WORK IS TO ENSURE WOMEN ARE CONNECTED IN TO THE SUPPORT AND SERVICES THEY REQUIRE, AND TO MAKE SURE WOMEN ARE NOT DISCRIMINATED AGAINST DURING THIS PROCESS, WHILE ACTIVELY WORKING TO REDUCE THE STIGMA WOMEN IN THE SEX INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

remain informed about the Australian government response to human trafficking, and to highlight the experiences of the survivors of human trafficking we work with. This year we were fortunate enough to be a participant in the consultations for the third action plan of The National Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and their Children 2010-2022. Involvement and participation in these groups, meetings and consultations provides the platform and opportunity for Project Respect to speak out to ensure the voices and experiences of women in the sex industry and women trafficked are included in future planning at a federal level.

On another positive note, it was a successful year for Project Respect and our wonderful volunteers in being acknowledged for the work we all do! We were honoured to be selected as a finalist in the Human Rights Awards in the Tony Fitzgerald Memorial Community Award category. It was an absolute pleasure to attend the awards in Sydney, and have the opportunity to listen to Gillian Triggs (Human Rights Commissioner), Peter Greste (winner of the 2015 Human Rights Medal) and other guests speak about the inspiring work which they do.

Melissa Tines, our Volunteer Volunteer Coordinator was recognised for all her hard work and received a Premier's Volunteer Champion Award in the category of Outstanding Volunteer Managers. The ceremony was held at Government House, and Melissa was presented with her award by The Hon. Daniel Andrews, Premier of Victoria. And Alison Barton, another one of our wonderful volunteers was acknowledged for her hard work and received a City of Yarra volunteer award!

Finally, a big thank you to all the staff, students, volunteers, members, supporters, donors and funders who have assisted and supported us on our journey this year. Project Respect always attracts amazing people, and this year was certainly no different! As always, we couldn't have done it without you.

Rachel Reilly
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

working
WITH
women



BROTHEL OUTREACH

BROTHEL OUTREACH IS A KEY COMPONENT OF PROJECT RESPECT. IT ALLOWS US TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT RIGHTS AND SERVICES WHICH ARE AVAILABLE TO WOMEN, INCLUDING ABOUT PROJECT RESPECT.

Further, Outreach allows us to assess brothels for indicators or signs of trafficking and identify potential survivors of trafficking. Brothel outreach is often the first point of contact a women may have with Project Respect.

Outreach to brothels is undertaken in teams, which are supervised by our Outreach Coordinator who is supported by students and volunteers with various skills such as bi and multi-language skills but also lived experience in the sex industry. We found that having diverse teams improved our ability to break barriers and to connect with women during our outreach visits through language and shared experiences.



There are currently 87 licensed brothels in Melbourne. This year we conducted a total of 165 visits to 82 different brothels, of which 3 appeared closed. We were denied entry on 59 visits, however were able to leave information for women on those occasions. For the first time-ever we also gained entry to 2 brothels who engage trans-gender women in the sex industry.

During our outreach activities we met 348 women of which 222 women (63%) were from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) backgrounds, primarily from Asia (210 women, 60%), especially from China, South Korea and Thailand.

Further, we updated and revamped our "info kits" to ensure information we provide to women during brothel visits is up-to-date and that the format is more compact and easier to read.

INDIVIDUAL AND INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Project Respect's individual support is women-centred, strengths based and available to any woman from the sex industry who seeks our assistance. Further, we have no waiting lists for women to access our service.

We provided individual support and casework to 62 women as well as to their 32 children. The number of women supported has decreased from previous years which is a result of reduced staffing. This year, we had between one and two staff members engaging in direct service work at any one time. This number reflects that the amount of assistance required remained high and there continues to be a demand for specialised services for women in the sex industry.

Whilst we continue to receive referrals from other organisations, the majority of women self-referred to Project Respect, which was often an outcome of outreach to brothels.

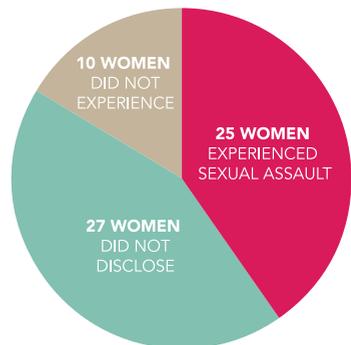
62 WOMEN SUPPORTED



FAMILY VIOLENCE



SEXUAL ASSAULT



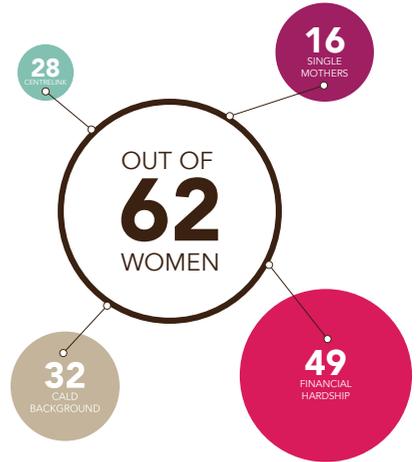
A large number (52%) of women supported are from CaLD backgrounds.

Women from CaLD backgrounds may often be exposed to additional issues resulting from language barriers, isolation and cultural difference due to living in a new country with different rights, laws, regulations and culture. Many CaLD women supported by Project Respect indicated they were on their own in Australia. Some were trying to support their families in their home countries, as well as pursuing their own study.

A large proportion of women from CALD backgrounds that Project Respect supported this year do not have Permanent Residency or Citizenship status. This means that some are not entitled to any governmental support, including Medicare, and may not qualify for support from other services due to their immigrant status. Humanitarian visa pathways remain uncertain for many women.

Further, a large number of women who accessed our service were single mothers (25%), relied on social welfare such as Centrelink payments (45%) and experienced financial distress (79%). Family Violence and Sexual Assault continue to be significant issues for women supported by Project Respect.

Additionally, women supported by Project Respect continue to experience stigma and discrimination because of their experience in the sex industry, including when accessing other mainstream services.



SUPPORT FOR WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN TRAFFICKED

Case Studies

Project Respect met Sylvie when she was homeless and she was referred to us by a homelessness service.

Sylvie had been trafficked to Australia and managed to escape this situation, however found herself in a new country completely left by herself not knowing where in Melbourne she was. When we first met her she presented to be fearful and traumatised.

Sylvie didn't speak any English, she had experienced multiple sexual assaults and other traumatising events happened to her. She didn't have work or study rights nor access to health care. Sylvie also needed urgent assistance related to immigration matters and health. With assistance from the housing service, emergency accommodation was secured for Sylvie and we were able to secure a pro-bono lawyer for her to assist with immigration related matters.

Sylvie now has access to healthcare thanks to the collaboration of the Royal Nursing District Services. We were also able to link Sylvie in with specialist counselling services.

Whilst Sylvie's immigration status still means that she doesn't have access to Medicare or other important forms of support such as Centrelink, she now finds herself in a safe situation and has further access to community support, including long-term housing. She is also receiving pro-bono English tutoring until her study rights are granted to enrol into an English course.

Project Respect continued to provide specialised support to women who have been trafficked into Australia's sex industry. This year we assisted 14 women who were trafficked internationally into Australia's sex industry, 1 woman who was trafficked domestically outside of Australia and 1 woman who was trafficked domestically within Australia. Project Respect's support for women who have been trafficked ranges from long-term, intensive case management to assisting women in accessing relevant services, provision of information about their rights, peer support and community activities as well as emergency accommodation.

Our support for women trafficked is especially important for women who are ineligible to access the governmental Support for Trafficked People Program (STPP) (which is delivered by the Australian Red Cross and administered by Department of Social Services). Project Respect highly respects the Support for Trafficked People Program, but unfortunately in 2015-2016 only one woman we worked with was able to access the program.

We found that women have difficulties accessing the STPP due to its conditional nature, as it requires survivors of trafficking to assist the Australian Federal Police (AFP) with investigations against their traffickers and participation in the criminal justice system.

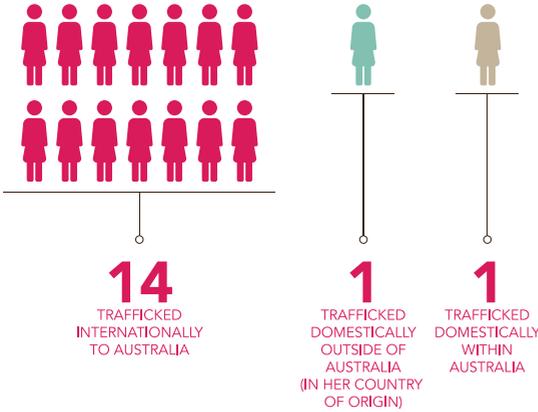
Some women currently supported by Project Respect were willing to cooperate with the AFP. However, they were only able to access the STPP's resources either temporarily, or not at all.

Others do not wish to engage with Australian authorities for a range of reasons, including concern for personal safety and that of their families in their home countries or because they may have been told that authorities cannot be trusted. For women who come from countries where prostitution is illegal, this is intensified, due to their fear of punishment upon returning home.

We also continued to participate in a range of advocacy activities, media and community events to discuss and educate women about human trafficking in Australia as well as our concerns about the conditioned nature of the STPP. Additionally, Project Respect is part of Australia's National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery Senior Officials' Meeting. Please refer to page 19 to read more about our advocacy work.

We would like to thank the Attorney General's Department for continuing to fund our work with survivors of trafficking.

16 TRAFFICKED WOMEN SUPPORTED



WOMEN ACCESSING

STPP



My contacted Project Respect as she found our brochure at the brothel where she worked. My had been sexually exploited for a long period of time. She had managed to leave this situation by herself, however found herself in a position needing urgent legal assistance. Project Respect linked her in with relevant legal services. Additionally, Project Respect assisted her to secure an Intervention Order against one of her previous clients. My also found herself very isolated which also led to her having felt depressed. My participated in our community activities such as our lunches, art therapy and weekend away. My on multiple occasions expressed that having found a community like Project Respect had been very beneficial for her general well-being. We also were able to link her in with counselling and other mental health services. Additionally My participated in our Education and Employment Support Program through which she was part-time employment and she was able to improve her computer skills during this process (see page 16). My also managed to significantly reduce her engagement in the sex industry.

Kassia contacted Project Respect after she had been sexually assaulted in the sex industry, Child Protection services had removed her child from her and she had a substance abuse issue. Kassia was in the sex industry to support her addiction. We were able to link Kassia in with a specialist counselling service to address the trauma she experienced through the sexual assault. Further we provided Kassia support with Child Protection related matters. Kassia now no longer engages in the sex industry, she has been granted visitor rights to see her child and also undergone rehab.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PEER SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

COMMUNITY LUNCHESES

Project Respect continued to facilitate fortnightly community lunches for women in the sex industry. Our lunches are an informal and safe environment, free of judgement and discrimination. Women have the opportunity to get together, meet other people and share experiences with people who understand – many women often cannot talk freely about their involvement in the sex industry. In addition to the company, the lunches also come with a free, freshly cooked meal and if women wish, they can take some fresh fruit and vegetables home.

Thank you to SecondBite, Streetsmart and Foodbank Victoria for your support.

WEEKENDS AWAY

Project Respect facilitated three recreational and therapeutic weekends away for women from the sex industry, as well as their children with a total of 40 participants. This year in particular we had an increased numbers of children joining us. Our weekends are held in a peaceful country setting, providing a safe, non-judgemental space where women can get away and relax through peer support.

At our weekends away, women and their children are provided with healthy food and can participate in optional daily activities or have a remedial massage if they wish.

Thank you to Cabrini Linen, SecondBite, Streetsmart, Pierce Armstrong Trust and Foodbank Victoria for your support.

ART THERAPY

Project Respect facilitated fortnightly art therapy following our lunches. Women who participated in our art therapy were able to explore their creativity through drawing, painting, arts and crafts whilst also talking about experiences, having time out and connecting and sharing with others. We received great feedback and from the over ten women who participated in our art therapy activities on a frequent basis.

MATERIAL AID

We continued to provide material aid to women and their children primarily in the form of food and clothing. Many women stated that this form of support became essential to their daily lives.

Thank you to Mumsfin, St Kilda Mums, Streetsmart, Sydney Myer Foundation, Foodbank, Second Bite, New Hope, Deanna Papo, St Mary's House of Welcome and the Soroptimists.

WOMEN'S ADVISORY GROUP

In 2015, Project Respect formed the Women's Advisory Group (WAG), a group of women who could guide the organisation and provide insight and advice based on their expert knowledge related to the sex industry. This enabled Project Respect to stay current, relevant and informed by women from the sex industry.

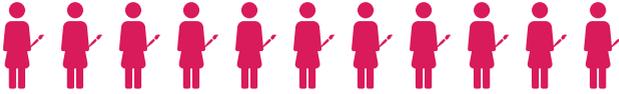
In 2015/2016 our Women's Advisory Group:

- Provided expert interviews, which lead to a print media article highlighting the nexus of family violence and the sex industry
- Was consulted for our submission to the proposed changes to the Sex Work Regulations 2016
- Provided training to students and volunteers on matters related to the sex industry
- Participated in, and provided input to, our 2014/2015 AGM's Hypothetical Activity
- Consulted in relation to the implementation of our Legal Information Service
- Was included in the interviewing process of new staff members including the Executive Director

We would like to thank the participants of our Women's Advisory Group for sharing their expertise with us.

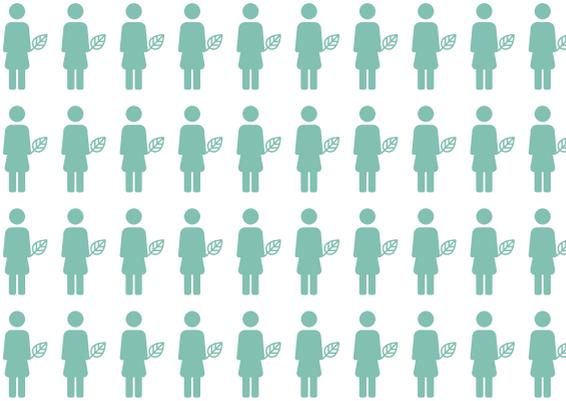
11

WOMEN PARTICIPATED IN ART THERAPY



40

WOMEN PARTICIPATED AT THE WEEKENDS AWAY



i appreciate the company and being stress free - it is a retreat from daily pressures

the best thing about the weekend away was getting to meet new people and socialising and engaging my children

i love spending time meeting other women

it boosted my self esteem

it was valuable because it got me out of home and took my mind off my personal struggles i suffer daily

the weekend away is valuable to myself and my children because it's something to look forward to and i wouldn't be afford holidays anyway

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

Project Respect was fortunate to receive funding to continue building our Education and Employment Support Program implemented and funded by Inner North Community Foundation in previous years, and to transform the work from a grant-dependent project into an ongoing and sustainable project. We recruited a highly competent Employment, Education and Engagement Officer, as well as skilled volunteers to deliver the program.

The program was a success, with 17 women initially engaging in the program and a number of key partnerships across the sector developed. Additionally, through this program, we were able to provide women from the industry with student

placements, volunteer opportunities and, work for the dole positions within Project Respect, providing women with the opportunity to gain first hand work experience in a safe and supported environment.

The delivery of this program highlighted how crucial it is for Project Respect to draw on existing services in the community to deliver quality outcomes for women we support.

Thank you to Inner North Community Foundation, Our Neighbourhood Trust – Australia Post and Westpac Foundation for providing the financial support and opportunity to run this program.

Julie's story

Julie has been in the sex industry since her 20s and is now in her late 50s. She has not been in mainstream employment for over 25 years and relies on government financial assistance. Julie has been attending Project Respect's community lunches on a regular basis and also, on occasion, received material aid assistance however did not seek any form of further support from Project Respect until recently when she experienced housing distress and was at risk of homelessness. Project Respect was able to offer Julie a placement at the Project Respect office. Julie hadn't worked in an office environment for a lengthy period of time and she lacked computer literacy and other administrative skills. Project Respect matched her with one of our volunteers who – alongside with staff members – provided Julie with assistance related to computer proficiency and other administrative responsibilities such as utilising office equipment and internal processes and procedures. Julie has become an integral and much admired part of our team,

sharing her knowledge and experiences from the sex industry with Project Respect.

This is what Julie has to say:

"They not only offered me a placement but completely embrace and value my opinion, insight and experiences, re-framing them as the invaluable assets that they are, incorporating a component always missing from my life; a place where I can thrive as myself without fear of judgment or punishment and sense of belonging. It is promising to see social workers alike actually practice what they preach. I am truly privileged to be part of such a beautiful team that are equally empowering, passionate and supportive. This opportunity allows me to continue progressing personal and professionally, securing a bright future. I prayed just to be given a chance, but Project Respect has given me so much more and I am forever grateful."

ALL NAMES AND IDENTIFYING DETAILS HAVE BEEN CHANGED TO PROTECT THE PRIVACY OF THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN THIS CASE STUDY.

EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

5  BUSINESSES

5  EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

2  VOLUNTEERS

17  WOMEN PARTICIPATED

10  WOMEN COMPLETED



STUDENT AND VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

WE CONTINUED TO RUN OUR STUDENT AND VOLUNTEER PROGRAM, WITH A DIVERSE MIX OF WOMEN CONTRIBUTING TO PROJECT RESPECT'S AIMS AND VISION THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. BELOW IS A SNAPSHOT OF SOME OF THE PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN

SUPPORT FOR CHINESE WOMEN IN THE SEX INDUSTRY

A small team of students undertook a needs analysis of Chinese women in the sex industry, and how Project Respect can improve our services to be more responsive to Chinese women in the sex industry.

The research project suggested some new initiatives for Project Respect such as developing and building partnerships with ethno-specific services where training and resource exchanges can be fostered to be able to better support Chinese women in the sex industry. We will implement these suggestions into our new service delivery model.

Thank you to Kayley, Leona and Erin for their work on this project.

WORKING WITH GENDER DIVERSE PEOPLE

Research about supporting transgender women in the sex industry was undertaken by a student which provided guidelines around useful terminology, definitions and appropriate ways to approach and discuss transgender women in order to be able to provide the best support possible. Through this research, it became apparent that there are few resources for transgender women in the sex industry. We aim to become one of them and will continue this work in the year ahead.

Thank you to Angela for her work on this project.

RESEARCH INTO SUPPORT AND VISAS FOR SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

One of our volunteers looked into Australia's current government support and visa pathways for Trafficked People Program compared to other countries. This research highlighted the restricted nature of the Australian Government's form of support, including visa pathways as survivors of trafficking are conditioned to assist with investigations against their traffickers.

Regulations differ in other countries such as Canada, Netherlands, Italy and Norway where support and visa pathways are delinked from participation in the criminal justice for longer periods, compared to Australia.

Thank you to Mi for her work on this project.

LEGAL INFORMATION SERVICE

Facilitated by volunteer lawyers, our Legal Information Service ran fortnightly. The service was designed to provide women with legal information regarding a range of issues they may experience including immigration and visa issues, Family Law, discrimination cases and family violence. A large component of this program was to develop partnerships and relationships with Community Legal Centres to ensure women could be warmly referred to the services and receive stigma free support. We will continue to reach out and develop relationships with Community Legal Centres in the new year.

Thank you to Donna, Gabby, Hannah and Lucy for their work on this project.

ADVOCACY AND ACTIVISM

THIS YEAR WAS A STRONG YEAR OF ADVOCACY FOR PROJECT RESPECT BOTH FOR THE WOMEN WE SUPPORT AND FOR THE ORGANISATION.

SEX WORK REGULATIONS 2016 CONSULTATION

Consumer Affairs Victoria requested feedback on proposed changes to the Sex Work Regulations Act 2006 in early 2016. Project Respect consulted with a group of women with experience of the sex industry to inform our response. In sum, Project Respect's position was as follows:

Project Respect did not endorse the removal of the "head shoulders" restriction on sex work advertising published on the internet. Without this restriction it was feared images of women in highly suggestive poses would be produced, subsequently creating an expectation on women to perform such roles or positions with clients.

We opposed the proposed changes allowing sex work advertising to make reference to race, colour or ethnicity of women. The sex industry is a highly racialised environment, with a perceived idea women of Asian backgrounds are more likely to engage in risk taking activities such as sex without a condom. We believe these proposed changes will lead to more exploitation of already marginalised and vulnerable women.

We endorsed specific content restrictions such as images of frontal nudity and simulated sex acts on sex work advertising published on the internet. We recommended these restrictions go further and include suggestive poses (as indicated above) such as "dead pose", ripped clothes, and women positioned on their hands and knees as we believe such images imply and perpetuate violence against women.

"REVENGE PORN" SUBMISSION

A submission was made by a talented student to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee Inquiry in early 2016. The submission called for revenge porn legislation to be updated to also reflect the experiences of women in the sex

industry, not just women who have had their private photos and videos stolen.

The report also called for an update of the term 'revenge porn', pointing out that this term focusses more on the women involved rather than the crime of the perpetrator. It also suggests that the exploitation of women is motivated solely by revenge, when Project Respect's research shows that violence against women has many origins, many of which are founded on a gender-based inequality. Project Respect proposes using the term 'technologically facilitated sexual violence' instead.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

We continue to participate in the Human Trafficking National Roundtable hosted once per year in Canberra. This is a forum where we can remain informed about the Australian Government's response to human trafficking, while highlighting the issues survivors of trafficking experience. Project Respect collaborates with other non-government organisations prior to the meeting to amplify the voice of survivors in this space. We have also engaged in a number of media interviews raising the issue of contingent nature of the Support to Trafficked People Program limiting women's access to the program.

PUBLIC SPEAKING AND MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

Project Respect is often sought out to present at a myriad of public speaking and media engagements. This year, we sat on two panel discussions, provided 2 radio interviews, interviewed for three print media articles, and were the guest speaker at 5 separate events. Additionally, we connected with two International NGOs working in the human trafficking space. All of these opportunities provide the platform to advocate for women in the sex industry, raise awareness of the issues women in the sex industry experience and, discuss human trafficking in the Australian context.

THE TEAM

STAFF

- Cindy Smith
(Executive Director)
- Kathleen Maltzahn
(Founding Director)
- Kate Connett
(Advocacy and Programs
Coordinator)
- Lena Katharina Sivasailam-Pichler
(Advocacy and Programs
Coordinator)
- Nicole Shuler
(Employment, Education and
Engagement Officer)
- Rachel Kerrison-Evans
(Admin Officer and Receptionist)
- Rachel Reilly
(Operations Manager)
- Shirley Woods
(Strategic Advisor)
- Yunmi Lee
(Outreach Coordinator)

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

- Current**
- Ada Conroy (Deputy Chair)
- Aine McGrath
- Caroline Norma (Secretary)
- Cecilia Winterfox
- Christine Craik (Chair)
- Deanna Papo
- Emily Reid
- Jacqui Ng
- Norelle Keem (Treasurer)
- Resigned**
- Valli Mendez (Chair)
- Christie Heart

STUDENT PLACEMENT

- YanJun (Leona) Xu
- Rongzhen (Erin) Lin
- Kea Leng (Kayley) Teo
- Karan Day
- Rebecca Griffin
- Christie Heart
- Alyssa Scott
- Hanah Peggie
- Faye Choonpicharn
- Wai Tung Chin (Angela)
- Katherine (Kat) McCormack
- Amy Evison

VOLUNTEERS

- Abby Stone
- Alison Barton
- Allana Smith
- Amy Evison
- Angie Jackson
- Caroline Pivagi-Blett
- Charlie Martin
- Chuchu Wang
- Deborah Byrne
- Donna Nedelkos
- Gabby Lawrence
- Georgia Brough
- Jasmine McGowan
- Jaynelle Samuels
- Jean Darling
- Kara Day
- Katherine Allan
- Kathryn Reidie
- Keat Ling Seu (Kelly)
- Lisa Ashton
- Lucie Burns-Warr
- Lucy Stanton
- Malorie Raymakers
- Manda Malekin
- Meg Pearce
- Melissa Tines
- Mi Nguyen
- Miranda Webster
- Nichola White
- Nina Roxburgh
- Ornella Pasa
- Priya Prabhu
- Rowena Morris
- Sarah Raiter
- Sarah Reynolds
- Sarah Skerlak
- Shasta Stevic
- Simonne Robertson
- Stephanie Lindeman
- Susan Shelton
- Tegan Larin
- Toni Durrant

THANK YOU

TO OUR FUNDERS:

- Attorney General's Department
- Cabrini Linen
- City of Melbourne
- City of Monash
- City of Yarra
- Department of Premier and Cabinet
- English Family Foundation
- IBISWorld
- Igniting Change
- Inner North Community Foundation
- Mercy Foundation
- Our Neighbourhood Trust – Australia Post
- Pierce Armstrong Trust
- RE Ross Trust
- Sidney Myer Foundation
- Soroptimists International
- StreetSmart Australia
- Westpac Foundation
- FoodBank Australia
- Mums Supporting Families in Need
- Second Bite

TO OUR FRIENDS, SUPPORTERS, FOLLOWERS AND MEMBERS

Finally, a big thank-you to all the individuals who are too numerous to mention by name.

Thank you for the support, for the donations, the awareness raising, the advocacy, the sharing and, for believing in the work of Project Respect.

FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1 - Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report includes the financial statements and notes of Project Respect Incorporated, a incorporated association, which is incorporated in Victoria under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

Policies Basis of preparation

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Victoria 2012). The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the company in the preparation of the general purpose financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Accounting Policies

a. Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Plant and Equipment

Plant and Equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets' employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the company and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the income statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the Committee commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The asset's residual values and useful lives are reviewed and adjusted, if appropriate, at each balance date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included in the income statement.

b. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or

less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the balance sheet.

c. Revenue

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable.

Grants are recognised at fair value where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and all grant conditions will be met. Grants relating to expense items are recognised as income over the periods necessary to match the grant to the costs they are compensating.

Grants received for specific programs are recognised as income only to the extent of work completed on those projects when the terms of the grants stipulate that any unexpended funds are to be returned to the sponsor if the program is not completed. In those circumstances the funds attributable to work still to be completed are carried forward as grants income deferred.

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised at the point of delivery as this corresponds to the transfer of significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods and the cessation of all involvement in those goods.

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

d. Income Tax

By virtue of its aims as set out in the constitution, the Association qualifies as an organisation specifically exempt from income tax under Section 50-45 of the Income Tax Assessment Act, 1997.

e. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of expense. Receivables and payables in the Balance Sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

f. Employment Entitlements

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amount expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Contributions are made by the association to employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred.

g. Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

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PROJECT RESPECT INCORPORATED
A.B.N. 41 909 510 696
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

Report on the Financial Report

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Project Respect Incorporated, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2016, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the statement by the members of the Committee.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Committee of the Association are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Victoria 2012). This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting my audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report of Project Respect Incorporated (the Association) is in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Victoria 2012), including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2016 and of its performance for the year ended; and
- ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards as per Note 1 and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Victoria 2012).

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying my opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Project Respect Incorporated to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Victoria 2012). As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Name of Auditor: Frederik R. L. Eksteen

Address: Collins & Co
127 Paisley Street
Footscray VIC 3011

Date: 10/10/2016



BALANCE SHEET

	2016 (\$)	2015 (\$)
Equity		
Unappropriated Profit	77,650	196,320
Total Equity	77,650	196,320
<i>Represented by:</i>		
Current Assets		
Petty Cash	211	133
Cash at Bank	120,860	213,862
Sundry Debtors	265	402
Accounts Receivable	-	7,750
Prepayments	-	800
	121,336	222,946
Non-Current Assets		
Office Equipment	325	325
<i>Less: Provision for Depreciation</i>	(324)	(216)
	0	108
Motor Vehicles	32,800	49,904
<i>Less: Accumulated Depreciation</i>	(21,292)	(24,853)
	11,508	25,051
Office Furniture & Equipment	1,979	1,979
<i>Less: Accumulated Depreciation</i>	(1,648)	(1,451)
	331	528
	11,839	25,688
Total Assets	133,175	248,634

	2016 (\$)	2015 (\$)
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	1,538	
Sundry Creditors	(0)	
GST & PAYGW Payable to ATO	1,016	
Superannuation Payable	5,072	
Income in Advance	25,500	
Provision for Annual Leave	20,186	
Provision for Time In Lieu	2,213	
Provision for Long Service Leave	-	
	55,525	52,315
Total Liabilities	55,525	52,315
Net Assets		
	77,650	196,320

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Accumulated Members Funds (\$)	Total (\$)
Balance as at 1 July 2014	227,140	227,140
Prior Year Adjustment	481	481
Surplus/(Deficit) attributable to the Association	(31,301)	(31,301)
Balance as at 30 June 2015	196,320	196,320
Surplus/(Deficit) attributable to the Association	(118,670)	(118,670)
Balance as at 30 June 2016	77,650	77,650

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	2016 (\$)	2015 (\$)
Cash Flows From Operating Activities		
Receipts from Grants & Other Receipts	347,335	325,337
Payments to Suppliers and Employees	(450,549)	(405,963)
Interest Paid	-	(181)
Interest Received	2,451	5,510
Net Cash Generated From/ (Used in) Operating Activities	(100,763)	(75,297)
Net Increase/ (Decrease) in Cash Held	(92,924)	(75,297)
Cash and Cash Equivalents as at 1 July 2015	213,995	289,292
Cash and Cash Equivalents as at 30 June 2016	121,071	213,995

NOTES TO STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	2016 (\$)	2015 (\$)
Note 1 - Net cash generated from/ (used in) operating activities		
Net Deficit for the Year	(118,670)	(31,301)
Non-Cash Flow Item: Depreciation	6,010	6,544
Non-Cash Flow Item: Prior Year Adjustment	-	481
(Increase)/ Decrease in Accounts & Other Receivables	7,887	(8,119)
(Increase)/ Decrease in Prepayments	800	(800)
Increase/ (decrease) in Trade and Other Payables	(12,238)	6,269
Increase/ (Decrease) in Grants Received in Advance	7,500	(32,000)
Increase/ (Decrease) in Provisions	7,948	(16,371)
	(100,763)	(75,297)
Note 2 - Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year		
Cash at Bank	120,860	213,862
Petty Cash	211	133
	121,071	213,995

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

	2016 (\$)	2015 (\$)		2016 (\$)	2015 (\$)
Income			Expenditure		
Grant Income			Accountancy Fees	14,892	13,961
Australia Post	9,091	-	AGM & Annual Report	6,153	-
City of Yarra	10,000	1,000	Audit Fees	1,245	1,817
City of Melbourne	10,000	-	Bank Charges	140	390
City of Monash	8,023	8,070	Business Planning Expenses	15	-
DCP Funding Income	60,000	-	Conference & Subscriptions	2,381	1,573
Inner North Community Grant	10,000	-	Consultancy Fees	2,680	40,933
Myer Fund Grant	10,000	-	Donations	9	300
R E Ross Trust	18,000	12,000	Fundraising Expenses	123	-
Federal Attorney General (POCA)	120,000	155,000	General Expenses	974	643
Westpac Foundation	-	9,091	Hire Expenses	225	-
General Grant	1,500	7,000	Insurance	6,873	8,931
Cabrini Grant Income	-	5,000	Interest Paid	-	181
	256,614	197,161	Internet Expenses	525	961
Donations & Fundraising	75,234	134,051	Information Technology	12,533	1,268
Interest Received	2,451	5,510	Legal Costs	-	96
Other Income			Loss on Sale of Fixed Assets	2,131	-
Other Revenue	100	2,727	Meeting Expenses	487	494
Sales	-	317	Repairs & Maintenance	2,861	3,676
	100	3,044	Staff Training & Welfare	6,703	4,525
Total Income	334,398	339,766	Storage Fees	-	315
			Telephone	9,796	9,766
			Translation/Consulting	-	-
			Travelling Expenses	8,208	7,150
			Depreciation and Amortisation Expenses	6,010	6,544
			Employee Expenses	346,006	246,025
			Premises Expenses	10,184	15,617
			Project costs	11,915	5,902
			Total Expenditure	453,068	371,067
			NET DEFICIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ASSOCIATION	(118,670)	(31,301)

How can you support Project Respect?

DONATE

Your donations will help us extend our services and programs to support women in the sex industry across the Greater Melbourne Region. Whether you donate monthly or just once, your contribution will assist us in supporting women. Jump on to our website https://projectrespect.nationbuilder.com/monthly_donation_2 to donate today!

VOLUNTEER

We are always looking for skilled volunteers who are willing to donate their time to specific projects we need assistance with – such as producing the Annual Report! Or Fundraising! Please contact info@projectrespect.org.au if you wish to get involved.

WORKPLACE GIVING

Workplace Giving is a great way to donate to us and provides an immediate tax benefit by reducing your taxable income! You will need to speak to your Payroll and/or Human Resources department to set this up, but there are a number of organisations out there who provide workplace giving platforms.

LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

A bequest is a very significant way to make a positive difference to the lives and welfare of women in the sex industry and women who are trafficked. Please contact us directly on (03) 9416 3401 if you wish to discuss this further.

SPONSORSHIP

Your organisation can play an important community role by sponsoring our programs or providing crucial pro-bono advice and support in a number of key areas. Please contact us directly on (03) 9416 3401 if you wish to discuss ways your organisation can support us.

BECOME A FUNDRAISER FOR PROJECT RESPECT!

You can become a fundraising champion for us! There are many ways to fundraise for us, including involvement in fun runs or other fundraising events. For further information or ideas, please email info@projectrespect.org.au

Content & Editing

Rachel Reilly
(Acting Executive Director)

Lena Katharina Sivasailam-Pichler
(Programs and Advocacy Coordinator)

Graphic Design donated by The Hungry Zoo

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respect

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