

Rosebank Annual Report | 2016-17



ROSEBANK CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE SERVICE INC

www.rosebank.org.au

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Message from the Chair

As I reflect on the past year at Rosebank, I am amazed at what has been achieved by such a small yet dedicated team. With Helen Spark as manager and a team of part time workers, Rosebank – a small fish in a big pond continues to provide quality therapeutic services to the community. Rosebank provides effective interventions and support for children, young people and non-offending family members who have experienced trauma relating to sexual abuse. The service is flexible in its approach to meeting client's needs and therefore provides different options for therapy depending on what is assessed as best for the client. This approach to therapy provides a safe, private peaceful healing environment for the clients.

Rosebank works in collaboration with relevant government and non-government agencies across the local government areas of Liverpool, Fairfield and Campbelltown. This includes working with other likeminded services to address issues of child abuse, neglect and Domestic and Family violence in the hope to help eliminate these situations from peoples' lives.

In the past year, as well as continuing to provide the core work of counselling individuals and families impacted by sexual abuse, Rosebank has been successful in obtaining funding for some small yet valuable projects. This enabled group programs to be run in partnership with other local service providers. Funding was received from Club Grants Mt Pritchard Community Club for the Girlspace Project. With this grant Rosebank was able to partner with other non-government services and provide an early intervention and creative arts program for young women 12-21 years of age.

Rosebank also partnered with Bonnies Support Services to run a therapeutic women's group, for women residing at the refuge and external support accommodation. This program was undertaken by co facilitating with a worker from Bonnies Support Services, at their premises.

This year Rosebank has signed a new 3-year Placement Level Agreement with Family and Community Services and are currently transitioning into new reforms. These will see Rosebank morph into the new Targeted Earlier Intervention Program which will lead to some changes over the next 3 years. Hopefully these changes will run smoothly for Helen and her team.

On a matter of location, the cottage where Rosebank is housed is in need of some repairs and we are very thankful to have a positive relationship with Liverpool City Council whose owns the building and are planning to undertake these repairs in the near future. Arrangements for new accommodation need to be made while the repairs are being carried out and we look forward to working with council on the issue.

I would like to congratulate the staff of Rosebank for their continued care towards clients and acknowledge the often understated hard work that goes into working with people who have experienced trauma. Often the results that come from this line of work are not publicly recognised yet we know that many lives are changed from receiving the type of therapy Rosebank offers.

I would also like to acknowledge the committee who regularly give their time to attend the committee meetings and offer their support and understanding to Helen and staff at Rosebank. Your support and encouragement to Rosebank is valuable.

May all the staff at Rosebank have a successful and satisfying next 12 months as you continue to pursue and deliver quality services to the community.

Margaret Hudson

Chairperson



Service Overview

About Us

Rosebank Child Sexual Abuse Service Inc offers free, confidential counselling and support services to children and young people (up to 18 years of age) who have been sexually abused and their non-offending family members. We do not see people who have been accused of sexual abuse.

In addition to the core business of individual and family counselling in relation to child sexual abuse, Rosebank also undertakes:

- information and referral services
- advocacy and therapeutic case management
- the running of groups
- court preparation and support
- preparation of Victims Compensation Reports
- community education and training
- community development and social action
- professional consultation and advice about child sexual abuse
- learning opportunities (e.g. supervision of student placements)

We offer services to people living throughout Fairfield, Liverpool, and Campbelltown (LGAs). The service operates Monday to Thursday from 9.00am to 5.00pm, and is based in Liverpool.

We accept referrals from many sources, including Department of Family & Community Services (FACS), School Counsellors, community organisations, Area Health services, Department of Public Prosecutions (DPP), and significant numbers of referrals from clients and family or friends.

Rosebank Child Sexual Abuse Service Inc receives its core funding from Department of Family and Community Services through the Early Intervention and Placement Program (EIPP).

Our Vision: A world free of violence and abuse

Our Core Business

- To heal the trauma related to sexual abuse through the provision of professional counselling, advocacy and support to children and young people who have been sexually abused and their non-offending family members and, where possible, to adult survivors of child sexual abuse (CSA).
- To raise community awareness about child sexual abuse and its effects.

Our Goals

1. To provide services including information, counselling, support, advocacy, referral, group work, court preparation and early intervention and health promotion activities.
2. To reduce the possibility of systems abuse, by assisting families to negotiate the complex system of interagency organisations that are involved in responding to children who have been sexually abused.
3. To liaise, network and collaborate with relevant government and community agencies to assist in the provision of services to children and young people who have experienced sexual abuse and their families.

4. To provide consultation, resources, training and support for people working with those who have been sexually abused.
5. To ensure our work is informed by Rosebank's philosophy and principles, our assessment of community needs, best practice guidelines, and current research.
6. To manage the organisation to achieve better practice outcomes.

Our Principles

- Child sexual abuse is a crime.
- Children are never to blame for child sexual abuse. The offender is totally responsible.
- The safety and wellbeing of children and young people is paramount.
- We operate within a feminist framework that recognises abuse of power as underpinning sexual abuse.
- An interagency approach to working with child sexual abuse is essential.
- Effective intervention actively involves non-offending family members.
- Every person who has been sexually abused and their non-offending family members have a right to high quality counselling.
- Empowerment of clients underpins all our activities.

Our Strategic Priorities

1. Strategic Priority – Services and Programs
Deliver high quality services and programs to the community
2. Strategic Priority – Relationships and Networking
Develop and sustain quality external relationships
3. Strategic Priority – Infrastructure
Improve systems, infrastructure and resources to support staff in delivering high quality services
4. Strategic Priority – Building a Quality Organisation
Leadership and management build/cultivate a collective sense of purpose and direction enabling Rosebank's philosophy, goals and service priorities to be identified and met.

Our History

Rosebank began its life as the South West Women's Child Sexual Assault Resource Centre Incorporated, which was formed in March 1985 in response to the concerns felt by women in the area who were dealing with sexually assaulted children and with women who were survivors of incest. The shortage of support services for victims and lack of support for local workers dealing with these issues was the primary concern for this group. The only specific service available was direct intervention carried out by the Department of Youth and Community Services (now known as Department of Family and Community Services) in relation to children.

Initially, the main aims of the group were to:

1. To develop a supportive network of workers concerned about sexual assault.
2. To promote community and worker awareness of Sexual Assault.
3. To investigate the need for further services.

In mid-1985, Amanda Watts and Lauvena Lueng (Social Work students on placement) began collecting statistics and visiting local services to document the need for a specialised sexual assault service in the South West region of Sydney.

As awareness of the extent of the problem increased, the group recognised the need for a more coordinated approach at a local level. This approach led to the local group applying for Commonwealth Employment Programme funding in September 1985, to establish a Community Resource Centre and move towards Incorporation. In April 1986, funds were received from the programme to employ a part-time administrator and two other workers for a period of six months.

Around this time the service was becoming known in the community as “Rosebank Cottage”, which was the name of the building in which the group operated. The workers set about establishing the service. Their work included the support of a small number of victims of Child Sexual Assault, developing a Protective Behaviours Puppet show for pre-school age children and writing submissions for future funding.

On 30 October 1986 a public forum was held which was designed to raise community awareness of sexual assault and to gather support for the establishment of a permanent sexual assault centre which could provide counselling for sexually abused children and their non-offending family members.

In December 1986, a submission for ongoing funding of the then established South West Women’s Child Sexual Assault Resource Centre Inc was submitted to the Department of Youth and Community Services (now Community Services). In May 1987, the Department allocated the funds to employ one full-time worker and cover associated costs, for six months until December 1987. Initially, the role of the worker was to provide resources and information to the community and other workers in the area. However, towards the end of 1987, the focus of the centre changed with the service becoming further involved in the provision of direct counselling.

The service spent the next nine years focusing on the provision of direct counselling and other relevant support services.

In mid 1996, the NSW Child Protection Council was formed. This agency distributed funding on behalf of the Department of Youth and Community Services to organisations providing Child Sexual Assault services. The guidelines required services to give priority to the provision of counselling services to victims and non-offending family members. The Service began to receive its core funding through this channel.

In 1998, the service changed its name. Whilst our official name at the time was still South West Women’s Child Sexual Assault Resource Centre Inc, we had become informally known as ‘Rosebank Cottage’ (as we were based in the heritage building named ‘Rosebank’), which caused confusion and proved cumbersome. Therefore, in September 1998, at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), staff and Management Committee voted to rename the organisation **Rosebank Child Sexual Abuse Service Inc.**

In March 2001, 'Rosebank' (the Liverpool Council property we had been operating from for sixteen years) was declared too dangerous for the staff and clients to continue there. The heritage building, affected by rising damp and termites, had been deteriorating over many years. The Service then moved to another Council facility (the Memorial School of Arts Building) as a temporary measure, until more appropriate long-term accommodation could be found.

In 2003-04, the organisation underwent a significant change process, whereby it was restructured from a flat collective model of management, to a co-ordinated management model. In January 2004, the Service Co-coordinator position was created to lead the service through the challenges of the change process.

Securing long-term premises remained a top priority for the Service, which remained in the School of Arts Building from 2001. In 2004-05, a local architect approached the Service with the idea of restoring the heritage 'Rosebank' building (17 Speed St, Liverpool) so that we could return to where we had begun. Despite much effort and exploration of possibilities throughout 2005-06, this project was discontinued in February 2006.

Soon after, Liverpool Council offered the Service a five-year lease agreement and committed funds to renovate the Rosebank office and counselling space (upstairs section of the School of Arts Building).

Unexpectedly, a development proposal for the area surrounding and including the Memorial School of Arts was lodged. Around the same time, Liverpool Council was moving towards completion of the restoration of the Rosebank building. To our surprise we were offered the opportunity to return to the building in Speed Street on completion of the renovation of the bottom floor. We accepted the offer and moved the service in May 2008, and after a further five-year lease renewal in 2013 are still lucky enough to be operating from the beautiful Rosebank Cottage. We extend our sincere thanks to Liverpool City Council for their support with premises.

During 2010-11, services funded under the Community Services Grants Program (CSGP) were re-aligned to form part of a new program called the Early Intervention & Placement Prevention Program (EIPP). Rosebank received funding under the service model Child, Youth and Family Support during the 2016-17 period. From July 2017, Rosebank is transitioning to a new service system under the Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) Program Reform. Rosebank has been offered a 3-year contract by the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) working towards improved prevention and early intervention services under the TEI program.



Rosebank Cottage

Governance and Structure

The organisation is incorporated under the Associations Incorporations Act 2009. The voluntary members of the Rosebank Management Committee during the financial year 2016-17 were:

Name	Special Responsibility	Works with:
Margaret Hudson	Chairperson	Catholic Care
Alison Huggan	Treasurer	South Western Sydney Local Health District Sexual Assault Service
Leanne Mayell	Secretary	South West Child Adolescent & Family Services
Debra Venables	Ordinary Member	Women's Homelessness Support Service
Victoria Radford	Ordinary Member	Headspace Liverpool
Kylie Levings	Ordinary Member	The Benevolent Society (resigned 21 Mar 2017)
Tracy Phillips	Ordinary Member	Bonnie Support Services

Rosebank employed the following staff during the financial year 2016-17:

Name	Position	Employed
Helen Spark	Coordinator/Counsellor	6 th August 2007 – 30 th June 2017
Julie Fletcher	Counsellor/Advocate	20 th October 2009 – 30 th June 2017
Amanda Cranfield	Counsellor/Advocate	10 th October 2011 – 30 th June 2017
Ruth Ellem	Group Facilitator	5 th July 2016 – 30 th June 2017
Heike Obermayr	Accounting/Administration	14 th August 2013 – 30 th June 2017

Clinical consultants Maree Thomas, Jacqui Burns and Suzanne Perry have provided professional supervision and support throughout the year.

Marcelle from Marcie's Cleaning Services ensures the Rosebank premises is kept clean and Dennis from Osit IT Consulting & Services responds to all our regular and ad-hoc IT needs.



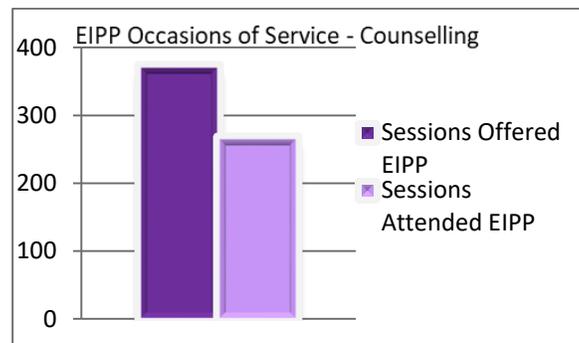
Services and Programs

Counselling and casework

Providing individual and family counselling is the primary aim of Rosebank. The demand continues to highlight the need for counselling services to be made available to individuals and families who have experienced child sexual abuse. This includes people who are still suffering the long-term effects of having been assaulted in childhood, as well as those children who have been more recently abused. By 'families' we mean children and their non-offending family members - we do not see people who sexually abuse children. We are committed to assisting family members working through their own feelings about the assaults, and in supporting their loved one – this is an important contributor to recovery.

Assisting children and their families to overcome the effects of sexual abuse requires an understanding of the significant impact and issues. The goals of counselling generally reflect the specific issues that have been identified for the individuals involved. Common issues to be addressed may include guilt, fear, low self-esteem, shame, feelings of alienation and estrangement from peers, anger and hostility, depression, inability to trust, pseudo-maturity and blurred role boundaries.

Rosebank offered 372 counselling appointments during 2016-17, including via outreach services to schools and other community organisations where required. Of the 372 appointments offered, 267 were attended, this equates to an attendance ratio of 72%.



We are pleased with the number of appointments offered and an attendance ratio of 72% given our very small team and bearing in mind that many of our clients experience significant distress and disruption, both at the time of referral and in many cases throughout their lives. We make considerable effort to be flexible and patient with clients who have trouble attending appointments.

The following case examples illustrate how clients were helped under the Early Intervention and Prevention Program:

Case study 1 – Violet:

Violet attended counselling with Rosebank as a child after her disclosure of sexual abuse. Counselling provided a place of trust to help this child understand feelings, explore

relationships, identify inner strengths and build a strong sense of respect and self-esteem. The counselling ended after the counselling goals were reached and this child was comfortable to complete contact with Rosebank.

When this child grew into a young woman she found herself supporting a close friend who disclosed her own experience of sexual abuse. With her ability to identify sexual abuse is a crime and her strength to respond and speak up for her friend, this young woman reported the abuse and allowed safety for her friend again. This brave and selfless response left her retriggered and confronted again with her own memories of her difficult past.

Rosebank was able to reengage with this young girl for additional support. The counselling foundation from her childhood was able to be reinforced and strengthened for adulthood. Rosebank counsellors are always inspired by client growth, strength and resilience.

Case study 2 – Martin:

Martin was 10 when he first attended counselling at Rosebank after disclosing he had been sexually assaulted. He presented with difficulties with family relationships, sleep disturbance and would have angry outbursts which he had difficulty controlling. Over the 7 years Martin found a safe space in Rosebank to talk about his worries/ fears and to build his resilience. He developed strategies in which to respond to his angry inner voice.

Martin completed his HSC with high marks, passed his driving test and funded his first car from his part-time job. Martin is now in his second year at University.

Case study 3 – Kylie (not her real name)

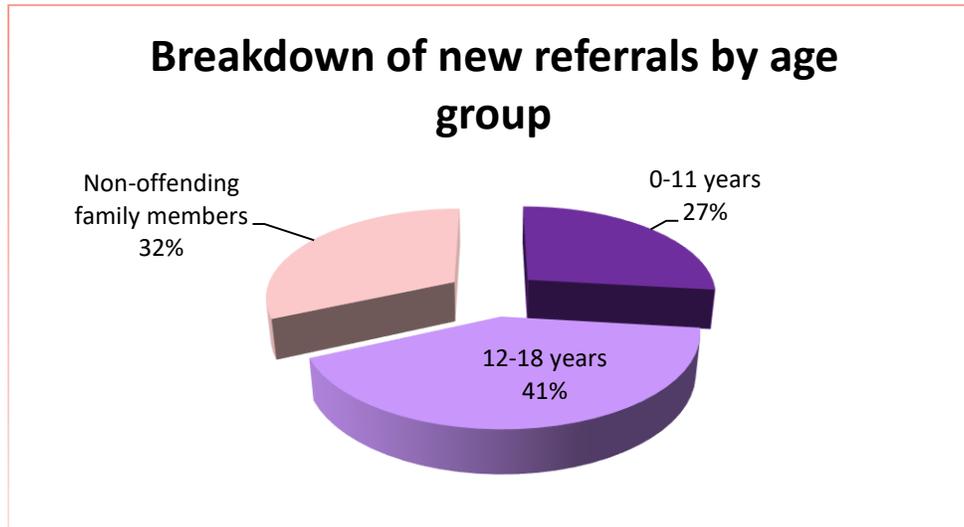
Kylie is a 15-year-old young person who started attending Rosebank for counselling early 2017. During a session in which she and her counsellor were reviewing the counselling process she informed her counsellor that the sessions had been very helpful. **“I feel like I’m not alone and that it happens to other people which is sad but I think it has helped me know that it is not my fault.”** Before counselling commenced with Rosebank, Kylie was not attending school and had difficulties in her relationship with her mum. During her therapy she has been attending school regularly and has involved her mum in some sessions and used those sessions as a space to **“talk about stuff that is hard with mum there”**.

Information and referral

In 2016-17, Rosebank received 41 new referrals for counselling under the Early Intervention & Prevention Program.

Of the 41 new referrals:

- 11 were children (0 – 11 years) = 27%
- 17 young people (12 – 18 years) = 41%
- 13 non-offending family member = 32%



Rosebank is committed to encouraging an understanding of the dynamics and consequences of child sexual assault in professionals and members of the community, and so hope to increase opportunities for support for those affected. During 2016-17, Rosebank had 241 requests for information received mainly by telephone, but also via the internet. There has been a significant increase in the number of requests for consultation overall, and we have noticed that the presentations are increasingly complex.

Court preparation and support

Rosebank considers the provision of Court preparation and Court support services to be a valuable part of our work. The Court process is a complex one that many adults, let alone children, find confusing and daunting.

Court preparation aims to:

1. demystify the Court process by providing information and education
2. support clients in coping emotionally and psychologically with the considerable stress of being a witness in Criminal Sexual Assault proceedings.

Rosebank was pleased to work collaboratively with the Witness Assistance Service officers at the Office of the Department of Public Prosecutions (ODPP). We were honoured to support these brave clients through the lengthy and difficult process.

Victims Compensation Tribunal (VCT) Reports and Victims Register

Rosebank team members continued to prepare letters and counselling reports that can support clients with their Victim's Compensation claims. Rosebank used to charge a small fee for the report which was paid by the Victims Compensation Tribunal. In more recent times, the cost of the report is payable by the victim which is why the cost is often absorbed by the service.

Community education and training

We see it as our responsibility to identify, develop and deliver strategies for preventative programs and activities aimed at reducing the level of sexual violence in the community. Although

resources are limited, we continue to respond to requests for consultation, training and supervision on the nature, extent, effects and implications of sexual assault.

For example, our counsellors delivered Protective Behaviours, a personal safety child abuse prevention program, to parents and professionals working with children and young people at venues such as supported play groups. The aim of the program is to promote resilience in children and young people, using empowerment strategies, clear communication, and awareness of safe behaviours.

In addition to education around child sexual abuse issues and ways to support individuals and families who have experienced child sexual abuse, we also utilize these sessions to provide information about Rosebank services and referral pathways.

Projects

Girlsplace

During the reporting period, Rosebank received a grant from the Mounties Group through the Liverpool Local Area Clubs Grant Program for the Girlsplace project. The project delivered four eight-week early intervention and creative art programs to 43 young women with the desired outcome to benefit disadvantaged and vulnerable young women affected by child sexual abuse, particularly those who do not traditionally access sexual abuse services. The project targeted young women with poor self-esteem and body image that might be vulnerable to sexual and domestic violence relationships. The Girlsplace project involved working in partnership with local schools, youth and community organisations. Each group was co-facilitated with a worker from the partner service. Co-facilitators from the partner agencies included teachers, psychologists and youth workers.

An evaluation form was completed by participants at the end of the eight week group assessing increased feelings of well-being, reduced social isolation and self-blame, improved capacity to make choices that encourage safety, more knowledge and skills for positive life choices, increased awareness of the link between sexual and domestic violence, more connected with their education, have a greater sense of connection to a safe community, feeling valued and increased capacity to identify their strengths.

All group participants reported improvements in the above mentioned areas, in particular feeling less isolated and an increased sense of well-being. Participants were able to understand how their experience of violence had impacted on their mental health. The majority of young women reported feeling more confident in making healthy choices in future relationships.

With the funding provided by the Mounties group, Rosebank has been able to pursue its strategic goal to strengthen partnerships with schools, government and non-government services to promote child protection and address risk factors that lead to child abuse, neglect and domestic and family violence. The program has also provided Rosebank with another soft entry point for referrals and has made participants and partner agencies more aware of the services we offer.

On conclusion of the group, partner services and co-facilitators reported feeling more confident to connect with Rosebank for advice. Co-facilitators also reported feeling more knowledgeable

in identifying young women at risk and in need of further support. Rosebank's facilitator continues to be available for mentoring and support if services want to maintain the Girlspace group at their facility. At this stage, partner services are looking to incorporate elements of the Girlspace program into their activities.

Rosebank will continue to collaborate and work closely with all service providers to support the safety and well-being of young people.

Bonnie's Creative Space

The concept of a safe creative group as way of communicating about the impacts of violence and abuse is also used in a partnership project with Bonnie Support Services, a service who provides support and/or accommodation to women and their children, who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness or escaping domestic violence. The weekly drop in group for Bonnie clients is facilitated by a Rosebank worker and a caseworker from Bonnie's.

Women report finding it a safe place to connect with each other and find emotional support. The impact of violence and abuse can leave women feeling fragmented and deskilled. The group supports women to explore and rediscover creative skills they may have lost confidence in, or being in crisis have lost opportunity to use because they are in survival mode.

During the last year, 23 different women attended the group, with an average of 4-5 women attending each week. All women have reported the group is time out from the stresses and pressures of their lives and a time they 'feel free'.

Childcare is provided and each week there is opportunity to participate in a creative project that has purpose and meaning to them. Many of the women want to create something for their children and their lives are shared as they encourage one another in their creativity.

We notice the sensitivity and respect with which women communicate with one another, despite language barriers and cultural differences. New members are welcomed and supported and participants say they feel proud of what they create and that they have increased self-esteem and confidence. For some women the group has become a stepping stone into counselling as the creative space represents a safe place to rest and learn to trust again.



Relationships and Networking

Rosebank works closely with other services that support the safety and wellbeing of children and young people thus share the vision to live in a community free of violence.

Rosebank liaises, networks and collaborates with a number of different services when providing casework and counselling to children, young people and families. Service provision may involve working with schools, services such as Headspace, Reconnect Service or other Sexual Assault Services.

Increasingly our outreach work at schools is becoming a vital part of our casework with young people. Seeing our clients in their usual school setting has a number of benefits, such as:

- provides them with more safety and privacy
- eliminates transportation problems
- access and equity
- young people feel less stigmatized
- clients find it less scary and disruptive if their counsellor sees them at school
- opportunity for client and counsellor to link in with other support services.

There has been an increase in the demand for outreach work in schools however, resources are limited. The following excerpt from a support letter from the Welfare Team of a local High School underlines the importance of our outreach work.

'In the past students attending Rosebank would have to attend their appointments during school time, which resulted in less class time, or they would need to attend after school and this would often result in students not attending appointments at all.

Through consultation with Rosebank a request was made that Rosebank counsellors attend the High School during school hours. This has been a huge success. Students are engaging in much needed counselling and because it is in the school setting, parents/carers do not need to take time off work, appointments are rarely missed, school attendance is not affected and continuity of counselling is achieved.'

Services for people who have been sexually assaulted are provided by a number of different government and non-government agencies. Rosebank takes part in regular interagency meetings with Liverpool Sexual Assault Service. The purpose of the meetings is to gain a deeper understanding of how each service works as well as share information and work through common challenges and barriers encountered by staff that respond to people who have experienced sexual assault. Ongoing liaison between the two agencies is crucial to ensure provision of coordinated and effective services.

Rosebank also engages in monthly peer support sessions with a counsellor from Liverpool Sexual Assault Services. The peer support sessions have proven to be an effective arrangement for all participants to explore new interventions and solutions, discuss difficult caseloads, ethical dilemmas or situations. Rosebank continues to attend Liverpool and Fairfield Interagency meetings.

Each year, the team tries to attend a variety of public events such as 'Reclaim The Night' to strengthen relationships, engage in networking and to raise awareness about the issue of child sexual abuse. This year, Amanda and Helen participated in a 'Reclaim the Night' event at Rosemeadow Sexual Assault Service. The workshop involved weaving eight pointed stars as part of the One Million Stars to End Violence project. One Million Stars is an international project bringing communities together to make a peaceful statement to end violence through weaving stars and promoting respectful relationships. Each star is symbol of light, courage and solidarity and is woven as a statement to end violence. The stars are collated for an art installation at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games as a global symbol for working together and creating peaceful communities.



Infrastructure

Despite our small size and a very lean budget we are strongly committed to improving systems, infrastructure and resources to support staff in delivering high quality services.

Website

Rosebank launched its new website in the second half of 2016. We thank Moya and Clive from Only Human Communications who assisted us in communicating some of the sensitive issues around child sexual abuse as well as formulate a written narrative specifically targeted at children and young people. The new website is beautifully designed and reflective of our work and approach.

IT

This year, Rosebank transitioned phone and internet services to the national broadband network. The switch resulted in a number of upgrades and modifications to our current office infrastructure.

Funding applications

During the reporting period, Rosebank partnered with Bonnie Support Services to lodge a funding application for the Kidz space project. The first application was submitted under the Commonwealth Bank Community Grants program, the second application under the 2017 Fairfield Local Area Clubs Grant scheme. Both funding application were lodged by the partner organisation Bonnie Support Services (Bonnie's). The organisations were successful in gaining support from the Mounties Group under the Clubs Grant scheme and the Commonwealth Bank Community Grants program.

The project will provide four five week two hour weekly Kidz Space groups for children aged 6 – 11 who have been impacted by the effects of family violence. Kidz Space will offer a variety of craft and play activities facilitated by a qualified art therapist and a counsellor with knowledge and expertise in child protection and early intervention and prevention work. The aim of the Kidz Space is to address the trauma symptoms and behavioural problems caused by family violence by providing a safe and nurturing space where children can express themselves and tell their story.

Building a Quality Organisation

Policies and procedures

Rosebank commenced a policy review process during the 2015-16 reporting period involving a revision of our entire policy and procedure manual thus ensuring it is current and relevant. Counsellor Amanda Cranfield undertook the majority of the research including amendments to existing policies where required with input from all staff.

All amended and new policies were reviewed, approved and implemented by the Management Committee during the 2016-17 reporting period. Rosebank is committed to reviewing its policies regularly in order to maintain the continuous quality improvement cycle and to ensure they are still accurate and fit-for purpose.

Strategic Plan

A review of Rosebank's strategic plan was undertaken in May 2015 resulting in the implementation of the 'Strategic Plan 2015 – 2018'. The plan contains four strategic priorities which are listed at the beginning of this report.

This year, we reviewed our progress towards achieving the strategic aims and objectives at a strategic planning and review meeting held in February 2017. Outcomes of the review and evaluation process are outlined under each strategic priority.

Professional development

Rosebank supports high quality professional development that deepens the understanding of the treatment of complex trauma and provides staff with up to date research on the impact of child sexual abuse, prevention and responses, and support services for survivors and their families. Each year, counsellors attend a variety of training sessions, conferences and networking events.

Governance

Our Management Committee members meet bi-monthly to ensure all financial, contractual and other performance areas are managed effective and efficiently. Our governing body has expertise in child protection, adolescent mental health, domestic violence, education and group work, homelessness, social work and community management.



Looking Forward

Services and Programs: Our current Program Level Agreement under the Early Intervention and Prevention Program (EIPP) expired 30 June 2017. Rosebank is expected to transition to a new service system under the Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) Program Reform. Rosebank has been offered a 3-year contract by the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) working towards improved prevention and early intervention services under the TEI program.

Our partnership project with Bonnie Support Services for the provision of art therapy support groups for women who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness or escaping domestic violence will recommence in July 2017. The Kidz space project funded through Mounties will start in October 2017 providing four five week two hour weekly Kidz Space groups for children aged 6 – 11 who have been impacted by the effects of family violence.

Finance: Rosebank expects to increase funding by 10 % by applying for at least 2-3 philanthropic and government grants. We are also exploring options to generate more donations and sponsorships to continue to improve our infrastructure.

Notable Upcoming Events: Rosebank expects a temporary relocation from its current Liverpool premises during 2017-18 due to urgent repair works scheduled to be undertaken by Liverpool City Council. Rosebank's 5-year lease expires in August 2018 therefore short to medium term accommodation options are currently being explored including the possibility of an extension of the existing lease.

Acknowledgements & Thanks

The Rosebank team wishes to thank the following people for their support:

- The Department of Family and Community Services NSW for providing the recurrent core funding which enables Rosebank to continue operating.
- The members of the Management Committee for their time, energy, commitment and leadership.
- The Managers and counsellors at the Liverpool Sexual Assault Service and Macarthur Sexual Assault Service for being such willing partners in the work. We enjoy the support and connection offered through professional partnership and collaboration with these sister services.
- Our sister services in the CASAC network.
- Our partner organisations and services that have referred clients to Rosebank, and worked collaboratively and creatively with us to support our mutual clients.
- Liverpool City Council for the provision of premises (Rosebank Building).
- OSIT IT Consulting & Services
- Marcie's Cleaning Services

Rosebank Child Sexual Abuse Service Staff and Management Committee support reconciliation and acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land.

