

WHEN COLLABORATING, ADD SOME SAGE

HOW TO MAXIMISE RESILIENCE IN AN INTEGRATED FAMILY VIOLENCE MODEL



A presentation by Eastern Community Legal Centre, Victoria
NACLC Conference . 9 August 2017

Support • Advice • Guidance • Empowerment



INTRODUCTION TO EASTERN COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE



- Eastern Community Legal Centre provides free and confidential legal advice and assistance to people who live, work or study in eastern Melbourne.
- 3 office locations – Box Hill, Boronia and Healesville as well as 9 outreach locations.
- 70% of the clients who have accessed the Centre have reported an experience of family violence.
- The Centre's Family Violence practice includes:
 - Free and confidential legal advice and assistance
 - Ringwood Magistrates' Court Intervention Order Support Service (IOSS)
 - MABELS - Mothers and Babies Engaging and Living Safely
 - Community Development, Legal Education, Partnerships and Networking
 - Elder Abuse

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SAGE PROGRAM

- The SAGE program is a unique model for providing legal, family violence and other support to women experiencing, or at risk of, family violence.

SAGE is a family violence team that offers:

- intensive legal and family violence support
 - case management and strong referral pathways
 - ‘wraparound’ support with inclusion of additional services
 - a trauma-informed and strengths-based approach to supporting women to engage with legal processes
- Funded through the Attorney General’s Department, as part of the Women’s Safety Package



SAGE

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An Australian Government Initiative



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LINA'S STORY

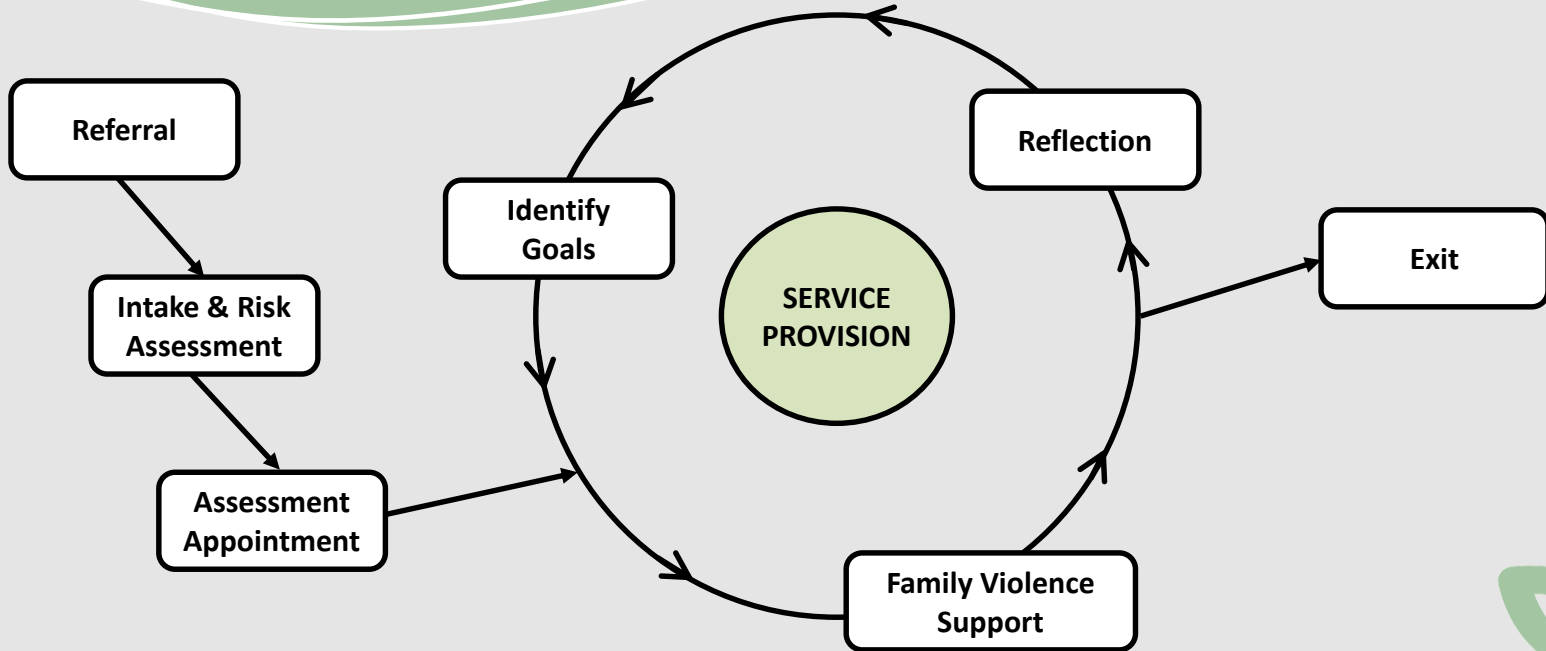


- 35 year old woman from Saudi Arabia
- Four children, aged 5, 9, 13 and 16
- Severe family violence, including physical violence, sexual assault, psychological abuse, financial abuse and controlling behaviour
- Diagnosed with depression, anxiety, complex severe post traumatic stress disorder and borderline personality disorder
- Fled the family home and entered a refuge
- Hospitalised due to deterioration in mental health
- Child Protection proceedings commenced
- Risk of being forcefully removed from Australia

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MODEL OF PRACTICE



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BUILDING RESILIENCE



- Trauma Informed
- Strengths Focused
- Collaborative
- Assessing risk
- Culturally Sensitive

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BUILDING RESILIENCE



- Therapeutic Tools
- Checking in
- Using humour
- Reflective
- Therapeutic closing letters

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THERAPEUTIC TOOLS



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CONCLUSION



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THANK YOU

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