Tools to Build African Australian & CaLD Men as Leaders in the Prevention of Domestic Violence Project

The African Australian Men's Retreat, Victor Harbour, South Australia 22/9/18

Workshop outcomes (post-presentation on Domestic Violence)

1. Large group of roughly 50 African men were divided into smaller groups of 4 or 5

2. Each of the small groups appointed a reporter and discussed the following questions for 15 minutes (5 minutes for each question):

▶ *On reflection, how has the learning in this workshop made you think differently about relationships between men and women in your culture?* **What has changed?**
- Most groups said that the definition of domestic violence in Australian law was much broader than they previously thought.
- Many had thought DV only included physical abuse.
- Many also did not previously know or understand Australian laws in relation to DV, rape and intervention orders.

▶ *How does violence perpetrated by men toward women damage men's lives as well?*
Feedback from the small groups included the following:

- DV perpetrators can be isolated from their community, family and children and become extremely lonely and depressed
- Suicide was mentioned as a consequence for some African male perpetrators
- Unsatisfactory relationships with the perpetrator's partner and children, including a diminished sex life.
- Loss of respect from members of the community
- Poor modelling for their sons who may go on to be abusers

▶ *What do you think you can do as an individual or a group to create a world in which women and children don't live in fear of men's violence?*

Actions mentioned included:

- Educating men and boys in their communities about DV and Australian laws seen as a priority – the Toolbox will assist with this
- Important to give the women and children in their families more space
- Need to control anger by walking away or going to someone in their community to talk about it

Presentation on DV given by Dr Dale Bagshaw, followed by a workshop.