

## **Zonta Club of Brisbane nomination – Domestic Violence Honours Roll**

**How has the nominee contributed to the prevention of domestic and family violence in Queensland? Tell us about the action or initiative. Please refer to the About Us page for examples:**

Zonta Club of Brisbane has been working through service and advocacy for just on 50 years to support victims of domestic violence in Queensland and across the world.

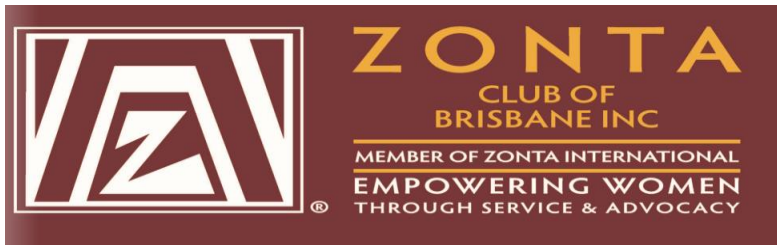
We have funded organisations - in 1977 Brisbane's first women's refuge Shelta opened and Zonta Club of Brisbane paid its rent and milk bills. The successor to Shelta, Windana, is supported to this day by the club in various ways. One longstanding project was the production and filling of 'comfort bags' for children at the Centre; another was storage of donated furniture, white goods and other household items for families when they moved into accommodation in the community. A major project undertaken in 2010 was the refurbishment and landscaping of the grounds and the installation of playground equipment. In 2012 the Club purchased and donated to Windana, a people-mover vehicle. Every year the club donates bedding, dressing gowns and Christmas presents for the mothers and children who will spend their first Christmas in a refuge.

We are consistent advocates to win increased support for domestic violence victims and to raise the profile of the need to take action. In 1998 the Club participated in an important partnership program with the Australian Government, launching "Business Against Domestic Violence". The club researched a submission to **Not Now Not Ever** Enquiry into domestic violence, calling for education in respectful relationships for young people be built into the curriculum.

A key project is our DV Safety Cards, which we have funded for 19 years since 2001, providing \$2000 per year, increasing to \$3500 for 2019-20 due to demand. This discreet, wallet-sized card lists emergency numbers and services for women. Since then we have worked with DV Connect, Northside Alliance Against Domestic Violence (NAADV), Ipswich Women's Shelter, Murri Sisters Inc and Queensland Police, extending distribution of the cards across greater Brisbane. Queensland Police in recent years, recognising the value of the cards, has partnered with us financially to fund the reprints for NAADV. The card is a tangible resource which is both empowering and reassuring and a link to safety for women and children escaping domestic violence. As well as the DV cards Zonta Club of Brisbane has supported the Love Bites program teaching respectful relationships amongst young people in high school.

The Zonta Club of Brisbane also works with Zonta International to support projects such as the recently announced project in Papua New Guinea to help women get the information they need to escape the rising tide of domestic violence.

Our club's new 2020 project HOWZing working with 13 SEQ Zonta clubs coordinated by our Club's Advocacy chair, also seeks to provide safety for older women who may be homeless due to domestic violence. This year, Zonta Club of Brisbane also sponsored Lady Musgrave Trust's The Hand Guide for



Older Women, which provides valuable information for women who need to find a roof over their head if they have become homeless as a result of domestic violence.

### **Tell us what this meant for you or someone you know?**

The Zonta Club of Brisbane's work to raise community awareness around domestic violence and to also provide funds that have made a tangible difference to women and children has been hugely satisfying for the club and has given us the inspiration and impetus to keep make DV a key focus for our club. It remains one of our three core focus areas for the Club. Even now at our fundraising sausage sizzles wearing our orange or black Zonta-says-not shirts, we are often asked what Zonta says no to? We go on to explain our stance against DV - with amazingly positive responses.

### **How have the people affected and/or their community responded to the action or initiative?**

Windana has corresponded with Zonta Club of Brisbane to let us know how much they appreciate the support we give them, especially at Christmas time, noting that many of the families could not be with their loved ones and Zonta helped them feel it was still a special time. Bernadette O'Byrne, Manager, Windana Support Centre, wrote that: *"The Zonta Club of Brisbane has been supporting Windana for many years now. We wouldn't be able to provide all the extras to our clients if it wasn't because of you. All of our clients face considerable financial hardship leaving their home because of domestic violence. They literally have to start again. It is people such as yourselves that make this possible."* We have also received many thanks for the DV Safety Card, and the fact that what started as just a service for north-side Brisbane now extends across the city including Ipswich, and the expansion of our Safety Card network from one organisation to five, including Queensland Police, with an increased number of cards printed, is testament to its impact on the community.