



Migrant group works hard to prevent domestic violence in the community

A FORUM promoting harmony among migrant communities affected by family violence has added its voice to a national inquiry.

The Oorja Foundation, which aims to break down cultural barriers, hosted The Way Forward to Harmony forum earlier this year to focus on family violence in South Asian communities.

The foundation, alongside Dianella Community Health and Hume Council, attracted more than 130 people from community, health and government organisations and unveiled the experiences of three Punjabi women who suffered domestic violence.

The findings helped inform the foundation's submission to the Royal Commission into Family Violence, which began in February.

Across Victoria, one woman is killed almost every week by a partner or former partner, with more than one third of women who have been with intimate partners experiencing violence.

In 2013-14 there were 2909 reported incidents of family violence in Hume.

Oorja Foundation chairman Ajit Singh Chauhan said its focus was on prevention and providing spaces where families and newly arrived residents

could talk to each other.

He said many skilled migrants who came to Australia were under financial stress, forgetting to develop their relationships and spend time with family.

Mr Singh Chauhan said reports from magistrates revealed an average of five intervention orders a week were taken out for domestic violence related to migrants.

The Oorja Foundation asked for more funding to expand its work: a network of Indian doctors to help patients address family violence related health issues; streamlined settlement support for migrants; and meeting spaces for prevention programs.

For
pre
Fre

Prize
fridge
cour
Prize
*T&C
Custo



bro
1099-1
broadm