



Women's Health

V I C T O R I A

healthy ■ empowered ■ equal

Annual Report
2014 - 2015

Vision

Women living
well - healthy,
empowered,
equal

Values

Respect; inclusion;
innovation; courage;
excellence

Mission

To improve health,
wellbeing and
gender equity for
Victorian Women
through leadership,
expertise and
support

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From the Chair

Achieving tangible impacts when promoting women's health is a tall order. As you read this year's Annual Report, I am confident you will find your support for Women's Health Victoria has been well worthwhile. I hope you will be as pleased and inspired as I am when you look at what we have been able to achieve together over the past twelve months.

Women's Health Victoria is able to be effective on so many fronts - in part because of the small group of wonderful women who make up our staff and volunteers, led by our strategic and indefatigable ED, Rita Butera. The assistance and good will of our many partners, funders, members and other supporters also makes a clear difference to what we can do. That this support exists across the political divide is also greatly appreciated.

Amongst the many highlights for me this year has been the continued, incredible level of interest in the Labia Library. Further, I am delighted that the Labia Library has been the basis of a new guide which is being used by doctors to help ensure that women are better informed before they resort to genital surgery.

This is just one aspect of the greatly enhanced profile Women's Health Victoria is achieving in the community. We are increasingly effective at getting our basic message - women living well means being healthy, empowered and equal - into both social and traditional media.

Seeing the Bridge of Support for women with breast and other gynaecological cancers extend to women attending Western Health is another highlight featured in this year's report. This project is backed by a grant from LUCRF Super which means that our model of peer support will be available to more women when and where they need it. Similarly, we hope that other new initiatives that have featured this year in webinars and pilot projects confirm regional needs and will lead to sustainable support for women outside the metropolitan area.

A key responsibility that we have at the Board level is to manage the ongoing development and oversight of the Strategic Directions which governs the direction of the organisation. In the past year, we completed the third year of our last plan and embarked on the creation of the new 2015-2018 Strategic Directions. This was a major exercise and we aimed to ensure that as many of our supporters as possible had opportunities to help us co-design the new plan. I'd like to thank those of you who were involved very much for your contribution.

A key aspect of the new Strategic Directions will be our focus on the need for a statewide sexual and reproductive health strategy. We look forward to working with all our partners and stakeholders to ensure this is achieved. The Board is also very proud of the brand redevelopment - illustrated by the cover of this Annual Report. We hope that it resonates with you too.

Finally I'd like to thank my colleagues on the Board of Women's Health Victoria. I'd especially like to highlight Sally Fawkes' contribution, as she is stepping down after eight years on the Board. Sally, who has also chaired our Breacan Advisory Committee, has an international reputation in health promotion. Her commitment to serving on our Board is another testament to the effectiveness of Women's Health Victoria.



Meredith Carter
CHAIRPERSON

From the Executive Director

The past year has seen a number of achievements and the beginning of some new and exciting projects. The development of the new Strategic Directions for 2015 - 2018 provided us with the opportunity to revisit our vision and consolidate and strengthen our new priorities and strategies for the next 3 years.

Our vision has remained as 'Women living well - healthy, empowered, equal'. Fundamental to this new plan are our values of 'respect, inclusion, innovation, courage and excellence'. These values will be central to our way of operating internally and externally in the community. Priorities for action include: sexual and reproductive health, cancer, prevention of violence against women, mental health, active living and other emerging health issues.

With additional funding from the Department of Health, our BreaCan service is now reaching out to women in two regions through the pilot rural project. As mentioned by our Chair, we are also grateful to LUCRF Super for funding a 2 year project to extend the BreaCan Bridge of Support service at Western Health, supporting a model which responds to a more diverse community.

Prevention of violence against women has profiled significantly in our work and has included a comprehensive submission to the Royal Commission on Family Violence and working with regional Women's Health services to develop an online regional planning guide for the prevention of violence against women. Women's Health Services in each region are working with partners to implement prevention strategies and work has included community education and awareness, signing up partners to a collective goal, workplace interventions and gender equity training.

Take a Stand against domestic violence; our bystander workplace program, has also taken off in two rural regions where the Women's Health Services have been licenced to deliver it to workplaces.

Sexual and reproductive health is core to our work and continues to present us with challenges to ensure that unplanned pregnancies are prevented and that abortion services remain legal, safe and accessible both in the acute and community setting. We are proud of the achievements of the law reform in 2008 and continue to be vigilant in countering misinformation, threats to the current law and the need for improvements in legislation and service access. Leading coordination of abortion access in Victoria will remain our highest priority, ensuring that women are free to manage their reproductive health without discrimination or harassment.

I invite you to read the report and to see more detail about our work this year. Our Labia Library continues to surpass our expectations with more than 3 million hits to the website from over 200 countries.

Women's Health Victoria works in partnership with a range of stakeholders and understands the importance of access to data, evidence and research to inform advocacy and practice. Our Clearinghouse is core to this activity and its value is always demonstrated by the increased use of resources. This and other work has been upgraded with technological enhancements supported by our new Information Technology Strategy and our improved Communications and Social Media Strategies.

I want to thank all staff for their dedication and commitment to achieve improved health outcomes for Victorian women. I especially want to thank our volunteers at BreaCan and across other services and acknowledge the dependence of our service on the dedication of our Board members and other professionals who voluntarily give their time and expertise to support our vision. These are acknowledged in more detail throughout the report.

The journey continues and I thank all our members for their ongoing support.



Rita Butera
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WtHV wants every woman in Victoria to be living well – healthy, empowered and equal.



Who We Are

Women's Health Victoria is a not-for-profit organisation that is focused on improving the lives of Victorian Women.

We work collaboratively with health professionals, policy makers and community organisations to inform, influence and improve policy and service delivery for women. We are committed to reducing inequities in health which arise from social, economic and environmental determinants. We do this by advocating for a gendered approach to health promotion that aims to reduce inequity and improve health outcomes for women.

Strategic Directions

2012 – 2015

Our 'Strategic Directions' focuses on achieving our vision.

Our work is guided by three goals:

- 1.** Improve women's health by influencing policies, services, systems and society
- 2.** Inform, support and empower women with cancer to live well
- 3.** Thrive as an influential, sustainable and responsive organisation



A Year in Pictures

1. Meredith Carter WHV Chair and Cristina Wolters WHV Treasurer at the WHV Annual General Meeting
2. Rita Butera presenting at the WHV Annual General Meeting
3. WHAV PVAW Project Community of Practice participated in a workshop on intersectionality and primary prevention of violence against women
4. Meredith Carter and Candy Broad speaking with Mr Gavin Jennings MP at the WHV AGM

5. Mr. Gavin Jennings MP, Ms Colleen Hartland MP, Dr Sally Cockburn, Hon. David Davis MP, Rita Butera WHV Executive Director and Meredith Carter WHV Chair at the WHV Annual General Meeting
6. The 'Building Leadership From Where I Stand: Preventing Violence Against Women Forum'
7. Anna O'Halloran, Dina Lynch and Kellie Holland participating in the Walk Against Family Violence on White Ribbon Day
8. Peer Support Volunteer training conducted at BreaCan

9. Keran Howe, Adele Murdolo, Lara Fergus, Kellie Nagle and Dr. Shannon Spriggs at the 'Building Leadership From Where I Stand: Preventing Violence Against Women Forum'
10. Hon. David Davis MP, Frederika, Victorian Premier Denis Napthine, Lois, and Marilyn at the launch of the Connecting and Supporting Rural and Regional Women with Cancer Project
11. Rita Butera, Marilyn Beaumont, Nancy Poole and Lorraine Greaves at the Australian book launch of 'Making it Better: Gender-Transformative Health Promotion'



*"WHV is outstanding
at enabling women
to shine and share."*

WHV Public Survey March 2015



the **labia**
LIBRARY

**Take a
Stand**
against domestic violence. It's **everyone's** business.

Improving Women's Health-Innovation & Leadership

Policy & Advocacy

In 2014-2015 Women's Health Victoria was active in advocating for systemic change to reduce gender inequality and support better health outcomes for women in a range of areas. Formal submissions were made to the Family Violence Royal Commission, the National Oral Health Plan and the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. We were also invited to provide expert analysis to the government on a range of issues.

The 2014 Annual General Meeting focused on securing election commitments from the three major parties on key aspects of women's health policy. The event attracted a strong attendance and outcomes included coverage in *The Age* newspaper: *Major Parties Vow to Maintain Abortion Law*.

Advocating for improved access to safe and legal abortion services continues to be a priority and is part of a broader agenda to develop a sexual and reproductive health strategy in Victoria. This includes working with a range of service providers and academics, including: **Family Planning Victoria, The Royal Women's Hospital, Jean Hailes Research Unit-Monash University, Marie Stopes International, Judith Lumley Center-La Trobe University, Melbourne University** and regional **Women's Health Services** to ensure abortion law is not threatened.

In 2014-2015 we also worked closely with stakeholders to support and influence strategies associated with the roll out of the Obesity Campaign, led by **Cancer Council Victoria** and the **Victorian Heart Foundation**. This was an important opportunity which involved getting key parties from across the eating disorders sector together with the experts in preventative health to bring a gendered lens to the campaign.

Research & Innovation

Clearinghouse

The Clearinghouse collects, analyses and provides access to published women's health information to support the work of Women's Health Victoria and builds the capacity of others to incorporate a gendered approach to health.

Clearinghouse Connectors bring together recent research, resources and practice guidelines relating to priority areas of women's health and emerging issues. All of our Connectors published in 2014-2015 have surpassed expected readership.

A new Clearinghouse database web platform was launched in September 2014. Presto Cloud meets Women's Health Victoria's need for a responsive, flexible, cost-effective interface that can cater for steadily increasing traffic. WHV is proud to be a demonstration site for Presto Cloud, working in conjunction with the United States developer and local vendor Maxus Australia.

Women's Health Victoria Public Survey

A Women's Health Victoria Public Survey was conducted in March 2015. This online survey (held every three years) is designed to measure the value and impact of WHV activities and outputs, collecting feedback about areas where WHV excels or alternately, could develop or improve services.

The 2015 survey included new questions about brand perception, customer service and communications. Responses received contained valuable feedback to input to strategic planning processes and continual improvement of programs and services.

Survey feedback included:

"(Health News Daily) Really useful daily digest on women's health issues."

"It's outstanding to have such a group to promote the issues concerning women at a policy / government level."

"(Health News Daily) Enables me to inform and discuss present issues with my colleagues and wider networks."

"High Quality, well researched work to support the work of others."

Research partnerships

Research plays an important part in providing the evidence needed to inform robust policy and practice. WHV has formal research partnerships with the **Jean Hailes Research Institute**, **Monash University** (Female Genital Cosmetic Surgery), **Judith Lumley Centre**, **La Trobe University** (RU486) and the **Centre for Medicine Use and Safety, Monash University** (ACCESS to Emergency Contraception).

Supporting statewide excellence - Prevent Violence Against Women (PVAW)

'Equality and Safety for Women Online Planning Guide' has been developed by **Women's Health Association of Victoria (WHAV)** and funded by the **State Government** as an agreed prevention initiative of Victoria's Action Plan to Address Violence against Women and Children 2012-2015. Women's Health Victoria is the lead agency and coordinator of the project and in 2014-2015 played a primary role in the development of the guidelines.

The project will develop best practice guidelines to support regional women's health services and their partners to develop and implement the most effective plans, strategies and activities to prevent violence against women. Project outcomes include the development of a shared online planning guide for developing Regional Action Plans, which includes relevant template resources and tools specifically designed to support best practice in both the planning and coordination of activities across regions.

Victorian Women's Health Atlas

Data and statistics play an important role in helping to understand and monitor trends on key health priorities over periods of time. Yet key data sets are often not broken down by gender, which thereby renders invisible the differing experiences of women. A major initiative over 2014-2015 has been the development of the statewide databook for use by women's health services across the state. This has been developed with funding from the **Department of Health and Human Services**.

'The Victorian Women's Health Atlas' will assist in making evidence-based decisions about service design, emerging priorities and program planning. It was designed specifically to be an interactive resource which covers indicators for sexual health and reproduction, gender equality, mental health and violence against women at both the local level and statewide. This resource is the first of its kind in Australia and provides interactive access to sex

disaggregated data which is up to date on each of the key priority areas.

Training & Workshops

In 2014-2015 Women's Health Victoria delivered training centrally at WHV as well as engaging with a range of local councils and community services. Our Applied Gender Analysis (AGA) training program which was delivered over this period, equipped professionals with an understanding of gender as a social determinant, provided them with language and conceptual frameworks to support gender analysis and gave them the confidence to apply a gender analysis to their own work.

Training feedback included:

"It was great training allowed us to go through the steps. Next step is to go back and do it @ workplace... Overall really enjoyed & really, really helpful & interesting!"

Eighty percent (80%) of respondents state that they have used the skills gained from the AGA Workshop when they are at work.

When asked what key learning or message did you take away from the workshop, participants reported:

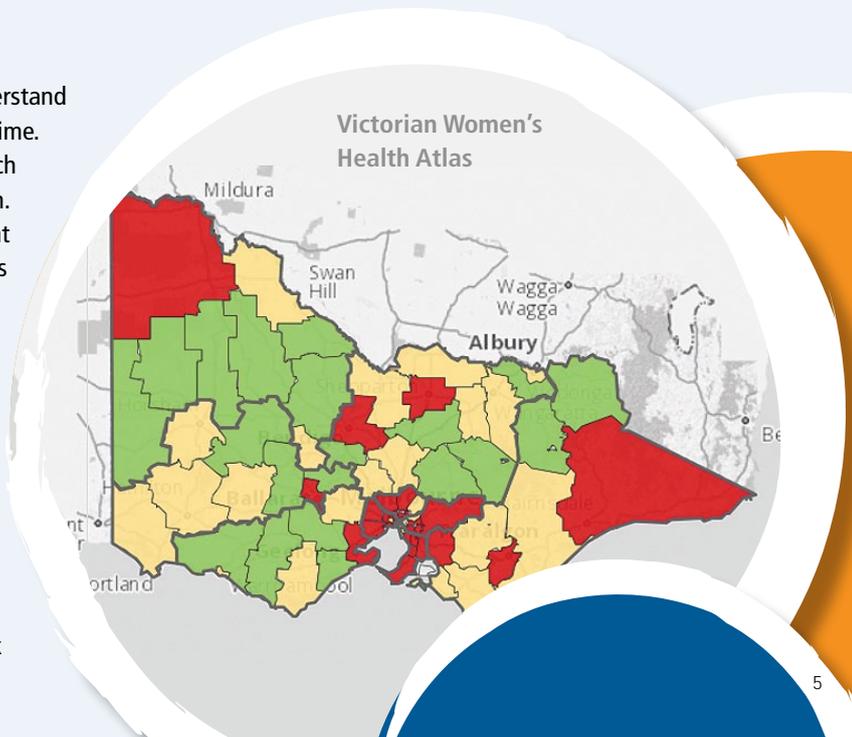
"Women's and men's health needs differ and present in different ways requiring gender specific health promotion responses."

"Using sex-disaggregated data is essential."

From Gender Integration to Gender Transformation Forum

In December 2014, Women's Health Victoria held a forum for cross-sector professionals entitled 'From Gender Integration to Gender Transformation'.

The forum explored the principles of gendered health promotion and provided practical tools and evidence-based strategies for gender transformative practice in order to guide policy makers, researchers and health promotion practitioners. The forum featured the Australian launch of 'Making it Better: Gender-Transformative Health Promotion', a resource which was developed by the **British Columbia Centre of Excellence in Women's Health** in Canada, with input from Women's Health Victoria.



More equal, equal

NEW research shows 40 per cent of women do not feel safe when walking alone at night in the area where they live.

Nine in 10 Australian women have experienced street harassment and modified their behaviour in response.

Women factor in how to keep "safe" from male violence every day: to and from work, while exercising, on their way home from outings. Fear of male violence is significantly limiting the participation of women and girls in community life.

And yes, too many women experience this fear in their own lives. Violence is the leading contributor to death and disability for Australian women aged 15-44. While it is essential to hold individual perpetrators to account, to ensure we have the right services in place to support women, it is crucial we work together to prevent it from happening in the first place. Evidence tells us that where countries are more equitable, there tends to be lower rates of violence against women. We need to work towards shifting the structures and social norms that enable violence against women. We must work to challenge the systems, policies, beliefs and attitudes that contribute to violence against women.

Women's Health Victoria is working with the community sector and

Little Debbie's Abba's for 3 Days



Take A Stand

Take A Stand is Womens Health Victoria's evidence based, best practice program for the prevention of violence against women in the workplace setting.

Take A Stand strengthens the organisational capacity of workplaces to address the attitudes and behaviours that enable men's violence against women. Take A Stand works with organisations to implement policies and equip bystanders to challenge violence-supportive attitudes and promote respectful relationships between men and women.

The Partner Package component of Take A Stand was developed and implemented with the assistance of number of partners - **Melton City Council, Women's Health Loddon Mallee and Women's Health and Wellbeing Barwon South West**. It provided partners with the license to deliver the program, as well as access to training materials and implementation support. This enabled partners to deliver Take A Stand to other workplaces in their area. This model was found to be highly effective and a number of positive outcomes were realised as a result, such as: the program was delivered to more than 3000 staff overall.

Extending our Reach

The dissemination of high quality, sensitive and accurate health information for women continues to be a central focus for Women's Health Victoria. In 2014-2015 we achieved this through:

- ♀ Social media campaigns which highlighted new and innovative resources and health information for women
- ♀ The collection and archiving of new research and resources through The Clearinghouse
- ♀ Updating fact sheets on aspects of women's health for the Better Health Channel
- ♀ The publication of Clearinghouse Connectors, which bring together research and resources on women's health issues
- ♀ Continued development of Issues Papers
- ♀ The development and publication of media releases relating to topical aspects of women's health

Women's Health Victoria distributed messages through the media advocating for safe access to health services for women in response to the harassment and intimidation some women experience when accessing the Fertility Control Clinic.

Other media coverage included a Letter to the Editor published in the Herald Sun (More Equal, Equals Safer) which related to new research showing that 40 per cent of women feel unsafe walking alone in the area where they live and the limitations this creates for women's participation in community life.

In 2014-2015 we also responded to multiple requests from media for information relating to the Labia Library, the mental health impacts for women of objectification and poor body image.

Social Media

Women's Health Victoria is reaching more women than ever before through WHV's various social media platforms. Our tweets have reached 250% more people and our Facebook page 'likes' were more than double that of the previous year.

WHV's Twitter profile has gained several prominent followers, including columnist Clementine Ford, Rosie Batty and several Victorian politicians.

This year our International Women's Day campaign centred around the Labia Library and the promotion of positive body image. Triple J tweeted about the Labia Library in November, which increased traffic to the site almost threefold over that month.

Our '16 Days of Activism' campaign in November and December almost doubled WHV's reach on Facebook over that period.

Labia Library

The Labia Library is a unique, world first resource providing information, advice and photographs to raise awareness about natural genital diversity and support positive body image for women worldwide.

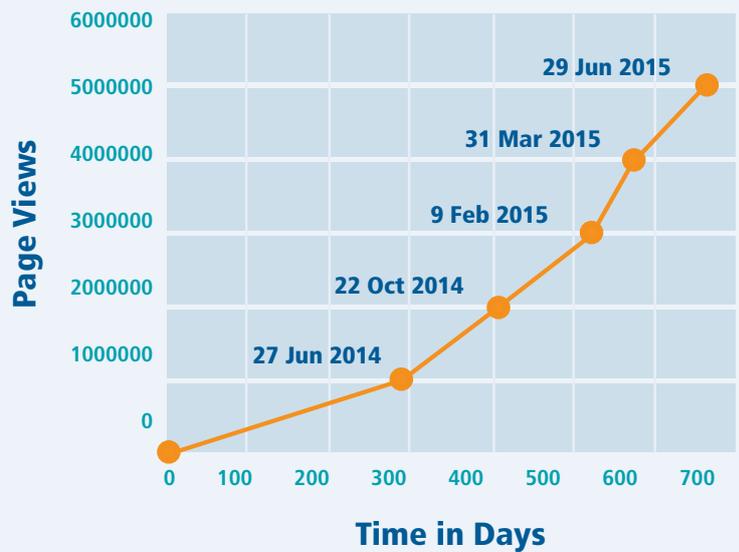
Research indicates that many women are misinformed because they think the photoshopped images they see in magazines and pornography are accurate representations of how a 'normal' vulva looks. The Labia Library aims to minimise the fear and harms associated with negative genital body image.

In the 2014-2015 financial year, the Labia Library had almost 3 million more page views than the previous year, clocking 3,932,893 page views. It also recorded one million more users, up from 328,956 the previous year.

People from all over the world continue to access the Labia Library, with 233 countries recorded accessing the resource to date. The website averaged 3636 sessions per day and has recorded as many as 39,912 sessions in one day. The Labia Library was featured on US feminist blog, 'Jezebel', which led to sustained higher usage of the site, particularly in the United States.

The Labia Library has been promoted as an important resource for health professionals and has been included in the 2015 Royal Australian College of General Practitioners' world first guidelines for GPs on female genital cosmetic surgery. Women's Health Victoria research has also been cited in this document.

Labia Library Usage Over Time



5650 voluntary Labia library site-visitor surveys were completed and yielded overwhelmingly positive feedback - samples are included below:

"I think its [sic] great to show the differences. I am 38 and I have thought for a long time that I need labia surgery it's a relief to see many like me. Thank you for taking my worst insecurity and making me feel normal."
8/11/2014 5:15 AM

"Thank you!! I want to cry because I am so relieved. I felt like I had no clue if I looked normal and was worried and this helped put things into perspective for me and gave me more appreciation for my body. I am very glad to have found this. Thank you."
26/4/2015 1:27 PM

"Thank you for this site! It's very informative in a way that doesn't bombard me with scientific terms, but in a perfect way that provides good need-to-know information."
2/4/2015 5:31 AM

"Great work. Thank you. I'm 66 years old and this is the first time I had this information. Always thought my bits didn't look normal and never had the courage to ask. Now I know they are just fine. YEA. Well presented info, relaxed, kind and important."
13/12/2014 7:12 AM

"I think this is great because no one talks about how their vaginas look and as a normal human we compare ourselves and see what media puts and think we aren't normal or proud of what we have. This made me more comfortable with my body."
11/5/2015 3:28 PM

Women and Cancer

'Informing, supporting and empowering women with cancer to live well' is goal two of the Women's Health Victoria Strategic Plan. Work in this area is undertaken by BreaCan, a service of Women's Health Victoria. BreaCan is funded by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, Cancer Strategy and Development Unit specifically, to provide information and support to people affected by gynaecological or breast cancer.

BreaCan is committed to providing a holistic, consumer-focussed service that is shaped by the needs of the women who use the service. The service delivers a very strong message of support and hope that people can adjust and live well after a cancer diagnosis.

All peer support volunteers have themselves had a gynaecological or breast cancer experience. Being able to talk with someone who has lived through a cancer experience not only helps service users to normalise their feelings, but also empowers them to access information that is relevant to their concerns. Volunteers are integral to the BreaCan service model and they have helped shape the development of the service. Their personal experiences give them a depth of understanding, empathy and insight which they draw on in providing peer support to others facing similar challenges.

The non-clinical setting of BreaCan's Resource Centre is a critical component of our service. It is significant that many women comment on the importance of the service setting and the value that comes from being in a safe and welcoming space with a focus on 'living well' rather than on 'illness'. Services include a resource library with books, CDs and DVDs for loan to any Victorian woman diagnosed with a gynaecological or breast cancer. These can be sent to women across Victoria, free of charge. Information is also available by phone, email, Skype, on the BreaCan website and via information sessions - some of which are also conducted as webinars.

The role of BreaCan is to complement the care provided by cancer treatment centres and health professionals by providing practical, emotional and social support to people diagnosed with a gynaecological or breast cancer - and their families or friends - on a range of issues related to their cancer diagnosis and treatment.

BreaCan sessions cover information, wellness and creative topics. Recordings of some of these sessions are available as podcasts and webinars, which can be found on our website or on CDs which can be borrowed from the Resource Centre.

BreaCan regularly participates in projects with a range of partners and provides other services with access to consumer perspectives, which in turn supports them to be more responsive and accessible.

BreaCan Highlights

- ♀ 'The Connecting and Supporting Rural and Regional Women with Cancer Project' was launched in November 2014. BreaCan, in partnership with **Barwon South Western Regional** and **Grampians Integrated Cancer Services**, commenced the project to better understand the information and support needs of women affected by cancer in rural and regional Victoria.
- ♀ In February 2015, a volunteer recruitment campaign commenced to encourage more women with a gynaecological or breast cancer to join our peer support team. As a result of the campaign, we successfully recruited and trained 14 new peer support volunteers.
- ♀ As part of our partnership with **Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA)** and **Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre**, BreaCan contributed to -'BCNA Active and Well forums' in Flemington and Bendigo, both of which were a great success. In addition to promoting our involvement in the 'Pink Moves' program, these events provided BreaCan with an opportunity to promote its services to women affected by breast cancer and to understand better some of the enablers and challenges to healthy living after treatment.
- ♀ The provision of outreach continued this year with our 'Bridge of Support' program at the **Royal Melbourne Hospital**, where BreaCan peer support volunteers are available to talk to women receiving treatment for breast cancer. 'Bridge of Support at RMH' - was available this year, thanks to the generosity of **Treasure Chest** (a breast cancer charity) and the ongoing support of Professor Bruce Mann and the Breast Cancer Service team.
- ♀ Two BreaCan information sessions were held externally in partnership with treatment centres: Eat Well (**Sunshine Hospital**) and Your Immune System and Cancer (**Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre**).
- ♀ BreaCan participated in a Greek community information day for women who've experienced breast cancer at the New Greek Community Centre in Lonsdale St. This event was a 'first' for the Greek community and was very well attended - as a result BreaCan was able to provide a lot of information and support to many people.
- ♀ We were also very pleased to secure philanthropic funding for two years to conduct outreach at **Western Health's Sunshine Hospital**. The project, funded by the **LUCRF Community Partnership Trust**, aims to utilise our proven model of peer support, 'Bridge of Support' to women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer in the western region of Melbourne. This not only provides the opportunity for women to access information, but also provides emotional and practical support closer to home. The aim is to develop a relevant and sustainable model beyond the funding period.
- ♀ Participation across a range of committees with other stakeholders and health providers helps BreaCan to influence policy and practice. Examples of this include our involvement in a pilot project focussing on Endometrial Cancer Survivorship at the **Royal Women's Hospital** and the **Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme (VPTAS) Alliance**.

Statistical Snapshot

2014 – 2015



Total of **11** Clearinghouse Connectors
Published the **most utilised**
connectors include:

Sexualisation of women and girls
1130 views

Ageing and older women
458 views

Objectification of women
342 views

WHV tweets have reached
250% more people

Facebook 'likes' grew **79%**
58% membership
growth



The Labia library website
recorded an average of
3,636 visits per day
with **3,932,893**
page views

Receiving **5,650** voluntary
survey responses
96% said they found
the site **useful**

Labia Library was accessed by
1,327,402 users across
233 countries worldwide



BreaCan recorded
2,467 contacts
an increase of **9.3%** on last year.

88 group sessions were offered,
with a total of **1110** attendances
this year, compared to 62 group sessions and
926 attendances last year.

The BreaCan website has had **8190**
unique visitors which are well up on the
previous year's figure of 6990.

1307 BreaCan podcasts have been
downloaded or played
throughout the year.

Our Board

A Board of dedicated women from a range of professions governs Women's Health Victoria.

Board Members for 2014-2015



Meredith Carter GAICD, BA, LLB & LLM (Melb), Grad. Cert. Health Economics (Monash)
Chair

Elected to Board: Jul 2009

Meetings attended: 8/10

Meredith Carter's background in law and commitment to community participation are foundations of her work as a health and social policy consultant. She has served on a number of boards and statutory tribunals.



Desiree Yap MBBS, FRANZCOG, MPHTM, FRCOG

Deputy Chair

Elected to Board: Jun 2010

Meetings attended: 8/10

Desiree Yap is a Specialist Obstetrician and Gynaecologist with a Master of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. She has professional experience in metropolitan, rural and remote Australian locations and internationally.



Cristina Wolters BBus (Acc), M Taxation (Melb), GAICD

Treasurer

Elected to Board: Nov 2011

Meetings attended: 7/10

Cristina Wolters is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and a Fellow of the Taxation Institute of Australia. Cristina is currently General Manager of Taxation at Transurban.



Christine Fitzherbert MBA, BA (Politics), GradDip (IR), Company Director's Diploma in Finance

Deputy Treasurer

Elected to Board: May 2013

Meetings attended: 7/10

Christine Fitzherbert is Executive Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development at Melbourne Health. She brings extensive knowledge and experience in business, HR, finance and governance.



Candy Broad BComm (UWA), GAICD
Member

Elected to Board: Oct 2013

Meetings attended: 9/10

Candy Broad is a former Victorian Government Minister and was the Member for Northern Victoria in the Victorian Parliament. Candy contributes extensive experience on the issues associated with reforming Victoria's statutory framework for women's sexual and reproductive health choices and devising more integrated government responses to the prevention of family violence.



Jennifer O'Donnell-Pirisi
Member

Elected to Board: Oct 2011

Meetings attended: 3/10

Jennifer O'Donnell-Pirisi is Women's Officer at the Victorian Trades Hall Council. She is passionate about encouraging and empowering women to become union activists and to have a voice in their workplace and union.



Helen Coleman Dip Com Dev (Swinburne) and BSc (RMIT)

Member

Elected to Board: Oct 2011

Meetings attended: 7/10

Helen Coleman is a local government Councillor and current Mayor and has taken leadership roles in regard to gender equity within Local Government and community. Helen brings experience serving on several boards, working in government and the community and health services fields.



Tania Angelini MA (Comm), GradCert Prof Writ & Edit, B Arts (Media Art)

Member

Elected to Board: May 2013

Meetings attended: 8/10

Tania Angelini works as a communications and marketing professional and has extensive experience in the health and human services sectors, including government and public policy.



Magdalena Simonis MBBS FRACGP
DipObst RANZCOG

Member

Elected to Board: Oct 2013

Meetings attended: 4/10

Dr Magdalena Simonis is a committed GP; is a co-chair of Women in General Practice; is on the RACGP National Standing Committee for Health Information Services; teaches medical students at the University of Melbourne medical school and has been on the board of directors of Australian Greek Welfare Society since 2009.



Sally Fawkes BSc, Grad Dip Health Ed, MBA (Monash), Ph.D. (La Trobe)

Member

Elected to Board: Sep 2006

Meetings attended: 9/10

Dr Sally Fawkes is an academic, researcher and consultant who works in Australia and internationally at the interface of health care, public health, leadership and policy foresight. She contributes extensive experience in health promotion strategy, policy and practice.

Our People



RITA BUTERA
Executive Director

Kylie Inserra
Communications Coordinator

Policy & Health Promotion Team

Robyn Minty
Policy & Health Promotion Manager (Acting)

Amy Webster
Senior Policy Health Promotion Officer

Jenny Ward
Clearinghouse Information Officer

Renata Anderson
Policy Health Promotion Officer

Emma Dardick
PHP Project Officer (Databook Development)

Special Projects

Kellie Nagle
Senior Policy & Project Manager for Leading Regional Action - Preventing Violence Against Women Project (WHAHV)

Business Services Team

Dina Lynch
Business Manager

Ranee Madison
Executive Assistant/Administration Officer

Coco Qi
Assistant Accountant

Frieda De Doncker
Administration Officer

BreaCan Team

Lee Kennedy
BreaCan Manager

Fiona McRae
Team Leader BreaCan Programs

Catherine Watts
Communications Coordinator BreaCan

Helen Mertin
Peer Support Volunteer Trainer

Kellie Holland
Volunteer Coordinator

Wendy Pullan
Programs Coordinator

Katherine Bradstreet
Administration Officer

Linda Rehill
Programs and Resources Coordinator

The BreaCan Advisory Group

Sally Fawkes - Chair
Lyn Allison
Helen Coleman
Christine Evely
Bronwyn Flanagan (until Dec. 2014)
Jane Fletcher (until Dec. 2014)
Frederika Laurie
Jane McNeilage (until Dec. 2014)
Alison Murphy (from Dec. 2014)
Monique Baldacchino (from March 2015)
Penny Sanderson
Beth Wilson
Katy Weare
Rita Butera (Women's Health Victoria Executive Director)
Lee Kennedy (BreaCan Manager)

We thank the 57 women who volunteered for BreaCan in 2014-15 for their generous contributions:

Peer support volunteers

Aaltje, Annette, Bridget, Chris, Coralie, Frederika, Heather, Helen, Janice, Janine, Jewels, Jill, Joan, Joy, Khim, Kirsten, Lianne, Lois M, Naideen, Nikki, Pam, Pauline, Rhonda, Rita, Sandra T, Sue G, Sue S, Teresa, and Wendy. A big welcome to the 14 new Peer Support Volunteers: Elizabeth, Gillian, Grace, Greta, Irene, Jannet, Jenny, Kerry, Maureen, May, Nadia, Trish, Vivien and Yvonne.

Program support volunteers

Library Volunteers: Jules, Gwen, Christine, Vivien, Jewels and Fiona (Until Jan. 15).
Mailout Volunteers: Christine, Danni, Elaine, Jan, Jennifer, Mariae, Maryse, Patricia and Vivien.
Feel Good Volunteers: Judy, Meril and Lois S
Podcast Volunteers: Jan, Mariae

We also thank the 5 volunteers from the National Australia Bank who assisted with a mailout: Loan, Kylie, Selina, Florencio and Mohammed.

We acknowledge the passing of Sue E (Program Support Volunteer)

Farewell and Thank you

Thank you to the following staff members who were farewelled during the year:

Jessica Malone
Pam Rughla
Petra Begnell
Rachael Bajayo
Rosie Craven
Anna O'Halloran
Mary Macheras Magias
Simone Nelson

We would also like to acknowledge the following people who contributed to our organisation during the year.

Stephanie Zagami
Michelle Hy
Junxia Xu

Our Supporters



Our Funders

Women's Health Victoria acknowledges the support of the State Government of Victoria, specifically:

- Department of Health & Human Services
- Department of Premier and Cabinet

We also acknowledge the support of:

- Pink Affair
- Treasure Chest
- LUCRF Community Partnership Trust

Our Members

Women's Health Victoria relies upon the women of Victoria for their support and ongoing membership. Membership is free and available to individuals or organisations. Members can nominate for election to our Board and vote in elections. Become a WHV member online at whv.org.au/who-we-are/membership.

Our Donors

Women's Health Victoria expresses sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to the service over the past 12 months and would like to particularly acknowledge the following:

Pro-Bono Support to WHV for 2014-15

We acknowledge and thank those who have provided expert pro-bono support to WHV:

- Justice Connect
- NAB
- Russell Kennedy Lawyers
- Telstra Legal

We would also like to acknowledge additional contributions made by the following people:

- Peter Cash - Berringer
- Leonie Morgan
- Sam Burrone - Sam Burrone Design
- The team at IT Strategic Data

Donors to WHV for 2014-15

Jennifer Strauss for her kind contribution.

We thank those who have donated directly to the Community Foundation on behalf of WHV.

We also acknowledge and thank those who have donated directly to the BreaCan service; these donors and supporters are listed in BreaCan's Year in Review 2014-15.

Donate to WHV

You can donate to WHV at: communityfoundation.org.a/donate-to-whv

Key Organisational Achievements

The corporate team has had a busy year supporting practice and positioning Women's Health Victoria as a sustainable and responsive organisation. This has been achieved with:

- ♀ The development of the IT Strategy and the implementation of its first stages, which has included a move to a cloud-based system along with staged upgrades of hardware.
- ♀ Continuing to implement the Communications Strategy with a strong focus on branding, positioning and raising the organisation's profile. This was achieved with:
 - The development of a new brand which will strengthen our identity in future years
 - Extending our reach through traditional and social media, this attained more than a 250% increase of people reached on Twitter alone
 - A new marketing initiative resulting in a 58% growth in membership
- ♀ Consultation and development of the new Strategic Plan for 2015-2018.
- ♀ Review of our accommodation needs across the whole organisation, including potential partners.

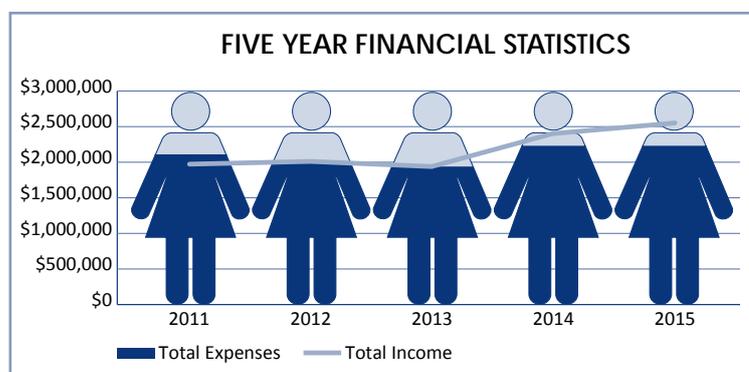
Financial Summary

This selected financial information reflects the operations of Women's Health Victoria and should be read in conjunction with the Women's Health Victoria Inc. Financial Statements for year ending 30 June 2015 and their accompanying notes (available at www.whv.org.au). Women's Health Victoria prepares the financial statements in accordance with the Australian Standards as outlined in Note 1.

FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL STATISTICS

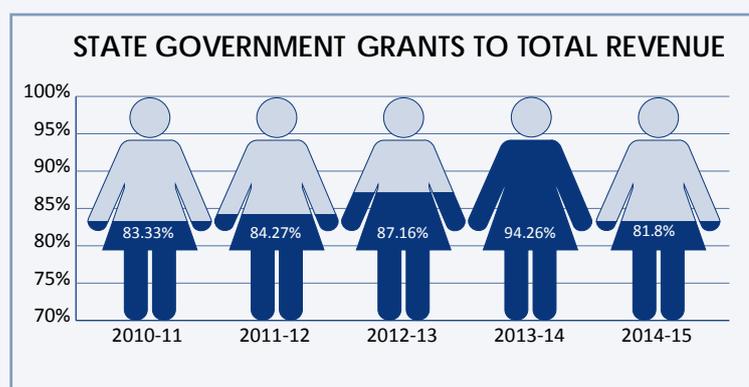
	2011 \$	2012 \$	2013 \$	2014 \$	2015 \$
Summary Income Statement					
Total Income	1,977,088	2,014,847	1,942,539	2,407,616	2,547,004
Total Expenses	2,095,873	2,028,765	1,929,457	2,217,359	2,452,281
Net Profit/(Loss)	(118,785)	(13,918)	13,082	190,257	94,723
Summary Balance Sheet					
Cash	781,813	562,158	549,844	814,887	987,667
Receivables	4,996	46,918	12,658	48,666	11,116
Property, Plant & Equipment	306,572	254,429	226,013	191,990	179,973
Total Assets	1,093,381	863,505	788,515	1,055,543	1,178,756
Payables	248,320	183,775	83,639	141,957	177,306
Provisions	300,510	179,097	161,161	179,614	172,755
Total Liabilities	548,830	362,872	244,800	321,571	350,061
NET ASSETS	544,551	500,633	543,715	733,972	828,695

Current Ratio	1.57 : 1	2.03 : 1	2.66 : 1	3.40 : 1	3.30 : 1
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In the 2014-2015 financial year the organisation recorded a profit of \$94,723. The profit includes grants received in this financial year that were partly or fully unexpended in this financial year. These grants were for the development of the Victorian Women's Health Atlas, evaluation of the BreaCan Service, Accommodation Review and the Prevention of Violence Against Women Project (Equality and Safety for Women Online Planning Guide).

The ratio of revenue from State Government in proportion to total revenue has decreased this year compared to last year due to the receipt of \$336,000 in a one-off bequest. Employee expenses have increased to take into account the annual increase of the Enterprise Agreement. Non-employee expenses have increased from last year to incorporate increase in leasing costs.



The graph shows the comparison of Department of Health and Human Services Grant Revenue to Total Revenue, which reflects significant funding from the Department to the organisation.

The ratio analysis, as highlighted in the table, is calculated to assist in determining the financial viability for WHV. The minimum current ratio is 1:1. This means that the business must have \$1 in current assets for each \$1 of current liabilities. WHV's ratio of 3.30:1 this means that the business has \$3.30 in current assets to meet \$1 in current liabilities. The financial statements disclose Victorian Department of Health and Human Services recurrent funding for Women's Health Program and BreaCan service.



Women's Health

V I C T O R I A

healthy ■ empowered ■ equal

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Copies of this Annual Report are available online:

whv.org.au



Women's Health Victoria acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government

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