

Hearing the Voices of Children and Young People

Intersectionalities in Domestic Violence Conference

October 2019

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This presentation

- Hearing the voices of children and young people in service delivery and policy development around domestic and family violence
- Our experience of consulting with children and young people as part of our input to the State Government's 10 Year Strategy to Prevent FDV
- What we learnt and the implications for our own practice
- How to do more of this



Why consult with Children and Young People

- Children are the majority of victims of FDV
- They are primary victims, not 'silent witnesses'
- FDV silences victims
- Impacts can be long term and short term
- The impacts on children are not well understood in the community
- The service system is inadequate
- Consultation can help us improve what we do

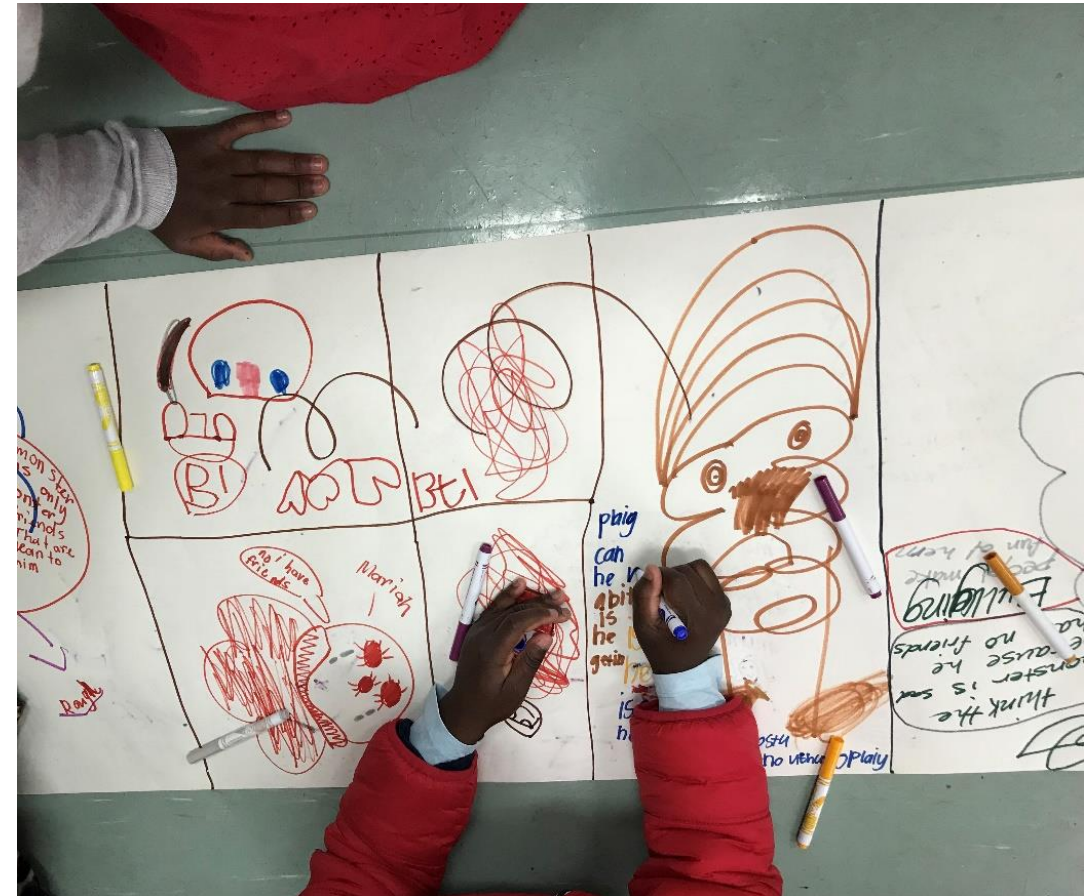
What we did

- Worked together to organise a consultation
- Lobbied for some funding
- Engaged AndMe consultancy
- Held consultation on 8 June 2019
- Concurrent workshop with mothers/carers focused on needs of children
- Submitted the results to the State Strategy

The Process

Considerations:

- FDV is a difficult topic
- Choosing appropriate activities
- Consent



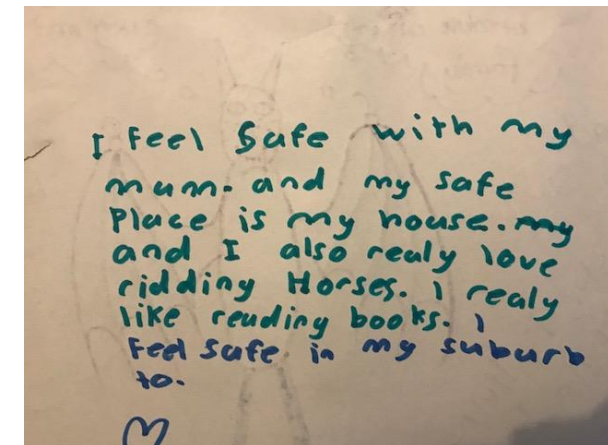
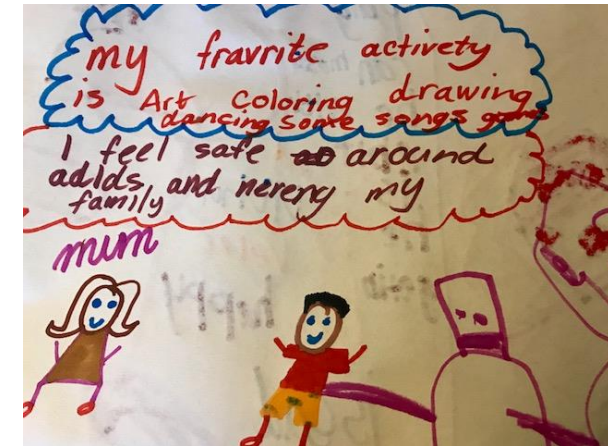
Activities

- Warm up game
- Picture collage
- Running game
- Best and worst
- Being the boss



What children said about feeling safe

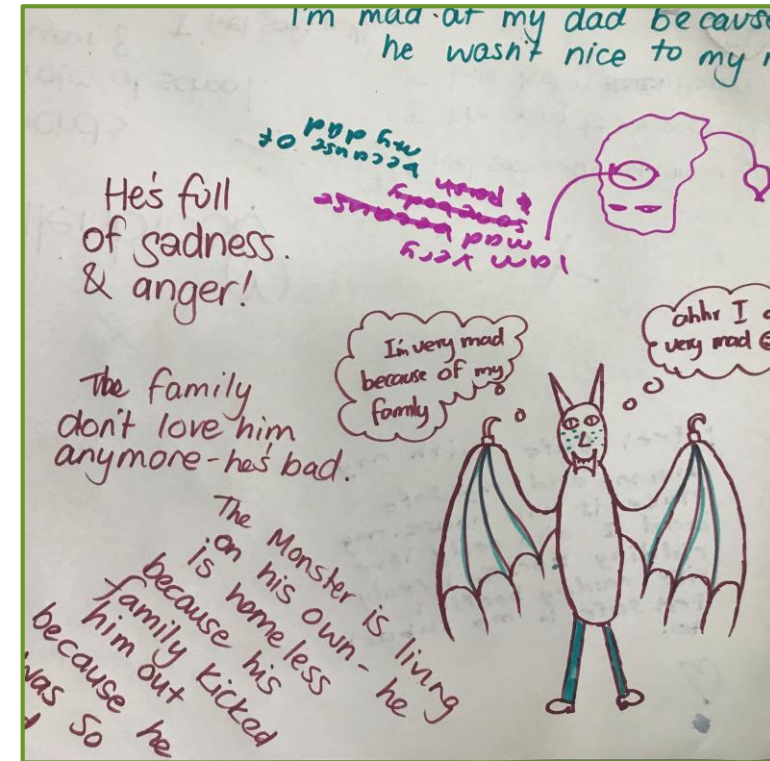
- Family keeps them safe and happy
- Enjoy company – other people and friends
- Enjoy being outside and outside activities
- Seeking help from parents, teachers at school and own friends
- Bullying and having no friends as a concern

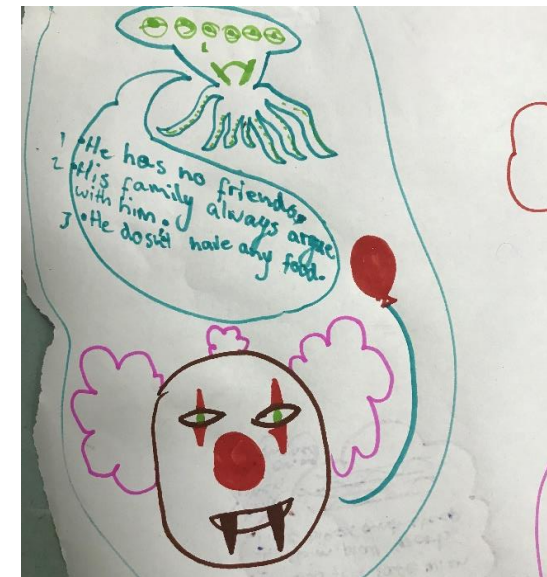
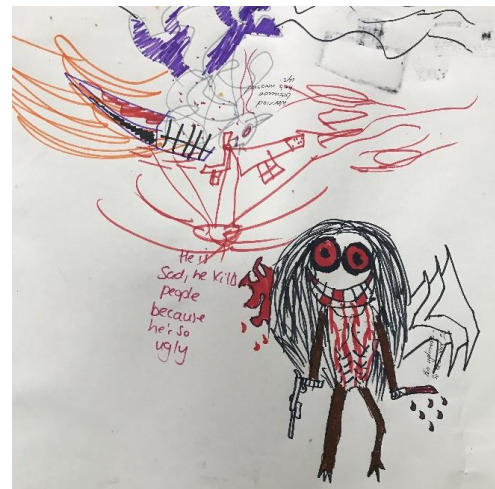
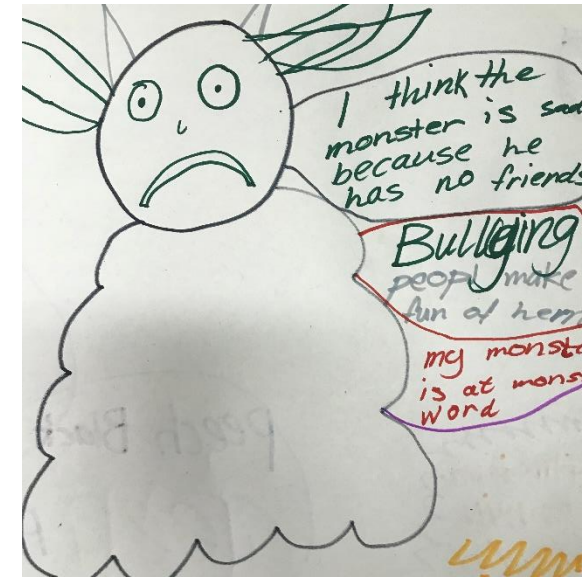
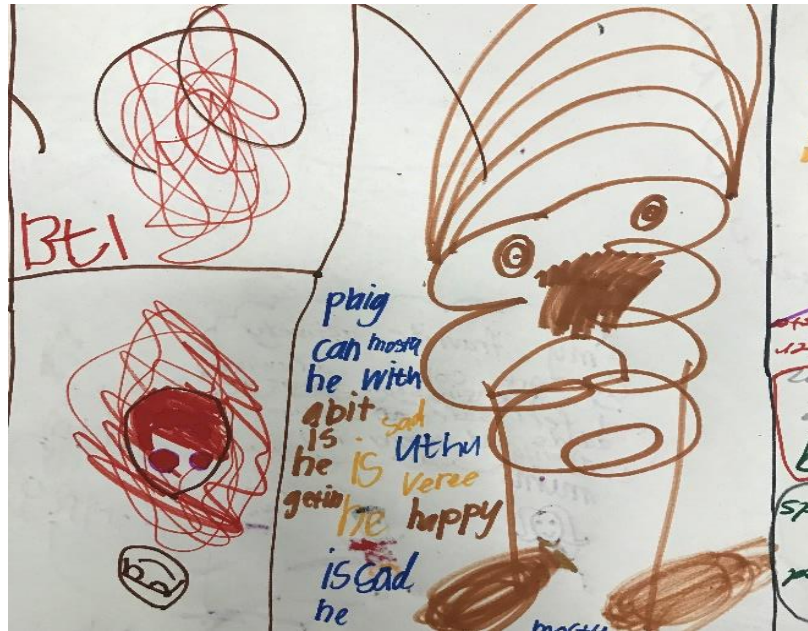


What children said about feeling unsafe

'The Monster':

- He has no friends
- The monster is living on his own
- I'm mad at my dad





What the mothers/carers said

- Child Support and Centrelink
- Conflict for mums between family as a whole and needs of children; high stress time
- Children need their dads
- Hurt or shame
- Support groups for children post refuge
- Role of schools
- Service/support gaps for children 12+
- Joint programs for mums and kids
- Need more Aboriginal and CaLD counselling/groups
- School holiday programs (outreach)
- Mentoring and positive roles models for boys.
- Supported play groups



Next steps

- Training staff (advocates and managers) to embed consultation in our practice
- Implications for practice – programs, environment
- Implications for the Strategy and policy generally – how do we get children and young people's voices heard
- Funding formulas more reflective of need/client numbers.

Thanks to:

Department of Communities

AndMe Consulting

