

# Research on Issues for Men in the Bellingen-Coffs Harbour area

## Questionnaire to Spouses/Partners of men

### INTRODUCTION

We are students studying the Diploma in Community Welfare Work at the North Coast Institute of TAFE in Coffs Harbour. As part of our studies, we have been given the task to undertake research on the issues and needs of men in the Bellingen-Coffs Harbor local government areas by the Life Skills for Blokes Project at The Neighbourhood House Inc. based at Boambee East Community Centre. Part of this research is also to see if there is a need for a men's support service in the area, and if so how it would be best provided.

### CONFIDENTIALITY & USE OF INFORMATION FROM RESEARCH

All information obtained from this questionnaire will be kept strictly confidential.

No person, organization or group will be able to be identified in results or reports that arise from the research.

Information arising from the research will be owned by The Neighbourhood House Inc. and will be used in accordance with the organisation's policies concerning information use and confidentiality.

Please return this questionnaire by **12/11/09** to: **Men's Research P.O. Box 335, Toormina NSW 2452**

If you have any questions or require more information about the research, please contact:

**Lloyd Francis or Sue Butler**  
**The Neighbourhood House Inc.**  
**Boambee East Community Centre**  
**Ph.: 6658.4655**  
**Email: [lifeskillsforblokes@bigpond.com](mailto:lifeskillsforblokes@bigpond.com)**  
**or [nh.becc@bigpond.net.au](mailto:nh.becc@bigpond.net.au)**

**Roger Horton**  
**Teacher, Community Services Welfare**  
**North Coast Institute Of TAFE**  
**Coffs Harbour Education Campus**  
**Ph.: 6659.3348**  
**Email: [roger.horton@tafensw.edu.au](mailto:roger.horton@tafensw.edu.au)**

### DEFINITIONS

**Men** - means all men 18 years and over

**Spouse/partner** - current or past partners of men

**Coffs Harbour Local Government Area** covers all of the area bounded by the following localities:

- North – Barcoongere, Halfway Creek, Red Rock, Corindi Beach & Woolgoolga
- North-west – Upper Corindi, Sherwood & Nana Glen
- West – Lowanna, Ulong, Brooklana & Upper Orara
- South – Bonville & Bundagen

**Bellingen Local Government Area** covers all of the area bounded by the following localities:

- North – Repton, Valery, Crossmaglen, Promised Land & Glenniffer
- North-west – Buffer Creek, Never Never, Megan, Brooklana Siding, Cascade, Briggsvale, Tallowood Ridge & Paddys Plain
- West – Bostobrick, Muldiva, Meldrum Downs, Deervale, Brinerville, Darkwood & Orama
- South-west – Upper Kalang & Kalang,
- South – Spicketts Creek, Brierfield, Tarkeeth, Newry & Picketts Hill
- East – Wenonah Head, Urunga & Mylestom

## Questionnaire to Spouses/Partners of men

**Age**                      What is your age? (please circle)

17 & under   18-24            25-34            35-44            45-54            55-64            65-74            75-84            85+

---

**Postcode of where you live:**   2441    2450    2452    2453    2454    2455    2456    Other: .....

---

### Country Of Birth/Cultural Identity

Were you born in:    Australia                      another country (Please state country) .....

Are you from an Aboriginal background    Torres Strait Islander background    ?                      YES                      NO

If you identify with a specific culture or religion, could you please state which one:

.....

---

**Marital Status**    Are you ..?:                      De-facto/Married/Partnered                      Not living with my partner at moment  
(Please circle)                      Separated                      Divorced                      Widowed

---

**Dependants**            Do you have children under the age of 18 years? (Please circle)                      YES                      NO

If you are the primary carer of these children, could you state their ages: .....

If you care for any other dependants, could you please give details (e.g. adult daughter with disability)?

.....

---

### Employment Status (Please circle)

Not employed/not seeking work                      Retired                      Undertaking voluntary work

Employed fulltime                      Employed part-time                      Employed casual

---

**Occupation**

What is your occupation or voluntary work? (Please state)

.....

---

**What is the highest level of education that you have achieved?** (please circle)

Left before Year 10 or equivalent

School Certificate (Year 10) or equivalent

Higher School Certificate (Year 12) or equivalent

Trade Certificate

Diploma

University Degree

Post-university graduate studies

---

**What do you see as some of the major issues facing men today, particularly in the Bellingen-Coffs Harbour area? Why?** (Please state)

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

---

**What do you see are the consequences for the community, as a whole, about men having the above issues?** (Please state)

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....





**If men that you know come to you for help, can you please describe some of the reasons why they came to you seeking help?** (Please state)

.....

.....

.....

.....

---

**Where, or to whom, do other men go for help about issues in their lives?:**

(Please circle if applicable)

Don't Know	Other men don't have any issues in their life	Other men don't go anywhere – they keep it to themselves	They go to their spouses/partners	Their friends
------------	---	--	-----------------------------------	---------------

*ISSUE*

(or write below)

*WHERE OTHER MEN SEEK HELP*

.....

.....

.....

.....

---

**What stops men that you know using health or community services or groups generally?** (Please circle)

This question is irrelevant - men use health and community services/groups

Men think that they have no need to use them

Men aren't really aware of services

There are no relevant services available for men

Service opening times do not suit men

Services don't feel welcoming to men

Men's own embarrassment

Services are not private enough for men

Staff of services are mostly/all women

Other: (please state): .....

**Do you think there is a need for a male-specific community agency in Bellingen-Coffs Harbour area?**

(Please circle)      YES              NO

**Please explain why you have answered YES or NO?** .....

.....  
.....  
.....

---

**If you believe that there is a need for a male-specific community agency in Bellingen-Coffs Harbour area, what 5 services, do you believe, that it should definitely provide?**

(Please read all options first then circle **5** only      or write others below)

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Crisis accommodation                                 | Material and basic aid (e.g. clothing, food vouchers, furniture) |   |
| Anger management                                     | Communication skills   | Relationships                                     |
| Fathering/parenting                                  | Family services  | Living skills (e.g. cooking, cleaning, budgeting) |
| Employment/unemployment                              | Financial  | Legal   |
| Gambling   | Drug & alcohol   | Counselling                                       |
| Loss & Grief   | Mental health/depression   | Suicide   |
| Information on other (including government) services | Referral to other services                                       | Advocacy  |
| A venue where groups of men can meet in private      | Recreation/social activities for men                             |   |

Health support and services (please state which services): .....

Education/training/workshops on (please state topics): .....  
specific topics of interest to men

Other (please state): .....

.....  
.....  
.....

**If there was a male-specific community agency in Bellingen-Coffs Harbour area providing the services you have identified above, are there any tips you could give on how it should operate? (e.g. from your experience, what strategies and processes work with men) (please state):**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

---

**Do you have any other comments that you would like to make:** .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

---

*Thank you for filling in this questionnaire.  
Your answers will go towards assisting local men and the wider community.*

---

**Are you interested in the results of this research? If so, could you please include contact details:**

.....

.....

**Please return this questionnaire  
by: 12/11/09  
to: Men’s Research, P.O. Box 335, Toormina NSW 2452**