

FACES and PLACES

Hairdressers with Hearts making a difference

A NEW training program rolling out across the region will equip local hair, beauty and massage professionals with the skills to recognise signs of domestic violence and elder abuse during their clients' routine visits.

Up to 40 individuals across the four industries will now have the chance to complete an accredited online training program through the Hairdressers with Hearts organisation thanks to funding from Sunshine Coast Council.

The program received a huge push from the Speak Up Now - Stop Domestic Violence Maleny and Blackall Range group, which originally made the request to council after hosting a successful forum that included a guest speaker from Hairdressers with Hearts. One of the group's founders, Val France, said the program consisted of nine short

modules and took less than an hour to complete. It outlines ways to pick up on signs and start a conversation.

"Upon completion the trainee receives a certificate of completion, some resources for use in their salon/clinic such as water bottles and aprons, as well as a window sticker. They also receive Queensland-wide informational resources to use for referring clients to services for professional support," Val said.

"Additionally, the hairdresser receives membership and accreditation through Hairdressers with Hearts and is able to add their name to an online list of accredited hairdressers.

"The Speak Up Now group will also be providing them with information of organisations around the Sunshine Coast who can provide people with more local advice and assistance," Val said.

Ten local hairdressers, five barbers, one beautician and one massage therapist have registered for the online training with 11 of them already completing it. Morgan Winter, owner of The Crooked Fringe hairdressing salon in Witta, and Kim Knight, owner of K & S Barbers in Maleny, were the first to complete the training. Both Morgan and Kim said they now felt comfortable handling difficult conversations with their clients, something Val says has been the case with everyone who has completed the training so far.

"All the hairdressers, barbers and beauticians have told me that over the years they have seen a high number of clients who they believe were victims of either domestic violence or elder abuse," Val said.

"They know their long-term clients and

with Jack Waters



My Barber has a Heart



Kayla, Brooke, Morgan and Rhonda from Crooked Fringe

recognise the changes in them between appointments. They now feel comfortable being able to do something positive and practical to help those clients.

"Therefore, we would like to encourage all other local hairdressers, barbers, beauticians and massage therapists to also register for the online training so they can be in a stronger position to help out any of their clients who may be victims of domestic violence or elder abuse," Val said.

If you are a local hair, beauty or massage professional and are interested in undertaking the free accredited online training, send an email to speakupnowstopdomesticviolence@gmail.com for more information.

The following businesses are now Hairdressers with Hearts certified:

- Crooked Fringe
- Organic Hair
- Maleny Hair and Beauty
- K&S Barbers
- Barbers of Maleny



Katharine and Vicky from Maleny Hair and Beauty



K&S Barbers Stevie and Kim



Barbers of Maleny Renee Harris, Rob Salaun and Megan Hayes



Yvette from Organic Hair on Ocean

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Calling hairdressers, barbers, beauty and massage therapists

HAVE you ever wondered how you can help clients who disclose they are victims of domestic violence? Or how you could identify and help a client who is later abused by their partner or family?

Help is at hand.

Sunshine Coast Council has funded the Speak Up Now - Stop Domestic and Family Violence group in Maleny and the Blackall Range to train hairdressers, barbers and beauty and massage therapists to assist these clients.

The training consists of several short online modules that can fit around other commitments and take less than 50 minutes to complete.

The training has been written by Hairdressers with Hearts, an organisation based on Bribie Island that has gained international recognition for its training. Participants who complete the training will receive Hairdressers with Hearts accreditation and resources for their salon/business and referral information for clients.

Hairdressers, barbers and beauty and massage therapists are uniquely placed as they spend one-on-one time with clients and are often the only place where domestic violence victims can be on their own, without a controlling partner.

They are ideally placed to identify signs of abuse and point clients in the right direction to get help.

Given the significant number of women in Australia who report domestic abuse at some stage during their lives, and that nearly all of them visit hairdressers and beauty and massage therapists, all these professionals are seeing domestic violence victims on a regular basis, whether they realise it or not.

Men can also be victims of domestic and family violence, so the training includes a module specifically for barbers.

Locals working in these industries are encouraged to sign up for this free training and clients can contact speakupnowstopdomesticviolence@gmail.com

The Speak Up Now group is a collaboration between the Maleny Neighbourhood Centre, the Rotary Club of Maleny and Zonta Blackall Range. The aim is to reduce the number of domestic and family violence incidents within the community by raising awareness of what individuals can do to help children, women and men to live a life free of violence and abuse.

www.facebook.com/SpeakUpNowEndFamilyViolenceMalenyandBlackallRange