Aboriginal women from Alice Springs Town Camps are calling on all Australians to recognise and support their efforts to make their families and communities safer.

Women from the Tangentyere Women’s Family Safety Group (TWFG) say they are frustrated by the increasing invisibility of Aboriginal women despite the high rates of domestic violence they face.

TWFG Co-coordinator Shirleen Campbell said women from Town Camps were tired of being overlooked and not heard by the wider community on issues such as family and domestic violence.

“We are planning a Women’s Action on Tuesday July 11 in Alice Springs to highlight the Aboriginal women and children and families who are living with, injured by or dying because of violence.” Ms Campbell said.

“We want to honour and remember them and make sure they are seen as real people not just statistics. We will be marching to the court house lawns where we want to plant symbolic flowers representing all these women and to make them real and visible.

“We are asking Alice Springs and people all around Australia to stand with us women, support our voice and hear our stories.

“Don’t let Aboriginal women experiencing domestic violence be invisible.”

The Tangentyere Women’s Family Safety Group would like to invite everyone in Alice Springs on July 11 from 11am, 2017 to join their Action March. You can also show your support on the Facebook Page “Tangentyere Women’s Family Safety Group and Twitter with the hashtags: #standwithuswomen #istandwithyou
Training at Larapinta Community Centre

Over 2 days (15th and 16th May 2017), 14 women from Larapinta Town Camp participated in Family Violence and Family Safety Training. This is the second time that the Tangentyere Women’s Family Safety Group (TWFG) has had the opportunity to work alongside strong women from Larapinta Town Camp. The relationship, training, two-way learning and work between the TWFG members and women from Larapinta Town Camp is important and the TWFG will return to offer more training at Larapinta soon at request of community members.

Rhonda Sharp, Dulcie Raggett, Marlene Rubuntja, Sonja Petrick, Rosabella Ryder, Trudy Inkamala, Danielle Holmes, Jessica Petrick, Roxanne Oliver, Roxanne Petrick, Dulcie Sharpe, Krishana Petrick, Shanita Petrick and Carmila Petrick were participants in this latest round of training at Larapinta Community Centre. Congratulations ladies for all of your hard work and enthusiasm—we will see you again soon!

The sessions were:
1) Where we come from and being proud of our culture that is both shared and unique.
2) What it means to be respectful to yourself and to others.
3) “Hurt people sometimes hurt people”. Lateral Violence—What happens when we are all fighting each other?
4) What could it look like if we as women all support each other? Group agreement of how we support each other?

The TWFG want to say congratulations and that we are SO PROUD of all of the students from Yirara who all worked so hard and had fun!
From the 28th June 2017-30th June 2017, organisations from around Australia who have been working on a wide variety of projects within their community aimed at developing and implementing practical solutions to reduce violence against women and their children, came together in Alice Springs to share their work and experiences.

These organisations, including Tangentyere, are funded under the “Building Safer Communities for Women” grants from the Department of Social Services (DSS) while Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety (ANROWS) has been contracted by DSS to support the projects to undertake action research.

Members of the Tangentyere Women’s Family Safety Group met with the workshop participants to share experiences and stories of their work and hear stories of others from around the country in a two-way learning experience. Thank you to all participants for sharing your enthusiasm and amazing work!

NPY Women’s Council Youth & Domestic Violence Teams’ and Tangentyere Women’s Family Safety Group: Sharing & Learning

On the 4th May 2017, Tangentyere Women’s Family Safety Group (TWFSG) Coordinators (Shirleen Campbell and Carmel Simpson) shared some of the training resources and sessions that have been developed by the Tangentyere Family Violence Prevention Program teams. This was an opportunity for sharing and two-way learning between the two Aboriginal Organisations’ and an opportunity to further develop the connections and relationships between staff working in the area of Family and Domestic Violence in Alice Springs and the remote communities of NPY WC region.

The TWFSG look forward to learning, working and sharing more alongside the NPY WC in an important partnership working across the areas of response, early intervention and primary prevention in Family & Domestic Violence and Women and Children’s safety.

Indigenous Family Violence Policing Conference

Team members from the Tangentyere Family Violence Prevention Program were invited to present at the 2017 Indigenous Family Violence Policing Conference from the 7th-9th June 2017.

Maree Corbo, (Tangentyere Family Violence Prevention Program Manager) Shirleen Campbell (Co-coordinator of the Tangentyere Women’s Family Safety Group), Sadie Richards (Tangentyere Women’s Family Safety Group Member), Carmel Simpson (Co-coordinator of the Tangentyere Women’s Family Safety Group), Eliza Arbaci (Senior Group Facilitator for the Tangentyere Men’s Behaviour Change Program) and Richard Farrell (Manager –Tangentyere Social Services Division) all presented at this conference and highlighted some of the work that is being done in the area of primary prevention and early intervention in Family and Domestic Violence by Aboriginal communities and Tangentyere Aboriginal Council in this area. — Contact carmel.simpson@tangentyere.org.au for more information.

Please contact Carmel Simpson for more information on Family Safety and Family Violence Prevention Training for clients or staff.

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0411955837
Behind the scenes!

Some of the Tangentyere Women’s Family Safety Group behind preparation for the Action March. The Action March is being led by Town Camp Women to shine a light on the work that Aboriginal Women are doing in the area of primary prevention of Family and Domestic Violence and to increase visibility of Aboriginal Women’s.