

Collecting women's stories of their experience of life after bushfire

Violence can be physical, emotional, financial, spiritual (what else Claire?)

Are you experiencing violence from someone close to you? Is this somehow different from before the bushfires?

*Women who are experiencing violence at home can believe it is nothing compared to what others are suffering. They can also see, sometimes, that their partner does **not normally** behave like this and that it's a reaction to stress.*

Because the 2009 bushfires caused so much suffering and loss women experiencing violence in their relationships can feel that it's not important compared to the suffering of others.

We think it is important.

*Women tend to put their **own needs last**, and think that others have greater needs and are more deserving of help or services.*

*International research suggests that violence against women and children increases after a disaster and that **women often don't talk** about it or seek services.*

*Your story **can help** improve services to women and children and increase understanding about what can happen after a disaster.*

- ❑ **What aspects of trying to recover from the bushfires would you like to raise?**
- ❑ **Have interventions and assistance been helpful or caused problems?**
- ❑ **Have you experienced violence since the Black Saturday bushfires?**
- ❑ **What are the obstacles to you rebuilding your life?**

For more information or to make a time to share your story in a confidential and private setting (chosen by you), please call Karen O'Connor at Women's Health Goulburn North East on 03 5722 3009 or email on whealth@whealth.com.au

We can arrange for an interview at a time and place that suits you. Participants will be reimbursed for their time & travel.

