

Cops home in on violence

Taskforce | Anna Prytz

A NEW police taskforce will crack down on family violence.

As part of Victoria Police's model to improve services and assistance to victims, a specific family violence unit will operate for every local government area.

Box Hill Divisional Tasking Unit will have four sergeants dedicated to Manningham, Monash, Boroondara and Whitehorse.

Sen-Sgt Allan Manhire said the program would yield results.

"I think it's good to be continually trying new methods to assist and better handle these situations," he said.

Chief commissioner Ken Lay said the strong stance was due to the number of incidents painting "an alarming picture of the violence in Victorian homes."

Police statistics showed Manningham had 317 reported incidents in 2009/10, with 69 resulting in charges.

"Having these divisional resources increase our ability to react quickly," Sen-Sgt Manhire said.

Doncare clinical services manager Carmel O'Brien said a specialist unit was a great idea.

"It will allow the officers to develop a level of expertise to make their responses more consistent and appropriate," she said.

"Often women have to deal with constant changeover in who handles their case, so this will be wonderful and not a moment too soon."