

City needs help to curb violence

A DOMESTIC violence victim believes more offenders' counselling programs could have spared her abuse.

Jane (not her real name) said she was abused while living in Bulleen and that her now ex-husband had twice tried to get help but gave up because it was "too difficult".

"He has gone on to reoffend, too, so it's not just me it would have helped," she said.

The men's behaviour change group at Box Hill's Whitehorse Community Health Service is the nearest to Manningham.

Program manager Chris Grace said there had been two unsuccessful attempts to create offender services in Manningham.

Mr Grace said the programs were invaluable to protecting families, but there was a "lot of work to get these things off the ground" not recognised by Department of Human Services funding.

DHS spokesman Graeme Walker said there were several men's behaviour change groups in the east, and evidence showed many offenders preferred to go outside their municipality to avoid identification.

GROUPS

■ **Anglicare Victoria, Lilydale – 9735 4188**

■ **Eastern Health, Healesville - 1300 130 381**

■ **Whitehorse Community Health Service, Box Hill – 9890 2220**

■ **Monashlink Community Health Service, Hughesdale/Chadstone – 1300 552 509**

■ **Relationships Australia, Croydon – 9725 9964, Kew - 9261 8700**

■ **No To Violence – 9428 3536 and www.ntv.net.au**