**ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

**FACE OF ACE**

Introducing Kelly Barrett

Kelly Barrett is a Program Manager at the Zahra Foundation. She has extensive experience supporting women and children affected by domestic and family violence from her previous role as a domestic violence support worker.

Eighteen months ago, Kelly developed the Adult Community Education (ACE) Pathways to Empowerment program, a 9-week, trauma-informed group learning program targeting women who have experienced domestic violence. The program assists women disconnected from the workforce or educational opportunities due to domestic violence, to identify their skills, strengths, values and interests and apply this learning to the development of a pathway or action plan.

Kelly works from a client centred and trauma informed model and understands the diverse needs of her client group, supporting the women both in group settings and on an individual basis. Kelly is approachable and genuine in her concern for women’s safety which is always at the forefront of her work. Kelly goes above and beyond her role as trainer and facilitator, by ensuring that all participants are pre-interviewed prior to the program commencing to identify any barriers or other concerns. She keeps in constant communication with all students to keep them engaged and motivated.

Most women who complete Pathways to Empowerment achieve their goals with many moving into vocational education and training. Several participants have enrolled in university and returned to the workforce as a result of their participation in the program.

Kelly has created referral pathways for women into mentoring programs with the Education Network and supports each client to ensure they have the tools to achieve their goals and take the next steps. The support Kelly gives her clients assists them to life changing confidence and independence.

Kelly was recently named 2018 Adult Educator/Mentor of the Year in the Adult Learners’ Week Awards.