

## **AWARE.ORG Vinpro Foundation Wine Project**

A holistic approach to combating alcohol/ substance abuse, alcohol addiction, binge drinking and related social issues.

The Vinpro Foundation established by Vinpro in 2013 seeks to support functional, productive livelihoods in the Winelands. The Foundation focuses on three aspects namely;

- Ethical Trade
- Leadership & Skills development
- Harm reduction & Early Childhood Development

The AWARE.ORG Vinpro Foundation Wine Project is supported under the Harm Reduction & Early Childhood Development umbrella. The project was launched in 2011 in Perdeberg area and has since expanded to; Robertson, Ashton & the Breedekloof & Worcester. In 2018 the project was further expanded to reach the following areas; Paarl, Wellington, Riebeek- Kasteel, Malmesbury, Stellenbosch, Somerset West, Elgin, Bot River and Hermanus.

The approach?

A registered experienced social worker offers their services to Vinpro Member Cellars & Farms with valid ethical accreditation certificates from the following organisations;

- WIETA - Wine and Agricultural Ethical Trading Association
- SIZA - Sustainability Initiative of South Africa
- Fair Trade
- FFL – Fair for Life
- BSCI – Business Social Compliance Initiative Fair Trade

What does the service include?

- Group awareness sessions (children, teenagers, adults the elderly)
- Group training sessions
- Individual counselling
- Crèche Facilitator Training
- Crèche/Aftercare monitoring

All of these sessions are offered continuously over a long period of time (i.e. more than 12 months)

Holistic?

The approach ensures that the issues are tackled on several levels each with their own lasting change mechanisms.

Individual level – through individual counselling, allowing for resonance & reflection

Interpersonal level – through modelling, creating a reference group & support

Community level – through solidarity around the issue and changing community norms through action

Organisation level – through the increase in community and employer awareness.

Macro level – through legislation enforcement e.g. child protection services

Traceability?

Group session training agendas, signed registers, photos and monthly reports and statistics are compiled by the Social Workers.

Confidentiality?

All social workers on the project are registered (renewed annually) with the South African Council for Social Service Professions (SASSP) and may not share any sensitive identifying information with any third part. All individual counselling sessions remain private between the Social Worker and client, by law.

Monitoring?

Qualitative monthly interviews are conducted with the recipients (Farm Workers, Residents, Cellar Workers, Farm Owners and Cellar Managers) of the services to ensure that the service is effective and meeting stakeholder needs.

Quantitative in the numbers of individuals reached, sessions held, hours of service are collected monthly.

Cost to Producer?

No cost towards the services.

The Producer/Cellar is required to set time aside (within work hours, excluding lunch or other breaks) for their employees to attend the group sessions and or individual counselling. The Producer/ Cellar also has to allow access to the crèche and aftercare facilities on their properties.

The social worker may require the use of the Producer or Cellar facilities (sanitation) & equipment including; photo copy machine/printer (for the registers & session materials).

For more information on the Vinpro Foundation visit [www.vinprofoundation.org.za](http://www.vinprofoundation.org.za) or contact us on 021 276 0500 or email [info@vinprofoundation.org.za](mailto:info@vinprofoundation.org.za)

### **Frequently asked questions (FAQ's):**

#### ***1. How will I know when the social worker is coming to the farm/cellar?***

Social workers must contact the producer at least one week in advance to plan a visit to ensure that the groups/individuals are available. Social workers have to compile a schedule for each area and the sessions take place on fixed days or as agreed with the Producer.

#### ***2. Will I get to see what the sessions are about?***

The group sessions and material may be shared with the Producer upon request. Producers find it useful to use the training as a reference when dealing with issues post training.

The nature and content of the individual counselling sessions may not be shared with any third party including the Vinpro Foundation, AWARE.ORG and Producer or Cellar staff or management.

#### ***3. Can the social worker assist me during disciplinary hearings?***

No, the social worker is not contracted to assist with Human Resource functions. If there are issues in the work place e.g. conflict. The Producer may request the social worker to do group training on conflict resolution, if alcohol abuse is suspected to be a leading cause.

#### **4. How will I know if the Social Worker is registered?**

You can request the Social Workers SASSP/ SA Council for Social Service Professions number and search for their number on the SASSP website: <https://www.sacssp.co.za/Public/Find> or call 012 3568333.

#### **5. The Social Worker assigned to my farm/ cellar is behaving unethically, to whom should I report them to?**

You can report them directly to the Vinpro Foundation by calling 021 276 0500 or email [info@vinprofoundation.org.za](mailto:info@vinprofoundation.org.za)

#### **6. It is Saturday evening and there has been an alcohol abuse related incident on my farm which has led to hospitalisation / loss of life, may I contact the social worker for urgent community trauma counselling?**

The social workers will always try to be as responsive as possible especially for emergency cases. We do however ask that the producer or cellar only make contact with the social worker only during work hours Mon – Fri from 08:00 – 16:30. The social worker can then adjust planned visits for the following week according to the needs.

#### **7. The social worker is asking me about issues related to the WIETA code, is this part of their mandate?**

Social workers on the project are required to familiarise themselves with the WIETA codes of good practice. Should they notice any WIETA code violations, then they are mandated to inform the Vinpro Foundation. We will discuss the matter further with the Producer/ Cellar.

#### **8. Its harvest or pruning time, we cannot afford to set aside time for the visits. What do we do?**

The social worker must plan according to the time of the year e.g. December break or the time of the season e.g. harvest or suckering or pruning. During these times the social worker will spend more time with the unemployed persons living on the farm together with the elderly, children & crèche facilitators.

The work of the social worker should not be disruptive to the daily running's of the farm / cellar.

#### **9. Do the social workers offer their services in English or Afrikaans?**

All social workers on the project are bilingual and can offer the service in both English and Afrikaans. Unfortunately we currently unable to offer the service in the other official languages.