Women praised for 'fantastic work'

THE work of 15 female educators who taught young women how to avoid violent relationships was acclaimed as "fantastic" at a recent ceremony.

The Liverpool Women's Health Centre, Women Educating Each Other, Women In Safe and Equal Relationships (WEEO WISER) program has trained the educators to lead workshops,

At these workshops, schoolgirls and young women are told what constitutes abuse and mistreatment.

Project co-ordinator Sonia Hoffman said the health centre congratulated the educators on what they had done.

"They have completed a nine-day training program and have run at least one five-session workshop program at a local high school," Ms Hoffman said.

Graduating educator Allysha Ellicott said she got involved in the program because she wanted to make a difference.

"It's important for girls to understand the serious nature of violence and the difference between love and control," Ms Ellicott said.

"The workshops have been received very enthusiastically. The girls seem to relate really well to someone who is like them talking about something of direct and personal relevance in a safe, non-judgemental way."

The project has been evaluated with the support of the University of Western Sydney.

The results have shown that participation in the program is having a marked beneficial impact on girls whose knowledge, behaviour and attitudes have now improved.