

Facing up to violence

Mandalina Stanisich always remembers the moment her friend shared his own dark tale of family violence.

Her friend told her how he upset his stepfather once and his mother had to shield him from his attempt to punch him. He ran to the safety of his bedroom.

He shared his grim story with her 25 years ago.

Family violence was something the former South Auckland resident hadn't thought about until then.

Ms Stanisich is highlighting the issue of domestic violence with an art installation mini roadshow. Its first stop is Botany Town Centre.

A punching bag inside a glass case sitting on artificial grass is on display at the town centre until October 31.

Different elements of the sculpture represent Ms Stanisich's interpretation of family violence.

The badly beaten bag, held together with tatty tape, represents the old scars of the past.

Chains evoke the fear and uncertainty of leaving the violent situation. There is even a water drop which trickles down the glass to represent the sadness of the household.

A baby's rattle sits at the bottom to show how



Powerful message: An art installation to create awareness about family violence is on show at Botany Town Centre.

children are affected by violence.

The installation was originally displayed in Downtown Square in the city last November.

Ms Stanisich says people hugged and cried around the sculpture.

The domestic violence art installation is touring Auckland for five weeks.

Other stops include Sylvia Park and its final

destination is Auckland Hospital.

The installation aims to build awareness of domestic violence happening in all parts of society and to highlight White Ribbon Day on November 25.

■ Go to givealittle.co.nz/cause/DVArtInstallMiniRoadshow to help support the costs of the awareness campaign.