



PVAW STRATEGY

WOMEN'S HEALTH LODDON MALLEE CASE STUDY

BACKGROUND

Women's Health Loddon Mallee is continuing to build regional capacity for aligned and strengthened action towards Gender Equality and the Primary prevention of violence against women.

WOMEN'S HEALTH IN ACTION

Women's Health Loddon Mallee (WHLM) is committed to pursuing social justice for women and girls in the Loddon Mallee region. We do this by building capacity for aligned and strengthened action for the Primary prevention of violence against women. We mobilise and support action towards Gender Equality through health promotion, with a focus on human rights, the social determinants of health and evidence-based practice.

WHLM continues to promote social inclusion and broaden our collective understanding of the diverse intersections of women's experience of discrimination and violence through collaboration, acknowledging and contributing to the collective momentum generated by decades of commitment and activism across the region.

WHLM provides access to resources, information, opportunities for learning and enhancing evidence-based practice in Primary prevention. We continue to support Family Violence networks, providing guidance in primary prevention efforts and applying a gender lens to discussions, and planning. WHLM provided resources to assist in the 2019 16 days of activism campaign which were used by participants of the Mount Alexander FV Prevention Networks' Respect Ambassador program. This year we provided training opportunities in the areas of Gender Equality and Respect, Bystander Action, and Workplace Equality and Respect.



ADVOCACY, STRATEGIC PLANNING & PARTNERSHIP

WHLM advocates for women to be equally included in all levels of politics, especially local and regional decision making. WHLM has developed Gender Equality (GE) fact sheets to place women's leadership and GE on the forefront of the region's agenda. WHLM works to achieve positive sexual and reproductive health (SRH) outcomes for women through our SRH strategy Her Health Matters. Our well women's clinic, open to women of the region, offers cervical screening; STI screening, women's health advice and unplanned pregnancy options counselling.

We promote a coordinated approach to planning around the primary prevention of violence against women, and as the backbone organisation provide a region wide document to support this collective approach. *The Loddon Mallee Action Plan for the Primary Prevention of Violence Against Women 2016-2019* set the groundwork for a re-imagining of our next regional plan. *The Roadmap for Respect and Equality and the primary prevention of violence against women 2020-2025* provides a shared vision and clear priority areas to support organisations, community groups and networks in the region to link and align and collaboratively contribute. Through The Roadmap, WHLM continues to build and enable community and workforce connection, knowledge, and evidence based approaches to assist the development of network action plans.

WHLM link, align, connect, and strengthen primary prevention work across the region in partnership with Primary Care Partnership, Local government, Family Violence networks and community groups. We provide a unique and specialised focus on women, and girls of all ages, abilities, sexualities, cultural and gender identities, advocating for the systemic structural, cultural, and attitudinal change that needs to occur to achieve gender equality. This work would be impossible without the valued partnership approach, aligned priorities and the commitment of those organisations in the region actioning initiatives in the primary prevention of violence against women.

Below: WHLM hosted an Unpacking resistance training event well attended by practitioners from Mt Alexander, Central Goldfields and Macedon Ranges in August 2019

