

Partnership to Prevent Family Violence in South Gippsland and Bass Coast - Strategic Plan 2022

VISION: An inclusive, equitable and respectful community where everyone is free from violence

Our story so far

Established in 2015, the South Coast Partnership to Prevent Men's Violence against Women brings together members representing State and Local Government, Health Services and community agencies. The partnership members collaborate, share resources, tailor and deliver prevention activities that create positive change in our local community.

Outcomes: What Success looks like

Our community has attitudes and beliefs that reject gender inequality, family violence and violence against women **
Our community actively challenges attitudes and behaviours that enable violence**
Our homes, sporting clubs, organisations, workplaces, schools and communities are safe and inclusive **
Our community live and practice confident and respectful relationships**
Our community has women in leadership roles
All partner members are trained and have the capacity and capability to deliver primary prevention programs

WHO we are?

Bass Coast Health
Bass Coast Shire Council
Gippsland Centre Against Sexual Assault
Gippsland Legal Assistance Forum which is comprised of Victoria Legal Aid, Gippsland Community Legal Service, Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service and Djirra
Gippsland Southern Health Service
Gippsland Women's Health
Milpara Community House
Phillip Island Nature Parks
Respectful Relationships (Department Education & Training)
South Coast Primary & Community Partnership
South Gippsland Hospital
South Gippsland Shire Council
The Salvation Army
Westernport Water

WHAT we know

Violence against women is driven by gender inequality**

Bass Coast: 2415 incidents of family violence per 100,000 population***
South Gippsland: 1732 incidents of family violence per 100,000 population***
Victoria: 1385 incidents of family violence per 100,000 population***

In Australia, since the age of 15*;

- 1 in 3 women has experienced physical violence
- 1 in 4 women has experienced physical or sexual violence
- 1 in 5 women has experienced sexual violence
- women with disabilities are 40% more likely to be the victims of family violence than women without disabilities
- 90% of women with an intellectual disability have been subjected to sexual abuse, with 68% having been sexually abused before they turn 18 years of age
- Aboriginal women are 34 times more likely to be hospitalised for family violence

Violence in intimate relationships contributes more to the disease burden for women aged 18 to 44 years than any other risk factor like smoking, alcohol use or being overweight or obese **

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HOW we will work

We will work across the life cycle and in multiple key settings (community, workplaces, schools and sporting clubs) ensuring our prevention work is community led and informed by lived experiences. Our effort will focus on*:

THE GENDERED DRIVERS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- Challenge the condoning of violence against women
- Promote women's independence and decision-making in public life and relationships
- Build new social norms that foster personal identities not constrained by rigid gender stereotypes
- Support men and boys in developing healthy masculinities and positive, supportive male peer relationships

THE UNDERLYING SOCIAL CONTEXT THAT GIVES RISE TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- Promote and normalise gender equality in public and private life
- Address the intersections between gender inequality and other forms of systemic and structural oppression and discrimination, and promote broader social justice
- Build safe, fair and equitable organisations and institutions by focusing on policy and systems change
- Strengthen positive, equal and respectful relations between and among women and men, girls and boys, in public and private spheres

THE REINFORCING FACTORS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- Challenge the normalisation of violence and aggression as an expression of masculinity
- Reduce the long-term impacts of exposure to violence and prevent further exposure
- Strengthen prosocial behaviour
- Plan for, and actively address, backlash and resistance

Actions for 2022

Develop and deliver campaigns in line with the Lets Chat Gippsland brand that increase public knowledge and support attitudinal and behaviour change for;

- International Women's Day
- Orange Round Initiative within sporting clubs
- 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

Strengthen our ability to address intersectionality by increasing representation of diversity on our Partnership

Promote and attend training opportunities such as Making the Link and active bystander training.

Apply for funding as available

Continue to strengthen the Partnership model in collaboration with the Gippsland Free from Violence Coalition