

Media Release

The Hon Vicki Ward MP
Minister for Prevention of Family Violence
Minister for Employment



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ADDRESSING FAMILY VIOLENCE THROUGH SPORT

The Allan Labor Government is supporting local sporting clubs across Victoria to run programs promoting a culture that prevents violence against women and families.

Minister for Prevention of Family Violence Vicki Ward and Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence today announced \$1.2 million through the *Preventing Violence Through Sports Grants* program for the continuation of 12 community-based sporting projects across the state.

The projects include GenWest partnering with the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation and Women's Health Grampians to run a community awareness campaign that champions respectful relationships and prevention of violence against women.

Another program, led by La Trobe University, is working with regional community sport and recreation clubs to help prevent and intervene early to gender-based violence in the Barwon and Loddon Campaspe areas.

Launched in 2021, the program recognises the power of community sport in bringing people together, shaping culture and challenging the attitudes and behaviours that can lead to violence.

Funding will support sporting organisations to engage with all those who participate in community sport, from players and volunteers to coaches and family members - to help facilitate grassroots change.

Examples of action being taken by clubs includes codes of conduct to promote gender equality and equip staff, action plans to encourage early intervention, and policies that normalise players, coaches and families calling out disrespect, sexism and violence when they see it.

The program reached more than 5,200 people in its first year – including almost 2,000 people aged 12-15 – and has significantly strengthened the confidence, skills and sense of responsibility among sporting clubs which often sit at the centre of close-knit communities.

A full list of the organisations running these programs is available at sport.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Prevention of Family Violence Vicki Ward

"Sport has the power to influence and shape positive community attitudes and behaviours which is why the Preventing Violence Through Sports Grants is critically important."

"We are continuing to support clubs in creating respectful and inclusive environments for all members and changing the culture of violence against women and families."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence

"These projects run by sporting clubs across Victoria play a key role in addressing inequality and promoting safe environments for everyone."

"Our community sporting clubs play a vital role in shifting attitudes and promoting positive cultures in local communities that are respectful and free from violence."

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