

Media Release

Mr Danny Pearson MP

Minister for Transport Infrastructure

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Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC



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PREVENTING GENDERED VIOLENCE AT WORK

The Allan Labor Government is creating safer workplaces through a new initiative to prevent work-related gendered violence.

Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC Danny Pearson today launched the WorkWell Respect Network, which will build knowledge among workplace leaders, senior management, unions and employer representatives to prevent and respond to gendered violence in the workplace, including sexual harassment.

WorkSafe Victoria has partnered with the Sir Zelman Cowen Centre at Victoria University to establish the network, which will bring workplaces together through a series of events and opportunities to share evidence, insights, best practice approaches and resources.

Work-related gendered violence includes any behaviour that affects the health and safety of someone because of their gender or sexual orientation, or because they do not conform to gender stereotypes. It can include sexual harassment, stalking, verbal abuse, unwelcome comments or gestures, and even threats or physical violence.

The network will focus on preventing gendered violence experienced by women and non-binary people at the intersection of race, religion, and ethnicity, who work in high-risk industries.

A 2022 Australian Human Rights Commission survey found that one in three people had experienced workplace sexual harassment in the previous five years, and one in five in the previous year. The survey also found that only a third of Australian workers think their organisation is doing enough to combat the issue.

The learning network is part of the \$6.6 million WorkWell Respect Program. The program incorporates the WorkWell Respect Fund, which provides funding to support evidence-based projects to create industry-wide change in health care, education, local government and the legal system.

The 18-month initiative will offer a series of events between July 2024 and February 2025.

For more information, visit wwrn.com.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC Danny Pearson

"There is no place for violence, aggression or sexual harassment at work – all Victorian workers deserve to feel safe and respected in their workplace."

"The WorkWell Respect Network will bring industry leaders together to prevent work-related gendered violence, encouraging workplaces to share their insights and learn from each other."

Quote attributable to WorkSafe Executive Director Health and Safety Sam Jenkin

"Work-related gendered violence, including sexual harassment, is an occupational health and safety issue that every Victorian employer has a duty to prevent and respond to in their workplace."

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