

Media Release

The Hon Natalie Hutchins MP
Minister for Government Services
Minister for Treaty and First Peoples
Minister for Prevention of Family Violence
Minister for Women



Monday, 17 March 2025

AUSTRALIAN FIRST GROUP TO PREVENT VIOLENCE IN BALLARAT

Community members will lead a group co-designing a world-leading 'saturation model' in Ballarat – aiming to stop violence before it starts.

Minister for Prevention of Family Violence Natalie Hutchins today announced the community members who will design the Ballarat model with Respect Victoria. With the first meeting of the group last week, work has begun to drive down rates of family violence and men's violence against women.

Organisations involved include Women's Health Grampians, Ballarat and District Aboriginal Cooperative, City of Ballarat, Western Bulldogs Community Foundation and WRISC Family Violence, as well as individuals from across the community including victim-survivors of family violence.

The four-year program will bring together all parts of the community including sports clubs, schools, workplaces, health services, councils, emergency services and community organisations in a coordinated approach to preventing family violence.

In addition to this the program will deliver stronger referral pathways between prevention programs and specialist responses, so people experiencing violence – or seeing early warning signs – can get the help they need, when and where they need it.

The Allan Labor Government is using every available touch point to reach every corner of the community in Ballarat as we trial this new approach to prevention.

No community is immune to family violence – it's happening across our nation. We know that after the heartbreaking loss of three women last year, the people of Ballarat are more determined than anyone to put an end to violence.

The core co-design group will meet for in-person and online workshops, as well as work with people and organisations across Ballarat to find out what's working and what change could look like.

This model is part of the Labor Government's \$92.8 million *Strengthening Women's Safety Package* announced last year driving action at every stage: responding to victims when violence occurs, delivering a stronger justice response that holds offenders to account and continuing our world-leading prevention response.

For more information on the Ballarat model and core co-design group members, visit respectvictoria.vic.gov.au.

Quote attributable to Minister for Prevention of Family Violence Natalie Hutchins

"This is about every part of the Ballarat community coming together to take action and play a role in creating a thriving regional city where people are safe, equal and respected."

Quote attributable to Member for Wendouree Juliana Addison

"To prevent violence against women in Ballarat, we need local voices to be heard. Thank you to everyone who is offering to be involved."

Quote attributable to Member for Eureka Michaela Settle

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“We’re using every chance to drive action across Ballarat and Victoria, stopping violence before it starts.”

Quote attributable to Member for Ripon Martha Haylett

“This model will be designed by the community, for the community to make change, save lives, and prevent violence against women.”

Quote attributable to Respect Victoria CEO Helen Bolton

“The Ballarat community is so incredibly passionate about stopping violence before it starts, and we have seen this in the number of people who have put their hands up to be part of the working group to help inform the local design of the saturation model.”