

CITY OF MOONEE VALLEY WOMEN'S HEALTH INITIATIVE

BACKGROUND:

In 2007 Moonee Valley began work in the area of preventing violence against women. Initially The Moonee Valley Family Violence Network was established and convened by Council. After a year this group was reviewed and key stakeholders currently meet as a steering group focussed on developing specifically targeted local activities.

Moonee Valley is a key contributor to regional networks and works strategically in collaboration with Women's Health West.

THE COMMUNITY WELLBEING STRATEGY (CWS):

An analysis of local health data, trends and projected health outcomes was undertaken as part of the development of the Moonee Valley Community Wellbeing Strategy 2008-2013. Additionally, an analysis of State-wide, National and International evidence regarding strategies and solutions was conducted.

Following a presentation to Councillors by Women's Health West, Chief Executive Officer, Ms Robyn Gregory, Council endorsed a report on women's health and wellbeing at its 21 July 09 meeting.

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The Moonee Valley Community Wellbeing Strategy 2008-2013, influences and informs many strategies across Council. It also integrates and consolidates the work of government and community service providers and partners. Therefore, the Community Wellbeing Strategy 2008-2013 has a shared strategic direction to address the health and wellbeing of all people in Moonee Valley.

THE WOMEN'S HEALTH INITIATIVE (WHI):

The Moonee Valley Women's Health Initiative has been developed to provide a coordinated and more strategic approach to addressing women's health in Moonee Valley. As such, it will link in with Council's existing advocacy work including the development of the Western Region Prevention of Violence Against Women Strategy, the State Plan to Prevent Violence against Women, and *Time for Action*, the National Plan to prevent and respond to violence against women.

The Women's Health Initiative contains three key priority areas which are consistent with regional and state priorities including **women's wellbeing, women's safety and equity for Women**. Within each of these priorities a policy statement has been prepared to support Council's commitment and leadership role in fulfilling the obligations contained with this initiative.

In partnership with the community Council will:

- Provide and advocate for the rights of women to access services and programs that support and enhance their wellbeing;
- Actively seek women's participation in decision making processes that affect their lives;
- Support the rights of all women to live free from violence and the fear of violence;
- Work towards creating safer spaces, promoting respectful relationships, activities and communities for women;
- Lead preventative actions regarding violence against women across the City of Moonee Valley;
- Demonstrate leadership by enshrining the rights of women to access opportunities within the organisation and across the municipality in its policies, programs and services;
- Support women's leadership and build a workplace that protects gender equity.

Moonee Valley currently has an endorsed framework provided by the Women's Health Initiative (WHI) and the Community Wellbeing Strategy (CWS); contextualised by links made with State, Federal and International policy developments. Our initiatives are strengthened by our relationships with regional and state-wide networks and the capacity building support provided by Women's Health West and Vic Health.

We have achieved much in the first stages of providing a solid platform to address prevention activities. However, there is still much to be done.

We're off and running...

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