

## STRATHBOGIE SHIRE COUNCIL - from little things big things grow..

Strathbogrie Shire's journey in the Prevention of Violence against women and the commitment we have undertaken as a Council, initially began with a chance meeting and subsequent partnerships and conversations developed into a commitment to make a difference.

Small rural councils face many challenges and issues around anonymity and having access to resources and services. This is true for many issues, but for us, we have made commitment

to lead the community in raising awareness and highlighting the impact this issue potentially has on our community. Our Councillors and staff see our role in local government as leaders of our community and Strathbogrie is committed and focusing on this issue at the primary prevention level.



We initially began with the white ribbon campaign holding staff gatherings and BBQ's, selling ribbons, having presentations on the effects of violence on our community, and that the prevention of violence is a community responsibility.

As a Council we are immensely proud of our commitment to raising awareness in our community, through our travelling Councillor road-show, supporting the community with information and conversations at various events throughout the Shire. This has included selling the white ribbon merchandise and initiating community conversations. It did not take long for a local cricket side to take up an impromptu white ribbon ambassador role.

The VicHealth framework tool has assisted us on this journey. We have also begun to embed the issue of gender equity into our policies and plans as a Shire, and have included preventing violence against women as a priority in our 2010-2014 Community Health and Wellbeing Plan. The Strathbogrie Mayor, Cr Myers, and Cr Furlanetto, also attended Parliament House in November 2009 for the launch of 'A Right to Respect, Victoria's Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women 2010-2020'.

As we move forward on our awareness journey we will continue to engage and encourage our community to unitedly take a stand and we hope to make a difference in our shire, our community.

**We're off and running...**

**Contact:**  
[caroline.harlow@strathbogrie.vic.gov.au](mailto:caroline.harlow@strathbogrie.vic.gov.au)

