

Grampians Community of Practice for the Prevention of Violence against Women Overview

Background

In December 2014 Women's Health Grampians (WHG) identified that a Grampians Community of Practice for the Prevention of Violence against Women (GCOP-PVAW) may be a useful way of supporting the various organisations interested in undertaking prevention activities in the region. A stakeholder consultation was undertaken in February 2015 to identify the level of interest in this initiative.

Overall the stakeholder consultation indicated a high level of interest in establishing a GCOP-PVAW.

1. Forty seven individual stakeholders from across the Grampians region were represented in the survey with many from the local government and community sectors (71%). We also received responses from representatives in the media, unions, business and individuals.
2. The majority of respondents indicated they would participate in the GCOP-PVAW (82%).
3. Being able to share skills and knowledge and to learn from others working in this area was identified as the most worthwhile aspect of the GCOP-PVAW.
4. Most respondents indicated that their involvement in PVAW was because they 'have an interest in this area' (62%). Some respondents already manage a PVAW project in their organisation (12%) however many were interested in learning how to.
5. The key challenges to implementing PVAW initiatives in the Grampians region were identified as:
 - a. Funding
 - b. Staffing
 - c. Limited knowledge including limited knowledge of the resources available
 - d. Lack of internal engagement and support.

Based on the key findings WHG has made a commitment to deliver twelve Community of Practice sessions between June 2015 and June 2018. Sessions will be held in various towns across the Grampians region.

The GCOP-PVAW is supported by a grant from the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust.

What is a community of practice?

A community of practice is an effective way for people to share experiences, identify common challenges, solve problems and learn – and thereby maximise opportunities to improve practice in real time.

The GCOP-PVAW is a new initiative by WHG designed to support people working in the prevention of violence against women or with an interest to implement best practice prevention projects.

The GCOP-PVAW aims to:

- assist people to access resources to improve their practice
- translate research into relevant and accessible knowledge
- facilitate exchange of skills and knowledge and
- provide opportunities for people to support each other, develop working relationships and share problem-solving strategies with one another.

Who can attend?

Community of practice sessions are suitable for a wide audience. People who manage a prevention of violence against women project or those who have a general interest in the topic are invited to attend.

What happens at a community of practice sessions?

Each session will run for approximately 6 hours and will include time for:

- Planned learning activities including guest speakers where appropriate
- Project updates and information exchange and
- Networking over lunch.

Sessions will be held quarterly commencing in June 2015.

Additional benefits

Members of the GCOP-PVAW will also enjoy access to:

- A closed, online community where you can share information and discuss work with other members
- WHG staff expertise and workshops
- WHG prevention of violence against women newsletter and
- Potential media opportunities.

Find out more or register by contacting Simone at Women's Health Grampians
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