

# Unite now

By Melissa Cunningham

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ON THE FRONTLINE: Family welfare advocates Denise Sheridan, Gayle Correnti, Michael Brandenburg, Marianne Hendron, Libby Jewson and Ballarat Inspector Bruce Thomas.

Ballarat is standing united against family violence in the wake of the release of

recommendations from a Royal Commission calling to end the scourge of abuse.

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Australia's first Royal Commission into Family Violence made an unprecedented 227 recommendations in its landmark report to the Victorian parliament.

Tackling family violence will need new laws, stronger investigative powers for police and a "blitz" to rehouse women and children, according to the report which investigated the stories of 220 victims of abuse.

The inquiry is also pushing for mandatory curriculum in every school and at all year levels, which promotes respectful relationships.


In Ballarat, the rates of family violence continue to soar.

Rural and regional communities continue to be overrepresented with Ballarat's rate of family violence 50 per cent higher than the Victorian average.

The city's family violence experts say the severity of the abuse is worsening and services are being inundated to breaking point.

Family welfare leaders from WRISC Family Violence Support, Berry Street Family Violence Services, Child and Family Services, Women's Health Grampians and Ballarat police have pledged to work together to break the cycle.

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