

Purpose

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 *Grampians Community of Practice for the Prevention of Violence Against Women* (GCOP-PVAW) is a new initiative by Women's Health Grampians 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 the exchange of skills and knowledge
- Provide opportunities for people to support each other, develop working relationships and share problem-solving strategies with one another.

Terms of Operation

In order to build the Community of Practice Women's Health Grampians will provide:

- Four quarterly workshops over 3 years commencing in June 2015
- Each workshop will be 6-8 hours duration (i.e. full day) and rotated in locations across the Grampians region.
- Each workshop will include time allocated for:
 - planned learning activities,
 - project updates and information exchange and
 - networking.

Chair, Agenda and Meeting Notes

- An agenda for each Community of Practice meeting will be circulated one week prior
- All meetings will be convened and chaired by Women's Health Grampians
- The notes of the meeting will be recorded as a discussion paper by Women's Health Grampians staff and circulated three weeks after
- The discussion paper will be written as a public document

Agenda items:

- Network updates - each attendee will have time to discuss current progress and challenges
- Resources update – attendees will have the opportunity to share new resources
- Focused learning activity – Women's Health Grampians will deliver a session on an aspect of PVAW practice identified by the group.

Membership

Membership is open to anyone in the Grampians region working in or with an interest in working in the prevention of violence against women.

Role of Individual Members

Individual members of the community of practice are expected to:

- Contribute to informed discussion about the opportunities and challenges of primary prevention work
- Support and respect positive, open and candid dialogue during meetings of the community of practice
- Create a safe atmosphere for learning through respect, listening and dialogue
- Provide feedback to Women's Health Grampians on the content and usefulness of the community of practice.

Role of Women's Health Grampians

- Coordinate all administrative aspects of the Community of Practice
- Plan and facilitate the meetings
- Document Community of Practice discussion and outcomes
- Distribute notes and materials after meetings
- Respond to needs of the group, monitor contemporary research and emerging practice developments in the field with a view to shaping planned learning activities
- Assist attendees to develop a means for communicating with each other in between meetings

Date: February 2016