

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Event: Leading Change in Sporting Clubs and Associations to Prevent Violence Against Women**

Women's Health Grampians (WHG), in partnership with Sports Central, Grampians Community Health and Ararat City Council, will hold a Change Makers Dinner event in Ararat on 22 May 2023 to inspire sporting community involvement in preventing violence against women.

Ararat has unacceptably high rates of family violence, and community sport has been identified as a crucial touchpoint to engage the regions in violence prevention. The drivers of family violence are often hidden in plain sight, and include persistent and harmful gender stereotypes and barriers to women's equal participation in sports and recreation. Sporting clubs, leagues and associations play an important role in shaping attitudes, beliefs and behaviours towards women.

WHG leads the regional primary prevention partnership to prevent violence against women (the CoRE Alliance (Communities of Respect and Equality)), and this event is part of a Leading Change series aimed at connecting and inspiring sporting clubs and associations with an interest in gender equity. It's a great social opportunity for the community to come together, hear from leaders in the field, and share different ways their own clubs, leagues and associations are working towards being more inclusive.

The event will feature three high profile speakers:

- Paul Kennedy, ABC journalist, author and determined advocate for healthy masculinities on and off the sports field.
- Belinda Duarte, former track and field superstar, current CEO of Culture is Life, and proud Wotjobaluk and Dja Dja Wurrung woman.
- Kim O'Reilly, victim/survivor of intimate partner violence and passionate campaigner for change.

Following the speakers, Kim O'Reilly will join a panel of other regional leaders including Angela Ballinger, AFL Regional Manager for Wimmera Mallee & Sunraysia and representatives from the Horsham Amateur Basketball Association and the Minyip Murtoa Football Netball Club.

The Change Makers Dinner is open to anyone connected with a sporting club, league or association in our region; and anyone interested in grassroots work to prevent violence against women.

For full event details please visit: <https://events.humanitix.com/change-makers-dinner>

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