

Acknowledgement of Country

Women's Health Grampians acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands across the Grampians region: the Wadawurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Djab Wurrung, Wurundjeri, Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk People, and recognises their continuing connection to the land and waterways. In particular, we recognise the strength and courage of Aboriginal women and girls in our communities who bravely speak up against oppression and the impacts of colonisation and who generously share their wisdom on family, country and culture.



Women's Health Grampians Newsletter

July 2022

CEO Welcome

It has been quite the roller coaster ride in women's health land over the past couple of months! Early in May we received very welcome news that women's health funding in Victoria will receive a substantial boost over the next two years. This will enable us to retain some staff on fixed contracts and consolidate some of our short term project work that shows great potential as well as undertake some innovative initiatives, especially bolstering our intersectional focus, to really deepen the diversity and inclusion alongside our partners in CoRE, gender equality and sexual and reproductive health. We also intend to take the opportunity to develop a new role in research and evaluation, to strengthen our ability to measure impact and use a strong evidence base.

Our partnership with the Future Regions Resource Centre (FRRCC) at Federation University in Horsham has led to the establishment of an Industry Based PhD Scholarship opportunity. The successful candidate will take a deep dive into the drivers of family violence in a rural communities and we look forward to this getting underway in the next month or so.

While our partnership work to improve sexual and reproductive health service access across the Grampians region is going from strength to strength, like so many across Australia we were dismayed by the overturning of Roe v Wade by the Supreme Court in the US. Our thoughts are with women across the US whose right to safe and legal health care is diminished and especially with those who can least afford to travel to access care and support. The decision served as a reminder that we can't take for granted the hard won gains of the last thirty years. While relatively speaking Victoria has legislative support for abortion, that has limited value if there are not enough doctors willing to prescribe medical abortion, or public hospitals willing to provide access to surgical abortion and that is certainly the reality in Western Victoria. We welcome the support and advocacy of our members in this space.

We were pleased to see the Hon Catherine King MP, local member for Ballarat, appointed to Cabinet as Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government as a result of the federal election. This is the first time a woman has held the infrastructure portfolio, and we are delighted that this great example of a woman breaking new ground in non-traditional areas is from right here in the Grampians region.

Happy NAIDOC to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the beautiful lands that we are privileged to live and work on. This week we have many fantastic opportunities to celebrate First Nations culture, history and achievements across Wadawurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk lands. The theme for NAIDOC 2022 - Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up! - offers us lots of ways to show respect and call out disrespect, support First Nations businesses, use our platform to elevate First Nations voices and, as cartoonist Cathy Wilcox said, for non Indigenous people to Listen Up, Read Up and Learn When to Shut Up!

Take care all.

Marianne Hendron

Chief Executive Officer, Women's Health Grampians

News

New faces at WHG

There have been some exciting developments in staffing at WHG over the past few months. Please join us in welcoming Issy Griffiths as our new Act@Play Wimmera Project Officer, Katja Fiedler as our new ActOnSite Consultant, and Linley Reid as the new Central Highlands Integrated Family Violence Committee's Administration Officer.



Meet our See What You Can Be Advocates

Our two Women in Trades programs - **See What You Can Be** and **Act On Site** - have been gaining momentum. These programs are designed to encourage more women to consider taking up positions in male-dominated industries and, just as importantly, ensuring those industries are ready to welcome and support those women who come on board.

As part of our work in this area, we are delighted to welcome our three new See What You Can Be Advocates to the team, Su, Sarah and Tara. These terrific, inspiring women, all working in non-traditional trades (carpentry, boiler making, and joinery) have already presented at several training sessions and careers events. You can find out all the details of our [Women in Trades programs on our website](#).





Women Leading Locally is an initiative of the Victorian Government delivered by the Institute of Community Directors Australia (ICDA) in partnership with Women for Election. The program aims to increase the representation of women councilors and mayors in Victoria by providing information and support in targeted areas. Let's get more of our voices into rooms where decisions are made!

[More info](#)

Resources and Evidence

PASSING THE MESSAGE STICK



Between National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC week we take time to reflect on our roles in building a future that values Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories, cultures, and dreams. **Passing the Message Stick**, launched in late 2021, is the result of a two-year research project to change the story for First Nations self-determination and justice. This report provides invaluable guidance on messaging to create transformative change, and is a must-read.

[Find out more](#)



Older women are often forgotten or overlooked in primary prevention work. With an increasing proportion of Australia's population aged 65 and over, the experiences of older women must be considered if we are to end violence against all women. To learn more about elder abuse, click on the link below.

[Find out more](#)

Events

CERSH Sexual Wellness Professional Development Series 2022

Shannon Hill
Women's Health Grampians

28th July - 10:30am - 11:30am



Join our Sexual Health Advisor Shannon Hill for an informative webinar on sexual wellness in the regions on **28 July 2022**. The webinar is part of the Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health's (CERSH) 2022 professional development series. Shannon's session will explore the importance of evidence, partnerships and persistence in seeking out opportunities to take action towards sexual wellbeing for women.

[Register](#)

SexRurality Conference

Mark your diaries and register now - Victoria's conference devoted to rural and regional sexual and reproductive health is on again in 2022, from **25-26th October** in Creswick. Women's Health Grampians will be presenting, along with an array of other experts in the field from across the State.



[Register](#)

Training

WHG Training

The Women's Health Grampians [training calendar](#) is now available on our website.

From Active Bystander tips to Intersectionality, there is something for everyone with an interest in preventing gender-based violence.

We can also provide in-house training for a cost-effective flat fee. Contact us for more details on 5322 4100.

[WHG Training](#)



[Enrol Now](#)

1800 My Options Microcredential: Supporting Client Access - Abortion, Contraception & Sexual Health

Understand the rights, options and barriers that can affect access to sexual and reproductive health services in Victoria. Suitable for youth, social or support workers, educators, health administrators or professionals. This free two-hour online course will give you the information and tools to assist clients and patients to access sexual health services.

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