

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Date: 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**Minyip Murtoa Football Netball club and Horsham Amateur Basketball Association commit to gender equality initiative**

Minyip Murtoa Football Netball club and Horsham Amateur Basketball Association are excited to be working with Women's Health Grampians (WHG) as part of the Act@Play program. Act@Play is a cultural change initiative delivered in the Wimmera Region that helps sporting clubs to challenge violence against women, challenge stereotypes, empower women and girls, build respectful relationships and promote gender equality. Gender inequality is a significant driver of violence against women, and encouraging respectful, equitable relationships at the community level is a vital part of preventing violence before it happens.

Funded through Sport and Recreation Victoria, the program involves developing a leadership group to help drive the program at the club, completing tools such as a baseline survey, gender audit, active by-stander training and then implementing an action plan based on these results.

Women's Health Grampians (WHG) Chief Executive Officer Marianne Hendron said *"Women's Health Grampians is pleased to be working closely with Minyip Murtoa Football Netball Club and Horsham Amateur Basketball Association with Act@Play. We know the important role sporting clubs have in rural communities and the influence these settings will have in creating positive change around gender equality and violence against women in the local community"*.

Minyip Murtoa Football Netball Club President, Scott Arnold says *"the club is excited to be undertaking the Act@Play program, as it will extend the work the club is implementing with CoRE Alliance. We believe the program will contribute in creating a positive and progressive club culture as it aligns with our club values"*.

Horsham Amateur Basketball Association President, Jon Fitzgerald says *"the association is thrilled in signing with Act@Play, we are very fortunate to have this type of program that focuses on sporting codes within our local community. This will allow us to ensure we are creating an inclusive and welcoming environment at the association and strengthen our work with younger generations around gender equality."*

If anyone would like to find out more about the work of the CoRE Alliance and get involved in taking action to create safe, equal and respectful communities and organisations, further information can be found at [www.whg.org.au](http://www.whg.org.au)

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**Horsham Basketball board members**

Monique Emmett, Matt Grace, Briana Farr, Scott Benbow, Sherridan Benbow, Jon Fitzgerald, Amanda Munyard, Kerry Pierce, Dave Groten and Issy Griffiths Act@Play Program officer, Women's Health Grampians



**Minyip Murtoa Football Netball Club members after completing Active Bystander Training**

Luke Baker, Melissa Morris and Greg Currie from Women's Health Grampians, Scott Arnold and Laura Schuckar