

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

Autumn 2023

CEO Welcome

Welcome to the Autumn edition of our newsletter. We have been busy welcoming new staff, preparing for our Change Makers Dinner (see details below), and generally continuing our core work advocating for gender equity across our region and beyond.

The Victorian Budget is just a few days away. The word is it will be a 'tough' budget with potential cuts to health programs already flagged. We urge continued investment from the Victorian Government that:

- Promotes primary prevention and health promotion for all Victorians.
- Delivers to all women and girls in Victoria, access to safe and high quality sexual and reproductive health services, including abortion healthcare, across the life course.
- Delivers investment in culturally safe, gender equitable mental healthcare and investment in the primary prevention of mental illness for women and girls.
- Invests in health services and programs based on data and evidence to address a broad range of women's health issues,

We know that successful, thriving, and well-resourced public health systems invest in health promotion, as well as clinical services to address illness. By sustaining this investment over time, governments can strategically and practically reduce the pressure on our vastly overstretched public health system.

As the only state infrastructure that delivers specialist expertise on intersectional gender equity for our health system – both regionally and state-wide – the Women's Health Services are in a unique position to understand what investment and services are required to ensure that all Victorians are well. WHG along with the other women's health services across Victoria look forward to contributing to the outcomes of the 2023 state budget.

Marianne Hendron

Chief Executive Officer, Women's Health Grampians

News

Celebrating Women in Trades Photography Project

We have been delighted by the response to our Celebrating Women in Trades Photography Project, launched at the Rare Trades Centre on 4 April 2023. This project, part of our Women In Trades program, has been many months in the making and an exercise in committed partnership.



A collaboration between [Apprenticeship Support Australia](#), Women's Health Grampians, and [HALT](#) Hope Assistance Local Tradies, the project aims to celebrate the achievements of women in trades, to provide strong role models of women working in male-dominated industries, and to support and inspire other women to begin their own trades career.

Twelve amazing women from around the Central Highlands region were selected to feature in this project. Mitch Nivalis of [MDP](#) Photography & Video, award winning artist, strong supporter of our work and former WHG Equality Advocate, photographed each of them doing what they love - working in a non-traditional trade. who has been a strong supporter of our work for many years, along with snippets of the stories from the women themselves.

Big thank you to [Sovereign Hill](#) and [Centre for Rare Arts & Forgotten Trades](#) for hosting, Ace Assessment and Training for helping with the banner display, our MC Mel Davis from [Empowered Women In Trades](#), Darren Trigg from [Integra Group](#) for presenting photographs and gift vouchers and our wonderful speakers including Sara Quon from Sovereign Hill, [Michaela Settle MP](#) Tara Kelly and Kate Hogan from [John Holland](#) We can't wait to see these giant banners printed by [Revolution Print](#) popping up on worksites around the region!

To see the women's full stories (and/or get excited about the possibilities of a career in trades!) please visit our website: <https://whg.org.au/.../celebrating-women-in-trades-photo.../>

Sexual and Reproductive Health news

Senate Inquiry into Universal Access to Reproductive Healthcare

Our Sexual and Reproductive Health Advisor Shannon Hill, along with Elly Taylor, CEO Women's Health East, represented the Victorian Women's Health Services at the Parliamentary Hearing for the Senate Inquiry into Universal Access to Reproductive Healthcare on 28 April 2023. Shannon reiterated the main points of our written submission to the Inquiry, namely the urgent need for equality of access for rural and regional communities, with a strong focus on normalising the provision of SRH.

[You can read our written submission \(number 130\) by clicking here.](#)

SexRurality Conference

We are looking forward to attending SexRurality Conference at the end of this month. The conference, delayed from 2023 due to flooding, is coordinated by the Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health (CERSH) as part of a mandate to improve sexual health and well-being in rural Victoria. The conference aims to provide a forum for the presentation of high-quality professional practice and research papers on sexual and reproductive health in rural settings. The conference also aims to encourage growth in the capacity of rural practitioners and early career researchers in the confident presentation of their work. Both Shannon Hill and Rose Durey, WHG's Manager Strategy and Programs, will be presenting on behalf of WHG.

New staff!

We welcomed four new staff members to WHG over the past couple of months:

Stephanie Cooper, Health Promotion Officer - Sexual & Reproductive Health

Carly-Anne Myers, Gender & Disability Advisor

Katherine McCready, Administration Support Officer

Luke Baker, Gender Equality Advisor, Masculinities

[Visit our website to read their bios](#) - we feel very fortunate to have such a wealth of knowledge, passion and experience join our staff group!

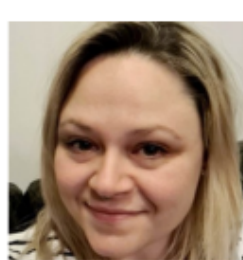
Stephanie



Carly



Katherine



Luke



Resources and Evidence



Wiyi Yani U Thangani National Summit

WE ARE THE CHANGE. 9-11 MAY 2023
NGUNNAWAL AND NGAMBRI COUNTRY
PRECEDED BY YOUTH FORUM 8 MAY 2023

The first gathering of its kind, the Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) National Summit brought together over 800 First Nations women delegates from across Australia, for decision-making, innovation and celebration. From this, a National Framework for Action and a dedicated First Nations Gender Justice Institute is set to be established at the Australian National University.

The National Summit is an outcome of the Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) project, led by the Human Rights Commission's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner June Oscar AO in partnership with the National Indigenous Australians Agency: "It's the first time in this country that we will have a dedicated, independent, autonomous, First Nations gender justice institute that will include research conducted in communities driven by First Nations women and their partners on the issues that matter."

"We are the leaders of society and the drivers of social and economic change. We are the staunch, brave and loving mothers, aunties, grandmothers, daughters and sisters caring for everyone, Country, kin, and all our non-human relatives, regenerating ecosystems of support and reciprocity, connectedness and kindness."

-Wiyi Yani U Thangani Summit Communique

For a detailed summary of the National Summit by NITV, [click here](#).

[Click here to read the Summit Communique.](#)

[Click here to read the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Youth Statement.](#)

Events

CHANGE MAKERS DINNER

Are you connected to a sporting club or association in our region? Play sport yourself, volunteer, or cheer from the sidelines? Interested in leading change to prevent violence against women?

You are invited to join us on **22 May 2023** for a gathering of like-minded sporting enthusiasts who are determined to promote gender equity on and off the field.

Hear from Paul Kennedy, Belinda Duarte, Kim O'Reilly, Angela Ballinger and more.



Our 2023 Change Makers Dinner will take place next Monday, 22 May, and there are still tickets available!

This event, developed in partnership with [Sports Central](#), [Grampians Community Health](#) and [Ararat City Council](#), is all about inspiring regional sporting communities to get involved in preventing violence against women. 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.

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 gender equity.

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. Tickets available on the link below.

[Change Makers Dinner ticket and event details](#)

Training

WHG Training

Women's Health Grampians can provide in-house training for your organisation for a cost-effective flat fee. Our sessions range from Intersectionality to Gender Equity for Managers and plenty in between. Contact us for more details on 5322 4100.

[WHG Training](#)



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