

Men leading change to prevent violence

Ballarat Leadership forum

Building local leaders' capacity, confidence and skills to prevent gendered violence in our region.

9am – 3pm

Tuesday 3 December 2024

Mercure Ballarat | 613 Main Road, Ballarat



Event Overview

Gender-based violence is a whole-of-community issue and following a devastating period of gendered violence locally, it is important that we galvanise and take action as a community.

Join Women's Health Grampians, the City of Ballarat and industry/sector experts and be inspired to influence your community and contribute to the elimination of violence against women.

The forum seeks to engage leaders in the 135 organisations, businesses, sporting clubs and groups across Western Victoria who are signatories to the Communities of Respect and Equality (CoRE) Alliance.

Participants will learn the importance of preventing gendered violence and how to lead and implement primary prevention work and address the underlying drivers of gendered violence in their workplaces and communities.

Diverse speakers will showcase prevention strategies and ways to take practical action to prevent violence and promote respect in different settings.

The MC for the event will be Michael Poulton from Committee for Ballarat and the aim is for all participants to leave the forum inspired, with learnings that can be applied in their workplaces and communities.

FREE EVENT (ticket limit of 4 per organisation)

Option 1: full day

Option 2: 9am - 1.30 (morning session)

Option 3: 12.45 - 3pm (afternoon session)

EACH OPTION INCLUDES LUNCH FROM 12.45pm – 1.30pm

Enquiries

Please let us know if you have any accessibility or support requirements or if there are ways we can make the event more comfortable and welcoming for you.

Please email jane@whg.org.au or call **0493 147 728**.

“By coming together, we own the problem and we can work together to stamp out Gender Inequality and Gendered Violence, so we can all live in a safe, inclusive and thriving community.”

MICHAEL POULTON

Morning Session

9am - 12.45pm

Welcome to Country

Facilitated by Traditional Owner, Shannen Mennen, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation

My sister's legacy: A brother's stand against men's violence

Tarang Chawla, Commissioner at the Victorian Multicultural Commission and Co-founder Not One More Niki

Morning Tea

Men's Behaviour Change

Tim Richardson MP

How will you show up in Ballarat?

Helen Bolton, Chief Executive Officer Respect Victoria

The Man Box

Drew Hangar & Matt Tyler, Jesuit Social Services

Panel Session

Lunch 12.45pm – 1.30pm

Afternoon Session

1.30pm – 3pm

Manfluencer – inspired sexism in Australian schools

Prof. Steven Roberts, Monash University

Eroticising Violence: Why we need to address pornography's influence

Maree Crabbe, It's time we talked

Sharing of messages and actions to lead change

MC Michael Poulton



My sister's legacy: A brother's stand against men's violence

TARANG CHAWLA - Commissioner at the Victorian Multicultural Commission and Co-founder Not One More Niki

Overview of presentation:

Tarang Chawla's sister, Nikita, was tragically murdered at the age of 23, and now Tarang is determined to ensure her legacy becomes a catalyst for change. In this powerful talk, Tarang reflects on the importance of leadership at all levels, especially the critical role men play in ending gender-based violence. He will speak about the need for positive masculinities and the responsibility of all men to step up as allies in creating a safer, more respectful society.

With a deep personal connection to the Ballarat region through childhood memories shared with Nikita, Tarang will share how loss can drive powerful action. He will call on men, policymakers, and community members to embrace their leadership roles and build a future where every person—no matter their gender—can live free from violence. This is a talk about love, loss, and the urgent need for men to lead change for a better tomorrow.

Biography:

Tarang Chawla is a speaker, writer and recovering lawyer who serves as Commissioner at the Victorian Multicultural Commission and is the co-founder of Not One More Niki, a grassroots non-profit working to end men's violence against women named in memory of his younger sister, Nikita, who was murdered by her partner in 2015.

Tarang is also a sessional academic at Monash University. He wrote, produced and hosted the acclaimed podcast There's No Place Like Home, and advised both state and federal governments on family violence reform and effectively engaging men in gender equality.



Men's Behaviour Change

TIM RICHARDSON MP

Biography:

Tim was first elected as the local Member for the Mordialloc District in the Parliament of Victoria in 2014 and has subsequently been appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and most recently, Men's Behaviour Change, a national first.

Tim is a passionate advocate for the Ministerial portfolios that he assists and feels privileged to work with the Minister for Mental Health, Ingrid Stitt MP and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence, Vicki Ward MP to deliver the best outcomes for our community.

"I am looking forward to speaking at the Ballarat Leadership Forum. My sister Nikita was murdered when she was 23 and some of my fondest childhood memories with her are of our stops in the region on our family trips. It will be special to be there and speak about the role of the whole community in ending gender-based violence."

TARANG CHAWLA



How will you show up in Ballarat?

HELEN BOLTON - Chief Executive Officer Respect Victoria

Overview of presentation:

Everyone should be safe, equal and respected in their communities. Throughout the year, Ballarat organisations and communities have organised, acted and said: enough is enough. Respect Victoria will be working alongside CoRE organisations and the wider community to design the saturation model and build on this existing momentum.

So, what role can and should men play in preventing gender-based violence in Ballarat? How can they show up? And what could a collective approach look like in our organisations, communities, families and peer groups? This presentation will begin to unpack those questions and encourage open conversations about opportunities for change.

Biography:

Helen Bolton is a highly respected leader with more than 30 years' experience in the specialist sexual and family violence sectors. She brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise in responding to and preventing sexual violence and family violence in Victoria.

For the 13 years prior to joining Respect Victoria, Helen was the CEO of the Sexual Assault and Family Violence Centre in Geelong; one of the largest integrated specialist services in Victoria, covering the Barwon region.

The Man Box

DREW HANGAR & MATT TYLER - Jesuit Social Services

Overview of presentation:

Matt and Drew will discuss key findings from The Man Box research and highlight ways to role model healthier alternatives.

Biographies:

MATT TYLER

Matt Tyler is Executive Director of Community and Systems Impact at Jesuit Social Services where he has led The Men's Project working with a team committed to providing leadership on the reduction of violence and other harmful behaviours prevalent among men and boys. Prior to joining Jesuit Social Services, he worked as a Fellow for Harvard's Government Performance Lab focused on child protection and he has also previously worked on reforms to family violence services and child protection in Australia. He is trained as an economist with a particular focus on statistics, holding a Master of Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School and Honours in Economics from Monash University.

DREW HANGAR

Drew Hanger is the Manager of Education at The Men's Project at Jesuit Social Services where he leads the work in schools delivering workshops and programs for teachers, students and parents on healthy masculinity and the reduction of violence and other harmful behaviours. Drew is leading a team to deliver our Modelling of Respect and Equality (MoRE) program in 240 schools over the next four years. Prior to joining Jesuit Social Services, he worked as a secondary school teacher and student wellbeing coordinator, overseeing respectful relationship programs. Drew holds a BA in Sociology and Literature and a Graduate Diploma in Education.

“We have a world-first opportunity as a community to make sure everyone is safe, equal and respected in Ballarat. Let's build the solutions together.”

HELEN BOLTON



Manfluencer – inspired sexism in Australian schools

PROF. STEVEN ROBERTS - Monash University

Overview of presentation:

The presentation will share findings of the research conducted by Dr Stephanie Wescott and Prof Steven Roberts and explore the power of ‘manfluencers,’ and its impact on the behaviour of boys towards women teachers and their female peers. It will discuss the urgent need for open conversations in schools to allow women to share their experiences and engage in a dialogue about the influence of ‘manfluencer’ culture on boys’ developing identities and relationships.

Biographies:

PROF. STEVEN ROBERTS

Steve Roberts is Professor of Education & Social Justice and Head of the School of Education, Culture and Society.

Steve is a sociologist and an internationally recognised expert in research in two areas: i) changes and continuities in boys and men’s masculinity practices, and; ii) inequalities in young people’s transitions to adulthood. The former includes boys and men’s engagement with risky drinking; sexting; emotionality; computer gaming; violence; domestic labour; compulsory and post-compulsory education; employment.

Included in his broad range of research projects, Steve has undertaken a suite of work (with Karla Elliott), funded by VicHealth, looking to understand, evaluate and improve ‘healthy masculinity’ interventions aimed at boys and young men.

DR STEPHANIE WESCOTT

Dr Stephanie Wescott is a feminist researcher and lecturer in humanities and social sciences in the Faculty of Education’s School of Education, Culture and Society. Using a feminist and social justice lens, her research examines how education practice and policy intersects with and is influenced by current socio-political conditions, and she is particularly interested in post-truth and its relationship to knowledge and expertise in education. At present, she is researching the influence of Andrew Tate on boys’ behaviour in schools across Australia. Stephanie uses qualitative methodologies, including ethnography and discourse analysis, to examine the implications of these intersections for teachers’ work and policy enactment.



Eroticising Violence: Why we need to address pornography’s influence

MAREE CRABBE - It’s time we talked

Overview of presentation:

Readily available and aggressively marketed online, pornography has become a default sexuality educator for many young people, with serious implications for their capacity to negotiate free and full consent, for mutual respect, sexual health, and gender equality. The most popular, mainstream pornography commonly depicts aggression towards women and sexual violence. Pornography suggests that violence against women is sexy. It has become a violence prevention issue we cannot afford to ignore.

This session will explore how pornography is impacting on young people and what we can do to address it as part of broader violence prevention efforts.

Biography:

Maree Crabbe is co-founder and Director of the Australian violence prevention initiative, It’s time we talked and an international leader in the development and delivery of resources and professional learning about pornography and its impacts on young people.

She is Co-Producer and Co-Director of the documentary films Love and Sex in an Age of Pornography, broadcast in 37 countries, and The Porn Factor, broadcast in Australia. She is also author of In The Picture – a resource to support secondary schools to address the influence of explicit sexual imagery and Talking Respect – a resource to support conversations about healthy relationships and media influence with young people.

Maree has worked with young people – and on issues affecting young people – for 30 years. She has developed and delivered programs focusing on sexual violence prevention, respectful relationships, sexual diversity, pornography, sexting, and the prevention of sexually transmissible infections.

Maree’s contributions to public conversations about young people, sexuality and pornography include television, radio and podcast interviews, and articles in academic and news media.

Sharing of messages and actions to lead change

MC MICHAEL POULTON

Michael will lead the sharing of take-home messages and one thing we will do together for collective impact.

CoRE Alliance – Women’s Health Grampians

Communities of Respect and Equality (CoRE) Alliance is a partnership of organisations, businesses, clubs and groups who share a vision for safe, equal and respectful communities in the Grampians region. Support for members includes access to CoRE Consultants to guide learning, planning and implementation, training opportunities, Community of Practice, and Resources to help your organisation take action.

To find out more about how to become a member visit whg.org.au

Where to find support

If you or someone you know is experiencing family violence, please contact the below support services.

State

1800 RESPECT: Call 1800 737 732

Safe Steps: Call 1800 015 188 (for female identifying only)

Men’s Referral Service: Ccall 1300 766 491 (for male identifying only)

Kids Help Line: Call 1800 55 1800 (for children and youth)

Rainbow Door: For LGBTIQ+ support services call 1800 729 367 or text 0480 017 246

Local

Orange Door Central Highlands: Call 1800 219 819

Berry St Western Region: Call 5330 5000

WRISC Family Violence Support: Call 5333 3666 (for victim survivors including children)

Child and Family Services (CAFS): Call 1800 692 237