

30 May 2017

For immediate release

New funds support sustained action to prevent violence against women in Melbourne's East

Women's Health East, on behalf of the Together For Equality & Respect (TFER) Partnership, are delighted to be a recipient of \$140,000 through the Community Partnerships in Primary Prevention grants.

Together For Equality & Respect is made up of more than 30 organisations who have been working together over the last four years to prevent violence against women across Melbourne's East. Partner organisations include local governments, health services, family violence and sexual assault services, community legal services, police, Aboriginal services, neighbourhood house networks and many others.

"We know that to prevent violence against women we need to work together in a long term and coordinated way to advance gender equality" says Jacky Close, Chair of the Together For Equality & Respect Leadership Group. "We also know that family violence is prevalent across ALL sections of society. To prevent violence against women we need to reach everyone in our community, regardless of age, ability, social or cultural backgrounds"

Through this grant we will:

- Design our **second** 4 year action plan, moving towards truly sustained action to prevent violence in Melbourne's East
- Develop & deliver training to increase our reach to diverse sections of our community
- Build new partnerships between Together For Equality & Respect partners and schools, and school communities, to identify how we can add value to the roll out of the respectful relationships curriculum in schools in this region

Together For Equality & Respect is led by Women's Health East. "The Partnership's vision is *a society where women live free from men's violence – where every girl and boy grows up to be equally valued, heard and respected, and with equal access to opportunities*. This grant will help us to achieve this" says Kristine Olaris, CEO Women's Health East.

If you or someone you know is impacted by sexual assault or family violence, call 1800RESPECT on 1800-737-732

Or visit www.1800RESPECT.org.au

In an emergency call 000

- Ends -

Media enquiries or to speak with a Speaking Out advocate contact:
Kate Gibson, Health Promotion and Communications Officer, 9851 3700 or kgibson@whe.org.au

Links and further information

Women's Health East is the lead organisation for [*Together for Equality & Respect: A Strategy to Prevent Violence against Women in Melbourne's East 2013-2017*](#)

Media and local organisations can speak with an advocate through the [Speaking Out: Media Advocacy to end Sexual Assault & Family Violence](#) program

Important contacts

- In emergency situations or danger, call police on 000
- For confidential help and referral, call the National Sexual Assault, Family & Domestic Violence Counselling Line on 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732)
- Eastern Domestic Violence Service 92594200 (Mon-Fri, 9- 5)

About Women's Health East

Women's Health East is a regional women's health promotion agency working across the Eastern Metropolitan Region of Melbourne towards a vision of equality, empowerment, health and wellbeing for all women. A not-for-profit agency funded primarily by the Victorian Department of Health, we advocate for gender equity and work to improve the health and wellbeing of girls and women. Our health promotion priorities include:

- Preventing Violence Against Women
- Sexual & Reproductive Health
- Gender Equity for Health Outcomes

03 9851 3700 health@whe.org.au www.whe.org.au

Women's Health East acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government