

Media Release

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Ground-breaking LGBTI family violence prevention program funded

Women's Health East welcomes funding from the Victorian government to deliver a ground-breaking participatory project to help prevent family violence in LGBTI relationships.

This innovative project is an Australian first. It will support LGBTI young people to recognise and develop, healthy, equal and respectful relationships. It will also encourage local providers to identify and respond to the discrimination and violence faced by LGBTI young people.

The grant of almost \$100,000 will allow Women's Health East to work with young LGBTI people to investigate and co-design appropriate and relevant resources. These resources will be disseminated across the state to support the development of respectful relationships.

Research suggests that the rates of family violence experienced by LGBTI people is as high as, if not higher than in other relationships. The public focus on family violence has largely been on heterosexual family violence, making family violence experienced by LGBTI communities almost invisible.

The CEO of WHE, Kristine Olaris, said, "Women's Health East is thrilled to receive funding for such an innovative project that aims to contribute greatly to the evidence base, prevent violence and support respectful and equitable relationships." And consultant Dr Philomena Horsley states that "this project will fill an important gap within our response to the prevention of family violence in our community, and within Victoria. This project will provide a genuine opportunity for LGBTI young people to contribute to new knowledge about such an important issue".

"We are also really excited to be working with people of all genders to look at power dynamics, misuse of power and better understand the drivers of violence in Victoria" said Ms Olaris.

The project will be delivered in partnership with Family Planning Victoria, EACH, Family Access network and Q-East Alliance and Consultant Dr Philomena Horsley.

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](#). Working within a feminist framework, Women's Health East addresses the social, political and environmental factors impacting on the health, safety and wellbeing of women in the region. We work to build the capacity of services and programs in the region to optimally address issues affecting women.

Contact

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