

Preventing Violence Through Sport Project

The project, yet to be named officially, will implement the Tackling Violence Against Women Guidelines in the Mildura region contributing to the prevention of violence against women through community sport.

The project's aims are:

- Co-design and pilot a 'whole of sporting club respect, gender equality and primary prevention of gender-based violence model' with local Cricket, Soccer and Football-Netball Clubs
- Build the capacity of and empower local sporting clubs to embed gender equality and respectful relationships into the systems and processes within their club, building a strong foundation for long term cultural change.
- Build the capacity of clubs to value and understand how to apply an intersectional lens to their activities, systems, and processes to create more diverse, inclusive and sustainable clubs.
- Develop supporting materials that can be used by additional clubs beyond the project funding period and an implementation plan that embeds the work in existing systems and processes making it sustainable beyond the project timeframe.

Key activities

- Co-design and implement the project approach with clubs including:
 - Develop a tailored project plan/ approach with each club. Use the 'Tackling Violence Against Women Guidelines' as the foundational guide for the project to be adapted to the local sporting context.
 - Use the club gender audit tool from the 'Tackling Violence Against Women Guidelines' to identify actions to include in the club Gender Equity Action Plans.
 - Run gender equity and Bystander Action Training with clubs or alternative training programs as designed with the project consultant.
 - Club Gender Equality Action Plan developed, and implementation commenced.



What's in it for the club?

Clubs in other regions who have undertaken this work have reported a myriad of benefits, including:

- Better experience of sport for women, girls & gender diverse people
- Support of and improvement of men's wellbeing
- Healthier, more sustainable clubs
- Diverse skills and leadership, including more volunteers
- Greater representation of and alignment with community expectations

The Pilot Project allows clubs to be part of the first 5 clubs (across 4 sports) in the region to undertake this work, showcasing their club as a leader in our community by building and implementing this program.

Family violence instances in Mildura are among the highest in Victoria and in assisting to build this initiative, clubs will be part of a legacy in the region aimed at preventing family violence.

Proposed Role of Council & Key Stakeholders

Council and key stakeholders, including a consultant for the project will commit to supporting clubs where possible, including but not limited to:

- Provision of training to club officials and members
- Provision of at least 1 face-to-face meeting with the club per month
- Support to develop and implement Gender Equity Action Plan and Code of Conduct

- Development of resources, materials and education as needed
- Access to support services and industry expertise
- Support to complete audits and surveys of club members and facilities

Expectations of clubs

Clubs will be expected to commit to the project in a variety of ways, as agreed with the club. These can include, but are not limited to:

- Whole-of-club commitment to implement gender equity initiatives to embed cultural change.
- Commitment to attend all necessary meetings, trainings and workshops as agreed with council.
- Open and inclusive mindset and approach
- Contribution, where necessary, to the overall resources being developed by the project
- Commitment to development of, and implementation of, a code of conduct for clubs
- Promote and facilitate training for club members where appropriate and necessary
- Work collaboratively with the other clubs, including those from other sporting codes undertaking this work
- Host an event to promote gender equality and prevention of family violence.
- Volunteers committed to agreed upon time commitments, totalling approximately 1.5 hours per week on average.