

# THE LODDON CONSORTIUM

— FOR GENDER EQUALITY + VIOLENCE PREVENTION —

July 28, 2021

## **Consortium identifies priority areas for next National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children**

Community members have worked with the Loddon Gender Equality and Violence Prevention Consortium to identify key areas the region considers priorities for the next National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children.

The Consortium recognises the National Plan as critical to addressing Australia's crisis that is violence against women and children.

To inform [our submission](#), The Consortium convened two forums with community members from across the Loddon region, which covers the local government areas of City of Greater Bendigo and the shires of Macedon Ranges, Mount Alexander, Central Goldfields, Loddon and Campaspe. Forums were held in Bendigo and Kyneton.

We asked each forum to discuss five key questions relating to the Australian Government Department of Social Services' Developing The Next National Plan 'Have Your Say' survey.

The National Plan is a long-term, evidence-based plan to reduce violence against women and children – and is agreed to by all Australian governments.

You can read more about the National Plan (including all four previous plans) [at this link](#).

Community members appreciated the opportunity to have their say and to engage in the consultation process. Participants were able to clearly identify the critical issues and opportunities in defining actions and priorities for the next national plan.

We urge DSS to engage in wide ranging community consultations that engage those with lived experience of violence, experts working in the family, domestic and sexual violence sectors, and the broader community to help inform not only the development of the plan, but to provide input on progress.

The Loddon Gender Equality and Violence Prevention Consortium consists of: Centre for Non-Violence, Annie North Women's Refuge and Domestic Violence Service, Centre Against Sexual Assault Central Victoria, Women's Health Loddon Mallee and Sunbury Cobaw Community Health.

Our purpose is to lead, influence and mobilise an enduring coordinated community response that ensures women and children are safe from gender-based violence and abuse.

We understand that system responses must listen to the voices and experience of victim survivors and hold perpetrators to account to provide quality outcomes.

The Consortium has significant experience in working together to deliver innovative and integrated responses to women and children experiencing violence, and programs for men who use violence towards family members.

The Consortium acknowledges that violence against women and children is deeply rooted in power imbalances that are reinforced by gender norms and stereotypes.

Individuals and organisations can make submissions to the next National Plan [at this link](#), before July 31.

You can find the [Consortium submission here](#).