



Whitehorse City Council

Statement on Family Violence and the Prevention of Violence against Women and Children

Whitehorse City Council says no to violence. Council is committed to working together with the community to model and promote equal and respectful relationships. We want a community where everyone is valued and safe.

CONTEXT

The principles of social justice and equity are an integral part of Whitehorse City Council's vision to achieve a healthy, vibrant, prosperous and sustainable community.

Council acknowledges the prevalence and impact of violence against women and children in the community and views it as a serious human rights abuse.

Council recognises the wide ranging and damaging impact that family violence has on the lives of those affected and on the community as a whole. Children are present in nearly 30 per cent of reported family violence incidents. Violence against women and children is preventable.

While any person can be a victim or perpetrator of violence, violence is predominantly perpetrated by men, and in family violence situations, women are predominantly the victims. The root causes of violence against women are gender inequality, rigid gender roles and expectations, and cultures that accept or excuse men's violence.

ACTIONS

Together we will create communities, organisations and cultures that are non-violent, gender-equitable, and non-discriminatory and that promote respectful relationships. In doing so we aim to address the underlying drivers of violence against women and create a safer community. Action will include:

- Generating ownership and responsibility across the whole community for preventing violence against women and children
- Promoting an understanding of the link between gender inequity and violence against women and children
- Promoting healthy and positive relationships between men and women across Council and the community

- Upholding principles of gender equity in mainstream Council operations, strategies, policies and service delivery
- Advocating for gender equity principles and practices to be upheld across the community in a broad range of settings including but not limited to workplaces, recreation, education and social arenas.
- Advocating for a stronger and more coordinated service response for women and children affected by family violence, including both justice and legal responses as well as community support services