



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Evidence

Wyndham City's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25 acknowledges that one in four Australian women have experienced family violence and gender inequality is at the heart of the attitudes and behaviours it perpetuates. It states that family violence is the leading cause of preventable death, disability and illness for women aged 15 to 44 years. It cites that a survey of family violence practitioners, the Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre (Monash University), reported that COVID-19 had increased the frequency of violence against women, the severity of violence and an increase in first time family violence reporting.

Context

The Victorian Government's *Free from Violence Second Action Plan (2022-2025)* recognises the diversity of experiences of those who are impacted by violence, the plan addresses the experiences of women with disability who experience violence, LGBTIQ+ people and elder abuse, and engagement with men and boys in prevention efforts. Priorities of the Second Action Plan 2022-2025 include:

- testing new and innovative approaches
- tailored approaches for diverse community groups
- Aboriginal-led prevention
- key settings
- community engagement and awareness
- partnerships and advocacy
- governance, coordination and system development
- workforce and sector development
- build knowledge
- monitor and share outcomes¹.

The Orange Door Network is a key recommendation of the landmark Royal Commission into Family Violence. The Royal Commission into Family Violence also helped to identify important gaps, such as the need to better respond to the richness of Victoria's diverse communities. Wyndham is one of the fastest growing municipalities in Victoria and Australia, home to a young and diverse population. Furthermore, as a growth Council, the diversity and demographic mix of our municipality has driven strong demand for community services.

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Background

Family violence continues to be a major health and safety issue for Wyndham, representing a significant concern and priority for our community. Effectively addressing this issue at a local level requires partnerships and collaboration.

To this end, the Wyndham Family Violence Network (WFVN) is a mechanism to develop and support partnerships amongst key stakeholders based in and working in Wyndham, and to facilitate collaborative efforts in preventing and addressing family violence locally. The WFVN is an independent network of relevant local service providers and community representatives. It is supported and convened by Wyndham City.

Reduce Family Violence	
<p>Goal: <i>To prevent family violence and reduce the impact and incidence of family violence</i></p>	<p>Strategic objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prevent and reduce family violence with a focus on vulnerable groups including women, children and older adults and meeting the needs of diverse communities.• Encourage cultures that are non-violent and gender equitable, and relationships that are respectful and non-discriminatory.• As appropriate, align with:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Victorian Government’s ten-year Ending Family Violence: Victoria’s Plan for Change</i>○ <i>Family Violence second Rolling Action Plan 2020-2023</i>○ <i>Victorian Government’s Safe and Strong: A Victorian Gender Equality Strategyⁱⁱ</i>○ <i>2022-2023 Western Integrated Family Violence Committee (WIFVC) Action Plan</i>○ <i>Preventing Violence Together 2030: Western Region Strategy to Prevent Violence Against Women</i>○ <i>National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032.</i>• Partner with police, the Orange Door Network, and agencies in the implementation of coordinated services and effective referral models and protocols.

To ensure coordinated action at a local level the strategic objectives outlined in this document, will help reduce and prevent the impact and incidence of family violence, and inform the direction of the WFVC.

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Network Purpose

The intended outcomes of the WFN, as determined by the membership, are:

- Networking and service coordination through information sharing and the facilitation of partnerships (including working with diverse communities and service providers to help embed culturally relevant and effective approaches to addressing family violence)
- Ongoing identification of local family violence issues (including updates and analysis of data) and support/conduct of related advocacy
- Provision of a forum for discussing, advising on and exploring partnerships for local initiatives proposed by member agencies
- Alignment as appropriate with relevant policies, strategies, networks and projects including:
 - *Wyndham City Council Plan 2021-25 and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25*
 - *Preventing Violence Together 2030: Western Region Strategy to Prevent Violence Against Womenⁱⁱⁱ*
 - *Victorian Government's ten year Ending Family Violence: Victoria's Plan for Change^{iv} and Second Rolling Action Plan 2020-2023^v*
 - *Victorian Government's Safe and Strong: A Victorian Gender Equality Strategy*
 - *2022-2023 Western Integrated Family Violence Committee (WIFVC) Action Plan*
 - *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022- 2032.^{vi}*

Key deliverables of the WFN, as determined by the membership, are:

- Forums/professional development opportunities for local workers (such as in worker confidence and cultural competence, service system improvement, and community engagement for example).
- Support and participate in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence campaign and activities.

Network Extent of Powers

- The WFN prime function is that of an information sharing network as well as when required to advocate to government regarding local family violence issues.
- Facilitate multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnership approaches in the local area for impact.
- Decisions of the WFN will be made via consensus and in the unlikely circumstance where a consensus cannot be achieved, Wyndham City officers will work closely with the Chairperson to seek resolution of the matter.

Network Membership

Membership is from a broad range of agencies and key stakeholders which contribute to preventing or reducing family violence, including interested community agencies (for example: health, cultural and community services, family violence peak bodies, government representatives). Agencies must be based in, or provide services to, Wyndham residents.

Members of the WFN may decide upon and invite others to join the network. Decisions regarding any requests received from agencies/individuals to join the network are at the discretion of the WFN convenor and/or the Chairperson.

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New members will be provided with a copy of the WFVN's Terms of Reference and need to adhere to the privacy requirements outlined later in this document.

People wishing to join the Network should contact the City of Wyndham Senior Policy and Planning Officer or representative.

Chairperson

One member agency will be responsible for the chairing of WFVN meeting for the period of one calendar year. A decision regarding Chairperson duties will occur during the December to February period each year with the successful agency's representative/s to assume these duties beginning the first meeting of the following year. If nominated by the network an agency may be reinstated for Chairperson Duties in consecutive years.

Spokesperson

Where required the Chairperson will act as the spokesperson for the WFVN or, alternatively, may choose to nominate a more appropriate spokesperson based on the particular issue. All comments for release to media must first be approved by the WFVN. If it is not appropriate for this to occur at a WFVN meeting, it may be done so via email. Network members are to note that absence of a response within three working days will indicate acceptance.

Convenor

Wyndham City's Community Social Policy Unit will provide executive support to the WFVN and will convene meetings.

Frequency of meetings

Meetings will be held bi-monthly, with the provision for the whole network or specially convened sub-networks to meet more frequently as the need may arise.

Format of meetings

Meetings may be held online, in person or a combination of both depending on the needs of the meeting being held and the requirements of members and the Chair.

Tenure

The membership and tenure of the WFVN will next be fully reviewed at the completion of the *Wyndham City Council Plan 2021-2025*. Smaller reviews of the WFVN will be conducted at the end of each calendar year.

Privacy

WFVN members acknowledge that member and member organisation information is collected by Wyndham City and stored on Council database for the purpose of information sharing and members consent to the sharing of contact details and relevant information with the network.

Members are requested to not disclose any information that is shared through the network, either written or verbal, unless the information is intended for broader promotion and/or consent has been given.

Last updated: 06 March 2024

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ⁱ www.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-12/Summary-of-priorities-free-from-violence-second-action-plan-2022-2025.pdf

ⁱⁱ www.vic.gov.au/safe-and-strong-victorian-gender-equality

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://genwest.org.au/resources/preventing-violence-together-2030-strategy-and-background-paper/>

^{iv} www.vic.gov.au/ending-family-violence-victorias-10-year-plan-change

^v www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-reform-rolling-action-plan-2020-2023

^{vi} [www.dss.gov.au/ending-violence#:~:text=Children%202022%2D2032-,The%20National%20Plan%20to%20End%20Violence%20against%20Women%20and%20Children,%E2%80%932032%20\(National%20Plan\).](http://www.dss.gov.au/ending-violence#:~:text=Children%202022%2D2032-,The%20National%20Plan%20to%20End%20Violence%20against%20Women%20and%20Children,%E2%80%932032%20(National%20Plan).)