



## **MEDIA RELEASE 14.02.2017**

**Phone** (03) 9689 9588  
**Fax** (03) 9689 3861  
**Email** [kelly@whwest.org.au](mailto:kelly@whwest.org.au)  
**Website** [www.whwest.org.au](http://www.whwest.org.au)

### **Grant to boost women's involvement in sport**

Members of the Preventing Violence Together partnership have been successfully awarded a grant to fund the project 'Women's participation in sport and recreation in Melbourne's west: an action plan for change'.

The project aims to improve women and girls' access to, and participation in, sport and physical activity. The project will identify key processes, policies, activities and methods that respond to the diverse needs of women and girls in the western region.

The grant is particularly timely given the recent hugely successful launch of the AFLW.

The Royal Commission into Family Violence, published in 2016, identified participation in sport as a key primary prevention action that can stop violence against women. Increasing women's participation in sport was highlighted as a way of supporting equal participation, inclusion and respect for women and girls.

Sports and recreation are also identified in the Preventing Violence Together partnership's regional strategy as a key setting for the promotion of gender equity, and prevention of violence against women.

Preventing Violence Together is a regional partnership and strategy consisting of members from across seven local government areas, community organisations and specialist health services. Women's Health West is the lead partner.

The partnership, launched in 2010, guides actions in the west to prevent men's violence against women before it begins. Women's Health West are the lead partner in this first regional primary prevention partnership and strategy of its kind in Victoria.

The 'Women's participation in sport and recreation' project will be led by PVT partner, Wyndham City Council.

Dr Robyn Gregory, CEO of Women's Health West, said:

"To end violence against women we need to work together. We know that participation in sport allows women and girls to build a healthy sense of belonging, and that sports is a key setting to influence young people's attitudes towards equality and respect.

This project will see the development of a regional action plan for gender equity in sport, and we hope to see some really positive outcomes as a result of it – including more women and girls participating in sport across Melbourne's west."

#### **Notes:**

- Women's Health West is committed to improving equity and justice for women in Melbourne's western region. We deliver family violence services and undertake health promotion actions.
- Women's Health West is the lead agency on the Preventing Violence Together Partnership. The other partner and implementing agencies are: Brimbank City Council, cohealth, Department of Justice and Regulation, Djerriwarrh Community Health Services, HealthWest Partnership, Hobsons Bay City Council, Inner West Primary Care Partnership, IPC Health, Maribyrnong City Council, Melbourne City Council, Melton City Council, Moonee Valley City Council, Victoria Police, West Centre Against Sexual Assault (WestCASA), Western Integrated Family Violence Committee, West Metro Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Group (IFVRAG), Wyndham City Council.
- The members of Preventing Violence Together that are part of the 'Women's participation in sport and recreation' project are Brimbank City Council, Hobsons Bay City Council, Maribyrnong City Council, Melbourne City Council, Melton City Council, Moonee Valley City Council, Wyndham City Council (lead partner).

*For more information:*

**Contact:** Elly Taylor, Director of Strategy, Advocacy and Community Engagement

**Email:** [elly@whwest.org.au](mailto:elly@whwest.org.au)

**Phone:** (03) 9689 9588