

# THE BUZZ



**Wyndham**  
*We're in this together*

wyndhamcity

*Special Edition for*

## 16 Days of Activism

25th Nov - 10th Dec

**November 2020**

*Plus the all the latest  
news on Community  
Centre reopenings inside!*



Wyndham Council acknowledges the Wathaurung, Woiworrung and Boonwurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation as The Traditional Owners of the land on which Wyndham is built

For all Community Centre, Kindergarten, Library and Maternal Child Health enquiries,

please call Wyndham City Council on (03) 9742 0777 or connect with us at [www.wyndham.vic.gov.au](http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au)



## About the **Respect Women: 'Call It Out' campaign**

**Respect Victoria's Respect Women: 'Call It Out' campaign encourages Victorians to call out sexism, sexual harassment and disrespect towards women.**

This campaign aims to support the Victorian community in understanding what respect means, what it looks like, and how to put it into practice in their everyday lives. We have an opportunity to support our communities to understand what gender equality looks like and how striving for equality can prevent

violence against women. When gender equality exists, we all benefit.

Gender inequality involves devaluing or disrespecting women or women's contributions. Research has consistently found that these forms of disrespect increase the likelihood of violence against women.

Respect Victoria wants to inspire action and to encourage members of the public to embrace the types of behaviours and actions that represent and personify 'respect'.

# Wyndham City welcomes the easing of restrictions across metro Melbourne.

At the time of writing this article, on 10 November, there are zero active recorded cases in Wyndham -- a milestone worth celebrating.

With restrictions easing, Council is now in a position to reactivate some services in a COVID-safe way, ensuring the health and safety of all our staff and community members is at the forefront of all we do.

## COMMUNITY CENTRES

**Community Centres can resume all programs and activities with limits 10 per room from Monday and 20 from the Monday 23 November. Point Cook Community Learning Centre and Manor Lakes Community Learning Centre will be open to the public from 16 November, with Wunggurrwil Dhurrung, Penrose Promenade Community Centre and Saltwater Community open again from 23 November. Contact your local centre to find out which programs and activities are returning.**

## OUTDOOR ACTIVATION

As restrictions begin to ease, we'll be doing more outside to limit the spread of COVID-19. Community groups, sporting clubs, dance schools, gymnastic groups, faith communities, and other programs and groups are able to book public open spaces to deliver their programs.

We know our community have been missing their outdoor spaces, our booking system means that groups can get back to the programs and activities they know and love in a COVID-safe way. To apply:

<https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/outdooractivation>

**LIBRARIES** Welcome news for library lovers -- Point Cook, Manor Lakes and Plaza Libraries will reopen to the public on Monday, 16 November.

Services will be limited to borrowing items and computer usage (for up to an hour).

Click and Collect services will continue to operate from Werribee and Tarneit Libraries.

The Library Home Delivery service is also continuing.

Point Cook and Hoppers Crossing: Monday-Friday 10am-5pm Manor Lakes Library: Monday-Friday 10am-3pm

## CUSTOMER SERVICE

Residents looking to make enquiries or payments are free to do so from the Civic Centre, Manor Lakes Community Learning Centre, and Point Cook Community Learning Centre from Monday, 16 November.

Civic Centre: Monday - Friday, 9am - 4pm Manor Lakes Community Learning Centre - Monday - Friday, 10am - 3pm

Point Cook Community Learning Centre, Monday - Friday, 10am - 5pm Phone and webchat: 8am - 5pm

[www.wyndham.vic.gov.au](http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au) or phone 9742 0777.

**A COUPLE OF THINGS BEFORE YOU VISIT:** please ensure you're wearing a face mask, maintain at least 1.5 metres between yourself and others, and sanitise upon arriving and leaving.

**GET TESTED:** a friendly reminder, if you're experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, sweats, sore throat, runny nose or cough -- please get tested for COVID-19.





It's easy to tune out during rush hour. But it's good to stay present and be aware of other commuters.

With around 2 million passengers a day using Victoria's trains, trams and buses, we all have a role to play in calling out sexual harassment.

**There's a big difference between eye contact and leering**

Sexual harassment is any form of unwelcome sexual behaviour that can be offensive, humiliating or intimidating. It can be obvious or indirect, physical or verbal, repeated or one-off.

Sexual harassment may include:

- › staring or leering
- › deliberately brushing up against you or unwelcome touching
- › suggestive comments or jokes
- › insults or taunts of a sexual nature
- › intrusive questions or statements about your private life
- › behaviour that may also be considered to be an offence under criminal law, such as physical assault, indecent exposure, sexual assault, stalking or obscene communications.

Safety in public spaces is everyone's business and every commuter has the right to make it home safely.



**Sexual harassment happens all too often**

A lot of people are surprised to learn how common sexual harassment is. Research shows many women having experienced sexual harassment in public places. Despite this, many of these instances remain unreported, with victims feeling ashamed or helpless. Sometimes, victims are not aware that sexual harassment has even occurred.

Sexual harassment is prevalent in Australian society with half of all Australian women reporting that they have been sexually harassed. Between 2015-16 and 2017-18, the number of reported sexual offences - which includes groping, molesting and rape - at all train stations jumped by 70 per cent.

## How to call out sexual harassment

As our campaign shows, even the smallest of acts can potentially stop sexual harassment from occurring. Learning to recognise the signs when someone is in danger and stepping in to help prevent the situation from escalating is important. This is called being an active bystander. Active bystanders learn how to recognise and safely intervene in potentially dangerous situations.

Some simple steps to becoming an active bystander include:

- › noticing the situation (being aware of your surroundings – that means looking up from your phone and making a conscious decision to be present)
- › interpreting the problem (do I recognise someone needs help?)
- › feeling compelled to act (seeing yourself as being part of the solution to help – considering the difference that your actions could make by being an active bystander)
- › knowing what to do (consider what you would do and when you would do it)
- › intervening safely (taking action but being sure to keep yourself and those around you safe).

## What to do if you are experiencing sexual harassment

If you are experiencing sexual harassment on public transport and you are in immediate danger call Triple Zero (000) or (where possible) press the button in the carriage to speak to the driver. Alternatively, you can alert on-duty Protective Service Officers (PSOs).

If you're in a position where you're feeling vulnerable and cannot make a phone call to Triple Zero (000), there are other ways to call out these behaviours. This may include sending a text message to a close friend or family member where you can advise them of your location and where the harassment is occurring so that they can ring Triple Zero (000) and police can attend at the next stop or station.

If you do feel vulnerable in that space, you should (where safe) move away from the area where the perpetrator is and if you are in immediate danger call Triple Zero (000). If you do feel uncomfortable, try and get the attention of other passengers to assist.

Your safety is priority, and you should only act in a way that does not endanger yourself or those around you further.

## Reporting sexual harassment

No incident or detail is too small or trivial and it is important to remember that what you have experienced is not your fault. You will always be taken seriously and treated with respect. If you experience unwanted sexual behaviour, we encourage you to report it.

Only by reporting sexual harassment on public transport will we stop these inappropriate acts being committed in public places. If you have experienced sexual harassment, you can report information to **Crime Stoppers** on 1300 333 000 from 8.00am-11.00pm, 7 days a week.

## For further assistance

If you have experienced sexual assault or sexual harassment and feel you would like to speak to someone for support or information, **1800RESPECT** (Phone: 1800 737 732) provides counselling 24-hours a day, 7 days a week.





# ESCAPING THE GENDER STEREOTYPE: WORKSHOPS FOR MEN

Don't you think it's time we freed men from outdated masculine stereotypes and gendered clichés? Do you want to be a role model to show men and boys that being a good man is really just about being a good person?

Join other men across Melton and Wyndham to learn in a welcoming and friendly online environment across two workshops.

Session 1: Monday 23 November 7.30pm

Session 2: Monday 7 December 7.30pm

Where: Online (Via Zoom, link to be sent)

Cost: FREE

Register [online](#)

Contact: Stew Greig

[stewart.greig@wyndham.vic.gov.au](mailto:stewart.greig@wyndham.vic.gov.au)

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## Tools to help 'call it out'

This section provides councils and other organisations with pointers to stimulate conversations among their workforce and communities. This information will help build capacity among all Victorians in understanding the issues and how to respond to them.

### How to "call it out"

'Call it out' is a broad term for responding in some way to behaviours that may be deemed sexist, disrespectful, abusive or constitute sexual harassment.

Inappropriate behaviour can be 'called out' by saying something or using body language to indicate disapproval in the moment. Bystanders can also say or do something later, after the incident (see 'ways to #callitout' on the next page). You should use your judgement about the best way to respond, to show that the comment or behaviour is not okay. If the behaviour is directed at a particular person, your response may be primarily to support them (see number 5 and 10 on the following page).

'Calling it out' does not mean physically intervening when you witness violence and does not include hostile or aggressive responses.

If you believe someone is in immediate danger call 000 and ask for the police. It is important that when you react to inappropriate behavior directed toward women, you do not put yourself or the person who is being targeted at risk. Before responding, you should assess safety and risk of escalation. It is also important to stay within your comfort zone and be pragmatic about your level of skill or confidence. As with any bystander intervention, your safety is paramount.

## Different types of bystander action

There are a range of ways you can respond to sexism, harassment and disrespect towards women, depending on the context and your level of confidence. These can be grouped into four categories:

- > **Diffuse** Make light-hearted comments or give disapproving looks
- > **Check in** See if the target is okay
- > **Call it out** Declare the statement or behaviour offensive and explain why it is harmful
- > **Report** Access incident reporting systems or report to management where applicable.

See VicHealth's [Take action: Empowering bystanders to act on sexist and sexually harassing behaviours](#) for more information.



# 16 Days of Activism at Wyndham Libraries

Join us for a free screening of What Happened to Monday?

**Book now!** - <https://bit.ly/3nixGlr>

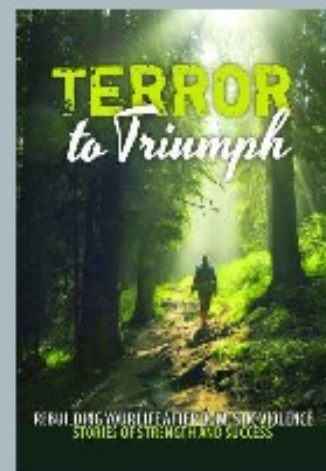
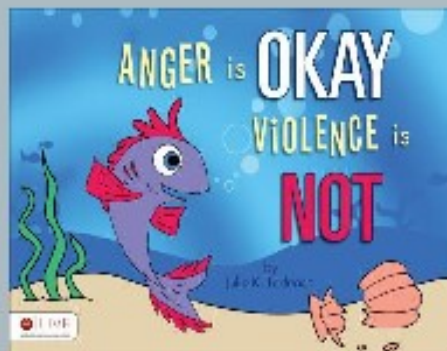
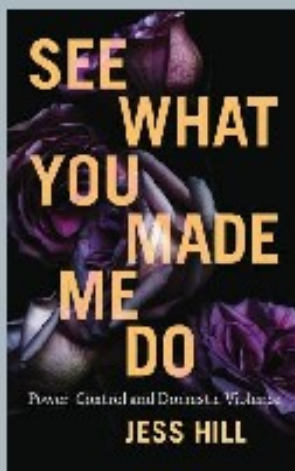


Wyndham City Libraries have a great range of items related to gender equality and women's rights.

Browse in branch or request Home Delivery or Click and Collect.

Not a member? Join for FREE

<https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/libraries>



On November 16, Point Cook and Hoppers Crossing (Plaza) Libraries will be reopening Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm and Manor Lakes Library from 10am to 3pm.



# Key Facts and statistics about gender equality



is murdered by her current or former partner.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, (2017), Homicide in Australia 2012-13 to 2013-14

## COVID-19 In a survey of 15,000 women

<p>2.2%</p> <p>experienced sexual violence</p>	<p>4.2%</p> <p>experienced physical violence</p>	<p>11.6%</p> <p>experienced emotionally abusive and coercive behaviour</p>	<p>1 in 3 women</p> <p>of the women who experienced physical or sexual violence it was the <b>first time</b> their partner had been violent.</p>
			<p>1 in 5 women</p> <p>of the women who experienced coercive control said this was the <b>first time</b> their partner had been emotionally abusive or controlling.</p>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, The prevalence of domestic violence among women during the COVID-19 pandemic

**from a current or former partner during the first 3 months of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

<p>1 in 2 women</p> <p>women have experienced sexual harassment during their lifetime.</p> <p>Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, (2017), Personal safety, Australia, 2016, ABS cat no.4906.0</p>	<p>1 in 4 men</p> <p>men have experienced sexual harassment during their lifetime.</p> <p>Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, (2017), Personal safety, Australia, 2016, ABS cat no.4906.0</p>	<p>1 in 5 women</p> <p>have experienced sexual violence since the age of 15.</p> <p>Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, (2017), Personal safety, Australia, 2016, ABS cat no.4906.0</p>	<p>1 in 20 men</p> <p>have experienced sexual violence since the age of 15.</p> <p>Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, (2017), Personal safety, Australia, 2016, ABS cat no.4906.0</p>
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**93%** of all victims of violence, whether women or men, experience violence from a **male perpetrator**.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, (2017), Personal safety, Australia, 2016, ABS cat no.4906.0S

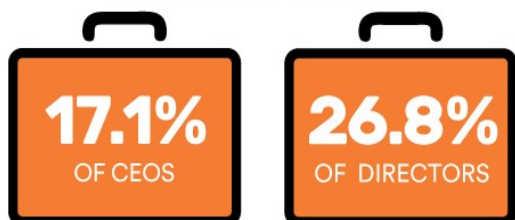
<p>1 in 4 women</p> <p>have experienced violence by an intimate partner since the age of 15.</p> <p>Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, (2017), Personal safety, Australia, 2016, ABS cat no.4906.0</p>	<p>1 in 13 men</p> <p>have experienced violence by an intimate partner since the age of 15.</p> <p>Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, (2017), Personal safety, Australia, 2016, ABS cat no.4906.0</p>	<p>64%</p> <p>of Victorian women have <b>experienced</b> bullying, harassment or violence in their workplace.</p> <p>Source: Victorian Trades Hall Council, (2017), Stop Gendered Violence at Work</p>
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**49%** of trans women **&** **55%** of trans men reported harassment or abuse in the previous 12 months.

Source: The Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, LaTrobe University, (2015), A Closer Look at Private Lives 2.

# Key Facts and statistics about gender equality

IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR  
WOMEN REPRESENT



Source: Workplace Gender Equality Agency, (2018), WGEA Data Explorer

Women made up **90%** of adults who sought specialist homelessness services due to family and domestic violence in 2018-19

Family and domestic violence is the **main reason** women and their children leave their homes



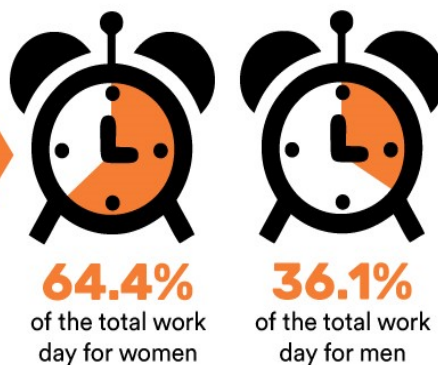
Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, (2019), Specialist homelessness services annual report 2018-19

It is estimated that violence against women and their children cost the Australian economy



Source: KPMG, (2016), The Cost of Violence Against Women and their Children in Australia

Women spend almost twice as many hours each day performing unpaid care work compared to men



Source: Workplace Gender Equality Agency, (2016), Unpaid care work and the labour market

The full-time average weekly wage for women is

**14% LESS** than for men.

On average, women need to work **AN ADDITIONAL 59 DAYS** to earn the same annual income as men

Source: Workplace Gender Equality Agency, (2020), Australia's Gender Pay Gap statistics



Almost 10 women a day are hospitalised for assault injuries perpetrated by a spouse or domestic partner.

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2019. Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: Continuing the national story. Cat. no FDV 3. Canberra: AIHW. During this year, 3600 women hospitalised for assault injuries identified a spouse or domestic partner as the perpetrator.

**1 IN 3**  
**LGBTIQ people**

have experienced violence from a partner, ex-partner or family member. These numbers are even higher for intersex, transgender and gender diverse people.

Source: The Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, La Trobe University, (2015), A Closer Look at Private Lives 2

Respect Women: Call It Out



# Problematic attitudes that need to be called out

It is everyone's job to address language, attitudes and behaviours that endorse violence and disrespect towards women.

Below are examples of problematic attitudes and ways councils and other organisations can respond to these views. These have been taken from findings from the 2017 National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey.

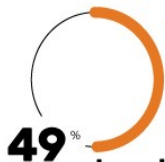


**(24%) Australians see no harm in telling sexist jokes**

Sexist jokes reflect and reinforce sexist attitudes, and are harmful. They excuse and perpetuate the gender stereotyping and discrimination against women that underpins violence.

**1 IN 3 (34%)**  
**Australians think it's natural for a man to want to appear in control of his partner in front of his male friends**

Controlling behaviour is a key factor in abusive relationships. By deeming women as less equal than men, disrespect and violence against women will continue.



**Less than half of Australians recognise that levels of fear from domestic violence are worse for women.**

However the evidence shows that women are more likely than men to report experiencing fear as a result of violence.



**Australians believe that woman prefer a man to be in charge of the relationship**

This belief reflects and maintains the broader harmful social expectation that men should always be in charge. It undermines women's independence and ability to make decisions in both public and private life.

**1 IN 5 (20%)**  
**Australians believe violence is a normal reaction to daily stress and frustration**

There are many healthy ways to respond to stress and frustration – using violence is not one. Do not excuse people who choose to use violence.



**Australians believe that women can often make a man so angry that he hits her when he didn't mean to**

Using violence against women is a choice, not an instinct. Don't excuse people who choose to use violence.

**32%**  
**of Australians believe a female victim is partly responsible for the abuse if she does not leave**

Leaving an abusive relationship is hard and can be dangerous. Common barriers include: concerns for the safety and wellbeing of children; lack of housing and income; social isolation and lack of knowledge of support options. Instead of asking 'why doesn't she leave', ask 'why does he use violence'.

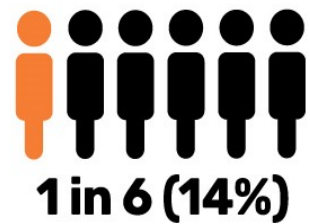
**2 in 5 (40%)**  
**Australians believe many women exaggerate how unequally women are treated in Australia**

Unfortunately, we are still working towards gender equality in Australia. We have a gender pay gap, men hold the majority of leadership positions and women still undertake the vast majority of unpaid caring work.



**Australians believe that woman make up false reports of sexual assaults in order to punish men**

This unfounded belief is the very reason that victim survivors are afraid to seek help, and the majority either delay or never report sexual assault. Evidence shows that only 5% of sexual assault allegations are false.



**Australians believe that women who flirt all the time are somewhat to blame if their partner gets jealous and hits them**

Jealousy, control and abuse are not a normal part of romantic relationships, and in no way excuse violence against women. Don't excuse people who choose to use violence.



**Always Was,  
Always Will Be.**



[naidoc.org.au](http://naidoc.org.au)

# NAIDOC WEEK

8-15 NOV 2020

#NAIDOC2020  
#AlwaysWasAlwaysWillBe

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