



The Gippsland sector needs the resources to ensure we can be safe, thriving and free of family violence.

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Gippsland Family Violence Alliance (GFVA) is a partnership of 40 agencies who work with people experiencing and using family violence. GFVA Chair, and Program Manager Family Safety and Children Anglicare, Peta Speight said "the partnership welcomes the continued focus on safety by both the Victorian and Federal Governments. The theme for this year's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence is 'UNITE! Invest to prevent violence against women and girls' and we're wanting to draw attention to the specific needs of Gippsland."

"Our partnership acknowledges the challenging nature of the current economy. However, we wish to see a continued investment and effort to address family violence in Gippsland. To effectively drive down rates of violence against women – and to keep them down – we need a well-supported system and funded system which connects prevention, early intervention and response and recovery services."

The GFVA has highlighted:

- Primary Prevention
- Services for men
- Case management
- Therapeutic Supports
- Housing and Exit pathways as areas which need further investment and support.

Executive Member of the GFVA, and CEO of Gippsland Centre Against Sexual Assault (GCASA), Jane Barr said "Gippsland is a large geographic area to cover, and our practitioners require ongoing training and support to develop their expertise, which is made difficult with the current funding model."

"Our practitioners are working with increasing complexity, with women in need of crisis accommodation, long-term support with their safety and options for housing. Current funding cycles make building and sustaining a workforce difficult, particularly in a cost-of-living crisis."

We are asking for predictable, sustained and ongoing funding for our services.

Leslie Smith, General Manager for Family Violence and Prevention from Quantum Support Services said "the recent investment by the Federal Government into Inner Gippsland of the Supporting Recovery program was fantastic, but it needed to be an ongoing program available in all six areas of Gippsland."

"Family Violence has long term, and significant impacts on women and children. The need for support and recovery services will continue beyond the current two-year funding cycle and the need is across all of Gippsland, not just Latrobe City and Baw Baw."

East Gippsland and Latrobe are currently number 1 and 2 in the state for family violence police call outs per 100,000. Kate Graham, CEO of Gippsland Women's Health said "the Federal Government has made a promise to end family violence within a generation, but to achieve this we're going to need an investment into primary prevention to ensure a systemic cultural shift occurs."

"It is crucial to acknowledge that we still have a long way to go in achieving a Gippsland community which is safe, thriving and free from family violence, and we need to continue to focus on the causes of family and gendered based violence to prevent it into the future."

The GFVA has released a one-page fact sheet with key information. We are asking all Gippsland residents to get involved in 16 Days of Activism and to know the facts about Gippsland.

[Download the Fact Sheet](#)