



FAMILY VIOLENCE IN GIPPSLAND

Leadership Forum

A 16 DAYS OF
ACTIVISM EVENT WITH
SPECIAL GUEST:
DR. VINCE HURLEY

2 DECEMBER 2025





Acknowledgements

GFVA acknowledges the Gunai/Kurnai, Bunurong, Bidewell & Ngarigo/Monero people as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands now also known as Gippsland. We pay our respects to elders past, present and visiting and acknowledge they hold the stories, traditions, spiritual connection and living cultures of this Country. We recognise the Gunai/Kurnai, Bunurong, Bidewell & Ngarigo/Monero long and continued connection and protection of the beautiful coastline from the oceans through inland areas and to the rugged southern slopes of the mountain ranges. We recognise their continued connection to these lands and waters and acknowledge that they have never ceded sovereignty. Always was, always will be, Aboriginal Land.

GFVA acknowledge the victims and survivors of family violence, whose tenacity, advocacy and courage have shaped the family violence service sector and provided us with the evidence base for our work. We acknowledge those who have lost their lives due to family violence and the families, friends and communities who have been impacted by these devastating crimes.

GFVA acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government.



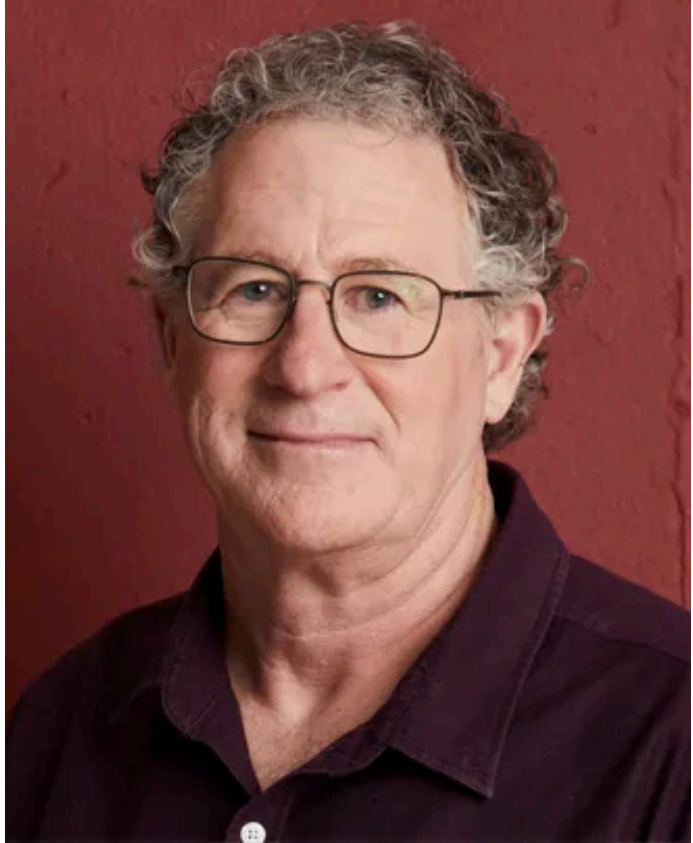


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About Dr. Vince Hurley

Dr. Hurley is a university lecturer and former Detective Superintendent who spent 29 years in operational policing before moving into criminology and crisis management. Throughout his police career, he worked across frontline policing, complex investigations, domestic homicide, organised crime, and hostage negotiation — and he led statewide policy work to reduce domestic violence, for which he received multiple national and state awards.



Vince is known nationwide not just for his expertise, but for his clarity, honesty, and refusal to shy away from uncomfortable truths. Vince is well-known for his appearance on ABC's Q&A in May 2024, where his direct challenge to governments on violence against women reached more than 17 million viewers across social media. That moment resonated not because it was provocative, but because it was principled — a demand for leadership equal to the scale of the crisis.

He has delivered more than 160 media interviews on domestic violence, policing, and crisis management; presented to thousands of students and community members; and advised ministers, government departments, and national forums. His ability to connect real-world policing practice with contemporary criminological theory is unmatched.

Vince has recently appeared on Australian Story, national morning programs, or contributed to important conversations on *It's A Lot Podcast with Abbie Chatfield*.





Peta Speight

From the Chair.

Family violence (FV) is often presented as a complex and deeply entrenched problem — and while it is complex, it is not unsolvable. FV occurs when one family member, statistically most often a man, chooses to use harm, coercion, or control against other family members, most commonly women and children, to maintain power and gain from that control.

Addressing FV requires more than responding to individual incidents – it demands a collective commitment to change the underlying conditions that allow violence and control to flourish. This means challenging harmful attitudes, fostering equality and respect, and creating systems that prioritise safety, accountability, and lasting change.

Ending family violence is not the work of a single organisation or profession — it's a whole-of-community effort, and everyone has a role to play.

- Small business owners can make a difference by displaying information about local support services and being informed about where to direct people who may need help.
- Community groups can contribute by advocating for stronger support for families — meeting with local representatives, raising awareness, and ensuring FV remains a visible issue in community conversations.
- Leaders or employers can take action by ensuring your organisation has clear policies and supports in place for staff experiencing FV, creating a workplace culture of safety and respect.
- All community members can be FV-informed and ready to challenge harmful or disrespectful behaviour — even in small ways. This helps create safer, more respectful communities.

At the heart of this work is community resilience — strengthening our collective ability to recognise, prevent, and respond to FV. When communities are connected, informed, and empowered, they are better equipped to support those experiencing harm, hold those who use violence accountable, and build the social conditions that prevent violence from occurring in the first place.

Together, through collaboration, compassion, and shared responsibility, we can build a future for Gippsland where every person feels safe, valued, and free from violence.

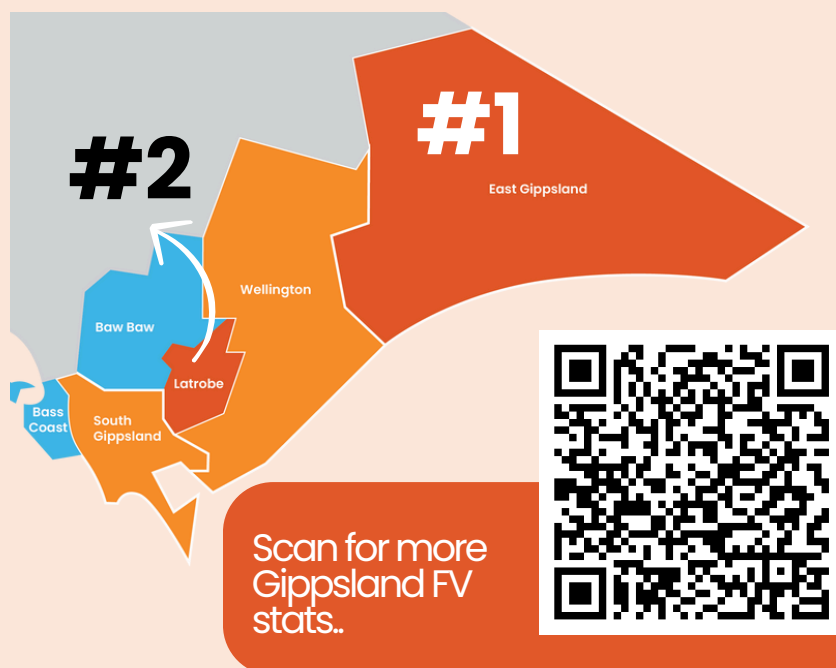
Family violence is at crisis point in Gippsland.



We are appealing to decision-makers for increased support for people in Gippsland facing family violence, aiming to navigate the challenges of providing services in regional, rural, and remote areas.

We seek investment in:

- Primary Prevention
- Services for adults who perpetrate FV
- Case Management
- Therapeutic Support
- Housing and Exit Pathways



We need sustained, predictable and ongoing funding, to:

- Advance the capacity of case management services
- Continue to uplift the funding for Women's Health Services beyond 2026 to work in gendered violence prevention
- Double the capacity of the FV and sexual assault counselling and therapeutic programs
- Introduce specific unit pricing for Family Contact workers in men's programs
- Increase the programming options for adults who use violence.
- Provide housing options which allow victims to remain in their home, or
- Provide supported and affordable crisis, short- and long-term housing options for those who cannot remain in their home

Between June 2024 and June 2025, Gippsland experienced:

9845 total incidents of family violence

6484 breaches of FV intervention order

\$320m the annual cost of FV in Gippsland

724 cases of FV serious assault

1611 cases of FV common assault

2084 incidents involving sexual offences

Open Letter to Decision Makers

527

Gippslanders signed this petition

In May, we released an open letter to the decision makers of Gippsland to coincide with Domestic and Family Violence Awareness Month, an annual campaign that shines a light on the profound social and personal impacts of family violence.

The open letter, shared through social media, gained significant community traction and was signed by 527 individuals across the region. This strong response demonstrates the depth of community concern and the shared commitment across Gippsland to see meaningful, lasting change in how we prevent and respond to family violence.

The letter expressed our deep appreciation for the investment and reforms delivered by the Victorian Government in the wake of the Royal Commission into Family Violence. These reforms have transformed the landscape of family violence response and created a foundation for safer, more coordinated systems across Victoria.

However, we also used this opportunity to emphasise the need for continued and growing support. Many individuals and families in Gippsland still face significant barriers to accessing timely, appropriate, and culturally safe support services. Distance, workforce shortages, implementing the MARAM Framework and the complexity of navigating multiple systems remain real challenges in our region.

Scan to read our open letter.



Gippsland
Family Violence
Alliance

We cannot afford to lose momentum

now. The progress made since the Royal Commission must be sustained and strengthened, not allowed to stall. Continued investment is essential to ensure services can meet the ongoing and emerging needs of our communities, to deliver on the promises of the Royal Commission and to ensure that those who experience family violence are not only able to leave unsafe situations, but are also supported to recover, rebuild, and flourish.

The strong response to our open letter reflects what we know to be true: Gippsland stands united in its vision for a region free from family violence, where every person has the right to safety, respect, and the opportunity to thrive.



Everyone has a role
to play in preventing
family violence.

**You don't need to be
an expert – all you
need is the
willingness to make
a positive impact in
Gippsland.**

Working Together: Government



CLICK THE IMAGES FOR MORE INFO



Training and Development.

GFVA and Gippsland Women's Health have a range of training available.

Stay informed.
Learn how to ask and answer the hard questions.

SCAN HERE



STOP FV Resources.

Place the STOP Cards and posters in places people in the LGA can access them easily, such as public bathrooms, parent rooms and public offices.

Ensuring everyone in your LGA have access to the assistance numbers is essential.

SCAN HERE



Advocate.

Don't hesitate to pose the challenging questions. If you are a sitting member of parliament, whether at the state or federal level, seek the answers to the tough inquiries and advocate for improved family violence support in Gippsland.

Working Together: Local Business



CLICK THE IMAGES FOR MORE INFO



Training and Development.

GFVA and Gippsland Women's Health have a range of training available.

SCAN HERE



STOP FV Resources.

Place the STOP Cards and posters in places where your staff and customers have access

Ensuring your clients and staff have access to the assistance numbers is essential.

SCAN HERE



Workplace Equality & Respect Framework.

The *Workplace Equality and Respect - How to Guide* by Our Watch helps workplaces implement a range of gender equality initiatives.

SCAN HERE



Partnerships.

Consider working with a Family Violence organisation as part of your philanthropic program. It can raise awareness and also support the local community.

SCAN HERE



Social Media.

Draw attention to the issue, utilise your platforms, and highlight days of importance.



Working Together: Sport & Community Groups



Training and Development.

GFVA and Gippsland Women's Health have a range of training available.



STOP FV Resources.

Place the STOP Cards and posters in places where your members and team have access.



Sport Implementation Guides & Standards.

Our Watch offers a range of tools and resources to support sporting clubs address the gendered drivers and prevent violence against women.



Fundraise.

Raise money for local family violence organisations. Find local organisations on the GFVA website.



Advocate.

Sign petitions, write letters and lobby politicians about the needs of Gippsland.

Social Media.

Draw attention to the issue, utilise your platforms, and highlight days of importance.



Working Together: Services & Practitioners



Join your **peak bodies, and lobby for them to represent the needs of Gippsland.**

Promote the **lived experience of your clients and consumers.**

Implement the Family Violence Workforce Workforce, Health, Safety and Wellbeing Tools.





Gippsland Family Violence Alliance



Contact Us

www.gippslandfamilyviolencealliance.com.au

@GippsFamilyViolenceAlliance

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