

RESPECT 2040



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**WOMEN'S HEALTH
& WELLBEING**
Barwon South West

Respect 2040 - Mid 2024

It has been a crucial year for both Respect 2040 and prevention of violence against women broadly. Significant growth in the partnership's capacity to lead regional change has occurred in parallel to a horrific year for Australian women. By June 30th 2024, the nation's epidemic of male violence had killed 38 women, 17 women more than the same time last year. This intolerable increase is the tip of the too often unseen iceberg, with many more women, and their children enduring male violence every day. The stark reality of the national crisis has deepened the resolve of all those involved in the prevention of violence against women (PVAW), including Respect 2040.

This update outlines progress on the continuing efforts to grow and coordinate a regional approach to PVAW. It also is a prevention resource and provides information on how you can get involved in Respect 2040.

Progress - R2040 Partnership restructure

In May 2024 Respect 2040 entered a new phase, uniting multiple organisations in a truly regionwide partnership to end violence against women in the Barwon South West (BSW) region. This historic milestone is the outcome of the partnership restructure that began in August 2023. It builds on many years of work by partners in the Great South Coast and Barwon/G21 regions and will grow the long-term reach, impact, and sustainability of PVAW.



R2040 Partnership restructure process at a glance:

- R2040EGG was formally established
- R2040 Community of Practice established
- New partner recruitment
- Development of settings based working groups on hold till R2040 partnership establishment is complete



Respect 2040 - Executive Governance Group Establishment

The strategic arm of the new partnership structure, the Respect 2040 Executive Governance Group (R2040EGG), was formally established in May. The first meeting and official sign-on was held at Colac Otway Performing Arts and Culture Centre.

Demonstrating their ambitious and collaborative leadership style, members got straight to work identifying the longer-term milestones, and ways of working required to achieve the Respect 2040 vision.

The R2040EGG is made up of 12 members including Women's Health and Wellbeing Barwon South West (WHWBSW) CEO Jodie Hill. The 11 courageous, progressive leaders joining Jodie were selected via an expression of interest that sought geographically representative organisations from BSW with a demonstrated commitment to gender equality. This has drawn multi-sector leadership from across the region into a powerhouse that will provide effective governance and strategic direction to the R2040 partnership.

EGG Members:

- Barwon Health BSW Public Health Unit – Anita Thomas
- Borough of Queenscliffe – Martin Gill
- Brophy Family & Youth Services – Kate Keane
- City of Greater Geelong – Troy Edwards
- Corangamite Shire Council – Justine Linley
- Sexual Assault & Family Violence Centre – Katie Wright
- South West Sport – Marc Timms
- South West TAFE – Mark Fidge
- Wannon Water – Andrew Jeffers
- Warrnambool East Primary School – Marina Milich
- Western Victoria PHN – Katrina Martin
- Women's Health & Wellbeing BSW – Jodie Hill

R2040EGG is integral to fostering conditions for a thriving cross-sector partnership 100% committed to strategic actions to end violence against women, girls, and gender diverse people.



WOMEN'S HEALTH
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R2040 Partners

The operational arm of the new partnership structure, R2040 Partners, has hit the ground running. As the heart of the regionwide partnership, this group will be hands on in the work of turning the Respect 2040 Strategy into action, disrupting the gendered drivers of violence in their organisations, services and communities.

As we grow confidence in our ways of working, strengthening R2040 Partners will be prioritised. To that end, efforts are currently focused on finalising the suite of resources and tools that will build the capacity of workforces and community members to undertake evidence based intersectional primary prevention work.



Resource: R2040 Action Plan template

Aim: Tool for members to use to disrupt the gendered drivers of violence against women in their organisations.

Action: Currently being piloted, feedback from members in October.

Use: To support R2040 members in their PVAW action planning.

WHWBSW has developed practical support for current and future R2040 Partners:

[Community of Practice](#)

[Online resource Hub](#)

[Training packages and information sheets](#)

Resources to support R2040

Community of Practice (CoP)

R2040 members expressed their keenness to 'take action' during meetings early in the year, leading to the inaugural Community of Practice (CoP) in June. There has been active engagement in the CoP from 10 partners with 7 of these represented in the inaugural session.

R2040 Resource Hub

Using SharePoint, the hub supports member participation and capacity building. It enables R2040 partners to:

- Communicate and engage in R2040 groups
- Access the R2040 calendar of key events and associated shared messaging /social media packs
- Access R2040 updates and events
- Access R2040 key documents and resources

The CoP allows members to:

- Work collectively
- Develop their capabilities as primary prevention leaders
- Strengthen partnerships across organisational and geographic boundaries
- Share ideas, challenges and successes
- A thriving R2040 CoP is sustainable, evidence-based and has an active approach towards primary PVAW.
- Bi monthly online meetings facilitated by WHWBSW

Training packages and information sheets

Over the last six months, a range of primary prevention capacity building resources have been developed to support the strategic and operational arms of R2040:

Training modules:

- 'PVAW 101'
- 'Ways of Working'

R2040EGG Learning resource:
'Foundational Principles for Intersectional PVAW'

Capacity building and information resources:

- Draft Action Plan Template
- R2040 Prevention of Violence Against Women Data Summary
- Evidence of Drivers of Violence Against Women

R2040 Communications Working Group

The R2040 Communications Working Group was established in November 2023 and brings together communication professionals from R2040 partner organisations. This group share their expertise to co-design prevention messaging campaigns and review communication resources for audiences across multiple settings



February - Launched the 2024 Shared social media Messaging Calendar

So far in 2024, 5 messaging campaigns have been distributed to members on key prevention dates

July - 12 members attended a session facilitated by our communication specialist which focused on planning 16 Days of Activism

Respect 2040 Partners in Sport

Work to embed primary prevention in sport is progressing across BSW through the efforts of two Respect 2040 partners in separate programs. Both programs build on work undertaken by these partners since 2022 through Sport and Recreation Victoria's PVAW in Community Sport funding.

Levelling the Playing Field in the Great South Coast, led by **South West Sport (SWS)**

- SWS have launched the Respect in Sport Standards, a targeted program to support sporting clubs and community sport volunteers to create safe, welcoming, and inclusive sporting environments. Working with Warrnambool City Council and Corangamite Shire Council, SWS commenced roll out of the Respect in Sport Standards to clubs in these local government areas at the end of July. To learn More: [SWS Facebook page](#).

Leaders On and Off the Field (LOOF) in the Barwon/G21 region, led by the **Sexual Assault and Family Violence Centre (SAFV Centre)**.

- The SAFV Centre have launched [Respect Starts Here](#) to embed prevention in community sport. Delivered in partnership with City of Greater Geelong, Leisure Networks, WHWBSW, and AFL Barwon, this program is supported by Geelong Community Foundation. Three sports clubs completed Gender Equality Needs Assessments and Action Planning during June and July.

The Role of Primary Prevention



Primary prevention targets the gendered drivers of violence against women to create long-lasting cultural change to prevent it occurring in the first place. The four gendered drivers of violence exert influence across all levels of society from the institutional to the individual, from schools to sporting grounds. Disrupting the influence of these drivers requires coordinated action across multiple settings and sectors sustained over time.

Victoria's world-leading women's health services deliver vital programs to prevent violence and evidence indicates that it is working:²

Rates of violence against women are lower in Victoria than in other states and territories.

In 2022, 5.3% of Victoria adult women experienced violence in the previous two years, compared to a national rate of 6.6% of women.

The rate in Victoria has fallen since 2016, when it was 8.1% and above the national average of 7.7%.

**RESPECT
2040**

Respect 2040 is about establishing a coordinated and coherent regional approach to disrupting the drivers of violence against women. It is a primary prevention strategy and movement, designed with key organisations from across the region, and based on Our Watch's national evidence base 'Change the Story'. It aims to generate widespread social transformation through coordinating many multi actions to disrupt the gendered drivers in a sustained way over time.

Learn about
joining R2040

Learn about everyday
prevention actions

2. Source: 'Return on Equity: Health and economic dividends from investing in Women's Health Services' by Impact Economics and Policy, commissioned by the Victorian Women's Health service Network.

Thank you to the partners and allies who have committed to working together to end violence against women.

We look forward to growing a stronger, more ambitious partnership with you.

