



# Mornington Peninsula Shire Prevention of Family Violence Implementation Plan 2015-2018



'SAY NO TO FAMILY VIOLENCE'

## Acknowledgment:

The Mornington Peninsula Shire acknowledges the contribution of the following individuals and organisations to the development of the Mornington Peninsula Shire Statement of Commitment for the Prevention of Family Violence Implementation Plan 2015-2018:

Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria	Peninsula Health - Community Health
Frankston Mornington Peninsula Family Violence Network	Mornington Peninsula Shire - Health and Wellbeing Committee
Frankston Mornington Peninsula Medicare Local	Victoria Police
Frankston Mornington Peninsula Primary Care Partnership	Women's Health in the South East



In the spirit of respect, the Mornington Peninsula Shire acknowledges the Boonwurrung/ Bunurong members of the Kulin nation who have traditional connections to the land and water of the Mornington Peninsula.

The implementation plan has been developed based on evidence from Vic Health's, "Preventing Violence Before it Occurs: A Framework for Action" and Background Paper to Guide the Primary Prevention of Violence against Women in Victoria, A Right to Respect; Victoria's Plan to Prevent Violence against Women 2010-2020 and current evidence based primary prevention initiatives in Victoria.



For more information on the Mornington Peninsula Shire Prevention of Family Violence Implementation Plan 2015-2018 please visit <http://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au> or [admin.spcd@mornpen.vic.gov.au](mailto:admin.spcd@mornpen.vic.gov.au) or phone 5950 1685

**Acronyms;**

**ALGWA**- Australian Local Government Women’s Association

**DVRCV**- Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria

**FMPFVN**- Frankston Mornington Peninsula Family Violence Network

**FMPML**- Frankston Mornington Peninsula Medicare Local

**FMPPCP**- Primary Care Partnership

**IWD**- International Women’s Day

**MAV**- Municipal Association Victoria

**MPSC**- Mornington Peninsula Shire

**MPSHWBC** – Mornington Peninsula Shire Health and Wellbeing Committee

**OWP**- Office of Women’s Policy

**PCH**- Peninsula Community Health

**PM** – Peninsula Model

**VLGA**- Victoria Local Government Association

**WRD**- White Ribbon Day



## **Content:**

- Pg.5 A message from the Mornington Peninsula Shire Mayor
- Pg.6 A message from the Chair of the MPS Health and Wellbeing Committee
- Pg.7 Introduction
- Pg.8 Definition
- Pg.9 Our Commitment for the Prevention of Family Violence
- Pg.10 Partnerships
- Pg.10 Key Plans and Policies
- Pg.11 The Mornington Peninsula Shire “Statement of Commitment for the Prevention of Family Violence”
- Pg. 12 Sources
- Pg. 13 The Plan
- Pg. 13 1. Partnerships structures
- Pg.14 2. Capacity and tools
- Pg.15. 3. Communications, Advocacy and Champions
- Pg.16 4. Research and Evaluation

## **A message from the Mornington Peninsula Shire Mayor;**

Unfortunately, family violence is one of the most common and least reported crimes in the world. It can happen to victims of every age, race, class, and nationality and sadly it takes on many forms. Family violence may include a range of threatening and harmful behaviour or take the form of verbal and emotional abuse, with the direct or implied threat of violence. Family violence perpetrators can be controlling of finances and one's physical freedom or the destruction of objects and harming of pets. Shockingly, this form of abuse knows no bounds and can ultimately lead to a victim's death.

Council is committed to rejecting family violence, and through our Prevention of Family Violence Implementation Plan 2015-2018, supports the great work that many groups and individuals are undertaking in our community to break the intergenerational cycle of violence.

Council is resolute in its commitment to Say No to Family Violence and we will continue to work alongside those who are equally as passionate and committed as we are to see the end of it.

**Cr Bev Colomb**  
**Mayor**  
**Mornington Peninsula Shire**



## **A message from Chair of the Mornington Peninsula Shire Health and Wellbeing Committee Antonella Celi**

The Mornington Peninsula Shire through its Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan is very committed to raising awareness and working towards reducing the incidence of family violence in our community.

Together in partnership with the Frankston and Mornington Peninsula Family Violence Network, service providers and community stakeholders much work is being done towards helping to raise awareness of family violence.

Participation in a number of targeted community interventions which aim to support key strategic actions in reducing the risk factors associated with this denigrating and corrosive societal issue has resulted in the Shire developing a suite of helpful tools that are made available to the community and professionals to use. These include:

- Endorsement of the Statement of Commitment for the Prevention of Family Violence
- Educational Posters
- Production of a short film “See the Signs” that was recently launched at the Human Rights Film Festival
- Participation in public forums
- Facilitating awareness training workshops for the service provider industry and wider community

With the availability of these awareness raising tools it is hoped to bring attention of this issue to the broader community and start off those important conversations with friends, family and colleagues and encourage those to seek help where needed.

Family violence is a crime and the Shire is committed to supporting our community to be a safe, healthy, harmonious and inclusive place to live, work and play for everyone regardless of who you are. We all have a right to feel and be safe and **Say NO to Family Violence.**

**Cr Antonella Celi**

## **Introduction;**

The 2009 “National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women” affirmed that local government ... *has a key leadership role* in responding to family violence, and the State policy 'Right to Respect' urges local government to play a key role in driving and co-ordinating initiatives tailored to their local communities”.

Broadly, local governments in Victoria have the ability to facilitate and support the fields of advocacy, public education, community development and organisational change. The Mornington Peninsula Shire has committed time and resources to this effect and has served to illustrate the breadth of the possibilities to influence positive change in our community.

The Mornington Peninsula Shire Health and Wellbeing Policy Statement and Principles acknowledge health is a fundamental right. The Shire also acknowledges that no one should be subjected to physical, emotional, sexual, psychological torture or cruel, inhumane or degrading treatments or punishment ([www.bullyonline.org/related/abuse](http://www.bullyonline.org/related/abuse)).

The Shire has adopted through its Health and Wellbeing Plan the endorsement and advocacy for a healthy, safe and connected community which promote a culture of community harmony, wellbeing and a sense of safety and belonging. In doing so, the Shire has advocated for a greater role in supporting the prevention of family violence across the Mornington Peninsula.

The development of the Mornington Peninsula Shire “Prevention of Family Violence Implementation Plan 2015-2018” demonstrates the Shire’s commitment to recognising violence against women and children as a key social and health issue. The plan and statement of commitment also encourages community members, workplaces, schools, community organisations and clubs across the Mornington Peninsula to ‘Say NO to family violence’ in all of its forms.

The implementation plan takes into account the existing resources, services and commitment the Shire has dedicated to the prevention of family violence through a variety of Shire units such as early years, youth services, maternal child health, environmental protection, aged care and disability. These services have and continue to engage in training, support, risk assessment, advocacy and education within this area.



## Definition of Family Violence;

Under the Victorian Government's Family Violence Protection Act 2008 Family violence is:

(a) behaviour by a person towards a family member of that person if that behavior;

- is physically or sexually abusive; or
- is emotionally or psychologically abusive; or
- is economically abusive; or
- is threatening; or
- is coercive; or

in any other way controls or dominates the family member and causes that family member to feel fear for the safety or wellbeing of that family member or another person or;

(b) behaviour by a person that causes a child to hear or witness, or otherwise be exposed to the effects of, behaviour referred to in paragraph (a).

During 2012-2013 there were 1101 reported family violence incidents within the Mornington Peninsula Shire, which required police in attendance. Research indicates there are many more incidences of family violence in the community which go unreported ([www.aph.gov.au/About\\_Parliament/Parliamentary/DVAustralia](http://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary/DVAustralia)). Family Violence is a significant causal factor for homelessness and directly impacts on the health and wellbeing of those involved and the wider community. As such, the flow on implications in terms of health status and financial impacts can be significant with violence against women and their children costing the Australian economy \$14.7 billion in 2013 (The Cost of Violence Against Women, KPMG, 2013).

The evidence into family violence indicates;

- One woman is killed every week in Australia by a current or former partner
- For Victorian women aged 14-44 years intimate partner violence is more damaging to their health than other factors like obesity and smoking;
- Women are three times more likely to be victims of intimate partner violence than men;
- Men are also victims of family violence.
- Violence against women was estimated to cost the Australian economy \$13.6 billion in 2009 - \$3.4 billion for the state of Victoria;
- One-in-four young people have witnessed violence against their mother or stepmother;
- Of the men who have experienced violence, 4% of assaults have been by a female current or former partner.

- The majority of perpetrators of violence are men.
- Around 80% of all violent assaults (including sexual assaults) are carried out by some men against other men and women.
- Male victims are most likely to be assaulted by other men and most assaults are single incidents in public places (such as in a pub or on the street).
- 74% of physical assaults on men have been carried out by male strangers.

## **Our Commitment for the prevention of family violence;**

The Mornington Peninsula Shire has developed and endorsed the Mornington Peninsula Shire “Statement of Commitment for the Prevention of Family Violence”. This document states why the Shire recognises family violence as a key social and health issue and acknowledges local government has a vital role in facilitating positive health and wellbeing outcomes of its community. The Mornington Peninsula Shire ‘Health and Wellbeing policy statement’ acknowledges health is a fundamental human right, promotes compassion and encourages all citizens to live in its community, which embodies peace and dignity (Mornington Peninsula Shire Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017 Policy Statement) and the Shire’s Access and Equity Policy also advocates for all people to be free from discrimination and to be treated fairly. The Shire acknowledges that no one should be subjected to physical, emotional, sexual, psychological torture or cruel, inhumane or degrading treatments or punishment.

Together as a community we can work to change the attitudes of the past which accepted gender inequity as the norm, where women and children were not seen as equals and domestic violence was viewed as private business. We now understand it is all of our responsibility to challenge gender based stereotypes, and to recognise that family violence is a crime and that sexism and gender discrimination is unacceptable.

*The Shire will work in collaboration with the community and partners to enable and promote;*

- The Mornington Peninsula Shire community as a safe place and act to eliminate violence in all its forms;
- Relationships between all members of the community are respectful and promote the rights of men, women and children to live free from violence;
- and that women, men and children have the opportunity to participate equally in all spheres of public and private life without fear or discrimination.
- Increase awareness of family violence as a key social and health issue
- Highlight the need for community awareness towards the prevention of family violence



- Gather support for action that reduces family violence
- Inspire people to act at an individual and community level to eliminate attitudes that support violence
- Encourage partnerships with key stakeholders to support and educate the community about the prevention of family violence.

## **Partnerships;**

The Shire is committed to working in collaboration with strategic partners who are engaged in the prevention of family violence area. Notably this includes the Peninsula Model “Prevention of Violence against Women and their Children” working group. The Shire acknowledges the importance of such partnership and the potential benefits of bring together resources, skill sets and experience to deliver a greater outcome for the community.

## **Key Plans and policies;**

Key Plans and policies which align with a Statement of Commitment for the Prevention of Family Violence include

- United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;
- The National Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022
- A Right to Respect: Victoria’s Plan to Prevent Violence against Women 2010-2020
- Vic Health Framework for the prevention of violence against women
- Municipal Association of Victoria Preventing violence against women initiatives primary prevention initiatives
- Peninsula Model Prevention of Violence against women and their children strategy

## **The Mornington Peninsula Shire Statement of Commitment for the Prevention of Family Violence;**

The Mornington Peninsula Shire community is a safe place and acts to eliminate violence in all of its forms.

The Shire commits to work for the prevention of family violence through the following actions:

1. To work with key stakeholders through relevant forums, including the Peninsula Model, to ensure the Mornington Peninsula is a safe place;
2. To encourage respectful relationships between all members of the community and promote the rights of everyone to live in peace and free from family violence;
3. To provide opportunities for all women, men and children to participate equally in all spheres of public and private life;
4. To develop and implement a coordinated action plan with relevant partners to assist in the prevention of family violence that promotes health and wellbeing.

**Adopted by Council on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

## Sources;

Chan, A., and Payne, J., (2013) Homicide in Australia: 2008-2009 to 2009-2010 National Homicide Monitoring program annual report. Canberra. Australia Institute of Criminology.

Creating Safety, Equality and Respect in our Community: a Catchment Wide Strategy to Prevent Violence against Women and their Children 2014 2017

Domestic Violence Women Resource Centre Victoria [www.dvrcv.org.au](http://www.dvrcv.org.au)

Mornington Peninsula Shire Health, Hope and Happiness 2013-2017 Health and Wellbeing Plan

Mornington Peninsula Shire Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017 Policy Statement

White Ribbon <http://www.whiteribbon.org.au/resources/what-about-men>

[www.aph.gov.au/About\\_Parliament/Parliamentary/DVAustralia](http://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary/DVAustralia)

[www.bullyonline.org/related/abuse](http://www.bullyonline.org/related/abuse)

VicHealth 2004 The Health cost of violence: measuring the burden of disease caused by intimate partner violence. A summary of findings, Victorian Health promotion Foundation, Melbourne

Vic Health's Preventing Violence Before it occurs: A Framework for Action and Background Paper to Guide the Primary Prevention of Violence against Women in Victoria, A Right to Respect; Victoria's Plan to Prevent Violence against Women 2010-2020

## The Plan;

### 1. Partnerships structures

Establish effective partnerships across government and non-government organisations to promote and implement the Mornington Peninsula Shire Prevention of Family Violence Implementation Plan 2015-2018 and establish structures for sustainable prevention initiatives.

Number	Actions	Responsibility	Partners	Timeline	Performance Measures
1.	<p>Establish new and maintain existing partnerships in order to promote and implement the MPSPFVIP 2015-2017</p> <p>Participate in the Peninsula Model: Catchment wide strategy to prevent violence against women and their children 2014-2017</p> <p>Support MPS Staff to participate in relevant training</p>	<p>Sustainable Communities</p> <p>Sustainable Communities</p> <p>MPS – whole of organisation</p>	<p>FMPFVN, PM, FMPPCP Community Organisations, White Ribbon; Men’s referral service</p> <p>PM</p> <p>VicHealth, FMPFVN, DVWRC</p>	<p>As opportunities arise</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Number of existing initiatives and new initiatives MPS staff participate in</p> <p>Actions implemented</p>
1.2	MPS Health and Wellbeing Committee to support MPSPFVN implementation	MPSHWBC	MPS HWBC	Ongoing	Number of agenda items actioned on the MPSHWBC
1.3	Support family violence prevention projects and campaigns in other settings in the community, for example White Ribbon Day and respectful relationships education in schools.	MPS – whole of organisation approach	PM, FMVFVN	Ongoing	Number of activities MPS participate in
1.4	Support the implementation of the Peninsula Model –A catchment wide strategy to prevent violence against women and their children 2014-2017	MPS – whole of organisation approach	PM, MPSHWBC	Ongoing	Number of activities implemented

## 2. Capacity and tools;

### Build capacity and tools for organisational change, workforce development and increase knowledge of the Mornington Peninsula Shire Prevention of Family Violence Implementation Plan 2015-2018

Number	Action	Responsibility	Partners	Timeline	Performance Measures
2.1	Promote opportunities for MPS Staff to attend gender equity training	Training Support and Development, Social Planning and Community Development	PM, MAV	Ongoing	Staff involved in training
2.2	Promote opportunities for MPS Staff to attend external training targeting gender equity and family violence prevention	Sustainable Communities	PM, DVWRC, MAV, VicHealth	As opportunities present	Number of staff members participating in training opportunities
2.3	Review MPS Access and Equity Policy	Social Planning and Community Development	PM, PCP	2015 - 2016	Review undertaken
2.4	Develop a whole of organisational approach to White Ribbon Day via the development of a White Ribbon Day action team with male representation from across Council.	Training Support and Development, Social Planning and Community Development	WR, FMPFVN	Annually	Completed participation in WR programs
2.5	Take active measures to seek out funding to implement projects to prevent family violence	Whole of organisation approach	Funding Partners	Ongoing	Grants successfully awarded

### 3. Communications, Advocacy and Champions;

Implement communication strategies, engage champions and undertake media advocacy to promote and market the Mornington Peninsula Shire Prevention of Family Violence Implementation Plan 2015-2018, White Ribbon Day, associated prevention initiatives and raise awareness of family violence.

Number	Actions	Responsibility	Partners	Timeline	Performance Measures
3.1	<p>Develop a communication and marketing plan for the promotion of the Mornington Peninsula Shire the Prevention of Family Violence Implementation Plan 2015-2018 within the Shire</p> <p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of an A4 Posters, short film,</li> <li>• Statement of commitment for the Prevention of Family Violence</li> <li>• Community Statement of Commitment for the Prevention of Family Violence</li> <li>• and MPSC Sporting Club Statement of commitment for the Prevention of Family Violence</li> </ul>	Communications, Social Planning and Community Development, Sport and Recreation	Good Sports, MP SHWBC	Ongoing	Development of posters, communication strategy and statement of commitments
3.2	Launch the Mornington Peninsula Shire Prevention of Family Violence Implementation Plan 2015-2018 at a community signatory event	Social Planning and Community Development	Communications, events, PM, FMPFVN	2015	Plan launched

#### 4. Research and Evaluation;

Undertake research, evaluation and monitoring of prevention of violence against women initiatives and the Mornington Peninsula Shire Prevention of Family Violence Implementation Plan 2015-2018 to ensure continuous improvement

Number	Action	Responsibility	Partners	Timeline	Performance Measures
4.1	Ensure there are synergies between Family violence prevention and the Health and Wellbeing Plan and other Strategic plans	Whole of Council approach	FMPFVN	Ongoing	Family Violence Prevention is referenced in the relevant internal documents.
4.2	Share information and knowledge about best practice primary prevention initiatives focusing on reducing the incidence of family violence	Whole of Council approach	FMPFVN, PM, PCP, DVRCV	Ongoing	Number of contacts made with partnering organisations
4.3	Review of the MPFVIP	Social Planning and Community Development	PM, FMPFVN	2016	Evaluation report written