

Men as Allies: A Regional Leadership and Prevention Initiative

Wagga Womens Health Centre

Wagga Wagga City Council and the Snowy Valleys Council

Funding requested: \$535,577

Summary: The Regional Men as Allies: A Leadership and Prevention Initiative takes a multi-faceted approach to support men from the Snowy Valleys and Wagga Wagga communities in the prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (DFV). The project engages and empowers men to become informed, proactive leaders of change in their local areas.

DFV rates in the Snowy Valleys are approximately 25% higher than the NSW average, and Wagga Wagga's incident rates are 1.5 times the NSW average (BOCSAR). In addition to this, over 80% of DFV victims are female, with men identified as perpetrators in 75% of cases (BOCSAR). These statistics highlight the region's critical need for effective violence prevention strategies and underscore the importance of engaging men as active participants.

The initiative will host a Regional Men's DFV Leadership Forum in the Snowy Valleys, featuring respected local voices and nationally recognised speakers. Following the forum, participants will be supported to form a local Regional Consultation Group. Members will regularly convene to discuss DFV and receive ongoing evidence-based training and support from the Wagga Women's Health Centre, alongside nationally recognised partners such as OurWatch, Blue Knot Foundation, TAFE NSW, and Safe+Equal.

Community value: This project will strengthen community trust and capacity by fostering genuine, long-term relationships between the Wagga Women's Health Centre, local leaders, and the Snowy Valleys and Wagga Wagga communities. Research shows that rural communities respond best to initiatives led by trusted local figures, reinforced by clear and consistent communication. By connecting local men through forums and consultation groups, supported by training from subject matter experts, the project will build local skills, resilience and social leadership. This collaborative, community-led effort will create lasting social legacy and promote safer, healthier communities.



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