

# Statement of Commitment to the Prevention of Family Violence

## Working towards a community free from violence.

### Every person in our community:

- has the right to safe and respectful relationships free from violence
- is responsible for taking action to prevent family violence and develop a culture of respect and equality
- has the right to opportunities for equal participation in public and private life

### Our commitment

Knox City Council pledges its commitment to working toward a community free from violence. Family violence is a major health and human rights issue and can affect anyone in the community regardless of gender, age, location, socio-economic and health status, culture, sexual identity, ability, ethnicity, religion or family type.

This commitment is embedded in our Council Plan, incorporating the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan and the Knox CARES strategy.



Knox Says  
**NO**  
to family  
violence

### Family violence is preventable

#### We will:

- Build awareness of, and deliver programs that address the drivers of family violence
- Coordinate and participate in family violence prevention and awareness raising activities
- Recognise the different forms of family violence including elder abuse, adolescent violence and intimate partner violence
- Connect community members experiencing family violence to local support services
- Collaborate with partners to deliver family violence prevention programs and projects in Knox
- Support staff in key services to identify and respond to family violence
- Deliver our Gender Equality Action Plan to promote gender equality in the workplace and progress our vision to be a fair, equitable and respectful organisation

Family violence can happen to anyone in our community: it doesn't matter what their gender, age, income or culture is. Statistically the majority of family violence is committed by men against women.

Family violence can take many forms, including:

- Physical or sexual abuse
- Controlling behaviour such as limiting access to family and friends
- Limiting or restricting access to money
- Psychological and emotional abuse
- Using text message, email, social media or a tracking device to threaten or control
- Travel visa abuse

• Women are more likely to experience violence in their home from someone they know

• Men are more likely to experience violence in a public place from a stranger

• Statistically the majority of family violence is committed by men

• Family violence is the leading preventable cause of death, disability and illness in women aged 25 to 44 in Australia

• Family violence incidents contribute to the need for other supports such as housing, mental health, medical care and the police or justice systems

• Where children are exposed to family violence, it may impact on their behaviour, development, learning outcomes and overall wellbeing

• Women are more likely to have caring responsibilities and less likely to have full-time employment, making it more difficult for them to leave a situation where they are experiencing family violence

The drivers of family violence and violence towards women are complex. However, the evidence tells us that gender inequality creates the conditions for family violence and all forms of violence against women to occur (Source: Our Watch 2023).

Gender inequality is where women and men do not have equal social status, power, resources or opportunities, and their voices, ideas and work are not valued equally by society.

The key drivers of family violence and all forms of violence against women include:

1. Attitudes that accept or don't call out violence against women.
2. Decision making that is not equally shared between partners.
3. Traditional gender stereotypes of male and female roles.
4. Male peer relationships that promote aggression, dominance or control.

Knox City Council recognises the wide ranging and damaging impact family violence has on the community and pledges its commitment to prioritise prevention programming, support and intervention for vulnerable and marginalised community members.

### Help is available

If you are in immediate danger, call 000  
[www.knox.vic.gov.au/familyviolence](http://www.knox.vic.gov.au/familyviolence)