



Gender equity and prevention of violence against women

This position statement outlines HealthWest Partnership's commitment to gender equity and the prevention of violence against women.

Why is it a priority?

Violence against women is a human rights issue. The health, social and economic costs of violence against women are profound. Violence against women has severe impacts upon the health of women, their families and friends, employers, employees, communities and society in general. Violence against women comes in many forms and occurs in all social-economic, age and cultural groups and locations in Australia.

HealthWest Partnership recognises that the violence is never caused, invited or deserved by women and is always unacceptable. We recognise that violence against women is prevalent, pervasive, serious and costly.

What will HealthWest do?

As a proud founding partner of *Preventing Violence Together: Western Region Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women*, and by naming Prevention of Violence Against Women as a key priority area, HealthWest Partnership is committed to preventing violence against women before it occurs by promoting gender equity.

We work towards changing attitudes, beliefs, cultures and structures that support violence against women. We will do this by using our influence to promote and shape respectful attitudes, behaviours, beliefs and practices in the places where we live, work and play, and to encourage an ongoing commitment by all HealthWest members to prevent violence against women by promoting gender equity.

We will positively influence and contribute to creating non-violent communities, by modelling non-violent equitable and respectful behaviour at all times.

Endorsed by the HealthWest Partnership Board

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