

Monday, 13 May 2013

Monash launches Australia-first preventing violence against women program

Monash City Council today officially launched the Generating Equality and Respect program focusing on the prevention of violence against women.

Council has partnered with the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) and MonashLink Community Health Service to deliver this \$1 million program, the first of its kind in Australia, which will establish a 'demonstration site' in Clayton where a number of tried and tested primary prevention programs will be implemented with a range of groups and organisations.

The three-year program will pilot a new model to promote equal and respectful relationships between men and women in the one community, which may be implemented in other municipalities in the future.

Monash Mayor Micaela Drieberg said the program would be a landmark initiative for the municipality.

"The City of Monash has a commitment to the health and wellbeing of the local community and we have been strong advocates for preventing violence against women for a number of years as the lead council for the Inner East Primary Care Partnership Preventing Violence Against Women Project as well as numerous other Council initiatives," Cr Drieberg said.

"We are incredibly excited to be the first council in Australia to introduce a program like this and it further strengthens our position as a leader in the prevention of violence against women."

VicHealth CEO Jerril Rechter said; "Violence against women is a serious health issue. It is the number one contributor to death and disability in Victorian women aged 15 to 44. Victoria has excellent support services for victims of violence, but if we are to see a real change for future generations, we must work to prevent this violence before it occurs. This project is the culmination of many years of VicHealth trials to find out what works to prevent violence against women. Now we are concentrating those wins into the locality of Clayton to achieve a 'saturation effect'. We are very excited to see the outcome of this work because it has the potential to benefit the health of all Victorian women."

MonashLink CEO Gregg Nicholls said; "Preventing violence against women is a priority for MonashLink. We have long worked with vulnerable communities, men, women and children to provide high quality counselling and support services where family violence is being experienced. The Generating Equality and Respect program builds on the strong foundations that MonashLink has established to respond to and prevent violence against women. MonashLink is very pleased to partner with Monash City Council and VicHealth in making the City of Monash a safer place for women and a healthier community for us all."

If you are in need of urgent police assistance call '000'. For further support or assistance contact the Women's Domestic Violence Crisis Service on 9322 3555 / 1800 015 188.