

## **Stawell Regional Health Commitment Statement on Family Violence**

### **Principles**

Stawell Regional Health acknowledge the prevalence and impact of family violence in the community. In particular, the unique experiences of communities in rural and remote areas. Victim survivors of family violence in rural and remote areas have many additional barriers to seek support and remaining safe, including but not limited to:

- Small town intimacy
- Firearms
- Geographic Isolation
- Finances
- Service Provision
- Cultural norms and values
- Diversity

Stawell Regional Health identify family violence as a social and health issue and recognise that it is most commonly experienced by women and children. Further, Stawell Regional Health recognises that marginalised and diverse groups within our communities have their own unique experiences of family violence.

Family Violence is a serious abuse of human rights and has a wide ranging and damaging impact on the lives of those affected and on the community.

### **Vision**

Our vision is for a community free from family violence and one that is safe, inclusive and respectful.

### **Our commitment**

As a health service, we can make a significant contribution to achieving this vision by committing to action on family violence and violence against women and children.

This includes:

- Implementing the Strengthening Hospital Responses to Family Violence initiative as identified in the health services Statement of Priorities.
- Demonstrating leadership on the prevention of family violence and violence against women
- Promoting awareness within the hospital setting and broader community on the issue of family violence.

- Supporting our staff both professionally and personally in relation to family violence to ensure their wellbeing and safety.
- Building capacity within Stawell Regional Health to ensure all staff understand the issue of family violence and can appropriately identify, respond and refer as required.
- Advocating for resources and services within our community to support families who are experiencing violence.
- Increasing our knowledge and understanding on the link between gender inequality and violence against women and children
- Providing an inclusive and equitable working environment
- Upholding principles of gender equity in hospital operations, strategies, policies and service delivery.