

WOMEN'S HEALTH IN THE NORTH

Strategic Plan

2017-2021



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Women's Health In the North acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government.



WHIN acknowledges Victorian Aboriginal people as the Traditional Owners of the land on which we provide our services. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and recognise the ongoing living culture of all Aboriginal people. We express commitment to Aboriginal self-determination and our hope for reconciliation and justice.

VISION

Women in the north have voice, choice and power in all aspects of their health, safety and wellbeing.

MISSION

WHIN works to eliminate gender inequities and improve outcomes in women's health, safety and wellbeing.

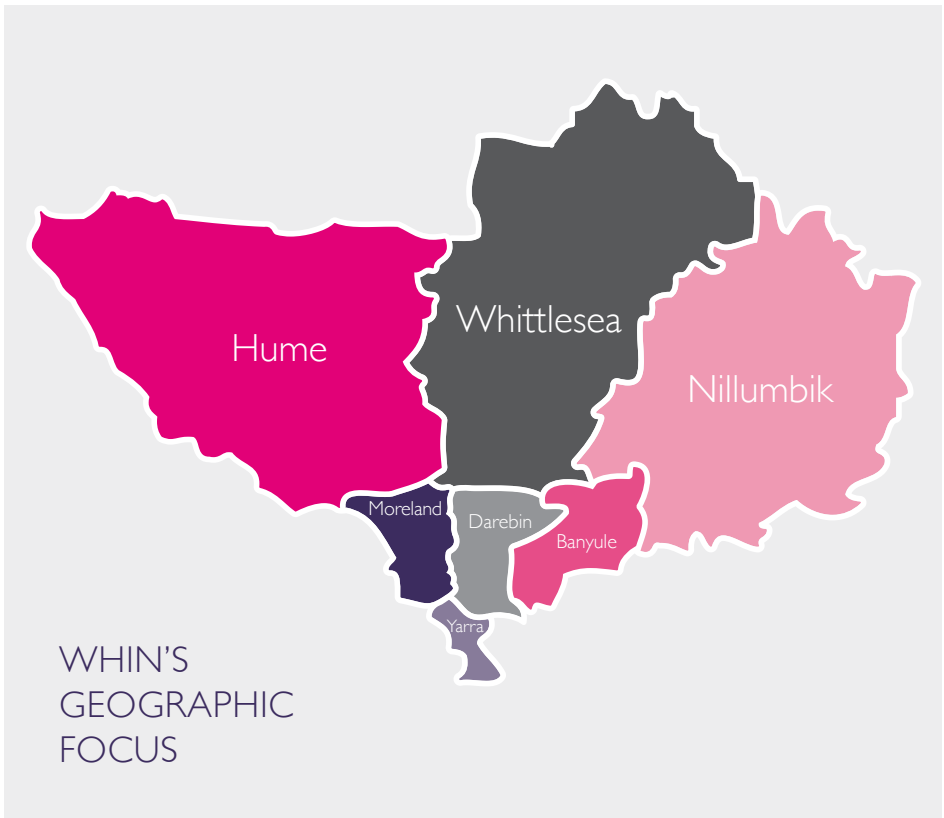
VALUES

Feminist. Ethical. Inclusive.
Courageous. Collaborative.

ABOUT US

Women's Health In the North (WHIN) is the women's health service for the northern metropolitan region (NMR) of Melbourne.

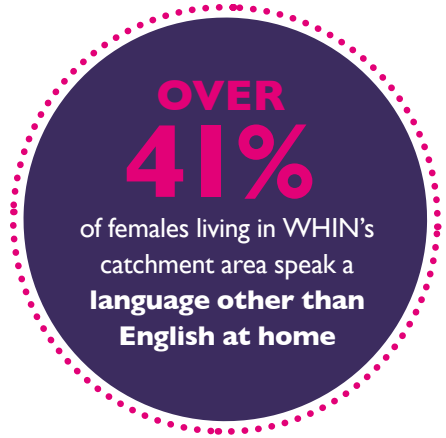
WHIN is a not-for-profit, member-based organisation committed to improving the health, safety and wellbeing of women. WHIN is run for and by women.





WHIN's geographic region contains suburbs

diverse in ethnicity, socio-economic status and infrastructure



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians number 6,396 individuals (0.7%) of the NMR population,



51.9%
OF WHOM ARE FEMALE (3,319)¹

¹Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2016). ABS Table Builder.

THE NMR'S POPULATION IS INCREASING

rapidly in the growth corridors

extending through Hume and Whittlesea

OUR APPROACH

Human rights based

Our approach places women's human rights at the centre of our work and recognises the unequal distribution of wealth and power between women and men.

Social justice based

We recognise that health inequalities arise from social structures and systems driving unequal access to power, resources, decision making and opportunities.

Intersectional

Our approach aims to understand the context of power that acknowledges intersecting forms of identity and lived experience which shape and impact women's health, safety and wellbeing. We use an inclusive lens that complements population-wide approaches with targeted strategies.



Responsive

Our work aims to promote equitable access and engagement that meets the diverse health literacy needs and preferences of all people, and that support individuals and communities to participate in decisions regarding their health and wellbeing.



Evidence based

Our strategies and actions are informed by current evidence, research, consultation and evaluation to build knowledge and achieve continuous improvement.



Sustainable

Our work builds and strengthens cross-sector partnerships, demonstrates outcomes, drives long term change and is well resourced. We acknowledge the interdependence that exists between social, built and natural environments.

OUR PRIORITIES

Gender Equity, Health and Wellbeing

WHIN provides training and resources to support regional partner organisations to incorporate gender equity and gender equality principles into policy, planning and service delivery. This involves providing gendered data, resources and professional development to encourage partner organisations to include women's health issues in, and apply a gender lens to, their work.

Preventing Violence against Women

WHIN provides leadership and resourcing for strategic regional partnerships to prevent violence against women. This includes leading the implementation and evaluation of the *Building a Respectful Community Strategy 2017–2021* and convening and resourcing the NMR Preventing Violence against Women Committee. WHIN also develops and delivers training to partners to build capacity in applying a whole-of-organisation approach to primary prevention of violence against women, including bringing a gendered approach to the link between gambling and family violence.

Integration and Coordination of Family Violence Services

WHIN coordinates and integrates family violence services, employing the Northern Integrated Family Violence Services (NIFVS) Coordination Team and resourcing the Northern Family Violence Regional Integration Committee. The team provides leadership for regional integration, convenes and supports regional networks and groups, disseminates key family violence information, identifies and promotes good practice models, delivers training and facilitates links between local, regional and state-wide family violence governance structures.

Sexual and Reproductive Health

WHIN provides leadership and resourcing for strategic regional work to promote women's sexual and reproductive health, including the development and implementation of *A Strategy for Going South in the North 2016–2021*. We lead and resource the NMR Sexual and Reproductive Health Leadership Group and the NMR Sexual and Reproductive Health Network. WHIN also provides community education and professional development on women's sexual and reproductive health including the practice of female genital cutting.

Economic Equality

WHIN undertakes research and develops training and resources to promote women's economic capability and financial security. WHIN delivers financial literacy programs including 'Managing Money: Every Woman's Business' and 'Let's Talk Money', assisting migrant and refugee women.

Environmental Justice

WHIN produces evidence, research and resources that demonstrate the relationship between women's health and wellbeing and the impacts of climate change and environmental disasters. Through the Gender and Disaster Pod (GAD Pod), a partnership with Women's Health Goulburn North East and the Monash University Disaster Resilience Initiative, WHIN promotes an understanding of the role played by gender in survivor responses to natural disaster and looks to embed these insights into emergency management practice.

STRATEGIC AREAS



Leadership

We will provide leadership and expertise to improve women's health, safety and wellbeing.

- Provide expert advice to organisations, applying a gendered approach to women's health.
- Provide leadership at state, regional and local levels to improve prevention and service systems.
- Influence the policies, plans and practices of relevant stakeholders through advocacy and strategic engagement.



Partnerships and integration

We will foster strategic partnerships that promote women's health, safety and wellbeing, and enhance system integration.

- Identify, build and strengthen strategic alliances at state, regional and local levels.
- Facilitate and enable partnerships across our region by resourcing opportunities for collaboration.
- Develop, promote and support initiatives that strengthen prevention and service systems.



Resource development, education and research

We will develop resources, conduct and influence research and deliver professional education and training.

- Identify, develop and disseminate evidence based resources and tools.
- Develop and deliver professional education and training.
- Undertake sound, evidence based and ethical research relating to our key priorities.



Community engagement and advocacy

We will empower women and communities to influence positive change relating to their health, safety and wellbeing.

- Enable women and communities to inform the design, delivery and evaluation of our work.
- Provide clear and accessible information and resources that support the health, safety and wellbeing needs of women.
- Advocate with, and on behalf of women to influence factors affecting their health, safety and wellbeing.



People, growth, and governance

We will continue to build a strong and sustainable organisation.

- Promote the effectiveness and success of our work to maintain our reputation and expand our opportunities.
- Increase and diversify sources of revenue to ensure our sustainability and expand the reach of our work.
- Develop and strengthen our governance and operating systems to support existing priorities and enable new opportunities.
- Attract and develop skilled, diverse, and competent Board members and staff.

CONSULTANCY

Your organisation's needs can be met by WHIN:

Workforce
development
& training

Resource
development

Events,
conferences
& forums

Research

Organisational
audits

Health
information

BECOME A WHIN MEMBER

Join WHIN today and
support your local
women's health service.

Individual or organisational
membership is free and you can join
online at whin.org.au/membership

CONTACT WHIN

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**WOMEN'S HEALTH
IN THE NORTH**
voice • choice • power