

Statement of Commitment

The MAV Gender Equality, Preventing Family Violence, and all forms of Violence Against Women Network (MAV GE, PFV and VAW Network) is committed to building best practice across local government's work to progress gender equality and the prevention of all forms of gender-based violence. This includes a commitment to strive for inclusion, diversity and intersectional practice in all that we do, as well as continuous reflection on our own practices to identify personal and structural biases and privilege that may perpetuate inequality of all kinds.

Purpose of the MAV GE, PFV and VAW Network

Provide opportunities for collaboration and leadership amongst the local government sector and our prevention partners by:

- sharing knowledge, practice wisdom, successes and challenges of GE, PFV and VAW work in local government;
- building understanding of the role and responsibilities of local government in GE, PFV and VAW to improve outcomes in local communities;
- supporting members to develop skills and expertise through guest speakers and professional development opportunities;
- providing networking and peer support opportunities to build capability and capacity;
- encouraging local government partnerships and other sectors to drive change;
- promoting intersectional approaches to our work.

Membership of the MAV GE, PFV and VAW Network

The Network is an inclusive group of local government organisational representatives and prevention sector partners. There are two streams of membership of the MAV GE, PFV and VAW Network, full members and associate members.

Full members are local government staff members. Councils can have multiple staff as members, particularly for those who choose to attend meetings where the agenda aligns to their interests or specific work focus. For example, youth services, workplace programs, sport and recreation and health planning.

Associate members are key stakeholders representing state-wide and regional interests. For example, sector peak bodies, regional women's health services, state government representatives, and specialist organisations. People wishing to join the MAV GE, PFV and VAW Network should [email](#) the MAV GE PVAW Team.

Membership of the MAV GE, PFV and VAW Network Microsoft Teams Site – for councils only

The Microsoft Teams Site is a professional online space that provides council members of the Network the opportunity to connect, pose questions and share resources between meetings. The Teams Site is governed by this Terms of Reference and will be intermittently monitored by the MAV. Posts that are not relevant to the purpose of the group, are unprofessional or disrespectful will be deleted and the person posting may be removed from the platform.

The views expressed on the Teams Site are those of the individual contributors, and they do not represent the views of the MAV. The MAV is not able to verify the accuracy or sufficiency of the information posted by individual contributors.

Council representatives can be members of the Network Microsoft Teams Site, even if they are not participating in the Network meetings. To join the Teams Site please [email](#) the MAV GE PVAW Team.

MAV GE, PFV and VAW Network Executive

The Network Executive is elected every two years and consists of a local government representative from each of the nine regions listed below. The Executive are representatives from the local government sector who are active participants in the Network and their respective regions. The Executive assists with meeting planning and supporting broader network activity.

Responsibilities of the Executive include:

- Chair quarterly MAV GE, PFV and VAW Network meetings (rotated amongst members).
- Actively contribute to the development of meeting agendas.
- Actively participate as a sector leader in the MAV GE, PFV and VAW Network meetings and other Network activities.
- Participate in meeting debriefs following quarterly meetings.
- Liaise with and provide advice about sector needs to the MAV GE PVAW Team as required.
- Promote the MAV GE, PFV and VAW Network as appropriate.

For the period 2025-2027 there will be nine members of the MAV GE, PFV and VAW Network Executive Group, corresponding to the nine regional women's health services catchment areas in Victoria.

If Executive positions become available before the final meeting in 2027, the MAV GE PVAW Team will contact the key council contacts for the relevant region and seek nomination of a replacement representative. If a position becomes available due to the representative taking extended leave the region may nominate an interim representative, however, the original representative will be offered their position back upon returning to their role in council.

At the end of the two-year term all Executive positions will become vacant to encourage rotation of leadership. Individuals who have previously held a position as a member on the Executive can renominate to represent their region.

If more than one Network member is nominated per region the MAV GE PVAW Team will consult with nominees to negotiate an appropriate arrangement.

The Network Executive members are:

Eastern Metro Liz Fitzgerald Monash City Council	Western Metro Laura Coady, Moonee Valley City Council	Grampians Jenna Bowler Golden Plains Shire Council
Northern Metro Daniel Aristotle Hume City Council	Barwon South West Monika Stevanja, Surf Coast Shire Council	Hume (Goulburn North East) Denise Pirko, Wangaratta Rural City Council
Southern Metro Jason Rodwell Frankston City Council	Gippsland Ingrid Leighton South Gippsland Shire Council	Loddon Mallee Melissa Telford Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Meeting Protocol

The MAV GE, PFV and VAW Network meetings aim to provide a supportive and safe environment for members to discuss relevant issues and share information. As this may involve the discussion of sensitive topics, participants agree to be mindful of confidentiality and respectful, low-impact disclosure related to specific workplaces, people etc.

Participants also agree to:

- alert those at the meeting and the note taker when sharing potentially sensitive information, and
- exercise judgement when discussing the content of the meetings outside the meeting space.

Meetings

Two 1.5 hour meetings are scheduled per quarter. These will usually be held in an online format with a single December meeting held in person to reflect on and celebrate the year's achievements.

When there are two meetings in a quarter, the first meeting will be open to both full and associate members, while the second will be open to full members only. When there is a single meeting for a quarter, all members will be invited. In person meetings may be subject to capacity limits per council/organisation. More than one person per council is welcome to attend online meetings.