

TOGETHER *we* CAN

Act now to end Family Violence in Cardinia Shire

Community Advisory Group

As a first for local government, a new advisory group is being formed in Cardinia Shire to support the Together We Can initiative and the community in co-designing local solutions for a local problem.

The advisory group will be led by the newly awarded 'Agenda Setter of the Year' for Australia, Kristy McKellar who herself is an advocate, survivor, and ambassador for Together We Can. Kristy also co-facilitates the survivor advisory group that is supporting the objectives of the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

Kristy knows all too well the impact of family violence on women and children and has used her own lived experience of family violence to drive State-wide reforms that have significantly improved perpetrator accountability, Victoria Police responses, and support services for victim/survivors and children.

Purpose of the group

The advisory committee will support the Together We Can Governance Group, made of leaders from Cardinia Shire Council, the University of Melbourne, Family Life and Victoria Police, to design and influence the local, regional and state systems to stop, prevent and end family violence.

By participating in the group, people with a lived experience of family violence will ensure that Together We Can is listening to the voices of victim/survivors (and in-turn their children) who have been reliant on the current and past systems that support their safety and well-being - a system that has been identified as flawed and in need of significant change.

The group will:

- Through joint co-design, shape the way services support victim/survivors in the future
- Empower victim/survivors and build hope for other people with lived experiences
- Influence local, regional and State reforms
- Ensure resources are used where they are most required
- Ensure a diverse representation of victim/survivors and experiences
- Build local leadership and shape the future for children
- Provide more thought into future Together We Can action plans
- Add their own uniqueness to the purpose of the group.

Will this interest you?

If you identify yourself as someone with a lived experience of family violence, whether it has been physical, emotional, sexual, spiritual, social or financial (or many or all of these), and you are not currently involved in court proceedings, please JOIN US.

If you can say: "I have learned – and I am happy to help other victim/survivors and children", please JOIN US.

If you would like to be in a group that wants to create change for the better, and that is:

- Welcoming, relaxed and friendly,
- Confidential and safe,
- Where everyone respects you and celebrates your strength
- Where all abilities and cultures are respected,
- And where opportunities for training and development occur, then please JOIN US.

Interested?

Please join Kristy McKellar, like-minded people with a lived experience of family violence, and a hand-full of compassionate local professionals at a two-and-a-half-hour workshop on **22 June 2017**, to hear more about how the Community Advisory Group will work. Lunch will be provided and the time will be from **12noon to 2.30pm**.

For further information about the workshop, the location, and to let us know if you intend to come, please email: Fiona at info@togetherwecan.org.au or call 5943 4366.

All correspondence will remain confidential.

