



Engaging and responsible council

Family violence prevention

Merri-bek

Our Ask:

Invest in place-based partnerships between councils, health services, schools, sporting clubs, neighbourhood houses and community organisations.

Establish ongoing, recurrent funding for all councils to support primary health and community organisations to undertake primary prevention of family violence, rather than relying on competitive grant rounds.

Council recognises the significant impacts of family violence on individuals, families and communities, including the harm caused to children and young people, and the ongoing pressure this places on local services and support systems. In 2024-2025 around 1,900 incidents of family violence were recorded in Merri-bek.

Council's 2019 Gender Equality Commitment guides local actions to address and prevent family violence in the community and promotes a culture of safety and respect, including through participation in the annual 16 Days campaign and collaborations with community partners, such as early years, sports and recreation, youth education and culturally diverse communities.

Council supports those at risk of or experiencing family violence through convening the Merri-bek FV Network and joint advocacy for housing, resources, funding and cultural change to create safe spaces for all gender identities and their children to escape violence.