

On 7 May 2017, at 3:33 PM, Mayor Jenny O'Connor <mayor@indigoshire.vic.gov.au> wrote:

Subject: Re: Support for Family Violence strategy.

7 May 2017.

Dear Women mayor colleagues,

I am writing to ask your support from the 32 Victorian women mayors to take a stand against family violence in our communities.

After the horrific murder of Ora Holt in Wangaratta last week, bringing the number of women killed from violence to over 80 in 18 months, I believe it is imperative that we, as women leaders in our local communities stand together to show leadership on this critical issue.

The reality is that the vast majority of victims of family violence are women, and that is why I believe it is symbolically important for women to take the leadership role on an issue that is all about disempowering and intimidating women in their homes.

I am hoping that if we form a position, we will ask our women councillor colleagues to support a local government-led campaign, and for our fellow male mayors and councillors to stand with us.

My plan is that if I get agreement from all 32 of us that we form a strategic working committee with representatives from rural, regional and metro councils to develop a campaign that aims to get significant federal funding for a strategy that will bring about cultural change at every level of our society, with policies that are informed by the best research from around the world – such as has been done to reduce smoking, road tolls and other social change campaigns.

If you are interested in pledging your support please indicate in a reply-all email. If you are willing to participate in a working party please also indicate this.

If I get the support from you I will draft a press release and circulate for your approval, and then convene a teleconference to discuss the next steps with those of you indicating interest in a working party.

I have attached an article published in our local media which is already generating interest. I have also spoken with VLGA and ALGWA Northeast reps who are supportive of the initiative.

This is of course very early days, but I am asking for your support to take the next steps together.

And of course, if you would like to discuss further please give me a call

Kind regards,

Jenny

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Kind regards,

Cr. Jenny O'Connor
Mayor
Indigo Shire Council
M: 0417126409

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