

# **M E D I A   R E L E A S E**

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**13 November 2020**

## **Local men encouraged to be allies for equality**

Men in the City of Melton are being asked to join the conversation on violence against women and help influence positive change for everyone as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign.

The global campaign runs from 25 November until 10 December, and this year's western region theme, Allyship, is focused on the important role men can play in promoting gender equality and being an ally for women.

Melton City Council has organised free events which are designed to explore gender stereotypes and the links to violence against women, and help women understand the support available to them.

Melton City Council CEO Kelvin Tori encouraged everyone in the community to learn more about gender-based violence over the 16 Days campaign.

"We're proud to take part in this important campaign and we believe everyone has a role to play in creating a respectful and supportive culture among men and women," Mr Tori said.

"Family violence rates have sadly escalated throughout the COVID-19 pandemic so it's more timely than ever that we all consider how we can challenge the attitudes that allow this violence to exist.

"It's an opportunity to understand the wide-reaching benefits of gender equality, and its role in ending gender-based violence."

### **Melton City Council 16 Days of Activism events:**

- See What You Made Me Do – Jess Hill author talk via Zoom  
When: Saturday 28 November, 11am  
What: Investigative journalist and Stella prize-winner, Jess Hill will discuss her award-winning book, See What You Made Me Do
- Family Violence and the Law via Zoom  
When: Friday 27 November, 10am

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What: Melton Brimbank Community Legal Centre will discuss legal rights in relation to family violence matters and the law

- Melton City Libraries 16 Days of Activism surprise book packs  
When: 25 November – 10 December  
What: Register to receive a surprise book borrowing pack from our libraries featuring female authors and books that challenge gender stereotypes
- Escaping the Gender Stereotype: workshops for men via Zoom  
When: Monday 23 November and Monday 7 December, 7.30pm  
What: Learn about the impact of gender stereotypes on men's mental and physical health, the benefits of gender equality, and how you can be a role model

Find out more about the 16 Days events at [melton.vic.gov.au/events](https://melton.vic.gov.au/events)

ENDS

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