

WOMEN'S GROUP GRANTS TO CONNECT AND ENGAGE CALD WOMEN

Grant funding is available again to support the establishment and growth of women's groups across the City of Whittlesea.

The *Whittlesea CALD Family Violence Project (WCFVP)* is a place based collaboration of agencies leading work to prevent and respond to family violence in the City of Whittlesea. While family violence affects all communities we recognise that additional barriers to accessing information and services often means CALD communities are more vulnerable to the impacts of violence and may be less likely to seek appropriate support.

The WCFVP Women's Group grants program is supported by the Sunshine and Crocodile Foundation. The foundation and the partners want to encourage CALD women in Whittlesea to build their social connections, increase knowledge of their rights and services, build confidence to access local services, take on leadership roles and participate in the wider community.

Women's groups can apply for up to \$4,000 to support their existing group to engage more CALD women or to create a new group with CALD women. Funding can be used for expenses such as group promotion, activities, venue hire, child care and transport.

Previous grant recipient, Whittlesea Community House used their funds to deliver *What's Cooking Thursday Women's Luncheons*. The hugely successful community luncheons involved a group of dedicated volunteers coming together weekly to provide food and service to women residing in the township of Whittlesea. Over the course of 18 weeks these luncheons brought over 580 women and 34 children together to share a lovely meal and some good times. One attendee stated... *"I'm so glad we have the lunch, I always know I have somewhere to go."* The community group also arranged numerous guest speakers to help women familiarise themselves with community support services available to them.

For more information about the WCFVP Women's Group grants program see our website www.whittleseacc.org.au or contact Emma Antonetti on eantonetti@whittleseacc.org.au or 94016666, requesting a copy of the grant guidelines and an application form. Grant applications close on Friday 1 December, 2017.