

**Media Release:**

***Stopping Violence Against Women Before it Happens:  
A Practical Toolkit for Communities***



*“We need to break the silences that surround violence against women. We need men and women in our communities to have those difficult conversations and to start to redress gender and other social inequalities. We need our communities to recognise that it’s everyone’s responsibility to address violence against women - this Toolkit is a great starting point.” – Julie Oberin, Chair of Australian Women Against Violence Alliance*

The Minister for the Status of Women, Julie Collins, formally launched *Stopping Violence Against Women Before it Happens: A Practical Toolkit for Communities* at the Country Women’s Association National Conference in Hobart today.

The 15 easy-to-understand factsheets support the Council of Australian Government’s *National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children 2010-22*. It explains the concept of primary prevention of violence against women: addressing the underlying causes of the violence to stop it happening in the first place. It sets the focus on the community as the driving force for changing societal attitudes. Two inspiring community consultations held at Emerald, in central Queensland, and Broken Hill, in western New South Wales, informed the development of the Toolkit:

*“We know from the conversations in Emerald and Broken Hill, and the work we do across Queensland, that there is great strength and commitment in rural and remote communities to change the conditions that foster violence against women. The Toolkit includes practical ideas that can be adapted and used in any community towards achieving that goal.” – Heather Nancarrow, Director of the Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research (CDFVR), CQUniversity.*

A key part of the *National Plan* is building momentum on primary prevention and engaging communities in the process

*“Women from regional, rural and remote communities drove the development of this toolkit. It recognises the specific needs and complexities of addressing violence in those communities, but this is first and foremost a community resource. To succeed in ending violence against women we need to engage communities like Emerald and Broken Hill all over Australia.” – Darriea Turley, President, National Rural Women’s Coalition*

## Background

The project, led by the National Rural Women's Coalition (NRWC), was in partnership with the Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA) and the Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research (QCDFVR), CQUniversity. The NRWC and AWAVA are two of the Commonwealth-funded National Women's Alliances. The Toolkit was developed under special project funding from the Office for Women, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).

The QCDFVR Director, Heather Nancarrow, was Deputy Chair of the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, which wrote Time for Action, the blueprint for the National Plan.

## Availability:

The *Stopping Violence Against Women Before it Happens: A Practical Toolkit for Communities* factsheets can be downloaded from: [www.nrwn.org.au/stopping-violence-against-women-before-it-happens-a-practical-toolkit-for-communities/](http://www.nrwn.org.au/stopping-violence-against-women-before-it-happens-a-practical-toolkit-for-communities/) and linked to from [www.awava.org.au](http://www.awava.org.au). Hard copies can be ordered for \$35 here: [www.nrwn.org.au/stopping-violence-against-women-before-it-happens-a-practical-toolkit-for-communities/](http://www.nrwn.org.au/stopping-violence-against-women-before-it-happens-a-practical-toolkit-for-communities/)

## For further information:

Organisation	Contact Point	Telephone number
National Rural Women's Coalition (NRWC)	Darriea Turley <b>President</b>	0429 848 480
Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA)	Julie Oberin <b>Chair</b>	0419 539 346
Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research (QCDFVR), CQUniversity	Heather Nancarrow <b>Director</b>	(07) 4940 7834 0408 158 952