

# Candlelight Vigil

**03**

DAY

**05**

MONTH

**23**

YEAR

**2023 TOOLKIT**



# Candlelight Vigil

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## What is the Annual Candlelight Vigil?

The annual candlelight vigil is observed on the first Wednesday in May around Australia to remember the women and children whose lives were taken due to **family violence**. This national day of remembrance brings communities together to light a candle while they stand in solidarity to mourn the loss of lives.



**Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre** is Victoria's state-wide response service for women, young people and children experiencing family violence and plays a lead role in this important community event and work with partners across the country to shine a light on this national crisis. This year, Safe Steps has engaged multiple partners, from local government to private businesses, across Australia who will light up their communities purple. looking to increase the 75 partners from 2022

See the **Resources** page to access Safe Steps 2023 .Candlelight Vigil campaign material, or visit [www.safesteps.org.au](http://www.safesteps.org.au) to read more about their work.

## Key Statistics: Violence Against Women in Australia

- Between 2016 and 2021, nearly **900 women and children** were murdered by family violence (FV) perpetrators in Australia
- In 2022, **63 women** were killed - meaning one woman died every six days.
- To date, in 2023, **14 women** have been killed from family violence.
- More than **1/3 of women** have experienced violence from a man they know.
- At least **2.7 million women** have been abused by an intimate partner or family member since the age of 15.
- At least **2.6 million Australian adults** witnessed domestic and FV in their home before the age of 15.
- **One woman has been killed nearly every week** and **one child killed each fortnight**, over the past 10 years in Australia.
- **Women with disabilities** are **40% more likely** to experience FV.
- **First Nations women** are **33% more likely** to be hospitalised from FV.
- **Eight (8) women per day** are **hospitalised** from injuries caused by FV.

Source: Safe Steps

## Key Statistics: Violence Against Women in Gippsland

### Latrobe City - #1\* for FV rates in Victoria

- In 2022, VicPol recorded 2596 FV call outs
- **Increase** of 2.97% FV call outs from 2021

### East Gippsland - #2 for FV rates in Victoria

- In 2022, VicPol recorded 1548 FV call outs
- Decrease by -5.45% FV call outs from 2021

### Wellington - #4 for FV rates in Victoria

- In 2022, VicPol recorded 1295 FV call outs
- **Increase** of 6.14% FV call outs from 2021

### Bass Coast - #16 for FV rates in Victoria

- In 2022, VicPol recorded 840 FV call outs
- Decrease of -8.6% FV call outs from 2021

### South Gippsland - #26 for FV rates in Victoria

- In 2022, VicPol recorded 528 FV call outs
- Decrease of -2.58% FV call outs from 2021

### Baw Baw - #30 for FV rates in Victoria

- In 2022, VicPol recorded 928 FV call outs
- Decrease of -7.5% FV call outs from 2021

\*Out of Vic 79 LGAs, per 100,000 people.

Source: Gippsland Family Violence Alliance

**GWH**

**GIPPSLAND**  
**free VIOLENCE**  
**from**  
PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT VIOLENCE

**VICTORIA**  
State  
Government

# Candlelight Vigils in Gippsland

[CLICK HERE FOR THE LATEST  
GIPPSLAND STATISTICS](#)

**This year, Gippsland will come together again in a united regional approach to acknowledge the annual Candlelight Vigil.** We will recognise the tragic loss of lives as a result of family violence, and the ongoing risk to women and children in Gippsland where we consistently face some of the highest family violence reporting rates in the state. These statistics highlight the importance of the work we do to prevent all forms of violence against women and the lethal risk faced by victim/survivors of violence if we do not work together to change our communities.

**Follow GWH and lead partners on social media for updates on Vigil locations, or contact the partners directly for more information.**

## Gippsland Candlelight Vigil 2022

On the 4th of May 2022, Gippsland stood together for the women and children killed due to family violence. This was the first time the region had come together on this date to say **#NOMORE** and **#OnelsTooMany**.

### **17 regional partners collaborated to organise the following actions:**

1. Partner organisations lit up their buildings and communal areas purple as a visual demonstration of recognising the women and children killed due to family violence in our communities.
2. Partner organisations shared social media messaging including the hashtags **#OnelsTooMany** and **#NOMORE** leading up to / on the day of the Candlelight Vigil. The social media campaign was a way to support the event, as well as help communities recognise the ongoing risk to women and children from FV.
3. Local vigils were organised in three local areas by lead partners.

4. Community members unable to attend local vigils were encouraged to light a candle from home and share via social media or to link into the Safe Steps live stream of the state-wide vigil.

The engagement by partners and community in these events was significant. The events held by partners opened a local dialogue between funded organisations and community about the role for us all to challenge the gendered drivers of violence against work and to identify key actions for community to show their support for victim survivors of family violence.

## **Actions for 2023 Candlelight Vigil**

In addition to the current 2023 vigils, we are reaching out to new partners to engage with or support combined activities, or to look at holding an event within their own organisation. Some ideas for participation in the Vigil include:

1. **Reach out to partners** (page 7-8) and other organisations to discuss opportunities to collaborate in your local area. Events do not need to be large or complicated, this is about standing vigil to remember victims of family violence. [GWH can help connect you with partners if assistance is needed.](#)
2. **Light up your business or office space purple** - e.g. purple lights (including placing purple cellophane over lights) or placing candles in windows or in spaces where safe to do so.
3. **Encourage your community to attend** Candlelight Vigils held in your area.
4. **Share Candlelight Vigil social media posts** across your platforms, using the hashtags: [#GippslandFreeFromViolence](#) [#CandlelightVigil](#) [#LightACandle2023](#)

5. **Challenge your leaders** to speak to the ongoing high rates of family violence in Gippsland for women and children and voice their commitment to the prevention of violence.
6. **Share local event information** with your organisation's partners to ensure broader community engagement and awareness.
7. As done by GWH, **liaise with or support Safe Steps** by connecting your events with the nation wide approach, or engage with Gippsland businesses to participate in the event.
8. **Create your own Candlelight Vigil assets or materials**, ensuring the Gippsland Free From Violence logo is used (downloadable under **Resources**).

## Resources

Click on the images to download 2023 Candlelight Vigil materials.

### Customisable Tiles

If using Canva, make a copy of the file and add your logo. Do not edit the master template.



Save the Date - Canva



Save the Date - PDF



Statistics - Canva



### Resource Kit



### Web Tiles



### GFFV Logo



[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE GFFV BRAND GUIDELINES](#)



# 2023 Candlelight Vigil Partners

## **Leading Partner: Gippsland Women's Health**

Melanie Brown | [melanie.brown@gwhealth.asn.au](mailto:melanie.brown@gwhealth.asn.au)

## **#**

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## **Gippsland Family Violence Alliance (GFVA)**

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### **Latrobe City Council**

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## **Q**

### **Quantum Support Service**

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# GIPPSLAND *free* from VIOLENCE

Partnership to Prevent Violence Against Women



## What is the Gippsland Free From Violence Partnership?

The **Gippsland Free From Violence (GFFV) Partnership** aims to prevent gender-based violence before it occurs. GFFV is a **capacity-building partnership** supporting a collaborative approach and structure to gender violence prevention both locally and region-wide.

GFFV provides a regional framework of partnership that supports all partners - funded or community - to engage in the new **GFFV Strategy**. This strategy brings all partners together in a collaborative approach regardless of function, funding, resources and state mandate.

A regional approach supports prevention activities developed through a common agenda and a shared vision for change.

For more information or for GFFV Partnership enquiries:

- Visit [www.gwhealth.asn.au/gippsland-free-from-violence/](http://www.gwhealth.asn.au/gippsland-free-from-violence/) or;
- Contact **Alex** - [admin@gwhealth.asn.au](mailto:admin@gwhealth.asn.au).



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