

BPIFVP Networking Expo – 14th November 2025

Post-Expo Resources

About the Expo

The [Bayside Peninsula Integrated Family Violence Partnership](https://southsafe.org.au/about-2/about/) (BPIFVP) partnering with Chisholm Institute, hosted a half-day networking exp on Friday, 14th November 2025 for workers and service providers from across the Bayside Peninsula Area (BPA). The Expo focused on **adolescents and young people's experiences of family, sexual and intimate partner violence**.

The aim of the Expo was to provide an opportunity for organisations across the BPA to network in person, learn about services and programs across BPA, and build collaborative, ongoing relationships

Our goal was for participants to have an enhanced understanding of the local service system, and to increase opportunities for collaborative practice, referrals and secondary consultations.

Link: <https://southsafe.org.au/about-2/about/> and <https://www.chisholm.edu.au/locations/frankston>

Who Attended

Participants: 90+ practitioners, team leaders, managers, and service providers from BPA and statewide organisations.

Presentations:

Presentation	Focus / Topic	Presenter
1	"Don't ever give up" Young women's resistance to youth intimate partner violence	Bianca Johnston - Monash University PhD
2	Lived experience of YIPV	Merinda
3	Screening - 'It Starts with Us'	Nil (documentary screening)

Stall Holders:

Organisation	Table Host
Anglicare	Michelle Brown
Anglicare - LYFT	Ora Davidson & Noelene Davids
Better Health Network	Nadine Gadd

Organisation	Table Host
Mental Health & Wellbeing Connect	Christine Phillips
BPIFVP	Tilly Rodwell & Kyle Mahoney
Brotherhood of St. Lawrence	Vicki Blond
Chisholm Institute	Nelly Mohibi
Family Life	Shanny Gordon
Frankston City Council - Youth Services	Samme Mills
Good Shepherd	Audrey Kelly
Melbourne City Mission	Ainsley Bedggood
Moirra	Michael Rose
Peninsula Community Legal Centre	Kirsten Young
RhEd	Sammy Molloy
SECASA	Vanessa Jones & Evon Fallon
The Balanced Blueprint	Merinda
The Orange Door	Amy Swan
The Salvation Army	Leah Astone
Uniting Vic.Tas	Michelle Cauchi
VACCA	Mayling Meir
Victoria Police	Senior Sergeant Duncan Bartley

Resources

Bianca Johnston

Link to the Monash article about the Zine (it also has a DOI link to the Zine directly to it at the bottom of the page) <https://www.monash.edu/news/articles/new-study-into-young-womens-experiences-of-intimate-partner-violence>

And this is a link directly to the Zine on Monash Bridges:

https://bridges.monash.edu/articles/educational_resource/Zine_Edition_2_Digital_Version_F ck_this_I_want_to_get_my_life_back_A_study_into_young_women_s_experiences_of_intimate_partner_violence_/30422632/1?file=59002582

The Balanced Blueprint - Merinda

Our wonderful lived experience advocate, Merinda, is offering all participants from Friday **30% off her planner!** What a fantastic gift, Christmas present, or corporate gift! Order via her website, [The Balanced Blueprint](#), and use the code **BPIFVP** to apply the 30% discount.

Link: <https://balancedblueprint.com.au/>

It Starts with Us

The beautiful documentary we screened is freely available through [ABC iView](#). You can also read more about the project on [their website](#) which includes access to additional resource.

Links: <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/compass/series/39/video/RN2411H021S00>
<https://www.itstartswithus.com.au/>

BigHart invites to an impact event we are having in partnership with Respect Victoria, involving a screening of the film and panel discussion. On the panel will be leading experts, policy makers and young people from the film! All talking about the vital work of prevention with young people.

Monday 1 December, 10am at Kino Cinema, 45 Collins St Melbourne

Its free - <https://events.humanitix.com/it-starts-with-us>

Transgender Awareness

Minus18: <https://www.minus18.org.au/campaigns/trans-awareness-week>

LGBTIQ+ Health Australia: https://www.lgbtiqhealth.org.au/transgender_awareness_week

Transgender Victoria: <https://www.tgv.org.au/transmonth>

Equinox: <https://equinox.org.au/> - a peer led Trans and Gender Diverse (binary and non-binary) Health Service operated by the Thorne Harbour Health

Pronto: <https://thorneharbour.org/services/pronto/> - a rapid HIV/STI testing service for gay and bi men (including all men who have sex with men) and trans & gender diverse people.

Strong in Spirit: <https://thorneharbour.org/services/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-health/> - A Thorne Harbour Health program to support the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples – including Sistersgirls, Brotherboys, and Rainbow Mob.

Anglicare

For practitioners who would like to subscribe to their quarterly "What's On" newsletter which outlines the upcoming parenting groups: <https://www.anglicarevic.org.au/our-services/family-and-parenting-support/parentzone/#join>

Family Life

To refer into our services is easy and there is one entry point:

Phone: (03) 8599 5433

Email: info@familylife.com.au

Online form: <https://www.familylife.com.au/support/request-for-support-with-family-life/>

Links: <https://www.familylife.com.au/>

Moira

Our referral form link for any referrals: <https://www.moira.org.au/arliam/refer>

SAS Vic

Sexual Assault Services Vic. *Supporting Young People to Understand Affirmative Consent Program (2022 - 2025)*. <https://www.sasvic.org.au/syptuac>

Jesuit Social Services - Adolescent Man Box

You can read the AMB report and explore key findings and recommendations at: adolescentmanbox.org.au.

For anyone who couldn't make it to the report launch, the live stream recording is available here: <https://vimeo.com/1136700550>.

Jesuit Social Services is interested in partnering with those who are working with adolescents to translate the Adolescent Man Box research into policy and practice – with the overarching aim to improve the wellbeing of Australian adolescents and contribute to the evidence base related to what works to prevent gender-based violence. Please reach out to The Men's Project team at themensproject@jss.org.au if you are interested in discussing this opportunity or have any questions or reflections about the report.

Emerging Minds

Emerging Minds foundation course *The impact of family violence on the child* introduces the use of child-aware and parent-sensitive approaches for engaging with parents. These approaches consider children's experiences of FDV to prevent these children being 'invisible' to services.

Link: <https://learning.emergingminds.com.au/course/the-impact-of-family-and-domestic-violence-on-the-child>

The subsequent practice course, *Child-aware practice: Family and domestic violence*, offers a conversation guide to assist your engagement with parents who are living with FDV to enquire about their children's social and emotional wellbeing.

Link: <https://learning.emergingminds.com.au/course/family-and-domestic-violence-and-child-aware-practice-1>

Non-Indigenous practitioners working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families experiencing FDV may wish to take a look at the course *Honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices in healing family violence*. The course is designed to help you think about the whole family – their hopes, aspirations, strengths and stories of connections to family, kinship, Country and culture – as well as family histories of problems, challenges and trauma, in discussing family violence.

Link: <https://learning.emergingminds.com.au/course/honouring-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-voices-in-healing-family-violence>

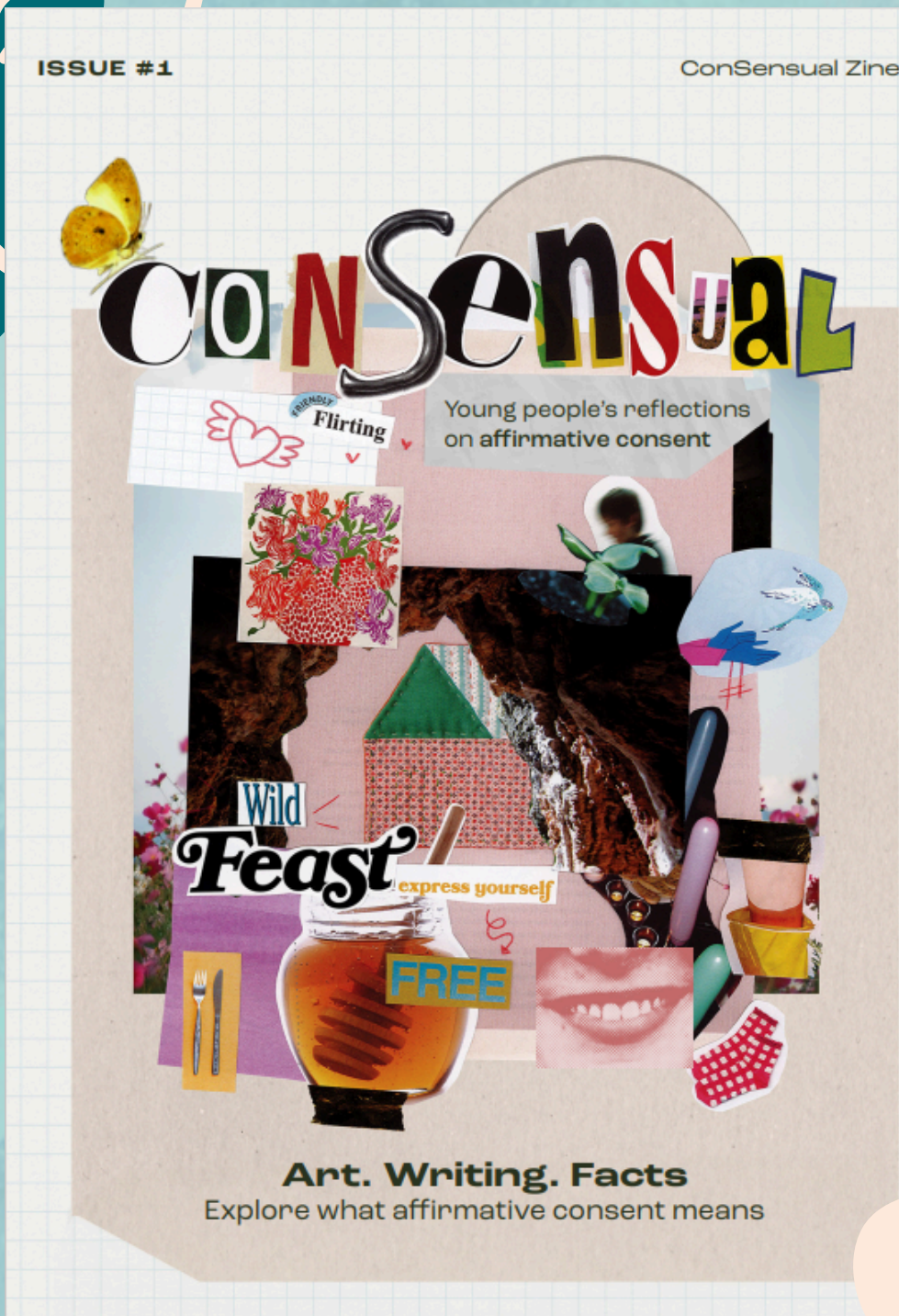
Reports

- Nicholas, L. Hanckel, B. Burgin, R. Kilvington-Dowd, L. Johnston, B. Mills, X. & McGregor, J. (2025). *Improving responses to young men's use of intimate partner violence: Towards a best practice approach*. Western Sydney University.
<https://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/resource-files/2025-10/apo-nid332516.pdf>
- DFSV Commission. (2025). *Men and boys snapshot. Engaging with men and boys to end domestic, family and sexual violence*. https://www.dfsvc.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-09/DFSVC0020%20MenBoys%28A4_Digital%29_FA2.pdf

If you have any queries or concerns regarding the Expo, please contact the BPIFVP team on bpifvp@vt.uniting.org or 0478 272 557

ConSensual is a zine created by the Youth ACtion Group (YAG) as part of the Taking ACtion project. ConSensual was made by young people for young people. It's full of practical information plus some artistic and insightful pieces from creative contributors exploring what consent means to them. ConSensual is a way of sharing important information in a fun, accessible way that explores consent in inclusive and authentic ways. ConSensual is an invitation to join the conversation about affirmative consent.

DOWNLOAD the Zine



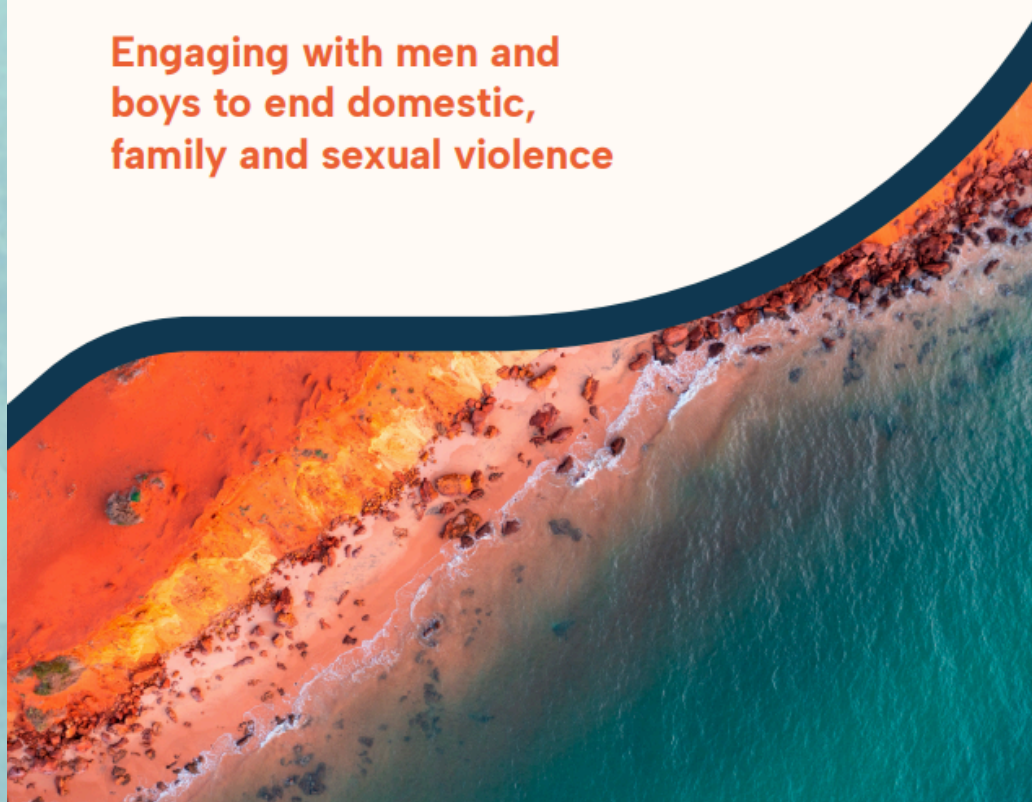
Engaging with men and boys does not and cannot mean diverting attention or funding away from people facing violence and the services that support them. Nor does it mean minimising or excusing the harm men and boys cause with violent behaviour. On the contrary, engaging with men and boys seeks to increase accountability for their violence. This snapshot is intended to progress the national conversation on this important topic.

DOWNLOAD the Report



Men and boys snapshot

**Engaging with men and
boys to end domestic,
family and sexual violence**



This Zine is a youth-focused digital educational resource designed to share the findings of mixed methods research exploring young women's experiences of intimate partner violence. The Zine contains a youth focused summary of the research findings alongside the creative outputs of the 12 young women aged 16-24 years old, who participated in the research. These artefacts were photographed collaboratively during the final research interview by the author and the young women. The young women were invited to narrate their creative output meaning, with these stories accompanying the artwork in the Zine.

DOWNLOAD the Zine



F*CK THIS I WANT TO GET MY LIFE BACK

A study into young women's experiences of
intimate partner violence

Authors:

Bianca Johnston (Monash University) PhD Candidate
Catherine Flynn (Monash University) Associate Professor
Faith Gordon (ANU) Associate Professor

Intimate partner violence (IPV) among young men aged 16–25 is a significant yet under-serviced and under-researched issue in Victoria, Australia. There has been little focus on building increased understanding of, and capability to respond to, young people's use of IPV. There is also a critical gap in services tailored to young men using IPV. This report examined the current service landscape, and spoke to practitioners, young men, and young women to identify key drivers and risk factors for young men's use of IPV. We also undertook co-design with practitioners and young men to develop emerging principles of engagement for effective interventions

DOWNLOAD the Report

A black and white photograph showing the back of a young man's head and shoulders. The hair is dark and short. The image is used as a background for the report title and authors.

Improving responses to young men's use of intimate partner violence: Towards a best practice approach

Nicholas, L. Hanckel, B. Burgin, R.
Kilvington-Dowd, L. Johnston, B.
Mills, X. & McGregor, J.

This guide was created by the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) with support from the Northern Territory Prevention Alliance. The Guide covers:

- How can we give every child and young person a fair go when reporting?
- What about social media?
- How can we include children's voices in the media?
- Choosing our words carefully for ethical reporting on: Child Abuse and Neglect, and Adolescents

DOWNLOAD the Guide



MEDIA GUIDE

Treating every child
& young person fairly



For journalists, editors, writers and content
creators who want to help create better lives
for all children.

NAPCAN PREVENT
CHILD ABUSE
& NEGLECT

A **BIG hART** FILM

DIRECTED BY **AMELIA TOVEY**

CREATED WITH **YOUNG PEOPLE
FROM FRANKSTON, VICTORIA
AND ROSIE BATTY**

Screening Toolkit

**“VIOLENCE IS NOT INEVITABLE,
VIOLENCE IS PREVENTABLE.”**

ROSIE BATTY, FAMILY VIOLENCE ADVOCATE

IT STARTS WITH US

Hello, friend!

We are thrilled that you want to host a screening of *It Starts With Us*. The wonderful thing about watching a film together is the opportunity to share conversations, personal reflections, and experiences. This is the moment we create change—together.

It Starts With Us and Big hART produced this screening guide to assist you with sparking discussions. It doesn't matter what size the screening - whether it is in your home, at school, in a church hall, with colleagues, or with hundreds of people at a community arts centre, the issue of family violence impacts us all. It is almost certain that everyone in the room will have personal experiences of family or domestic violence, gender inequality, or indeed of just being a young person negotiating personal challenges within a school environment.

It is our hope that through watching the documentary and sharing knowledge, opinions, and experiences, we can help create an opportunity for deep listening and connection. As Rosie Batty says in the film:

“There won't be a shift in how adults treat each other unless we focus on the next generation and listen to young people.”

Documentary Synopsis

It Starts With Us follows a group of teenagers living in a community with high rates of family violence, and their transformative experiences as part of a groundbreaking arts-based prevention program aimed at stopping violence before it starts. This unique prevention program fosters connections between young people, artistic mentors, and advocates like Rosie Batty, giving young people the rare opportunity to be heard.

Through songwriting workshops, the teenagers—who struggle with housing instability, bullying, exclusion, family tensions, and low self-esteem—find a way to turn the stories of their lives into powerful lyrics that give voice to their often invisible experiences. Together they explore how to break generational cycles of violence and practice respect, equality, independence, and leadership. When they perform their original song at the school's awards night, they surprise their families and even themselves with what they've learned. *It Starts With Us* reveals the powerful and real-world impact of prevention in action.

It Starts With Us first screened on ABC TV in August 2025.





The Project

It Starts With Us is a documentary and social impact project, developed with family violence prevention advocate Rosie Batty and young people from Frankston North, Victoria. Produced by arts and social change company Big hART, it builds on Project O, a successfully evaluated arts-based prevention program, delivered over a decade with young people around the country, in areas with high rates of family violence.

Family violence is a national crisis in Australia, with 2 in 5 children under the age of 18 exposed.* There is an urgent need for innovative prevention programs for young people, yet prevention receives less than 5% of sector funding.** Without meaningful investment in prevention, how can we expect change?

It Starts With Us combines film and advocacy to raise awareness and drive funding toward youth-focused prevention programs across the country, focusing on the early behaviours and conditions that lead to family violence.

**Australian Child Maltreatment Study, 2023*

***Australia lacks consistent data on funding allocated to family violence prevention. This statistic has been derived from a range of sources in different states.*

Our Impact

Alongside the documentary, we are driving an impact strategy, and its main messages are:

- 1. Work with young people** – To prevent and eliminate family violence, there is a critical need to engage young people, and centre their voices and experiences
- 2. Fund & support prevention programs** - There is a significant gap in funding for programs that work with young people to explore the conditions that underpin family violence and promote respectful, healthy relationships, and aim to ‘stop violence before it starts’
- 3. Creative and youth-led methods** - Innovative approaches to prevention work that tap into creativity and self-expression will have more relevance and resonance with young people, resulting in a tangible and measurable positive impacts

You’ll find information about how to support these aims throughout this guide, and by visiting itstartswithus.com.au

Logistics

1. You should have received the link to download the film. If you have any issues, please contact sophia@bighart.org
2. Create space for rich, interactive discussion - we encourage you to make it interactive. You could:
 - Print a few of the discussion questions and have your audience members pick one to discuss.
 - Organise a panel discussion. This allows you and your community to hear directly from people already engaged with prevention in your community, and to be curious together.
3. Invite your guests! Whether you're hosting a large screening for your workplace or just a small group of friends and family, gathering to watch the film and discuss afterwards is integral to exploring the power of prevention.

Curating a Panel

Invite panelists who can speak to different aspects of prevention, for example:

- Young people involved in prevention, advocacy or leadership
- Youth workers
- People working in the family violence sector, womens or family services
- Teachers engaged in PDHPE curriculum or Respectful Relationships education
- Political Representatives engaged in the issue
- Academics or Economists
- Art therapists, or artists working in education

Share the film and key messages to panelists before the screening so they have time to prepare.

Pre-screening

Introduce the film, and share your intentions in hosting. Consider sharing the project background:

This documentary was developed with family violence prevention advocate Rosie Batty and young people from Frankston, Victoria. Produced by arts and social change company Big hART, it builds on Project O, an arts-based prevention program, delivered over a decade with young people around the country, in areas with high rates of family violence.

Post-screening

1. Facilitate your discussion, where people can voice their experiences in a safe space. In this discussion, hear what the young people have to say! For discussion starters - see the next page
2. Ask audience/group to visit itstartswithus.com.au/take-action/ to learn how they can support
3. Encourage students to ask their teachers to watch the documentary and access the education resources here - itstartswithus.com.au/education/

Discussion Guides

Note: Talking about domestic and family violence (DFV) prevention can be sensitive, and people bring different lived experiences into the room. With care for one another, and awareness of who is present, these prompts encourage dialogue grounded in respect, safety, and empathy.

Starter questions

- What moments in the film stood out for you? How did they affect you?
- Which of the student's stories could you most relate to and why?
- Did the film change the way you think about DFV prevention? If so, how?
- How did the film make you feel about the role of creative arts in schools?
- How might creativity help people to express their feelings safely?

Questions for students

- What does Rosie mean by 'meet young people where they're at and give them a voice', and why is it important?
- What do you, as young people, need or want to talk about that you feel you don't get to?
- What is the value of using art to discuss difficult issues like violence?
- Why is it a good thing for Xiao that she's 'loud' now?
- Discuss Archie's simple but important final statement, "you can get along with anyone". What might have helped him to learn this?

Questions for all ages

- Nearly 40% of children in Australia have been exposed to DFV. With such high rates, why do you think children are not often included in conversations around the issue?
- Rosie says, "violence is not inevitable, violence is preventable." What do you think about that statement?
- Project O welcomed all students not just those exposed to DFV. Why is this important?
- Kaden said he wouldn't do songwriting outside of Project O. What helped him step outside of his comfort zone?
- Rish talks about "your idea of love". How is that relevant in the context of DFV?
- The Australian government stated in 2022 that they would end family violence in a generation. However, less than 5% of allocated spending goes to prevention. How might we balance resourcing crisis response (eg law and order, women's refuges, victim support) with prevention?
- After watching the film, how do you think you can be accountable to the young people in your village?

Support:

If this material has raised anything for you or your audience, you're not alone, and support is available if you need it. Talk to someone you trust— a friend, counselor, family member or youth worker. You can also contact the following support lines:

1800RESPECT – 1800 737 732

A free, confidential service for anyone experiencing sexual assault, domestic or family violence. Available 24/7 to talk, listen and help you find support.

13YARN – 13 92 76

A free, confidential support line for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Speak with a trained Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander crisis supporter 24/7.

Kids Helpline – 1800 55 1800

A free, private and 24/7 phone and online counseling service for young people aged 5–25. You can talk about anything — big or small.

Contacts:

Project Enquiries:

Sophia Marinos
Creative Producer
Email | sophia@bighart.org

Media Enquiries:

Christina Donoghue
Communications & Media Manager
Email | chris@bighart.org

Be sure to tag your screening activity on socials, tagging #BighART and #ItStartsWithUs:



@BighARTonline



@bighart_online



[linkedin.com/company/big-hart](https://www.linkedin.com/company/big-hart)

We acknowledge and thank our funding partners:



Big hART acknowledges the generous support of Gretel Packer

BPIFVP Networking Expo
14th November 2025



A huge Thank You to everyone who has supported us to bring today's Expo to you!

Chisholm



Uniting



VICTORIA POLICE



VACCA
Connected by culture



Brotherhood
of St Laurence



DJAMBANA
Catering

MOIRA

