

## COFFEES HELP TO ADDRESS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

CAFES across the southeast are taking part in a new campaign to fight gender-based violence.

The global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence is being locally run by Women's Health In the South East.

This is the second year WHISE has taken part, distributing 60,000 coffee cups to participating cafes with slogans such as "why doesn't she leave" crossed out and replaced with "why doesn't he stop".

Health promotion manager Rachel Lennon said it could be challenging working in some parts of the southeast as some cultural groups did not have the phrase 'gender equality' in their vocabulary.

"(Some cultural groups) do not understand there is an issue," she said.

"Women are more likely to be killed by a partner or ex partner than a man; this year it's close to two women a week being murdered," she



Boseda Hetherington from WHISE and Wendy Naik from Wicked Sensations.

Picture: STUART MILLIGAN

said. "(Gender stereotypes) are something we are trying to break but it's very hard because it's a historical, cultural thing that has been

embedded over a long time." Libraries in Dandenong and across the southeast will be holding story time sessions for children, where gender-

neutral books that challenged gender stereotypes will be read to preschoolers.

Details: facebook.com /16DaysInTheSouth