

2023 Dani 16 Days Community Block

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SPEAKERS

Dani McCaffrey, Kate Knight, Melanie

- K** Kate Knight 00:00
So this afternoon I have with me Dani McCaffrey from WHISE, Tasman Lewis from Task Force, and we've got Roger Hyde from the RSL joining us later from Mount Highett coming in. So firstly, welcome Dani
- D** Dani McCaffrey 00:14
Thank you so much for having me.
- K** Kate Knight 00:16
Absolute pleasure. So Dani is the prevention of violence against women (lead at WHISE) as we lead up into the 16 days of activism. So maybe Dani, could you start off by introducing yourself and maybe telling us a little bit about the women's health in the south east?
- D** Dani McCaffrey 00:30
Yeah, no problem. Yeah, as you introduced me, Dani McCaffrey, and I'm the Prevention of Violence Against Women Lead at Women's Health in the South East. And WHISE is one of the 12 Women's Health organisations across Victoria. We work collaboratively with a wide range of organisations and communities in the southern metropolitan region, to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes of all women in our region. Our team coordinates important work across four key priority areas, including gender equity, prevention of gendered violence, sexual reproductive health, and gender and mental well being.
- K** Kate Knight 01:09

Yes, such great work that you do. So maybe could you tell us a little bit about 16 days of activism?

D Dani McCaffrey 01:14

Yes, sure. The 16 days of activism is a global annual campaign. It's to raise awareness against gender based violence. It begins on the 25th of November, which is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against women. And it runs through to the International Human Rights Day on the 10th of December. Gender Based Violence is more likely to happen when there's gender inequality and sexism in society. And this is made worse by other types of discrimination such as racism, ageism, ableism, homophobia, and transphobia. And when we talk about all of these sorts of discriminations, we mean that some people are valued less than others. And when that happens, it's easier to be violent towards those people who are less valued. But we all deserve to be safe, equal and respected. But unfortunately in Australia on average, one woman every 10 days is killed by a current or former partner.

D Dani McCaffrey 02:20

And although men do experience gender based violence, it's usually at the hands of another man, and usually in a public space. Whereas the majority of victims of intimate partner violence are women and girls, and it's usually at home by someone that they know.

D Dani McCaffrey 02:38

The first step against preventing violence against women is understanding how much it happens, what it looks like, and some of the key ways that we can stop it before it starts. And that's why we participate in the 16 days, because it gives us an opportunity to talk about creating a more equal and respectful community.

K Kate Knight 03:00

I remember this time last year you actually came into the office and ran the innocent bystander workshop for us. And that was that was a real eye opener to look into what to look out for as well as an innocent bystander.

D Dani McCaffrey 03:16

Yeah and I think it's really good for everybody to understand those small ways that they can take daily actions to, you know, create a more respectful and safe community.

K Kate Knight 03:30

Yeah, definitely, definitely. So what does WHISE do to support the region during this time?

D Dani McCaffrey 03:36

So we have a regional partnership called Promoting Respect and Equity Together (PRET), and it brings together 10 Local Government Councils, and lots of community organisations to work together to prevent gender based violence. And one of the projects that we worked on a few years ago involved working with schools in the region, to get students to draw pictures that challenged outdated ways of talking about what we could do, what you could do whether you're a girl or a boy - you know, some of these gender stereotypes.

D Dani McCaffrey 04:30

It is great to see kids drawing pictures of dads who are nurturing and mums who are firefighters and girls playing footy and stuff like that. And these drawings were used in the wider social media campaign, and a couple of them were put on coffee cups, and they were distributed across the region to try and raise awareness.

K Kate Knight 04:53

Yeah, yes. So important, isn't it? To get away from that stereotype. Oh, goodness. Me. So tell me a little bit what WHISE's campaign this year?

D Dani McCaffrey 05:01

So similar to the coffee cup campaign, this year we're focusing on involving children and young people in exploring the meaning of respect and equality through drawing and coloring in activities. So we hope that the campaign will give people the opportunity to have a conversation with children, about what respect and equality means for them, and what it might look like at home, at school or with their friends.

D Dani McCaffrey 05:27

And we'd love for parents, educators, teachers, librarians, neighborhood centre workers, to capture some of the results of the conversations that they're having with young people about respect and equality, and share the children's drawings or reflections via social media using the hashtag #16days4kids. We hope that also the adults in the children's lives can help create the community by role modeling, respect and equity in their own behavior and their attitudes.

K Kate Knight 06:00

Definitely, absolutely. So how can people get involved?

D Dani McCaffrey 06:05

So we'd love it if people could jump on our website WHISE.org.au and look for the #16Days4Kids. People can download our two toolkit which includes free illustrations created by a talented local artists called NeaValdivia. These images can be used to start a conversation about respect and equality, what it might look like in their school in their kindergarten in their homes, or their friendship groups. And we'd love it if people could share the artwork and the drawings and the conversations via social media to promote them to promote the messages within our community and across the southern metropolitan region.

D

Dani McCaffrey 06:47

Yeah, as I said, using the hashtag #16Days4Kids

K

Kate Knight 06:50

Fantastic. Excellent. Well, thank you so much for taking the time to come in today.

D

Dani McCaffrey 06:54

Thank you so much for having me.

K

Kate Knight 06:55

Absolutely. It's always great to chat with you and hear what WHISE is up to.

M

Melanie 06:59

I think now, if you remember what we did for our last 16 days of activism two years ago, we actually held a photography exhibition. And it was from something that was taken from Bayside Council, and it was to put up some pictures of community leaders, role models in Bayside. So we had a lovely exhibition and the mayor, which is Alex del Porto at the time, I think came down and that was just absolutely, yeah

K

Kate Knight 07:30

We had a few speakers too. I remember. I remember it very well. Yeah.

D

Dani McCaffrey 07:35

Did you all wear little mustaches.

M

Melanie 07:36

I didn't I was I (inaudible)

D

Dani McCaffrey 07:45

Yeah, so much fun.

K

Kate Knight 07:47

So visit our website to because we're going to upload a lot of the 16 days of activism social media content as well. So can give you a little bit more information direct to maybe to some support, I would imagine. Yep.

D

Dani McCaffrey 08:03

And we're gonna have, there's a toolkit that goes with the conversations include that includes tips about how to have conversations with children and young people.

K

Kate Knight 08:13

Fabulous.

D

Dani McCaffrey 08:14

And some lesson plans.

K

Kate Knight 08:15

Yeah, amazing. Yeah. Great work. Thank you so much, Dani.

D

Dani McCaffrey 08:18

Thank you.

K


Kate Knight 08:18


We're just gonna take a short break. Unfortunately, we couldn't find your favorite song, but we're going to take a short break and listen to... Melanie?

M

Melanie 08:27

It's another one by BJAirk

 Dani McCaffrey 08:30
Perfect

 Melanie 08:30
Thanks.