

Media Release

The Hon Natalie Hutchins MP

Minister for Education

Minister for Women



Friday, 23 June 2023

SUPPORT DOUBLES FOR GRASSROOTS GENDER EQUALITY PROJECTS

Due to overwhelming interest, the Andrews Labor Government has doubled its investment in an innovative, focused gender equality grants program to support dozens of local organisations across Victoria.

Minister for Women Natalie Hutchins has congratulated 44 community organisations which will receive grants of up to \$10,000 as part of the *Investing in Women's Grassroots Grant Program*.

Grant recipients include projects that support women and gender diverse people from First Nations, multicultural and LGBTIQ+ communities and those at risk of homelessness.

Gender stereotypes, discrimination and unequal pay are some of the major barriers facing women, girls and gender diverse people.

The grants program aims to build the capacity of grassroots organisations to dismantle some of these drivers of gender inequality through community engagement events, leadership, training programs and advocacy projects including:

- Preston based Juno has received a \$10,000 grant for Powering Future Choices, a project providing information and support to older women and non-binary individuals at risk of family violence, homelessness or financial crisis.
- Sisterworks has received \$10,000 for a mobile hub in Wodonga offering advanced sewing classes and small business training to enhance economic self-sufficiency.

The Labor Government first announced \$200,000 towards the program in early May, however due to overwhelming interest, this investment has been doubled to \$400,000.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Women Natalie Hutchins

"Women and girls have a right to live safely, have equal opportunities and be treated with respect, and we all have a role to play in shaping attitudes and improving gender equality."

"Grassroots organisations play a vital role in breaking down the barriers women and gender diverse people continue to face and are ready to help deliver tailored solutions for their communities."

"I'm proud Victoria continues to lead the country when it comes to improving gender equality - we're working towards a better future for all women, in every setting, at every stage of life, through a range of programs and initiatives."