



Public Statement of Commitment to the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence

On behalf of the Executive Leadership team of Bendigo Kangan Institute (BKI), we want to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to promoting gender equity and eradicating gender-based violence. We are deeply saddened by the recent deaths of women across Australia, as well as the prevalence of all types of gender-based violence from sexual harassment to psychological abuse and coercion. We are determined to play an active role in ending all types of gender-based violence and gender inequality.

The TAFE sector holds a unique position to drive substantial social change in terms of gender equity and the prevention of gender-based violence. We see this in the courses that we teach that directly address these issues, as well as the broader impact that we have on our communities. We are wholeheartedly dedicated to collaborating with other Victorian TAFEs to implement the Respect and Equality in TAFE framework, which serves as a blueprint for planning and taking action against gender-based violence and gender inequality.

Gender-based violence encompasses various forms, including sexual, physical, mental, and economic harm, threats of violence, coercion, manipulation, and gender-based discrimination. When experienced, these issues have a profoundly detrimental impact on both our students and employees, contributing to lower student completion and retention rates, employee turnover, and skills shortages.

In our ongoing efforts to advance gender equity, we acknowledge the intricate connection between men's health and wellbeing and gender inequality. By deconstructing harmful gender stereotypes, we believe we will be in better position to help improve men's health outcomes. Gender inequality has adverse repercussions that affect all of us.

In 2022, we proudly launched our Gender Equality Action Plan. Now, we are ready to build on this to include specific actions towards the prevention of gender-based violence with our first Respect & Equality in TAFE Action Plan. As part of our broader strategy to champion gender equity, we are actively participating in the Respect and Equality at TAFE Campaign in the week of 15-19 April. This campaign will help us to raise awareness of the drivers of gender-based violence and begin to engage our TAFE community in conversations about prevention. BKI remains steadfast in its commitment to building a brighter and more equitable future for all.