

# Blue Mountains Coalition Against Violence & Abuse

## (CAVA)

formerly CAPIG, PVN and SARP

# TERMS OF REFERENCE

revised March 2024

## VISION

A peaceful world without violence or abuse where all people are respected,  
and their human rights are valued.

### 1. Goals and Aims

The **Blue Mountains Coalition Against Violence and Abuse** works to develop a creative, collaborative, and political response against Gender Based Violence specifically Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, acknowledging children are also victims/survivors of gender based violence.

### 2. CAVA's Key Strategies

- a) To maintain an active and engaged violence prevention network that builds service capacity to address domestic and family violence and sexual violence.
- b) To raise awareness in the community of domestic and family violence, child protection and sexual violence by implementing local campaigns and events.
- c) To adopt an approach that includes the unique experience of children and young people as victims/survivors of gender based violence.
- d) To enhance service co-ordination by maintaining effective partnerships in the Blue Mountains, Nepean Region and with Lithgow Cares
- e) To provide effective advocacy and leadership on violence against gender based violence in the Blue Mountains region.
- f) To undertake strategies that promote violence prevention and build resilience in the local community including addressing drivers of gender inequality.
- g) To develop and facilitate community education and capacity building.
- h) To provide local opportunities for training and professional development that creates a strong and resilient sector response.
- i) To encourage and grow grass roots community participation in the Coalition.

### 3. Membership

The **Blue Mountains Coalition Against Violence and Abuse** (CAVA) is open to all agencies and community members, who are concerned about the issue of gender based violence, gender inequity and recognise the structural drivers of domestic, family, and sexual violence.

### 4. Roles and responsibilities

The Blue Mountains Coalition Against Violence and Abuse is convened by Blue Mountains Women's Health & Resource Centre but is a collaborative effort of Blue Mountains agencies, and community members who work together to achieve the aims of the collaborative.

BMWHRC (Convenors) will take responsibility for:

- a) applying for and reporting on CAVA grants in collaboration with other members
- b) maintaining CAVA accounts and reporting to the CAVA meeting on a regular basis
- c) ensuring planning and evaluation occur on a regular basis

Members who participate in the **Blue Mountains Coalition Against Violence and Abuse** do so as representatives of their agency and take responsibility for their participation in CAVA.

CAVA members will take responsibility for:

- a) volunteering and committing to sharing responsibility around chairing and minute taking of meetings

- b) ensuring minutes, agendas and other documentation are distributed to members in a timely fashion
- c) participating in regular planning and evaluation

The Blue Mountains Coalition Against Violence and Abuse will advocate on issues relevant to its vision, goal and aims. The views expressed by CAVA do not necessarily reflect those of the individual service members.

#### 5. Governance and decision making processes

- Members will be guided by their individual service policies and procedures.
- Members will take responsibility for their safety and risk management during meetings and at CAVA events and activities. Risk management assessments will be part of subcommittees' responsibilities when planning events, including any involvement of volunteers or community members not employed by an organisation.
- Decision-making will be made by a simple majority of those attending the meeting, ie, 50% plus one. A minimum of one week's notice will be given to members ahead of any strategic or other major decision making.
- Individual members take responsibility for consulting and communicating with their organisation.

#### 6. Principles of Practice

The Blue Mountains Coalition Against Violence and Abuse is underpinned by the following practice principles:

- Feminism and social justice
- Access and equity
- Community engagement
- Strengths-based

We aim to achieve the CAVA goals and aims by acknowledging that:

- access to opportunities within our society is unequal as is power and distribution of resources & women, and children are particularly structurally & socially disadvantaged.
- we hold that dis/ability, class, poverty, race, religion, sexuality, age, social and geographic isolation are some of the factors which disadvantage women and children make them vulnerable to abuse.
- we recognise discrimination experienced by gender diverse communities.
- recognising the importance of networking, local knowledge and collaboration with communities and local and regional community services. We welcome and encourage service contribution and partnerships in the work undertaken by CAVA.
- operating from a strengths-based approach acknowledging and valuing the capacity, skills, knowledge, connections and potential in individuals and communities.

CAVA is informed by the following Human Rights Instruments:

- Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (2011)
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1999)
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICESCR).
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (13 Dec. 2006)
- Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (20 Dec. 1993) and
- The National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children 2022 -2023

#### General meeting information

- Blue Mountains CAVA meets at the Santa Maria Centre Hall - Corner of Kitchener and Mary Street, Lawson (unless otherwise stated).
- Meetings occur every second Tuesday of the month beginning at 10.00 am for 2 hours.