

Taking Action Project Participant Information

About the Taking Action project

Taking Action is an affirmative consent pilot project being delivered in partnership by Women's Health In the North (WHIN) and Banksia Gardens Community Services (BGCS). The Taking Action project aims to empower young people in the Hume region to ensure their sexual experiences are safe, pleasurable, respectful and consensual.

The Taking Action project is supported by the Victorian Government as part of the *Supporting Young People To Understand Affirmative Consent* Program. The project started in November 2022 and will end in November 2024.

Taking Action is a peer-led education program focusing on affirmative consent, respectful relationships and sexual violence prevention using a rights-based and sex-positive approach*. The project is aimed at young people aged 15-25 years who live, work, study, play, volunteer or have another connection to the Hume area.

Taking Action project activities

The key Taking Action project activities are:

- **Establishing a Youth Action Group (YAG)** – the Taking Action YAG is a group of young people who will play a key role in educating and engaging their peers (other young people) in conversations about affirmative consent, respectful and positive sexual experiences and sexual violence prevention. YAG participants will receive expert delivered, age-appropriate training in topics related to sexual health, sexual violence prevention and peer education skills. YAG participants will take a leading role in other project activities with ongoing support and supervision from Taking Action project staff.
- **Co-designing and co-facilitating workshops** – YAG participants will co-design age-appropriate affirmative consent workshops that will be delivered to other young people aged 15-25 years in community settings e.g., youth and community services, sporting clubs. YAG participants will partake in training to develop their skills to confidently and safely deliver workshops and will have the opportunity to co-facilitate workshops (co-facilitation of workshops is optional). YAG participants will always be supported and supervised by Taking Action project staff.
- **Developing a multimedia project** – in 2024 YAG participants will co-design a multimedia project that promotes affirmative consent.
- **Youth Forum** – in 2024 YAG participants will co-design a Youth Forum event for young people in the Hume region.

As the multimedia and Youth Forum activities are co-designed with YAG participants, further details are not currently available.

About your Youth Action Group (YAG) participation

The first round of YAG participant recruitment ended in June 2023 and the second round of recruitment will take place in November 2023. Participation in the project will end in October 2024.

The YAG will meet fortnightly during the project period at Banksia Gardens Community Services in Broadmeadows. In addition to the YAG meetings, participants will attend YAG training and can attend workshop delivery sessions. The expectation is that YAG participants will be able to attend a majority of YAG meetings and training.

There is no cost to participate in the Taking Action project. As a YAG participant, you will be compensated for your time and commitment to the project in the form of a gift voucher at regular intervals throughout the project period.

Participation in the Taking Action project is voluntary and you are free to refuse or withdraw consent at any time. You can choose which project activities you would like to be involved in. Withdrawing your consent or choosing not to participate in some activities will not affect your ongoing participation in the project or relationship with project staff.

Collecting your information

As part of your participation in the Taking Action YAG, you will be asked to complete a range of monitoring and evaluation activities. These activities may include surveys, focus groups and interviews. These activities help the project team to understand your knowledge about the topics covered in the project, allow us to observe changes over the course of the project, and can help us to understand what project activities may or may not be working.

Your responses will not affect your participation in the project or any other services or programs.

Participation in the monitoring and evaluation activities is voluntary and you are free to refuse or withdraw consent at any time. Withdrawing your consent or choosing not to participate in some activities will not affect your ongoing participation in the project or relationship with project staff.

How your information will be used

Your responses and the information that is collected as part of the monitoring and evaluation activities will be used for evaluation and reporting purposes. It may be shared with people who work at WHIN and BGCS, the Victorian Government and other organisations interested in the findings from this project. We will not share your name or other personal information with anyone, or in any reports or presentations about the project and where possible, your responses will be combined with responses from other participants to protect your identity (e.g., anonymous survey responses, quotes from focus groups).

What are the benefits of participating?

There are many benefits of participating in the Taking Action project. There are some direct benefits to you and some indirect benefits to other young people and the wider community, including:

- Develop your own knowledge and understanding of sexual rights, sexual health and affirmative consent.
- Learn how to better talk to your peers about sexual rights, pleasure, consent and preventing sexual violence.
- Have opportunities to develop your skills and confidence in areas like project planning and peer-education.
- Take a leadership role and be a changemaker in your local community.
- Meet like minded people and be part of the changing landscape of affirmative consent education in Victoria.
- Contribute to a pilot project that will be evaluated and inform future planning and programs in Victoria.

Are there any risks?

While there are some possible risks associated with participating in the Taking Action project, steps have been taken to minimise any possible risks:

- You may feel that some of the topics covered in the training and other discussions (for example sex, consent, relationships, sexual violence) or some of the questions we ask as part of the monitoring and evaluation activities are upsetting or triggering. If you become upset or distressed as a result of your participation in the project, the Taking Action project staff will provide immediate support and will be able to arrange for other specialist support as needed. The Taking Action project staff have extensive training and experience in working with sensitive topics, responding to disclosures and providing support.
- If you decide to participate in the co-facilitation of workshops in community settings, you may experience some resistance or backlash from participants. The Taking Action project staff will always be present during workshop delivery and are skilled in responding to resistance and backlash. Staff will manage resistance and backlash within the session and provide debrief, and also additional support and referral as needed.
- If you decide to participate in the co-facilitation of workshops in community settings, you may receive a disclosure from a participant. YAG participants will receive training in how to respond to disclosures and the Taking Action project staff will always be present during workshop delivery. Staff will manage responses to any disclosures, provide debrief and support to you, and referral where needed.
- Whilst all care will be taken to maintain privacy and confidentiality, you may experience embarrassment if one of the group members were to repeat things said in a confidential YAG meeting or training.

Questions, concerns and further information

If you would like more information about this survey, please contact:

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