

**MEDIA RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Building Respect Across Ballarat Worksites: CCV Continues Advocacy to Prevent Gender-Based Violence**

**May 2026**

During Domestic Violence Prevention Month, CatholicCare Victoria (CCV) is highlighting its ongoing advocacy and prevention work through the *Building Respect – Construction and Trades Culture Shift* initiative across Ballarat.

The initiative, which is already underway as part of the broader Respect Ballarat program, focuses on promoting respectful workplace cultures, gender equality and violence prevention within the building and trades sector.

Delivered through funding from the Ballarat Foundation in partnership with Respect Victoria, the initiative supports community-led action to address the underlying drivers of family and gender-based violence before harm occurs.

CCV Senior Manager of Family & Wellbeing Services, Domenic Vigilanti, said Domestic Violence Prevention Month provides an important opportunity to continue conversations around prevention, respectful relationships and community responsibility.

“This month is about bringing awareness to the role all of us can play in preventing violence and creating safer communities,” Mr Vigilanti said.

“The work we’re doing through Building Respect is about supporting workplaces to foster cultures where respect, equality and accountability are part of everyday conversations.”

Over the next 12 months, CCV practitioners will continue working directly with workplaces across Ballarat’s construction and trades industry through onsite toolbox talks, mentoring and education sessions focused on respectful relationships and bystander action.

The initiative also supports workplace champions who can help influence positive behaviour and encourage respectful conversations among peers.

“We know there are many people already leading by example within these industries,” Mr Vigilanti said.

“Our role is to support and empower those individuals to continue challenging harmful attitudes and helping create positive cultural change.”

Mr Vigilanti said prevention work must focus not only on responding to violence, but on shifting attitudes and behaviours before violence occurs.

“We need to move away from the idea that disrespectful behaviour is just part of workplace culture,” he said.

“Everyone has a role to play in creating environments where people feel safe, respected and valued.”

As part of the initiative, CCV is encouraging practical ways for bystanders to respond safely when they witness disrespectful behaviour, including redirecting conversations, walking away from harmful discussions, or showing through actions that disrespect is not acceptable.

The organisation hopes the work will continue beyond the funded project period by helping employers embed respectful relationship messaging into workplace inductions, policies and ongoing training.



**Ballarat Central Office**

4-6 Peel St Nth,  
Bakery Hill, VIC 3350  
T (03) 5337 8999  
ABN 51 857 084 361

CCV continues to provide specialised family violence support services across the region, supporting victim survivors, individuals using violence, and families impacted by family violence.

For media enquiries please contact:

Alycia Johnson

Senior Manager, Marketing and Communications, CatholicCare Victoria

E: [Alycia.johnson@catholicarevic.org.au](mailto:Alycia.johnson@catholicarevic.org.au)

P: 03 9969 9901

W: [www.catholicarevic.org.au](http://www.catholicarevic.org.au)