

## *No More Silence: Council to host community training on domestic violence*

Wagga Wagga City Council is proudly hosting subsidised training covering domestic and family violence, coercive control, and digital safety to upskill local frontline workers and volunteers in organisations where domestic and family violence is not a primary function.

The three training sessions will be held in November this year.

This opportunity is funded by Council in our commitment to the *No More Silence about Domestic and Family Violence* initiative.

Community Development Coordinator Alex Osgood said service providers had identified the need for more accessible training options to support victim-survivors, particularly with the introduction of new coercive control laws as of 1 July 2024.

“Domestic and family violence is more than just physical abuse and can happen in any home,” Alex Osgood said.

“The introduction of coercive control laws in NSW criminalises coercive control in both current and former intimate partner relationships.

“It is essential for local support services and community members to understand how these laws operate in practice.”

According to the 2021-22 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Personal Safety Survey, approximately one in four women (27%), and one in eight men (12%) in Australia experienced violence by an intimate partner or family member since the age of 15 years.

“It is well known among social services that domestic and family violence goes largely under-reported,” Alex Osgood said.

“A barrier to reporting is identifying what an abusive relationship actually looks like, what evidence person needs to prove a case, and what they can do to protect themselves in the future.”

Council is collaborating with Paula Smith at Upstream Educators who has an impressive record of developing evidence-based training in this space whilst also being an active domestic violence investigator.

“Paula has a wealth of knowledge and is a captivating facilitator,” Alex said. “She will cover three key topics informed by the Wagga Domestic Violence Liaison Committee: coercive control, online and tech facilitated abuse, and financial and economic abuse.”

“This training will provide participants with a deep understanding of how to recognise different types of abuse and how to appropriately respond.”

The low-cost and fully catered sessions in the Wagga Wagga Civic Centre are open to local frontline workers and volunteers in organisations where tackling domestic and family violence is or is not a core responsibility.

**Session 1: Coercive Control**

Wednesday 27 November | 3pm – 6pm

**Session 2: Online & Tech Facilitated Abuse**

Thursday 28 November | 9:30am – 12:30pm

**Session 3: Financial & Economic Abuse + Family Law**

Thursday 28 November | 1:30pm – 4pm

Each session costs \$10 plus booking fees.

Secure your spot here: <https://events.humanitix.com/dfv-coercive-control-digital-safety>

*Please note that these workshops are not support groups and will include triggering/sensitive themes.*

If you or someone you know is in danger, call 000 immediately.

We are committed to hosting inclusive and accessible events for everyone. If you need this information in another format or have any questions, please contact the Community Development Team on 1300 292 442 or email [community@wagga.nsw.gov.au](mailto:community@wagga.nsw.gov.au)

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Contact 6926 9190 or [media@wagga.nsw.gov.au](mailto:media@wagga.nsw.gov.au)

## About Wagga Wagga City Council

Wagga Wagga City Council serves more than 68,000 residents across an area of 4825 square kilometres with an overall budget of \$240 million.

The organisation manages more than \$2.48 billion in assets, including a 2300km road network, Wagga Wagga Airport, Livestock Marketing Centre, and the Oasis Aquatic Centre.

Council also provides important community facilities such as Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Wagga Wagga City Library, Museum of the Riverina, and Civic Theatre, as well as maintaining countless parks, playgrounds, and sporting facilities to ensure Wagga maintains its reputation as 'the City of Good Sports'.

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