



TEAM EViE 2022 ACTION PLAN

EViE is the acronym for 'Ending Violence, improving Equality' and operates as a Primary Prevention of Domestic Violence Project facilitated & led by The Blue Mountains Women's Health and Resource Centre.

Who is Team EViE?

Team EViE is a group of passionate Blue Mountains teens & young adults. Ages range from 13- 24, with both women & non-binary people as the regular participants. Team EViE is open to all genders & gender identities & has flexible engagement options. The group is facilitated & led by the youth team from BMWHRC, Katoomba.



Our mission:

EViE aims to promote gender equality by providing access to resources, education & entertainment with positive gender messages through social media, community partnerships & local actions.



Find us on [instagram](#):
[@evie_equality](#)



EViE Members attending the Blue Mountains 'Enough is Enough' Rally June 2021

What we know:

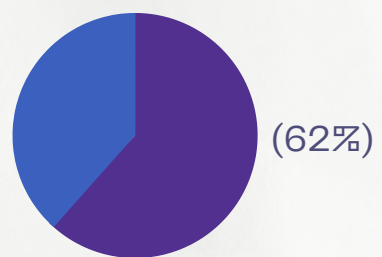


More than four in five (85%)
women 15 years and older in
Australia have been sexually
harassed at some point in their lives.

Data from Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC). 2018. cited from the 'Our Watch' website.

Visit www.ourwatch.org.au/quick-facts

Violence is impacting women
in our community.



108 out of 173 reported
instances of domestic violence
related assault in the Blue
Mountains in 2019, were
against women.

Data from [Blue Mountains City Council](#)
[GENDER EQUITY STRATEGY 2021 – 2026.](#)

Our young people don't feel safe.

When surveyed in 2021 by our EViE facilitators 6 out of 7 participants aged 14–22 reported that they currently do not feel safe as a young person in the Blue Mountains. Participants also reported being catcalled, followed, that they avoid going out at night & feel safer when in a group or accompanied by a man.

Do you feel you are represented
fairly in community
conversations & planning?

"I believe we aren't. As the future generations I believe we should be helping making choices in planning and community conversations because in the end it's our future it's affecting."

– Amelia, 15

Quote taken from June 2021 EViE Questionnaire about community & safety

What are some issues you've
found while navigating public
spaces as a young person in
the Blue Mountains?

"Young people are constantly told they 'aren't welcome' in public spaces in the Blue Mountains. We are ostracised and deemed a 'nuisance' by the public for doing little more than sitting/eating/chatting with friends in an open space."

– Sian, 21

Quote taken from June 2021 EViE Questionnaire about community & safety

If you would like access to information gathered from our EViE questionnaires please get in touch

EVIE's 2022 vision:

EVIE shares a vision to protect future generations, dismantle gender inequality, receive comprehensive sex education and create an inclusive and safer community for all.

"I have the same value as anybody & everybody else."

– Quote taken from participant during 2021 EVIE Planning Session



EVIE Members attending the School Strike for Climate Rally March 2022

What we learned during the 2021 EVIE planning day:

Why is talking about gender and gender inequality important?

"My gender, non-binary, is not legally recognised. It's important that I have the same value as anybody and everybody else... I want to be seen as equal."

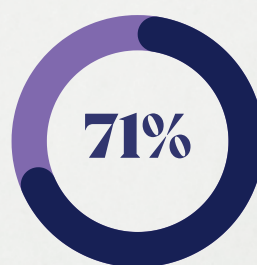
"I want better for my sister."

"It's important because it's an ongoing issue that affects all of us. We've come really far in terms of women's rights, but there's still so far to go– and it's groups like EVIE that are taking the next step in equality."

"As the youth of this community, I think it's our responsibility to stand up and fight for equality for future generations."

Quotes taken from December 17th EVIE Planning Session

Why is it important to address these issues now?



When surveyed in 2021 by EVIE facilitators, 5 out of 7 participants aged 14–22 did NOT want to stay in the Blue Mountains long term.

The most considerable reason to leave was a lack of opportunities and issues of safety.

"I believe there are a lot more opportunities outside of the mountains, and I've seen it's a place many people get trapped in." – Sienna, 19

"A part of me wants to stay in the Mountains long term because it is my home. But, there is a lack of opportunities here, on top of feeling unsafe and unwelcome by my community." – Sian, 21

Quotes taken from June 2021 EVIE Questionnaire about community & safety

How young women experience equity, opportunity & safety impacts rural communities:

Quotes taken from August 2018 article 'Why young women say no to rural Australia' co-authored by Rae Dufty-Jones, Senior Lecturer at Western Sydney University and Neil Argent, Professor at University of New England

"Rural development strategies face a considerable challenge in convincing young women that moving or returning to these communities will be beneficial both in terms of lifestyle and career opportunities. Rural communities ignore this at their peril.

By not engaging with and addressing the fears that young women have about their [present & future] prospects, rural communities will continue to see an out-flow of this segment of the population to big cities and continued uncertainty over whether they'll return.'

Our Plan for 2022

During our 2021 EVIE planning day we brainstormed a range of achievable commitments in 2022.

Team EVIE participants & facilitators are committed to a range of actions in 2022, including:

1. Getting EVIE into local schools
2. Advocating for comprehensive & inclusive sex education
3. Attending protests & rallies
4. Organising self defence classes
5. Attending aligned events such as Mardi Gras, International Women's Day, Winter Magic and School Strike 4 Climate
6. Collaborating with council & aligned local businesses to have a wider approach toward gender equity in the Blue Mountains local area.

Our Objectives & Strategies

What results would we like to achieve?

- A contribution to global equality, by lobbying actively for change and challenging others to think about it & take action.
- Actively seeking diverse and inclusive sex education, that includes in greater detail:
 - Gender, pronouns and sexuality.
 - The female anatomy & sexual health.
 - Consent.
 - The Universal Hand signal for 'Help'.
- Creating a safer community in collaboration with local businesses and Local Council, including:
 - Normalising trauma, DV and emergency situation training within businesses.
 - Safe words (eg: Angel Shot) and better cut-offs for drinking establishments.
 - Safe roads and footpaths that are well-lit, accessible, even and maintained.
- More Safe spaces for women and the LGBTQIA+ community throughout the Blue Mountains:
 - Providing better access to appropriate support services. information & hotlines
 - Community education public campaigns around gender equity and anti-discrimination
 - A seat at the table during town planning and honest consultation with young women and LGBTQIA+ people

Contact us:

EVIE Facilitators can be contacted via BMWHRC Tuesday–Friday



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