

## Women of Gaia

The Women of Gaia is an advocacy group that was initiated by WHGNE as a recommendation from previous research 'undertaken by WHGNE titled A Powerful Journey – Stories from women who have left abusive relationships'. One thing women asked for in this research was a way in which women who had been through abusive relationships could advocate for changes to the response systems of domestic violence services and the gaps they perceived in the field.

The result has been the slow but focused formation of Women of Gaia. This is a group of women who for the past 12 months have been learning and growing together in order to make positive contributions to the community around issues related to domestic and family violence. Women have spoken at policing forums, organized a Walk Against Violence, initiated a support group, and been equipping themselves with the knowledge they need to tackle this insidious issue. The group meets fortnightly in Wangaratta.

## Cryin' Time

Cryin' Time was initially an initiative of an individual from the Women of Gaia supported by a WHGNE worker, it now runs independently. It is a weekly support group for women who have or are still in abusive relationships.

The prime function of Cryin' Time is to hear and witness women's journeys as they struggle with the consequences and realities of their lives as they play out. This group is supported by a worker on a as needs/ resource and information basis, but is essentially a peer run group that receives administrative assistance from WHGNE. This group has since moved on.

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