

A Space of One's Own:

Gender-Responsive Harm

**Reduction for Women and Gender Diverse Clients
utilising community drop-in services**

An identified need

Women and gender diverse PWUD experience high rates of trauma, violence, and stigma

- can create barriers to care

Mixed-gender settings often male dominated spaces

- Can recreate exclusionary dynamics

Following community feedback and observation at cohealth

- Dedicated, gender-specific drop-in space at our Collingwood site
- prioritising safety, dignity, and peer connection



WAGD in Action

Weekly sessions (1h): 4-10 participants.

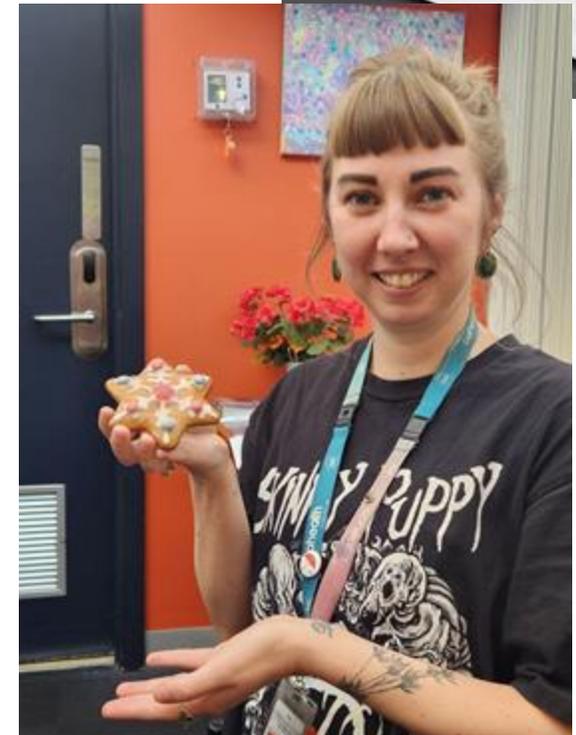
- Activities including pamper day, christmas decorating, knitting

Opportunistic care

- allied health
- housing, legal and social services
- Preventative health screening (BVV, CST, MHT)
- Health assessments and GP appts.

Emerging themes

- Connection and community
- Respite
- Education and support



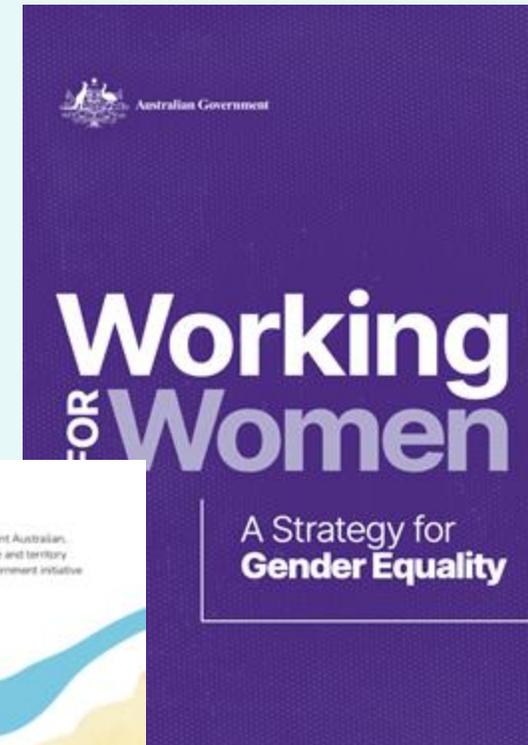
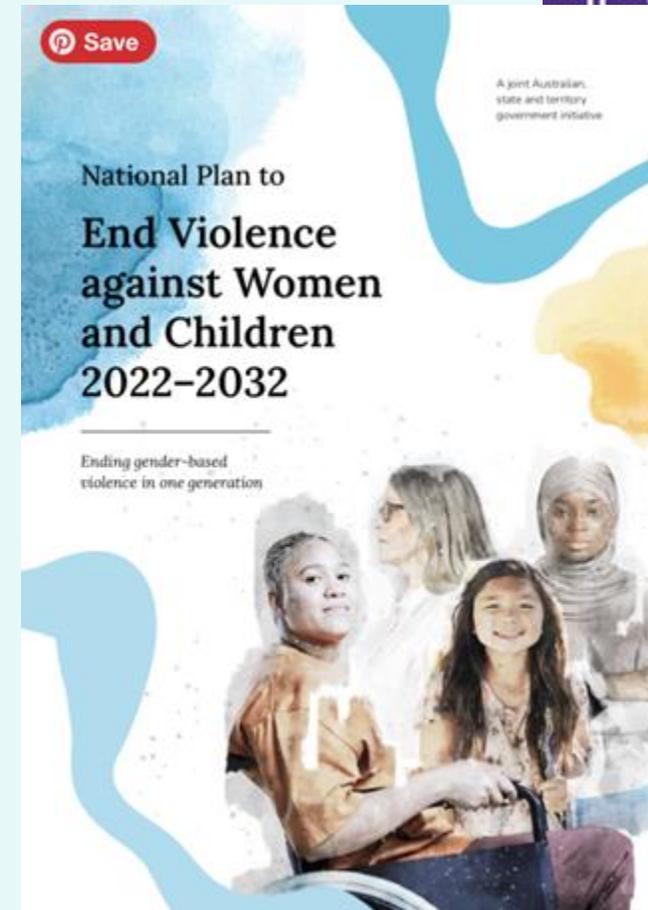
Future planning

Next steps

- Funding for activities our clients have requested
- Formal evaluation
- Expanding health and social support capacity
- Embed and grow the model into care

Policy implications

- Community-informed, gender-responsive models increase engagement and access among underrepresented groups.
- Gender-responsive Harm Reduction models as part of core service delivery.
- Aligns with current national strategies on gender equity and trauma-informed care



“You have no idea, how important this is,
just knowing once a week I can come in
and debrief”

“Just nice to not have the boys around”

