Prevention of Violence Against Women (PVAW) Clinical Champion FAQs

What is a PVAW Clinical Champion?

The Prevention of Violence Against Women (PVAW) Clinical Champions will support, resource and assist clinical staff to be able to access evidence-based information about family violence in relation to the care of patients within the hospital. This role will include assisting staff to recognise the signs of family violence, to sensitively inquire and respond to patients experiencing family violence, to enhance safety, and to provide appropriate support and referral options to both patients experiencing family violence, as well as staff working with patients in their clinical care experiencing family violence.

Clinical champions will also assist to build staff capacity and work-unit awareness to respond to violence against women through reflective practice and case review at relevant staff, team and clinical meetings.

Why does the hospital have PVAW Clinical Champions?

Violence against women is an area of strategic focus within the Women’s Strategic Plan 2016–2021. This means that The Women’s will continue to advocate for and provide leadership in the role of hospitals in responding to violence against women as a health issue.

The hospital system is an early contact point for many people who have experienced family violence. Pregnancy and the early years of parenting are periods when women may be at greater risk of experiencing family violence. As such, the Women’s is in a unique position to routinely ensure early identification of these concerns for the benefit of patients experiencing family violence.

An empathetic and professional response from a trusted nurse, midwife, social worker, doctor or other health provider can reinforce a woman’s understanding that they have the right to a life free from violence and harm.

The clinical champion role is a crucial tool in implementing and sustaining the prevention of violence against women work across the hospital, particularly as antenatal screening for family violence in maternity settings across the hospital becomes routine.

What training and support will I receive?

PVAW Clinical Champions will have the opportunity to enhance their skills and be part of a team that makes the Women’s a leader in the Prevention of Violence Against Women.

The education will be as follows:

* Pre-requisite professional education one-day workshop on family violence – delivered by The Women’s Family Violence Project Team and other key specialist services, including Social Work, the Centre against Sexual Assault, The Centre for Women’s Mental Health and external services, such as Inner Melbourne Community Legal and Victoria Police
* 4 face-to-face Clinical Champions Community of Practice meetings during professional development/meetings time per year (90 minutes each)
* PVAW Clinical Champions network in online forum Basecamp
* Quarterly debriefing/reflective practice sessions will be provided
* Optional journal club facilitated by Chair of Prevention of Family Violence, Kelsey Hegarty.

What will be the commitment in relation to my time?

Becoming a PVAW Clinical Champion at the Women’s will include taking time for training, to attend meetings during the year and time to assist other staff and present at staff or clinical meetings.

Your manager will need to approve and support this time commitment.

As per above, the initial training will be a one-day workshop provided by the Women’s and key specialist services. Your time for this training and the cost of the training will be covered by the Women’s.

Attendance at PVAW clinical champion Community of Practice meetings and professional education will also form part of the commitment of time. The overall time commitment is not burdensome, and can be managed within a staff member’s current role.

How can I make a difference to ending Violence Against Women and become a PVAW champion?

You will need to complete an expression of interest form to apply to become a PVAW Clinical Champion. The role is undertaken within the staff member’s current hours and pay. Managers will need to endorse your application.

 Please click here [add hyperlink] for an expression of interest form

What is the recruitment process?

You should submit your application form to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by close of business \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Applications will be progressed subject to manager and Executive approval.

Selected applicants will be contacted to arrange a formal interview. The interview process will be managed by the PVAW Team with support from specialist services representatives such as Social Work.

Successful applicants are to be available for training, support and meetings and will be appointed to the role for 1 year, with the opportunity to extend for another 12 months.

More information

Please contact the Family Violence Project Manager \*Name Surname\*

email@hospital.org.au