

Change makers - working together to end violence



“ I want to create change through educating women about their rights and the dynamics of domestic violence, so that they are empowered, knowledgeable and confident leaders of the future. ”

Mikhaila Markwell, Save the Children, South West Queensland

“I have worked in the sector for just over two years. My interest started when I read about human trafficking of women and girls. It struck a chord with me and I started studying social work. I really wanted to empower people who have been exploited. At university, I completed a DV elective, which clicked with me. With these experiences, I knew I wanted to work in the DV sector.”

“When I saw a job advertised for a crisis accommodation worker in a new service in South West Queensland, I thought I would give it a go and I got the job! It’s a unique role and it’s different every day. I work in a small team, they are the best thing about the job and part of what makes me stay. We have diverse skills and our practice is better because we challenge, stretch and lean on each other every day. Our unique strengths and how they compliment each other make us a great team.”

Mikhaila shared the part she played in the development of the Workforce Plans. “I attended a developing, designing and driving change workshop. I felt really comfortable to talk and share and it was great to connect and work through some of the workforce challenges and design responses.”

“I see my role as an educator, building awareness that expands beyond my role into the supermarket, the pub and beyond. Helping make people aware of the scale of the issues that women confront and its basis in gender. I want to help people to understand what domestic violence is, that it is more than physical violence and includes all forms of power and control. Driving change is about challenging outdated attitudes and beliefs that are at the core of domestic violence. I feel like we can make a difference if we focus on these things.”

Mikhaila recognises the importance of having a good support network to sustain you in this work. “A great team and great clients keep me here. My team is everything to me, working with them is the best experience. The clients, their motivation, inspires me to do the best that I can do. Working in a remote region forces you to adapt and fill gaps when there are no other options or services. It’s unpredictable, character building and it keeps me on my toes. It’s a unique, rewarding career. If you are interested in a career where you want to help and empower women to work towards a society that achieves equality and self determination this is the career for you.”



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