

## 2023 Candlelight Vigil

South Gippsland Shire Council would like to extend a warm invitation to everyone in our community to attend a Candlelight Vigil on Wednesday 3 May from 6.30pm outside Council's main office at 9 Smith Street, Leongatha.

The Vigil, which is being held in locations across Gippsland, Victoria and Australia, has been organised to remember and honour those who have lost their lives to domestic and family violence.

In 2022, South Gippsland ranked 26 out of all 79 local government areas in Victoria for family violence rates. In real numbers, that is 528 call outs recorded by Victoria Police. These are just those who have reported.

The bigger picture across Australia paints a sombre picture, with one woman killed every week and one child killed each fortnight over the past 10 years. More than one third of women have experienced violence from a man they know.

For more information on statistics and Vigils being held around our region, please visit the Gippsland Women's Health website: <https://qwhealth.asn.au>

***Quote attributable to Cr Nathan Hersey, Mayor South Gippsland Shire Council:***

*"The unnecessary loss of any life due to domestic violence is truly tragic. South Gippsland doesn't have the same reported numbers of domestic violence as other areas, but it is important that we acknowledge the risk that particularly women and children face in domestic violence situations. Our community can show solidarity and joint condemnation of this violence. I strongly encourage everyone to come along on Wednesday 3 May to reflect with us."*

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For media enquiries, please contact the Communications team on 5662 9200  
South Gippsland Shire Council, 9 Smith St. (Private Bag 4), Leongatha 3953  
[communications@southgippsland.vic.gov.au](mailto:communications@southgippsland.vic.gov.au)  
[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au)