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MEDIA RELEASE For immediate distribution

Support for Global Climate Strike 20 September 2019

Gippsland Women's Health (GWH) endorses the Global Day for Climate Action, Friday 20 September. We support School Strike 4 Climate, the Australian student leaders of the global movement for change. We endorse their demands for a cleaner, safer, more just society. GWH works from a feminist perspective that is committed to being sustainable and responsive to the environmental factors affecting women's health.

The Board and staff are committed on taking action and have made the decision to **close our Sale office on Friday 20th September**, with staff and Board attending Climate Strike rallies across the world. We will join them on the streets to demand an end to the age of fossil fuels. Millions of adults will walk out of their workplaces and homes to support solutions to the most important crisis facing our world. We invite our members and partners to join us. Find out more at: <https://globalclimastrike.net>

GWH recognises the importance of environmental sustainability for the future health of all women and our communities. Climate change is the greatest health threat of the 21st century and urgent action is needed from all levels of government. Climate change has extensive health and wellbeing impacts on Gippsland communities, impacting more seriously those already experiencing disadvantage, including women and their children, Indigenous communities, aged people, and people living with disabilities. (Source: [Women's Health East, Women and Climate Change factsheet](#))

Women are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to gender inequalities and rigid gender roles. Increased severity of extreme weather patterns such as heat waves, and natural disasters such as bushfires, correlate with an increase in the perpetration of intimate partner violence and sexual violence against women.

(Source: <https://ajem.infoservices.com.au/items/AJEM-28-02-09>)

Quote attributable to Gippsland Women's Health CEO, Fiona Owen

"We have a moral duty and responsibility to act on this issue. We encourage our partner organisations, in fact all organisations in Gippsland, to stand up and show their support for Climate Justice".

Quote attributable to Gippsland Women's Health Chair, Gina Boyanton

"Climate change is the greatest threat to all life on earth. We cannot sit back and wait for others to act."

-ENDS-

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