



COMMUNITY-LED PRIMARY PREVENTION PROGRAM EXPANDS IN FRANKSTON

Since 2018, Big hART's award-winning primary prevention program Project O has been enabling young women in Frankston North to build their confidence and skills to become changemakers in their community. In 2022 Big hART extends upon the work of Project O with a new primary prevention initiative Something to Talk About, which will be accessible to young people of all genders.

Something to Talk About is designed for young people aged 10-15 years, and takes a strength-based approach, exploring positive narratives around gender equality, community advocacy, pride, and respect. The program will take place at Monterey Secondary College, Mahogany Rise Primary School and Aldercourt Primary School and seeks to strengthen peer culture within the school environment, and share this learning with the wider community through events, digital media content, and performance.

"Something to Talk About is equipping all our young people with the language and tools to explore important conversations with their peers" Monterey Secondary High School Principal Peter Langham explains. "This program creates a safe space for students to share new conversations and experiences to build a positive peer culture and engaged school experience."

"The Big hART program does crucial work to support young Victorians during their transition from primary to high school, keeping them connected and helping them build positive relationships", says the Minister for Crime Prevention Natalie Hutchins.

The program, facilitated by a number of Big hART mentors, creates space for discovery and discussion, generating peer to peer exchanges in a safe environment, and exploring positive behaviours in interpersonal relationships. Participants are encouraged to investigate and document their thoughts and opinions and express them through digital and social media. Content created through the program will be used by young people to assist them to call out behaviours, support their friends, and model new behaviours safely.

Something to Talk About is an initiative of Big hART, Australia's leading arts and social change organisation. Founded in North West Tasmania 30 years ago, Big hART has worked in over 52 communities across Australia, winning over 45 awards.



Something to Talk About is supported by the Victorian Government through the Building Safer Communities program, an initiative of the Department of Justice and Community Safety.



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