

MEDIA KIT

An overview of our work,
programs, and team.



ABOUT US

WAGEC'S VISION IS TO CREATE A WORLD WHERE EVERYONE IS SAFE, EQUAL AND FREE FROM GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.

Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre (WAGEC) is a feminist, specialist homelessness and domestic violence service supporting women, trans and gender-diverse people, and children experiencing homelessness, violence and systemic disadvantage.

WAGEC was established in 1977 by Jeannie Devine, a woman who established a drop-in centre for women and girls in crisis after her own experience of homelessness.

Almost 50 years later, WAGEC has grown to support over 200 women, trans and gender-diverse people, and children escaping domestic violence, homelessness and systemic disadvantage each night.

We do this by providing material aid, case management, wrap-around support, accommodation and crisis responses.

WAGEC operates a drop-in-centre, four crisis refuges and 45 transitional properties.

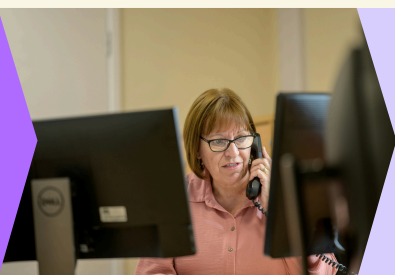
Equally, we seek to stop violence against women and children before it starts, by addressing the causes of gender-based violence through advocacy, education and training. As we grow our work in primary prevention, we are creating generational and cultural change that will stop violence against women and children before it starts.



OUR WORK

THE FULL CONTINUUM

CRISIS



Crisis Services

Safe accommodation, housing support, case management, and practical assistance for those experiencing homelessness, domestic and family violence, housing insecurity, and disadvantage.



RECOVERY



Support Pathways

Tailored programs that support recovery, safety, connection, and long-term stability, from helping children heal from trauma to mentoring and support beyond the justice system.



PREVENTION



Prevention and Education

Education programs, training and resources that challenge gender inequality, build respectful relationships and help workplaces, educators and communities prevent violence before it starts.



SYSTEMS CHANGE



Advocacy and Campaigns

Evidence-informed advocacy and campaigns that centre lived experience, influence policy and mobilise communities to demand better systems shaping people's lives.

OUR REFUGE SITES

For those who have had to leave, WAGEC provides crisis accommodation to 200 women and children every night across our four refuge sites, and 45 (on average) transitional properties. Our refuge sites cater to the unique needs of different women who have fled violence.



Jeannie's Refuge

Our largest accommodation site, Jeannie's accommodates up to **15 families** at a time, ranging from pregnant women to mothers with five children.



Holly's Refuge

Holly House is the smallest of the accommodation sites, with the capacity to accommodate **6 families ranging** from pregnant women to women with 5 children.



Malachite Refuge

Malachite accommodates up to **15 single women** and supports them to regain a solid footing and recover after crisis.



From Now Refuge

From Now is our accommodation site that supports up to **five women** and their families exiting prison to access safe and stable accommodation.



Helping Children Heal Hub

HCH supports children recovering from DFV through trauma-informed programs in our refuges and outreach hub.

OUR PROGRAMS

Our programs work to break the cycle of violence and social disadvantage by providing tailored support and addressing the specific needs of women and children escaping domestic violence.



HELPING CHILDREN HEAL

- Provides specialist support for children and young people impacted by domestic violence.
- Available to families in WAGEC's refuge, outreach, and the broader community.



FROM NOW

- Trauma-informed support program designed to assist women exiting incarceration, with a focus on pregnant women and mothers with children.
- Offers holistic support through intensive case management, focusing on parenting and domestic violence education.



ACCESS

- Personalised mentoring program to build confidence, achieve goals, and work towards financial security.
- Facilitates educational and employment pathways, supporting increased economic opportunities.



ALL IN

- Equips early childhood educators and families to challenge harmful gender roles and stereotypes.
- Promotes gender equality and respectful relationships through play, language, resources, and storytelling.



BUILDING TECH SAFETY

- Helping women, children and workers alike to reclaim digital safety, rebuild confidence, and use technology freely and without fear.
- Combines practical one-to-one support, training, and advocacy to reduce harm and help people reclaim confidence, independence, and safety.

OUR PREVENTION WORK

Primary prevention work seeks to address the causes of gender-based violence and challenge the attitudes that allow it to thrive through education, awareness and advocacy. It is a longterm initiative that seeks to engage the whole community and have the largest impact toward ending violence against women and children.

While crisis services remain essential, we cannot solve our way out of this by being reactive. Ending violence requires proactive, long-term investment in prevention, gender equality and the conditions that help everyone live free from violence.

Violence does not happen in isolation. It is shaped by the attitudes, social norms, systems, and inequalities around us. When disrespect, discrimination and unequal power become normalised, violence becomes more likely.

That's why preventing violence is not about telling individuals to 'behave better' or 'be a good person'. It's about creating communities where equality, respect and safety are expected, modelled and reinforced from an early age.

For WAGEC, prevention isn't separate from our frontline work. It's part of the same mission to end gender-based violence.

Every day, we see how violence affects women and families. Those experiences shape the education, advocacy and prevention initiatives we deliver across workplaces, schools, early childhood settings, and communities.

Alongside our crisis and recovery services, WAGEC works to address the attitudes, systems and inequalities that drive violence in the first place. Together, we're helping create safe futures where women, trans and gender-diverse people, and children can live free from violence.



OUR TEAM

Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre (WAGEC) has a passionate workforce of 90 individuals committed to ending gender-based violence and creating safe futures for women and children.

26%

of our team were born overseas

34%

are multilingual speaking 17 different languages

33%

identify as disabled

34%

identify as LGBTQIA+

93%

of employees work flexibly

48%

have caring responsibilities

38

is our median age



NICOLE YADE

Chief Executive Officer

Nicole has over 25 years' experience leading, designing, and delivering services for marginalised people in the NGO sector. Much of this work has involved working across cultures with traumatised populations, including extensive work with victim survivors of violence, refugees, and Aboriginal communities.

Nicole Yade is the CEO of the Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre (WAGEC), a feminist, grassroots organisation that supports women and families in crisis.

She has over 25 years' experience leading, designing, and delivering services for marginalised people in the NGO sector.

Much of this work has involved working across cultures with traumatised populations, including extensive work with victim survivors of violence, refugees, and Aboriginal communities.

In 2025, she was recognised as Burwood Citizen of the Year, the Committee for Sydney's Unsung Hero at the Sydney Awards, and the Advocate of the Year in Marie Claire's Women of the Year Awards.

Nicole is a proud feminist and victim survivor advocate.



MEDIA



[Pauline Hanson's comments about domestic violence are more than vile. They are dangerous for women - The Guardian, 2026](#)

[Immediate financial cost for victim-survivors leaving domestic violence rises 71pc. research says - ABC, 2026](#)

LINKEDIN

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/nicoleyade/>

OUR ADVOCACY

WAGEC works both on the frontlines of crisis and in the corridors of power, advocating alongside women and communities for urgent action on gender-based violence, homelessness and systemic disadvantage.

We work alongside the people our systems are failing every day. Decades of that work and listening to survivors has shown us exactly where the barriers are and where policy falls short.

That knowledge actively shapes the programs we run and the reforms we call for.

Our advocacy work includes policy submissions, consultations, advocacy campaigns, community engagement activations and strategic communications to support our mission.

SUBMISSIONS



[Submission to the Statutory Review of the NSW Coercive Control Reform – 2026](#)

[Submission to the Consultation on the Second Action Plan – 2026](#)

[Submission to the Committee on Community Services inquiry into the Human Rights Bill 2025 – 2026](#)

[Submission to the New South Wales Law Reform Commission on the Review of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 \(NSW\) – 2025](#)



OUR IMPACT

Every night, WAGEC supports 200 women, trans and gender-diverse people, and children in crisis, while investing in recovery, healing, prevention and advocacy to create lasting change.



1,913

Women, trans and gender-diverse people, and children supported across all of WAGEC's services in FY25-26



200

Women, trans and gender-diverse people, and children supported every night



61,007

Nights of safe accommodation provided in FY25-26



135

Children and parents supported through our **Helping Children Heal** program in FY25-26



90

Women, gender-diverse people, and children supported through our **From Now** program in FY25-26



134

Supported to stay safely in their homes through **Staying Home Leaving Violence** in FY25-26



105

Volunteers gave their time and skills to support WAGEC in FY25-26



61

Educators trained, impacting up to 480 children, through the **All In** program in FY25-26

CONTACT US

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RECENT MEDIA

[Centennial Park gathering to raise funds for people impacted by domestic and family violence \(Walk for WAGEC\) - ABC News, 2026](#)

[Response to gender violence news inadequate: poll - Canberra Times, 2026](#)

[Inside the new Sydney sanctuary for domestic violence victims - The Sydney Morning Herald, 2026](#)

[44 women, 19 children killed: Proof Australia's domestic violence crisis is only getting worse - news.com.au, 2026](#)

[Housing shortages worsen abuse crisis - The Saturday Paper, 2026](#)

['I Was Dragged Out By My Hair': WAGEC CEO Nicole Yade Shares The Terrifying Moment She Fled Domestic Violence - Marie Claire, 2026](#)

