



WINDERMERE & KILSYTH BASKETBALL WORK TOGETHER TO STOP FAMILY VIOLENCE

When Garry Conner, CEO of Kilsyth Basketball heard the statistics about the effects of family violence he knew he needed to take action at both a community and personal level.

The Montrose resident and father of four, joined a team which will raise funds for Windermere Child and Family Services by trekking the Kokoda Track in October this year.

Not-for-profit Windermere provides a range of prevention and intervention-based supports for those experiencing family violence in Melbourne's South East.

On average, one woman a week and one man a month is killed by a former or current partner in Australia. Family violence also has a profound impact on a person's financial situation and is a leading cause of homelessness nationally. Last year 34,000 children sought homelessness services due to family violence. (Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare statistics).

"The statistics are very confronting. When I consider we have 5,000 families connected to Kilsyth Basketball it becomes a very personal concern for me. Family violence will impact on some of the children and parents we work with," says Garry.

Garry's personal support of Windermere's Trek to End Family Violence, closely aligns with the implementation of Kilsyth Basketball's "zero tolerance" policy for violence and bullying.

Kilsyth Basketball has recently implemented a number of policies to ensure children enjoy a safe playing environment. This includes the services of a chaplain, and stadium monitors who ensure that both supporters and players treat each other with respect and behave appropriately.

Windermere's Trek to End Family Violence will be led by AFL legend and Windermere Ambassador Matthew "Richo" Richardson who has also lent his support to the cause.

"It's wonderful to see local organisations taking a leadership role in putting a stop to violence in our community. Together, we can work to make a positive difference and have a community where violence is not tolerated," said Windermere CEO Dr Lynette Buoy.

Garry is preparing for the gruelling Kokoda Track by completing regular training on the famously steep Glasgow Track in Montrose.



The cause to End Family Violence, culminates in trekking the Kokoda Trail in PNG in October 2018 along with another 20 committed trekkers and volunteers.

To support Garry and Windermere's Trek to end Family Violence make a tax deductible donation, at:

**[windermere-kokoda.
everydayhero.com.au/
garry-conner-2](http://windermere-kokoda.everydayhero.com.au/garry-conner-2)**

or in Community donation points around the Clubs.

Garry is holding a fundraising Gala Evening

Club Kilsyth
Saturday 5 May
\$80.00 per head

For more information or to book email: garry.conner@kilsythbasketball.com.au or call 0456 251 825