



# Change Makers

Change Makers is a group education initiative developed by Jesuit Social Services' The Men's Project to empower boys and young men with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to live safe, full lives, free from violence and other harmful behaviours.

The program focusses on addressing gendered attitudes and beliefs that contribute to boys and young men using violence - against themselves, other men, intimate partners, and society as a whole. It helps young people evaluate societal messages about gender and masculinity, assess their impact, and develop practical, positive alternatives.

The program is jointly funded through Family Safety Victoria and the National Partnership on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence.

## Why the focus on boys and young men?

Many boys and young men are facing challenges that adversely affect their wellbeing and behaviour. These include engaging in harmful activities such as perpetrating violence, underperforming in school, engaging in risky behaviours such as illicit drug use and/or alcohol consumption, and experiencing poor mental health.

This program is specifically designed for boys and young men aged 12-25, showing early signs of violence, misogyny, or are exposed to risk factors that make them more likely to perpetuate violence.

## About Change Makers

Change Makers is delivered in collaboration with specialist schools, secondary schools and community organisations.

Programs typically run weekly (between 1 – 1.5 hours), over 16 sessions in specialist schools, or up to 12 session in community/mainstream school settings.

During the course of the program, participants will be supported to:

- **Reflect on their personal values and strengths**  
Explore what matters to them and identify the qualities of the person they want to be.
- **Examine societal pressures**  
Discuss societal pressures, including gender stereotypes, and their impacts on thoughts, actions, wellbeing, and relationships.



- **Use their values and strengths to navigate pressures**  
Learn how using personal values and strengths can help to navigate pressures and support actions aligned to the person they aspire to be.
- **Develop skills to navigate pressures**  
Build confidence and skills to navigate societal pressures, including resolving conflicts, and support healthy relationships.

## Building the evidence with our partners

Change Makers is a pilot program aimed at building the evidence base for early intervention initiatives. We systematically assess what works and what doesn't, leveraging our adaptability to refine the program. It is this capacity for adaptation that makes the program truly unique.

## About us

### Jesuit Social Services

Jesuit Social Services, a social change organisation, will facilitate the sessions in collaboration with partner schools and organisations.

### The Men's Project

The Men's Project supports men and boys to live respectful, accountable and fulfilling lives free from violence and other harmful behaviours. We work to develop new evidence-informed prevention and early intervention approaches that build capacity to address the underlying drivers of violence and other harmful behaviours. For more information about Jesuit Social Services visit <https://jss.org.au/>



**For more information about the program and how you can partner with us, please contact:**

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