



Walk for WAGEC 2025: community call for urgent action to end violence against women and children

Sydney, Aus – On Sunday May 4, 2025, the Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre (WAGEC) will host the annual *Walk for WAGEC*, a powerful community event to raise essential funds for women and children in Sydney who have been impacted by violence.

Over 1700 participants have registered to walk 5km or run 10km around Centennial Park, Sydney, to call for an end to violence against women and children. The event is expected to raise \$500,000 to ensure women and children can access lifesaving support after escaping violence.

WAGEC are expecting notable attendance on the day from Her Excellency, Ms. Sam Mostyn, The Governor General of Australia, Dr. Hannah Tonkin, NSW Women's Safety Commissioner, Mr Jason Li MP, and popular actresses, Simone Kessell and Sarah Roberts.

Domestic violence was declared a national crisis on 28 April 2024, just days before last years' Walk for WAGEC event. Since then, 94 women have been murdered according to data from Australian Femicide Watch.

As the crisis persists, services like WAGEC continue to operate at full capacity, relying on community fundraising to fill critical funding gaps.

"Our case managers have to make impossible decisions everyday", said Nicole Yade, WAGEC's CEO. "They'll have one room available and five families who need it. Deciding who gets the room is not an easy job".

Among the over 1700 WAGEC supporters registered for the event, is Jenna, Walk for WAGEC Ambassador and passionate advocate for women's safety.

"In my early twenties, I was a victim of gender-based violence. I was lucky enough to have a great support network of friends and family around me. Other women aren't so lucky", said Jenna.

"This year, I decided to get involved in Walk for WAGEC to spread awareness of their great work and get my friends and family involved in fundraising for this incredible centre that not only protects women and children, but also provides resources and education on how we can better support survivors of gender-based violence".

Chris, another Walk for WAGEC Ambassador, is also a supporter, advocating for positive change.



“When you look at the scale of this crisis, it can feel overwhelming, like there’s nothing you can do as one person”, Chris said.

“Supporting the team at WAGEC is a way that you can make a transformative difference for those women and kids who need our support. It’s a way to show up; to help shift the conversation and walk together towards the kind of community we all want to live in—one where everyone is safe and respected.”

All proceeds from the event will go towards funding critical services for women escaping violence, including crisis accommodation, recovery and healing programs, specialist support for children and violence prevention initiatives.

By walking for WAGEC, community members are making a difference and calling to end violence against women and children.

For more information on how to participate and donate, visit www.walkforwagec.org.au.

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Imagery:

Event imagery and interviews are available for download [here](#).

Quotes from talent (also available for interview):

- **Nicole Yade – CEO of Women’s and Girls’ Emergency Centre**
“Every life is precious. We must not stop until all women can exist in the community safely and free from the threat of violence. This election weekend we’re Walking for WAGEC with over 1700 members of our community to call for an end to the violence, and demand that ending violence against women is a national priority.”
- **Jenna Hollis – Walk for WAGEC 2025 Ambassador**
“I too, like many women (1 in 4) have been a survivor of gendered violence and I wish I knew about support networks like WAGEC during that time. I’m doing the Walk for WAGEC to assist WAGEC to bring an end to gendered violence and support those women and children in need to give them a safe environment to thrive when their lives feel incredibly unsafe.”
- **Chris Gaul – Walk for WAGEC 2025 Ambassador**

“When you look at the scale of this crisis, it can feel overwhelming, like there’s nothing you can do as one person. But supporting the team at WAGEC is a way that you can make a transformative difference for those women and kids who need our support. It’s a way to show up, to help shift the conversation and walk together towards the kind of community we all want to live in—one where everyone is safe and respected.”

Interviews with additional WAGEC staff, Walk for WAGEC ambassadors and notable attendees available upon request.

Notable attendees:

- Her Excellency, Ms Sam Mostyn, Governor-General of Australia (not available for media or interviews)
- Dr Hannah Tonkin, NSW Women’s Safety Commissioner
- Mr Alex Greenwich MP, Member for Sydney
- Mr Jason Li MP, Strathfield MP
- Simone Kessell, popular actress of Yellowjackets fame
- Sarah Roberts, popular actress of Scrublands fame

Notes to Editors

Walk for WAGEC background

Walk for WAGEC took its first steps back in 2019. The inaugural event saw 263 people attend and raise \$82,000 to support women and children in crisis. Six years later, Walk for WAGEC has raised nearly \$1.8M and this year's event is only growing with nearly 1500 people – either in-person or remotely signed up. This is a testament to the generosity and dedication of our community to build safer futures for women and children.

Previous notable attendees and supporters of Walk for WAGEC include the Hon. Jodie Harrison MP, the Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, Senator Mehreen Faruqi, Allegra Spender MP, Jenny Leong MP, Alex Greenwich MP, Kylie Kwong AM and the now Governor-General, Her Excellency Ms. Sam Mostyn.

Last year, Walk for WAGEC received significant media coverage from major outlets, including ABC News, Channel 9, and Channel 7.

About WAGEC

Women’s and Girls’ Emergency Centre (WAGEC) is a feminist, community-based organisation that supports women and children in crisis. **Every night, we support 200 women and children** impacted by domestic violence, homelessness, and other disadvantage.

We provide:

- **Crisis response and accommodation**
We provide immediate solutions to women and families in crisis, including crisis response, shelter, material aid and case management.
- **Recovery programs**
Our tailored programs promote recovery from trauma by breaking the cycle of violence, restoring safety, building financial independence, and fostering connection with community.
- **Specialist support for children**
We provide specialised support to children and young people impacted by domestic violence and homelessness, to help them heal, grow and thrive.
- **Violence prevention initiatives**
We deliver the first violence prevention initiative in NSW that works to stop abuse before it starts by addressing the underlying drivers of gender-based violence through advocacy, workplace training and community education.

WAGEC's Impact

Last year:

- 1,973 women and children were supported across all of WAGEC's services
- 62,773 bed nights provided
- 1,168 women and children were supported to recover by our tailored programs
- 56 educational workshops and events were held with our community.

Key facts and statistics

- Violence against women was declared a national crisis on 28 April 2024. (Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, 2024)
- 101 Australian women were recorded to be murdered in 2024 (Sherele Moody, Australian Femicide Watch)
- One Australian woman is killed every four days (Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, 2024)
- One child is killed by domestic and family violence every fortnight (Meyer, Fitz-Gibbon and Moor, October 2022 Public Statement)