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Advocate against gendered violence Jess Hill addresses 2024 Mallee Family Care AGM

Award-winning journalist, author, educator and advocate against gendered violence Jess Hill delivered an impactful keynote address at Mallee Family Care's 2024 Annual General Meeting last week.

Held at Mildura Arts Centre on Wednesday 23rd October, the event brought Mallee Family Care Board members, staff, volunteers, stakeholders and community partners to reflect on a year of achievements and to celebrate long-serving staff members.

Mallee Family Care CEO Teresa Jayet acknowledged award-winning journalist Jess Hill, who spoke about her research and reporting on domestic and family violence.

"Jess has achieved global renown for her groundbreaking work on gendered violence and has extensive experience educating magistrates, police, health and family law professionals on coercive control," Ms Jayet said.

"While Mallee Family Care is not a specialised family violence service, we deliver more than 70 programs, and all, are a touch point for children, young people, individuals and families.

"In the 2023-24 Financial Year we supported more than 7,000 clients and alarmingly, 90% of those had been impacted by domestic, family and/or sexual violence. In most cases, a Family Violence Order also existed. In all cases, children were involved."

Ms Jayet said Jess' presentation at Mallee Family Care's AGM highlighted that while progress had been made, there was still much to be done.

"Mallee Family Care works across three States and delivers federally funded programs. Every day we are challenged to make sense of the practicalities and logistics of systems that do not connect," Ms Jayet said.

"The inconsistencies between jurisdictions and service providers and siloed approach at both State and National levels has enormous implications on the ground for organisations like Mallee Family Care, who ultimately hold the responsibility and risk of supporting people who need it most. The risk extends to children. We firmly believe that more must be done here.

"Mallee Family Care is committed to assisting people earlier and ensuring that children are not missed when reviewing policy related to family violence.



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“At the heart of everything we do, our focus is on children. We act as a voice and advocate for children to ensure that they are heard, and where they cannot use their own voice, we stand up and speak about the long-term consequences of their experiences.

“Collectively, we must all do better to protect children, but to also really ‘hear’ children.”

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