

**Media Release**

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**Red Hatters bare it all in support of domestic violence victims**



*Above: June Theisinger (Lady Barista) and Jacqui Thomson (Queen of Glitz'n'Glam)  
from the Red Hatters Fleurieu Fillies group.*

Women and children victims of domestic violence in the Fleurieu region will benefit from \$5,500 thanks to the Red Hatters Fleurieu Fillies group's latest annual calendar.

Inspired by the Helen Mirren and Julie Walters classic – Calendar Girls – the group recreated an alternative calendar of themselves, discreetly posing in various locations around the Fleurieu Peninsula.

Following 12 months of fundraising efforts and successful calendar sales, the Red Hatters group proudly presented a cheque for \$5,500 to Junction Australia's Fleurieu Domestic Violence Service.

Junction Australia CEO Maria Palumbo said the funds will go a long way in supporting women, children and young people who are living with, or escaping from domestic and family violence.

"We are really grateful for the contribution that the Red Hatters ladies have made to help us support these women and children during such a vulnerable time in their lives," Ms Palumbo said.

"The funds raised will go towards buying gift cards, helping to provide food, clothing and other supplies they may need.

“Junction Australia is very passionate about promoting violence free relationships, so it is heartening to see these women show such compassion towards victims of domestic violence,” Ms Palumbo said.

The Red Hatters group is a ladies-only organisation where women over the age of 50 dress in purple outfits teamed with bright red hats and gather with others for social activities. They do this for fun and appreciate that women of any age still know how to have a good laugh, especially when it’s for a good cause.

Jacqui Thomson, queen of the Red Hatters Fleurieu Fillies, said raising money for women and children victims of domestic violence was a cause very close to all the ladies’ hearts.

“Most of us know someone or have at some stage been personally affected by domestic violence,” Jacqui said.

“We don’t normally raise funds as Red Hatters – we raise fun. But we decided that this was such an important cause and that we had to do something a little out of the ordinary. We figured if we can make the life of someone who is experiencing abuse a little easier, then we have done something good.”

Jacqui said the response and the support received from the public was overwhelming.

“The community really got behind us, people were very pleased to hear that their money was going towards helping abused women and children,” Jacqui said.

Junction Australia’s Fleurieu Domestic Violence Service provides case management support to women, children and young people who are experiencing or escaping from domestic violence. These services can provide counselling, development of safety plans and support finding alternative accommodation.

*Junction Australia is a trusted provider of a wide range of community support services and high quality, affordable housing that currently manages 1,700 homes across South Australia. We firmly believe that by working together we can take steps that enable people to navigate their way from ‘Crisis to Connectedness’. Our clients are supported to overcome barriers, access opportunities and pursue their hopes and dreams.*

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