



spirit *of* woman

PROJECT  
**CREATIVE COURAGE**

---



The  
**Place of**  
*Courage*  
Australia's first public tribute to the  
victims and survivors of domestic and family violence

A school art project to help educate and encourage students to express their feelings about domestic and family violence.



## WHAT IS PROJECT CREATIVE COURAGE?

---

Project Creative Courage is a school project. Participating students are encouraged to express their thoughts and feelings about the following statement: “ **What does a loving community look like?**”

We encourage students to express their thoughts and feelings about this subject by creating visual art, mixed-media, poetry, prose, or another creative art form. Artworks created have the opportunity to be publicly featured at an exhibition within the Murray Bridge Regional Gallery during the 16 Days of Activism in November 2023.

## WHY GET INVOLVED?

---

This challenge provides a way for students to think and learn about DFV in our society, and to express their own thoughts and feelings about this topic. A creative outlet can be especially important for those students who may have been exposed on DFV in their life.

Hand and hand with this challenge is student education. Here are the key DFV stats in Australia:

- One woman each week killed by domestic homicide One child each fortnight killed by a parent
- 17 women a day hospitalised from domestic and family violence
- Almost 700 reports of domestic violence reported to the police every day in Australia\*

There has never been a more important time to change the discourse around DFV, and we believe it starts with the next generation.

\* Natasha Stott Despoja, National Press Club



## HOW DOES IT WORK?

---

Any school has the opportunity to get involved. We ask that your school drives this program internally. For more information and to join the Murray Bridge project contact:

**Tegan Hale**  
**Public Art Officer, Rural City of Murray Bridge**

[t.hale@murraybridge.sa.gov.au](mailto:t.hale@murraybridge.sa.gov.au)

0417 636 775

## HOW ARE YOU SUPPORTING US?

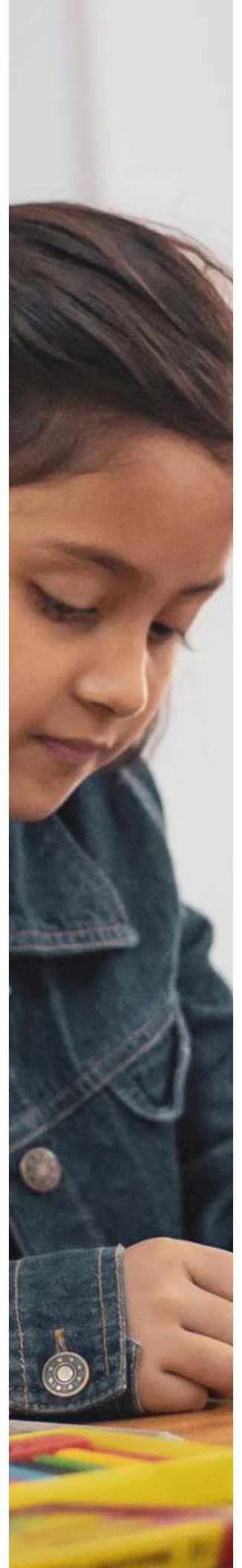
---

Spirit of Woman is a not-for-profit organisation, seeking to end the silence and raise awareness about the impact of domestic and family violence (DFV).

We intend to establish contemporary, commemorative public artworks named 'Ripples' around South Australia to acknowledge the impact of DFV on people, families, our community, and our country, creating a public face, to a private problem. These spaces will have multiple uses from being a place for private reflection, healing, connection and solitude, to a place for community gatherings, vigils, and marches.

There are over 1,700 monuments dedicated to war, and right now, none are dedicated to those who have died or suffered from DFV - and we want to change this.

This school art challenge will be featured at an exhibition within the Murray Bridge Regional Gallery during the 16 Days of Activism in November 2023. We would like to create a unique launch experience that evokes emotion, and what better way to do this than through art, with the next generation. We hope you can get involved in this educative, exciting and thought-provoking school opportunity.



## TESTIMONIAL

### FROM RENATE WITTE, VISUAL ARTS TEACHER, CHRISTIES BEACH HIGH SCHOOL.

Here are some words about Renate and her students' experiences in working on this project:

*"At the start, the Year 9 and 10 students and I experienced working on this topic as a challenge as it is deeply saddening and disturbing.*

*For their artworks students needed to find a visual language to talk about the victims without showing violence, they wanted to show there is hope for recovery and a way out, they wanted to say there is support in the community and there is no more silence around it.*

*I was impressed how this project gave room for exchange of thoughts and how students collaborated in developing ideas for the exhibition. They decided to give the exhibition the title 'Purple' as this is the colour for abuse. They were the ones who decided to use the colour purple in every artwork in the exhibition to demonstrate that they have come together in their fight against domestic violence.*

*I think this project brought the students closer together. Our students feel more empowered through the participation in such a significant project in the community, and they gained the understanding that domestic violence is everyone's concern and that the community has to reach out and support victims more.*

*At the end of the project, students are feeling extremely proud to have found a way to express their thoughts visually on such a sensitive topic. They have invested all their heart and long hours to create pieces with deep messages and in such a high quality.*

*Our school is feeling extremely proud about this incredible achievement and we all are looking forward to the exhibition in the community.*

*Thank you Spirit of Woman for reaching out to our school and making this unforgettable experience possible."*



**Renate Witte,**  
Visual Arts Teacher,  
Christies Beach High School.