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## KINGSTON *Red Bench* STARTS THE CONVERSATION

**Kingston Neighbourhood House (KNH) has launched the Red Bench, the first of its kind in southern Tasmania.**

The Red Bench is an initiative from Red Rose Foundation, a national not-for-profit charity working towards ending domestic and family violence. "This is not just a piece of furniture; it is a statement," KNH Manager David Morse said. "It is a public reminder that domestic violence exists in all communities and that we must never allow it to be ignored or hidden.

"It affects our families and our community."

**Kingston Neighbourhood House (KNH) has launched the Red Bench, a safe space and a powerful visual reminder to encourage conversations around domestic and family violence. Pictured back row: KNH staff Liam Gilham, Samara Jenkins and David Morse. Front row: KNH staff Freya Campbell and Karen Dowling.** PH

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**Pictured at the Red Bench launch back row: independent member for Franklin David O'Byrne and Liberal member for Franklin Nic Street. Front row: Shadow Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence Meg Brown and independent member for Nelson Meg Webb. (P)**

# RED BENCH STATEMENT

## From front page

The Red Bench represents a safe space for conversations that encourage awareness, hope and support to those affected by domestic and family violence.

Liberal member for Franklin Nic Street spoke on behalf of Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence Jo Palmer at the official opening of the Red Bench, along with Shadow Minister Meg Brown.

"It was so great to have bipartisan support for this important issue," Kingston Neighbourhood House (KNH) Project Officer Samara Jenkins said.

Independent member for Nelson Meg Webb said the Red Bench shines a beacon on domestic violence which can impact anyone from all walks of life.

"I applaud the Kingston Neighbourhood House in installing a Red Bench, which will serve as a valuable visual conversation starter and has the potential to engage and galvanise change."

For counselling and support, 1800RESPECT is a free, 24/7 service to support people impacted by domestic, family or sexual violence.