



STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party

MEDIA RELEASE



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Grimley Gives Pollie Pay Rise to Wimmera Against Family Violence Committee

State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party Stuart Grimley has given \$500 in the form of petrol vouchers to Wimmera Against Family Violence Committee as part of his pollie pay rise commitment.

WAFVC (formerly Wimmera White Ribbon) is made up of local volunteers who work together with an aim to eradicate family and domestic violence.

It was announced in September that all Victorian MPs would receive a 3.5% pay rise as a result of the Independent Remuneration Tribunal's report into politician's wages however Mr Grimley decided at the time it was unfair to pocket the cash and instead will distribute it monthly.

The pay rise – which works out to be approximately \$5,000 per year on the base salary of a Member of Parliament – will allow 12 organisations in Mr Grimley's electorate to receive a donation of goods, vouchers or financial assistance per year.

Joining Mr Grimley for the announcement at Sexual Assault and Family Violence Centre was centre coordinator Joanne Bates, domestic violence survivor and prevention advocate Simone O'Brien and other staff and supporters of reducing family violence.

Ms O'Brien had her 52nd and final surgery in 2019 following a horrific domestic violence attack by her ex-partner. She has been a long-time supporter of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party, including standing as Derryn's running mate in the 2019 Federal Election.

After speaking with the centre about the best way to spend Mr Grimley's donation, it was decided that petrol vouchers would be most useful to women and their families escaping violence and in order to make appointments which require travel by car.

If members of the Wimmera community are interested in donating to SAFVC, supermarket gift cards are also in regular high demand.

The Member for Western Victoria has vowed to make the donations to organisations that reflect the key policy areas of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party. These organisations will include those dealing with vulnerable women, children and families as well as the elderly and animal welfare organisations.

Mr Grimley encourages members of the Horsham and broader Wimmera community to contact his office with suggestions for future pollie pay rise opportunities.

Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:

"I was humbled to be able to donate petrol vouchers to Wimmera Against Family Violence Committee, who do such an outstanding job in raising awareness of the issue of family and domestic violence.

The Party I represent stands for the protection of the vulnerable and this is unfortunately all too often women and children. Domestic violence numbers are climbing and we need to stamp it out now.

I'm acutely aware that the pay rise MPs received is taxpayer money and I personally believe – even if other MPs may not – that the additional pay rise should be going back into organisations who help our community."

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