



 Lightning rod: Former federal government staffer Brittany Higgins being interviewed on television about her alleged rape in Parliament House. Her story has helped trigger rallies which will be held around Australia next Monday, including Wangaratta. Image: CHANNEL 10

ANGER at the handling of sexual assault allegations will surface in the North East next Monday when a #March4Justice rally is staged.

The Wangaratta event is part of a day of national action driven by frustration at the federal government's response to sexual assault.

Women's Health Goulburn North East chief executive Amanda Kelly, who is organising the district gathering, said there would be guest speakers and calls for change.

"We really want people in Wangaratta to have the opportunity to voice their dissatisfaction with the way the allegations of rape and the culture in Parliament House is being handled at the moment," Ms Kelly said.

"These are the leaders of our country and the way this is being handled is not respectful of victims and survivors."

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The movement nationally was sparked by academic and feminist Janine Hendry who was upset by the government's reaction to Brittany Higgins who was allegedly raped in Parliament House by a fellow ministerial staffer.

The hub will be a rally in Canberra on Monday with names being tallied for a petition seeking justice for gendered workplace violence.

Wangaratta's event, which has council approval and a COVID safe plan, will be at the King George Gardens from midday to 1.30pm.

As the work toward these protests progresses can you spare a moment to sign out petition? True change comes with great support. [#March4Justicehttps://t.co/d4SX0PttCw](https://t.co/d4SX0PttCw)

—  Janine Hendry (@janine_hendry) [March 3, 2021](#)

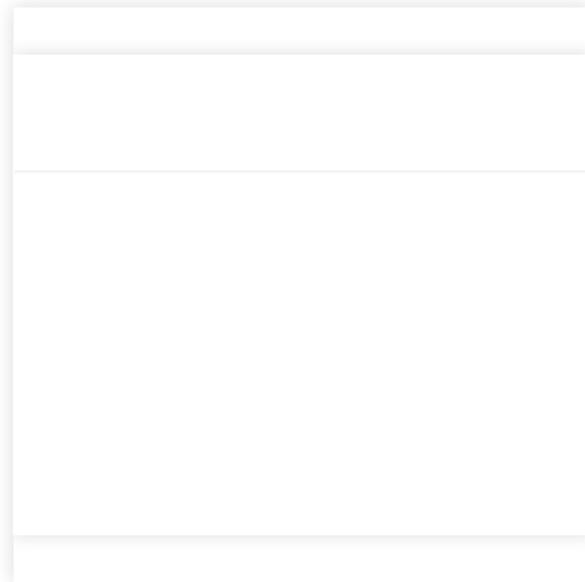
Changes that will be promoted at the rally include the introduction of a federal gender equality act, increased funding for prevention of gendered violence and having male and female equality in all the country's parliaments by 2030.

A Victorian gender equality act was enacted last year.

It requires the public sector, councils and universities to meet gender benchmarks tied to equality and evaluate policies, programs and services through that lens.

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