



Women's Health Victoria

healthy empowered equal

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MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate distribution

WHV welcomes funding boost to address violence against women

MELBOURNE – Thursday 24 September 2015

Women's Health Victoria (WHV) welcomes the announcement of additional Commonwealth funding to boost prevention, training and support services to help address violence against women.

Gender inequity and a culture where any form of violence against women is tolerated or excused must come to an end. This includes attitudes that are disrespectful to and demeaning of women which enable the perpetration of violence against women.

“The fact that these attitudes and beliefs are prevalent across our community as a whole has allowed this issue to remain hidden for too long. Acknowledging these causes of violence against women is a crucial first step towards addressing this problem” says Rita Butera, Executive Director of WHV.

“Everyone has a role to play in preventing violence against women, whether in workplaces, schools or as bystanders” continued Ms Butera.

Today's announcement of funding directed to the long under-resourced, specialist legal services will provide critical supports to women and children at high risk of violence and homicide. WHV also welcomes funding for specialist training for GPs and police to build their capacity to respond to violence against women.

Ms Butera went on to say, “Commonwealth funding of \$5 million over three years to expand the online respectful relationships resource, Safer Schools, is an important step. However greater investment is needed to tackle the shift in attitudes and beliefs necessary to reduce the incidence of violence against women and ultimately stop it occurring in the first place”.

Women's Health Victoria is committed to working with the government, community sector and businesses to improve women's health and wellbeing by supporting gender equity.

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About Women's Health Victoria

Women's Health Victoria (WHV) is a not-for-profit, state-wide women's health promotion, information and advocacy service, focused on improving the lives of Victorian women. WHV works collaboratively with women, health professionals, policy makers and community organisations to influence and inform health policy and service delivery for women.

WHV's work is underpinned by a commitment to reducing inequities in health which arise from social, economic and environmental determinants.

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