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For immediate release

SUICIDE AN ISSUE FOR WOMEN TOO

Women's Health Victoria is calling for greater understanding and awareness of female suicide in Australia.

'Suicide is a serious area of concern for both men and women in Australia and yet it is too often perceived as a men's issue', said Women's Health Victoria Executive Director Rita Butera.

'More women in Australia attempt suicide than men, and suicide attempts occur ten times as often as suicide. Women make up the majority of reported attempts.

'Due to the fact that suicide attempts do not result in death, and are under-reported, women are often overlooked in discussions of suicide prevention.

'There is also a misconception that women who attempt suicide are attention seekers. Worryingly, it is this unwarranted stigma which prevents women from seeking professional help.

'We need to understand that many issues lead women to attempt suicide, including domestic violence and discrimination.

'Women who have been the victims of violence are five times more likely to attempt suicide than those who have not, while 20 percent of Indigenous women between 12 and 17 years of age say they have seriously considered or have attempted suicide.'

'Enough is enough. Recognising that suicide is also an issue for women will make sure prevention strategies are targeted, relevant and therefore more effective.

Women's Health Victoria has explored the impact of suicide on women in the *Women and Suicide* Gender Impact Assessment published today:
<http://whv.org.au/publications-resources/publications-resources-by-topic/post/women-and-suicide-gia/>

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