



MEDIA RELEASE

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New trends emerge as Victorian Women's Health Atlas is expanded

MELBOURNE – 7 March 2017

A significant increase in notifications of Family Violence and Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) over the past year has been captured by the Victorian Women's Health Atlas.

Launched in October 2015, Minister for Health the Hon Jill Hennessy called the Victorian Women's Health Atlas "a spectacular achievement – an engaging platform that reflects the reality of women in Victoria". The Atlas has now been expanded by Women's Health Victoria and Family Planning Victoria.

The expansion of the Atlas now allows users to interact with 96 indicators across six priority health areas: Sexual & Reproductive Health, Violence against Women, Mental Health, Gender Equality and now Cancer and Avoidable Mortality.

"The Atlas provides sex-disaggregated data with a gender analysis to show emerging trends across Victoria, highlighting the disparity in health outcomes between women and men and the link between health outcomes and broader gender inequality" said Rita Butera, Executive Director of Women's Health Victoria.

The recent data update has shown a significant increase in Family Violence notifications, up 8.9% in 2016 compared to the previous year. Of these notifications, 74.8% of affected family members were female, while 24.8% were male.

STI notifications in Victoria have almost doubled in the past year. In Victoria, the Local Government Area of Melbourne has one of the highest rates of STIs in the state, with data showing a surge in local cases of gonorrhoea and HIV in both males and females. The number of notifications has likely surged due to increased testing.

"Women continue to carry the burden of maintaining the sexual health of themselves and their partners", said Claire Vissenga, CEO of Family Planning Victoria, "With this data, we are able to focus our efforts, delivering education and services to the areas that are most affected".

-ENDS-

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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. The work of WHV is underpinned by a social model of health and a commitment to reducing inequities in health which arise from social, economic and environmental determinants. **For more information, visit www.whv.org.au**

About Family Planning Victoria

Family Planning Victoria has a focus on reproductive and sexual health care, education and advocacy. Our vision is improved reproductive and sexual health and wellbeing for everyone in Victoria and beyond. Our purpose is to strengthen the primary care and community-based service system to deliver reproductive and sexual health services and support people to make decisions about their reproductive and sexual health and wellbeing that are right for them. Governed by a voluntary board of directors, Family Planning Victoria has been providing services to the Victorian community for over 40 years and remains an independent, not-for-profit, all-choice organisation. For more information, please visit www.fpv.org.au