



Media Release

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Violence-supportive attitudes in our community: report reveals there is still more to be done

Women's Health Victoria says there is still work to be done to address violence-supportive attitudes towards women.

Responding to VicHealth's *Changing Cultures, Changing Attitudes* report, WHV said that it was disturbing that violence-supportive attitudes continue to be so evident.

Women's Health Victoria Executive Director Marilyn Beaumont said that a substantial proportion of the community (22%) agreed that domestic violence can be forgiven if the violent person truly regrets what they have done.

"WHV has a range of domestic violence support and prevention programs in workplaces and the community," Ms Beaumont said. "The reality is, domestic violence takes a very real toll on women and their children."

"The VicHealth survey shows that people do not always understand why women are victim to violence and the serious effects it has: one in four believe women falsify or exaggerate claims of rape and domestic violence.

"Facing up to the fact that it is occurring and speaking up about it can be a very difficult process for women who are victims of abusive behaviours," she said.

"Some more heartening results showed that the community is aware of the best ways to intervene in domestic violence," she said. "Such as offering support and advice, talking to the victim, and reporting the situation to the police.

"We welcome this excellent report by VicHealth to give us the ability to measure our own programs and the effectiveness they have within the community – identifying both gaps and strengths," said Ms Beaumont.

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