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For immediate release

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN – LET'S GET SERIOUS

Women's Health Victoria has welcomed a report from the World Health Organisation that confirms what we've known for many years – that violence against women is a 'global health problem of epidemic proportions'.

The report has shown that for women in high income countries, such as Australia, that the prevalence of intimate partner violence is around 23 per cent, or about one in five women.

"We've known about the high rates of violence against women around the world and right here in Victoria for a number of years now," said Executive Director of Women's Health Victoria, Ms Rita Butera.

"The impact on women's health is staggering – death and injury, depression, alcohol misuse, sexually transmitted infection, unwanted pregnancy and abortion, and low birth weight babies. We need to get serious about putting an end to violence against women".

"Women's Health Victoria has been at the cutting edge of work to prevent violence against women through our workplace program, *Take A Stand*. We are struggling to find financial support to continue this work, which is devastating, especially when we keep getting more and more information that confirms how common violence against women is," Ms Butera said.

"Victoria is seen as a world leader in terms of innovative approaches to preventing violence against women – it's time that a commitment was made to making sure that these programs are funded to continue," Ms Butera said.

Women's Health Victoria acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government.

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