



MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (28 July 2011)

Women with disabilities fall through the cracks

On August 2, individuals and organisations will be staging morning teas right across the country as part of the [Every Australian Counts](#) campaign for a National Disability Insurance Scheme. These events are an opportunity for people with and without disabilities, MP's and local community groups to learn about the importance of the scheme, and to continue sending a message to the government that it's time for change.

Women with Disabilities Victoria in partnership with Women's Health Victoria and Domestic Violence Victoria, are hosting a DisabiliTEA to ensure that women's voices are heard in the Every Australian Counts Campaign.

"We are excited to have an opportunity to come together and support the campaign", says Rita Butera, Executive Director of Women's Health Victoria. "It's extremely important that women's organisations support the National Disability Insurance Scheme. We see too many women with disabilities fall between the cracks of our health services. Organisations need to be responsive to the needs of women with disabilities across all their services. It is also important to provide training to both disability and mainstream services to help them understand how to better respond to the specific needs of women with disabilities."

Women with disabilities are a particularly marginalised group in Australia. "It is a concern that the Productivity Commission's draft report on the NDIS fails to mention gender disadvantage that women face" said Keran Howe, Executive Director of Women with Disabilities Victoria. "The higher incidence of domestic violence and unemployment, and poor access to health services, are real issues which prevent women with disabilities from participating equally in all aspects of life."

Fiona McCormack, CEO of Domestic Violence Victoria agrees with Keran Howe:

"I don't think the wider community realise the extent to which women with disabilities experience violence and abuse as a result of their particular vulnerability. With the anticipated introduction of the insurance scheme, it is critical that women with disabilities will be provided with services that are well trained in responding to family violence and can both prevent violence occurring and support women escaping violence. This will only occur if the needs of women with disabilities are considered in the development of the scheme".

The combined DisabiliTEA event will be held in the Treetops Room at the Melbourne Museum, 11 Nicholson St Carlton, between 10:00-12:00 on August 2.

For further enquiries please contact:

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