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For immediate release

INCREASED FAMILY VIOLENCE REPORTING NOT ALL BAD

Women's Health Victoria welcomes the release of Victoria Police's Crime Statistics.

Executive Director of Women's Health Victoria, Rita Butera says 'While it may appear concerning that reports of family violence to police have increased by 23% in the past year, it is a good sign that those experiencing violence are coming forward. This means that there is more community confidence to report these matters to police and that police are taking these matters seriously. Family violence is coming "out of the shadows".'

Ms Butera said 'We do look forward to the day when we see these numbers level off and then decrease – that's when we'll know that the work of organisations such as Women's Health Victoria to prevent violence against women is taking effect.

'We know that eliminating violence against women will take time – we also know that this is possible - violence against women is preventable, and it's everyone's business to take a stand against it', Ms Butera said.

Women's Health Victoria is a statewide women's health promotion, information and advocacy organisation. Our vision is to see women living well – healthy, empowered and equal.

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