



MEDIA RELEASE

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A bold step forward for women's health

MELBOURNE – 8 March 2017

This International Women's Day the women of Victoria have something special to celebrate – the state's first strategy for women's sexual and reproductive health.

"In keeping with today's theme, we are delighted that the government has taken this bold step towards gender equality and improved health outcomes for Victorian women and girls," said Rita Butera, Executive Director of Women's Health Victoria.

Informed by the work and advocacy of women's health services and our partners, the Strategy recognises the important role sexual and reproductive health plays as a determinant of women's health and wellbeing, and in the achievement of gender equality. As stated by Minister for Health, the Hon. Jill Hennessy "access to sexual and reproductive health services is a fundamental right for every Victorian woman".

The Strategy identifies four key priority areas for improvement including

- equitable access to high quality contraception and pregnancy termination services and information
- treatment and management of endometriosis, polycystic ovary syndrome and menopause
- fertility and conception awareness, and
- prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.

"It is our hope and expectation that all Victorian women will have improved access to affordable, high quality contraception, pregnancy advice and termination services as a result of the Strategy" said Ms Butera.

Women's Health Victoria will seek to work alongside the government to co-design an implementation plan to ensure that the aims of the Strategy are achieved.

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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**