



Media Release

Tuesday 4th May 2010

A budget that reaches out to Victoria's women

Women's Health Victoria welcomes the Brumby Government's commitment to creating opportunities for Victorian women to lead safe, healthy lives.

WHV Executive Director Marilyn Beaumont said she was pleased that the Brumby Government had foregrounded women's health and safety as part of their budget package.

Some of the practical initiatives and funding that will benefit Victorian women includes:

- \$14.1 million for the implementation of the first phase of *A Right to Respect: Victoria's Plan to prevent Violence against Women*, and women's health services are well equipped to carry this forward
- \$2.6 million to train the social services sector in identifying and responding to family violence
- Funding to strengthen financial literacy skills in women, with a focus on women from CALD and Indigenous backgrounds
- Funding to increase women's representation on boards and committees

"Another important issue that has been addressed in the Brumby Government's budget is overcrowding for women in the corrections system. \$80.6 million to expand Victoria's two women's prisons: Tarrengower and Dame Phyllis Frost.

"We also support the \$6 million dedicated to continuing the *Better Pathways Program* which targets women caught in offending and re-offending cycles.

"One disappointing area for women's health is that the huge funding allocation to the acute health system fails to touch on two key areas: illness prevention and health promotion.

"Women's Health Victoria cannot emphasise enough the value of working towards prevention measures and health promotion at the same time as treating the health problems that result from lack of information or support," said Ms Beaumont.

"Women's Health Victoria looks forward to working with the Minister for Women's Affairs, Maxine Morand and we congratulate her on what are overall positive outcomes for women.

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