



Women's Health Victoria

knowledge into action

Women's Health Victoria Reg. No A0029795W ABN 33365284944
Level 8, 255 Bourke Street, Melbourne VIC Australia 3000
T (03) 9662 3755 F (03) 9663 7955 E whv@whv.org.au W www.whv.org.au
Postal Address GPO Box 1160, Melbourne VIC Australia 3001

Media Release Thursday 25th November, 2010

Workplace programs that address domestic violence are vital and should be expanded

Women's Health Victoria today marked White Ribbon Day, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women by urging employers to consider workplace-based programs that address domestic violence.

Executive Director of Women's Health Victoria, Ms Marilyn Beaumont, said their whole-of-company workplace program *Stand Up: Domestic Violence is Everyone's Business*, funded by VicHealth, does just this.

"*Stand Up* is the first of its kind in Australia and aims to prevent violence against women and support staff who may be experiencing it. It includes workplace policy, awareness raising and training on how to prevent domestic violence.

"Domestic violence is a very serious problem – 1 in 6 women have experienced violence from a current or ex partner. We must work together as a whole community to prevent violence against women. This includes businesses.

"Workplaces need to take domestic violence seriously. It can affect employee health and wellbeing, result in absenteeism and lost productivity or lead to acts of violence being carried out at work.

"It is important to equip employees with the tools to challenge attitudes and behaviours that support violence against women," said Ms Beaumont. "Strategies to challenge domestic violence and support staff who may be experiencing it makes workplaces safer and more respectful, thereby enhancing productivity. Preventing violence against women makes good business sense."

Program participant testimonials:

"Found the session helpful and would recommend it to more companies."

"We should have all been thinking and talking about these issues years ago."

**For further information contact:
WHV Executive Director Marilyn Beaumont on 0419 597 516 or Media: Anaya Latter
on 0432 121 636**