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EMPLOYERS URGED TO SUPPORT VIOLENCE PREVENTION AGAINST WOMEN

Women's Health Victoria today marked 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 Rita Butera, said their whole-of-company workplace program, *Take a Stand against Domestic Violence*®. *It's Everyone's Business*, has successfully demonstrated that business has a role to play in the prevention of violence against women. Violence against women is prevalent – one in three women over the age of 15 years has experienced physical assault, usually by someone close to them.

"The large male-dominated logistics company Linfox took domestic violence seriously by implementing the *Take a Stand* program. We are encouraging other business leaders to come on board. It makes perfect business sense," said Ms Butera. "By challenging violence promoting attitudes and by supporting staff who may be experiencing it, we make our workplaces safer and more respectful, thereby enhancing productivity."

The *Take a Stand* program includes workplace policy, awareness raising and training. In our experience with the *Take a Stand* program, when organisations and individuals have the tools and the courage to stand up against violence, change is possible," she said.

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