



Tuesday, 6 December 2011

For immediate release

FAMILY VIOLENCE AND THE WORKPLACE – EMPLOYERS CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT

The release of the University of NSW survey into the impact of family violence on the workplace has shown that nearly half of the women who reported family violence said it affected their ability to get to work and could impact on their productivity once at work.

Women's Health Victoria is urging employers to consider workplace-based programs that address family 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. The *Take a Stand* program includes workplace policy, awareness raising and training.

"One company that has shown leadership in this area and implemented the *Take a Stand* program is Linfox. 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 family violence, we make our workplaces safer and more respectful, thereby enhancing productivity."

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," Ms Butera said.

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