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For immediate release

BUSINESS RECOGNISES ROLE IN PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Linfox leads the way in taking a stand against domestic violence

Women's Health Victoria is encouraging employers to take a stand against domestic violence. 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.

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 violence against women.

"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, and enhance 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.

Violence against women does not only refer to physical abuse but also to abuse that is emotional, mental, financial and social in nature.

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