

MEDIA RELEASE
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A significant win for women's health rights

MELBOURNE – Friday 27 November, 2015

Women's Health Victoria is overjoyed with the passing of legislation to ensure women's safe access to reproductive health services.

"Thanks to the Bill, women making personal and often difficult health decisions in relation to pregnancy can expect the same degree of privacy, safety and dignity that all Victorians are entitled to when accessing health services," says Rita Butera, Executive Director of Women's Health Victoria.

"WHV strongly supported amending the Public Health and Wellbeing Act to make sure women can safely access reproductive health services" continued Ms Butera. "This legislation addresses a longstanding issue which has seen women and staff subjected to intimidating, disrespectful and obstructive behaviour. Safe access zones legislation puts Victoria on a par with other jurisdictions in Australia and internationally".

Safe access to abortion is good public health practice and plays an important role in supporting women's broader health and wellbeing. Women's Health Victoria was proud to play a key role in supporting abortion law reform in 2008, we now welcome this reform which safeguards the rights of women to access essential health services and extend heartfelt gratitude to all those parliamentarians who have supported this important bill.

For media enquiries and interviews, please contact:

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About Women's Health Victoria

Women's Health Victoria (WHV) is a not-for-profit, state-wide women's health promotion, information and advocacy service, focused on improving the lives of Victorian women. WHV works collaboratively with women, health professionals, policy makers and community organisations to influence and inform health policy and service delivery for women.

The work of WHV is underpinned by a social model of health and a commitment to reducing inequities in health which arise from social, economic and environmental determinants.

For more information, visit www.whv.org.au