

MEDIA RELEASE

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New primary prevention funding for women's health sector

Women's Health Association of Victoria (WHAHV) has welcomed the Victorian government's announcement of \$3.8 million over four years for women's health sector to work with local and regional partners to prevent violence against women.

The funding was announced today by the Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence, Natalie Hutchins. It includes an initial grant in the first year of \$100,000 to each of the 12 women's health services across Victoria to build the workforce capacity of regional partners to prevent family violence and violence against women. It was also announced that Women with Disabilities Victoria will receive \$1.48 million over four years to prevent violence against women with disabilities and to better understand what drives this violence.

"Women's health services are thrilled with the announcement of dedicated funding to support our work to end violence against women and family violence for future generations," said Kristine Olaris, Convenor of the Women's Health Association of Victoria.

"We know that to end violence against women we need a long-term, coordinated approach. Women's health services have already commenced this work through regional partnerships covering every region of Victoria, and are excited that the four-year dedication of funds will allow us to move toward the sustained social change that is needed."

WHAHV was also recognised for its role in supporting women's health services to build efficiencies and coordination of the sector, receiving funding to increase the primary prevention capability of women's health services

The funding will support the implementation of the Victorian government's [Free from violence: First action plan 2018-2021](#) that was also launched today. The action plan outlines how the government will progress phase one of Victoria's strategy to prevent family violence and all forms of violence against women.

This phase of the strategy focusses on building the infrastructure, systems and support for a much larger primary prevention platform in Victoria, which is why this investment in the women's health sector is so crucial.

"The women's health sector has for a long time been calling for a substantial and sustained increase in investment in primary prevention. The funding will allow us to build the skills and knowledge of prevention workers across the state to prevent violence in their diverse, local communities – in workplaces, sporting clubs, schools and everywhere that people of all backgrounds live, work, learn and socialise", said Ms Olaris.

"We want to build a society where every boy and girl grows up with equal opportunities, choices, voice and power, and where women and children live free from violence. This commitment from the Victorian government will definitely help us make a difference to the lives of all, in communities across the state."

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Kristine Olaris, WHAV Convenor, Ph. 9851 3700 or email kolaris@whe.org.au

About Women's Health Association of Victoria

Women's Health Association of Victoria (WHA) is the peak body for women's health, safety and wellbeing. WHA represents the nine regional and two state-wide women's health organisations (Women's Health Victoria and the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health) funded by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services. WHA membership also includes Victorian specialist women's organisations including Women with Disabilities Victoria, Positive Women and Women's Information and Referral Exchange (WIRE).

The women's health peak body with specialist expertise, statewide reach and a regional focus.