



GENDER
EQUITY
VICTORIA

ADVANCE EQUITY. PROMOTE HEALTH. PREVENT VIOLENCE.

MEDIA RELEASE
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Priorities for Victorian Government Action 2018-2021

One-hundred days out of the Victorian election, Gender Equity Victoria (GEN VIC) has launched its election advocacy campaign. The campaign, dubbed #vicvotesequity has four key priorities: to advance gender equity, promote women's sexual and reproductive health, prevent violence against women and to support GEN VIC to become a sustainable peak body.

Susan Alberti AC, 2018 Victorian woman of the year, is a key ambassador of the campaign as is family violence prevention advocate, Rosie Batty. With other notable public figures on board, like journalist Maxine McKew, Western Bulldogs Captain Katie Brennan, comedian and author Nelly Thomas, and activist and restaurateur Hana Assafiri, the campaign will have maximum impact.

Developed in consultation with experts, *Priorities for Victorian Government Action 2018-2021* urges the full and ongoing implementation of *Safe and Strong, A Victorian Gender Equality Strategy*, and the adoption of a gender analysis across government. It calls for the safe and accessible delivery of sexual and reproductive health services across the state, and for capacity to be built at the local level to deliver on Victoria's key sexual and reproductive health priorities.

The campaign calls on funding to the prevention of violence against women and family violence to be appreciably increased. "While a commitment has been made to prevention, we know that if we are to truly end violence against women, government needs to significantly increase this investment. Global evidence suggests this spend needs to sit at 10% of the amount allocated to response. The current commitment falls well short of this" says GEN Vic Convenor, Kristine Olaris. The campaign insists that this include recurrent funding for women's health services in their lead role in Regional Partnerships to prevent of violence against women.

"GEN VIC can support the achievement of these important election demands. GEN VIC ensure that women's voices are integral to policy, legislation and services. We facilitate partnerships and collaboration and deliver and support evidence-informed action to advance equity, promote health and prevent violence. This is why we are calling on adequate, sustained funding for GEN VIC" says Olaris.

The 100-day advocacy campaign will amplify the voices of women throughout the community and bring to the forefront the issue of gender equity, women's sexual and reproductive health and the prevention of violence.

"Victoria has made substantial headway to ensuring that all women are equal, healthy and safe. Victorians cannot let that progress slip" says Olaris. "The evidence unequivocally tells us that gender-based inequity has numerous negative health and social impacts for women and for Victoria, and it sets the necessary social context for family violence to occur. That's why GEN VIC priorities must remain front and centre of the 2018 election".

A companion website www.vicvotesequity.com provides more detail on the priorities and the 100 day campaign.

The Gender Equity Victoria 100-day advocacy campaign will commence today, August the 15th.

-ENDS-

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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ABOUT GENDER EQUITY VICTORIA

Gender Equity Victoria (GEN VIC) the Victorian peak body for gender equity, women's health and the prevention of violence against women.

Our vision is equality, wellbeing and freedom from violence for every women and girl in every community of Victoria.

GEN VIC's key priorities are to:

- Advance gender equity
- Promote women's sexual and reproductive health
- Prevent violence against women
- Build an influential and sustainable peak body.

www.genvic.org.au

Advance gender equity

- Women are still underrepresented in senior leadership roles in the public and private sector; they still perform the majority of care work (paid and unpaid), and domestic duties within the home; and there is still a substantial gender wage gap. *Chief Executive Women (2017) ASX200 Senior Executive Census, Chief Executive Women, Sydney; Australian Bureau of Statistics (2018) 4125.0 - Gender Indicators, Australia, Table 10.1: Total number of hours and minutes per day spent on work (employment related and unpaid), Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra; Workplace Gender Equality Agency (2018) Australia's gender pay gap statistics, Workplace Gender Equality Agency, Sydney.*
- Women are overrepresented in lower paid positions in the workforce and insecure forms of work, in particular those women who have a non-European or Indigenous background. *Australian Bureau of Statistics (2017) Security, Australian Bureau of 4125.0 – Gender Indicators, Economic Security, Canberra.*
- Women still experience profound rates of sexual harassment and violence in the workplace, and are overwhelming the victims of family violence. *Victorian Trades Hall Council (2016) Stop Gendered Violence at Work: Women's Rights at Work Report, Victorian Trades Hall Council, Melbourne; Heap L (2016) Hear My Voice: The Experiences of Victorian Women at Work, Department of Parliamentary Services, Parliament of Victoria; Heap L, Barnes T and Weller S (2018) "De facto" Informality?: Rethinking the experience of women in the formally regulated workplace, Labour & Industry 2018; Our Watch, Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) and VicHealth (2015) Change the story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia, Our Watch, Melbourne, Australia.*

Promote women's sexual and reproductive health

- Exercising reproductive choices, including access to information about modern contraceptives as well as medical or surgical termination of pregnancy, is a key determinant of women's reproductive and general health. *Malarcher S (2010) Social determinants of sexual and reproductive health: informing future research and programme implementation, World Health Organization, Geneva*

- There are significant disparities in sexual health outcomes between rural and metropolitan Victoria. Women's Health Victoria (2017) Growing Up Unequal: How sex and gender impact on young women's health and well being, A Women's Health Victoria Issues Paper, October 2017, Issue 12 [http:// whv.org.au/static/files/ assets/835516ce/Growingup-unequal_Young-womenshealth_Issues-Paper-12_2017_ PRINT_VERSION.pdf](http://whv.org.au/static/files/assets/835516ce/Growingup-unequal_Young-womenshealth_Issues-Paper-12_2017_PRINT_VERSION.pdf)

Prevent violence against women

- Intimate partner violence is the leading cause of death, disability, and injury for women between the ages of 18 and 44 in Australia. Webster K (2016) *A preventable burden: measuring and addressing the prevalence and health impacts of intimate partner violence in Australian women*, ANROWS, Sydney
- One woman a week is killed by a partner or former partner in Australia. Cussen T & Bryant W (2015) Domestic/family homicide in Australia, Research in Practice No.38, Australian Institute of Criminology, Australian Government, Canberra.
- One in three Australian women has experienced physical violence since the age of 15 years. One in five has experienced sexual violence since the age of 15 years. Cox P (2016) Violence Against Women: Additional analysis of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Personal Safety Survey 2012, ANROWS, Sydney