

MEDIA RELEASE
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Gender Equity Victoria welcomes the proposed National Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy

Gender Equity Victoria (GEN VIC) celebrates the Australia Labor Party's (ALP) announcement this week that if elected, they will develop and implement a national strategy for sexual and reproductive health. As the Victorian peak body for gender equity, women's health and the prevention of violence against women, GEN VIC welcomes a national approach to sexual and reproductive health and the alignment of the national commitment to the Victorian Government's State Strategy.

Reflecting on the announcement the GEN VIC Chair, Kit McMahon, said "our members consistently tell us that the key issues confronting women trying to access sexual and reproductive services is the inconsistent access to quality and effective health care. We all need access to sexual and reproductive health, regardless of where we are from and who we are".

"The ALP pledge ensures that this significant part of health and wellbeing is now front and centre of the next Federal Election. In particular, GEN VIC welcome the commitment to support a review on the Medicare rebate of medical terminations, the proposal to require public hospitals to provide abortion services and the boost to long-term contraceptives," said McMahon.

"This is about addressing some of the key issues confronting women across Australia from all walks of life – choice, access and affordability of reproductive and sexual health care. GEN VIC and its members look forward to working with any government that puts women's health and wellbeing front and centre. Collectively we can work together to leverage positive outcomes across our health systems– in both response and primary prevention".

"Our first priority has to be to identify and change systems and structures that place women at risk of disadvantage and poor health. All women deserve to be equal, healthy and safe and the release of the ALP commitment is a key investment in a more equitable future," McMahon concluded.

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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 strategic priorities are to:

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

www.genvic.org.au