

MEDIA RELEASE

8th of March 2019

International Women's Day: Make every day a day to advance gender equity.

Gender Equity Victoria (GEN VIC), the Victorian peak body for gender equity, women's health and prevention of violence against women, is proudly celebrating International Women's Day (IWD) and calling for ongoing action to advance gender equity across our community, our economy and our society.

"By working in collaboration with our members and partners to advance gender equity, we discover that we really are *More Powerful Together* as the Australian IWD theme suggests" said Ms Kit McMahon, Chair of Gender Equity Victoria.

"Standing in unison, as women, men, non-binary and gender diverse people is how we have created great outcomes for women across our community. However, we know that there is still a vast amount of work to be done to advance gender equity, promote women's sexual and reproductive health, prevent violence against women and support women's collective voices" McMahon said.

GEN VIC highlights that the pace of change is still too slow: "From seeing low rates of women in leadership, disproportionately high rates of women living in poverty, inequitable participation rates of women in the workplace- including inequitable pay, and exposure of women and their children to family violence we still must take action together" McMahon said.

"As we celebrate IWD we do so while knowing the awful truth that women are still at greatest risk in the home. We are shocked at the news of Preethi Reddy this week and already we have 11 women in 2019 who have died due to family violence.¹"

GEN VIC and its members will be proudly attending and supporting a range of events and community gatherings on the 8th of March for IWD. From major large corporate breakfast events, to small gatherings over a shared meal in a community hall and ongoing collaborations and advocacy, GEN VIC members and partners are using IWD to push forward the importance of gender equality - to improve the wellbeing of all women and, everybody across our community.

"While IWD can focus our attention, at Gender Equity Victoria we believe that every day – not just International Women's Day – needs to be a day when we focus on the need to create and maintain gender equality".

-ENDS

¹ With thanks to the journalists and researchers at Destroy The Joint and Counting Dead Women Australia

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