

## MEDIA RELEASE

7<sup>th</sup> of March 2019

### **As we approach International Women's Day, Gender Equity Victoria welcomes support from both sides of the House to address violence against women.**

This week saw the announcements from both the Federal Government and Opposition to invest in preventing and responding to family violence. The Opposition pledged investment of some \$60 million to fund an additional 20,000 funding packages for people fleeing domestic violence and the Government announced \$328 million to support the ongoing implementation of the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022*.

As the Victorian Peak body for Gender equality, women's health and the prevention of violence against women in Victoria this support from both sides of the house to address violence against women in our community is welcomed.

"We know that both sustainable response to violence against women *and* work to prevent violence against women requires ongoing support, funding and aligned policy environments across local, state and federal governments" said Kit McMahon, Chair of Gender Equity Victoria. "The significant investment by the Victorian Government in prevention of violence against women and experience of the sector tells us that addressing violence requires us to work collaboratively, in partnership and ensure that our outcomes for success are aligned" said Kit.

Gender Equity Victoria advocates that government investment:

- Support evidence based primary prevention strategies
- Provide much needed services to support victims of family violence and, in addition to that, recognise the resources required by agencies to implement those services
- Leverage off existing policy initiatives across all governments and in Victoria's case, specifically that work already undertaken to implement the recommendations of Victoria's Royal Commission into Family Violence.

"Gender Equity looks forward to learning more detail about these policy announcements and envisaged investments" said Kit McMahon.

"With our members, Gender Equity Victoria welcomes any opportunity to work with partners and stakeholders who share our vision of a world of equality, wellbeing, and freedom from violence for every woman and girl in every community" Kit concluded.

**-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 woman 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.
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