

2014 Victorian Election

# NO MORE DEATHS

Keep women and children safe from family violence.



FACT SHEET 1

#nomoreFVdeaths

## Keep women and children safe and housed

In the lead up to the 2014 Victorian election, we call on all political parties to commit to policies and funding that keep at-risk women and their children safe and housed. A significant expansion in support and housing will save lives.

### What happens now?

Many women cannot escape violence because they lack options

- The dramatic rise in family violence reports is still not being met with sufficient funding for all parts of the system to respond – including police, courts, legal services, and specialist family violence services.
- Lack of funding for family violence agencies to provide support beyond crisis responses means many women cannot address long-term issues and are forced to cycle in and out of the system.
- Early signs of family violence are not consistently being picked up and acted upon by non-specialist services, such as schools and GPs.
- Trauma experienced by children is going unaddressed, putting them at risk of life-long issues.
- The current housing crisis across Victoria means women and children are being forced to remain in violent households because they have nowhere else to go.

### What needs to be done?

- **Urgently fund specialist and targeted services so they can meet demand**, including processing and responding to police referrals, case management, counselling, and therapeutic programs for both women and children.
- **Implement consistent 'Safe at Home' programs across the state** so women and children can remain in their homes where it is safe to do so and have the violent perpetrator removed.
- **Renegotiate the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness** which in part funds programs to address homelessness precipitated by family violence.
- **Act earlier to stop family violence** by providing training to services that come into contact with women and children, including schools, health professionals, disability services and aged care services, to understand and take action on family violence concerns.
- **Fund access for women to safe online information and resources** such as through *The Lookout* website.

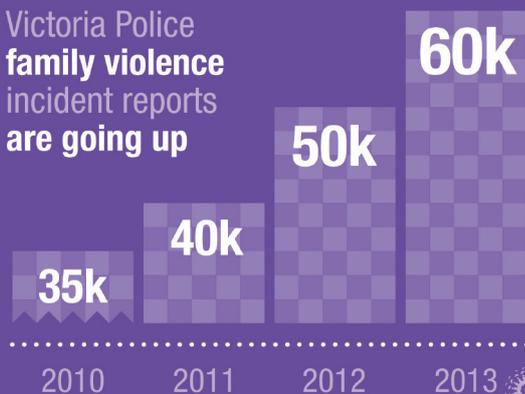
## Family violence in Victoria: why we need to act now

Victorians are more **concerned** about **family violence** than street crime, muggings, home burglaries



family violence deaths in Victoria in 2013

Victoria Police family violence incident reports are going up



Family violence intervention orders are going up



Children are present in **1 out of every 3** family violence cases reported to police

Intimate **partner violence** is the **top risk factor** for **death, disability & illness** in **Victorian women** aged 15–44

**Sources:** 1. Galaxy poll, *Herald Sun*, 29 July 2014; 2. "Police shocked by massive rise in family violence", *Herald Sun*, 25 November 2013; 3. Victoria Police Crime Statistics, 2012/2013; 4. Magistrates Court Victoria, 2014; 5. Victoria Police Crime Statistics, 2011/2012; 6. VicHealth, 2004. Infographics © DVRCV 2014

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