

2014 Victorian Election

NO MORE DEATHS

Keep women and children safe from family violence.



FACT SHEET 2

#nomoreFVdeaths

Make the justice system safe and supportive

In the lead up to the 2014 Victorian election, we call on all political parties to commit to investing in our family violence intervention order system. A safe, integrated, responsive and well-resourced court system will save lives.

What happens now?

Family violence victims get 'postcode justice'

- Only 5 out of Victoria's 53 Magistrates Courts currently have court employed victim support workers.
- Only 1 court in Victoria has a dedicated safe waiting space for family violence victims so women and children are not at risk at coming into contact with the perpetrator.
- No court in Victoria employs a disability advocate or culturally specific worker for victims at high risk, and only 2 courts fund a Koori support worker. This is despite evidence showing that women and children with disabilities or from culturally diverse backgrounds are many times more likely to suffer family violence, with Aboriginal women 31 times more at risk of being hospitalised.
- Lack of accountability for perpetrators saw at least 820 offenders breach intervention orders at least three times in 2013-14 – with the real breach numbers expected to be much higher.

What needs to be done?

- **Establish specialist family violence units in every court across Victoria** staffed by victim support and respondent workers and specialist advocates for women from groups at particularly high risk.
- **Create safe waiting spaces for victims** and access to remote witness facilities in all courts that hear family violence Intervention Order cases.
- **Roll out court-based training** for magistrates, court staff, lawyers and other justice workers on risk assessment and management, the dynamics of family violence and victims' experiences.
- **Stop the federal/state blame game on the funding of community legal centres** so all regions are funded to provide sufficient legal clinics and duty lawyer services to assist all family violence victims to obtain Intervention Orders.
- **Provide dedicated funding for Victoria's Systemic Review of Family Violence Deaths** so it can continue to lead the way internationally around the causes of family violence deaths and prevent further deaths.

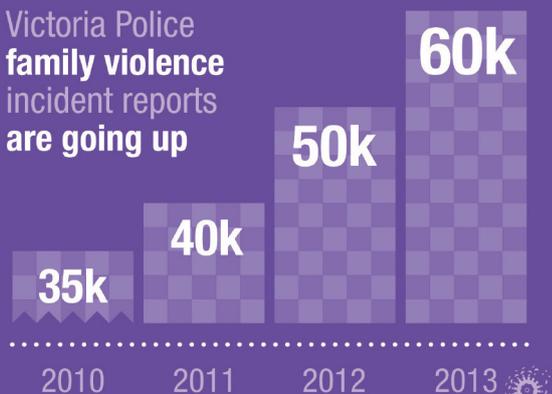
Family violence in Victoria: why we need to act now

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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