

2014 Victorian Election

NO MORE DEATHS

Keep women and children safe from family violence.



FACT SHEET 5

#nomoreFVdeaths

Preventing violence against women and children

In the lead up to the 2014 Victorian election, we call on all political parties to commit to programs that prevent men's violence against women before it occurs. Coordinated primary prevention policies and programs that address the underlying causes of violence against women will save lives.

What happens now?

Violence against women is still accepted by too many in our community

- Violence against women is caused by unequal distribution of power and resources between women and men, rigid gender roles and community attitudes that support violence.
- Women in all cultures, socio economic groups and areas across Victoria are at risk from violence, and most know the men who are violent towards them.
- Some women are particularly at risk. Women with disabilities are 40 per cent more likely to experience violence than other women, many at the hands of the care-givers on whom they depend.
- The multiple layers of discrimination that Aboriginal women experience on the basis of race and gender actively discourage them from accessing much needed services for fear of child protection intervention.
- While prevention is described as "the core" to *Victoria's Action Plan to Address Violence Against Women and Children – Everyone has a responsibility*, most of its funding commitments are short-term initiatives and are due to finish in 2015.

What needs to be done?

- **Invest in a long-term strategy of proven programs to prevent sexism, discrimination and violence**, and promote respectful relationships in schools, sporting clubs, workplaces and the media.
- **Evaluate** primary prevention programs to build the evidence-base on what works.
- **Invest in the Gender and Disability Workforce Development Program** and specific **education programs for women with disabilities** about the nature of violence.
- **Securely fund specialist services to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women** and children that are culturally safe and Aboriginal community controlled.
- **Require all candidates seeking office in the 2014 Victorian Election to publicly condemn sexism and discrimination against women** and commit to doing all they can to keep Victorian women and children safe from family violence.

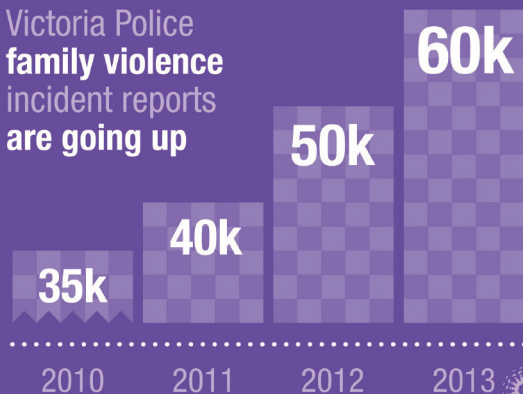
Family violence in Victoria: why we need to act now

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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