2014 Victorian Election

NO MORE DEATHS

Keep women and children safe from family violence.



KEY ASKS

Keep women and children safe and housed

- 1. 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.
- 2. **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.
- **3. Renegotiate the National Partnership agreement on homelessness** which in part funds programs to address homelessness precipitated by family violence.
- **4. 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.
- **5. Fund access for women to safe online information and resources** such as through *The Lookout* website.

Make the justice system safe and supportive

- **6. 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.
- **7. Create safe waiting spaces for victims** and access to remote witness facilities in all courts that hear family violence Intervention Order cases.
- **8. 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.
- **9. 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.
- **10.** 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.















Hold violent perpetrators to account

- **11.Extend community corrections Orders** for men convicted of a family violence related offence from one year to up to 24 months.
- **12. Deliver statewide specialised family violence training** for Community Corrections Officers, all Victoria police attending family violence incidents, and child protection workers.
- **13. Support Victoria Police to undertake data collection, analysis and review** of their 30 Family Violence Units to track success and ongoing challenges.
- **14. Map different points of intervention with family violence perpetrators** across a range of different service contexts, including child protection, courts, Corrections, police and health services to identify where early intervention could better occur.
- **15. Overhaul the way child protection and family violence services work together** so that comprehensive support is wrapped around those at highest risk.

Break down the system silos that endanger women and children

- **16. Appoint a Minister for Preventing Violence against Women and children** to drive the next Victorian Government's agenda on ending family violence.
- 17. Shift the Office of Women's Affairs to the Department of Premier and cabinet and bring other Ministers to the table to break down policy, service and funding silos.
- 18. Develop a new and comprehensive Victorian action Plan to address violence against women and children with a strong primary prevention focus to align with the National Action Plan.
- 19. Require shared understandings, language and practices across the family violence response, including in community legal services, police, courts and child protection, with clear accountability.
- **20.** Make sure we know what works and where systems fail through accurate, timely and thorough data collection and independent evaluation.

Preventing violence against women and children

- 21. 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.
- 22. Evaluate primary prevention programs to build the evidence-base on what works.
- 23. Invest in the Gender and Disability Workforce Development Program and specific education programs for women with disabilities about the nature of violence.
- 24. Securely fund specialist services to support aboriginal and torres strait Islander women and children that are culturally safe and Aboriginal community controlled.
- 25. 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.

Media can access the full election platform at http://www.dvrcv.org.au/. For information or to arrange an interview with Fiona McCormack, contact Marie McInerney on 0418 273 698.